

December 2024



“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

How thankful we are for God’s promise of a Messiah -- a Savior! GOD, in the FLESH! From the fall of mankind into sin, God had a plan to reconcile us to Himself through faith in the coming sacrifice of the Messiah. He gave hope! What an amazing Christmas truth we have! “The Word was made flesh” – Jesus, our Savior!

It is truly a privilege to serve the Lord together yet another year, here in Arizona, and tell others of this wonderful hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Savior. Praise Him for allowing us to be used for His glory!

We have seen God working here in the Verde Valley of Arizona and at Living Waters Baptist Church. Visitors are coming almost weekly. Please pray that God would speak to folks concerning consistency and give them a desire to attend all services. It seems many folks are content to attend Sunday mornings only, and not interested in serving in the work. We are desperate for young folks who would be willing to help in the ministry of the church.

Mike continues to fill the pulpit locally as needed, and teach our Adult Sunday School Class, recently covering “Belonging To The Body” responsibilities of believers, and a study of “Christian Citizenship In Scripture” leading up to election time, after spending nearly 2 years going verse-by-verse through Colossians. Sue trades off teaching Children’s Church, Sunday School, and serves to oversee the music ministry and teach piano lessons to several students learning to play in church. We also received a HUGE blessing of a very large missions gift for the children’s’ and music ministries.

Mike also organized a special Hymn History service joining with other churches in the Valley, which included messages from Moody, Spurgeon, and Lester Roloff’s “Dr. Law and Dr. Grace”, preached by 3 different pastors. What a blessing it was, followed by food and fellowship!

In November, we had the privilege of having a 4-day seminar from “The Exchange” program with Jeff and Anna Musgrave. What a blessing! Please pray with us that we will be faithful in sharing God’s plan of salvation with those around us.



Typically, we use our Christmas prayer letter to share news concerning our “first mission field”, our family. It is always a thrill to see how God is using each of them.



Melody and Jim Bjur Rebekah, Jeremy, Joshua, Debbie



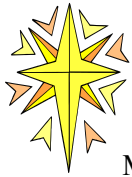
Our daughter, Melody, and Jim recently celebrated more than 32 years in Chile, serving the Lord in Arica for 31 years. It has been exciting to hear how God has continued to bless and grow their church there. A lady and her mother accepted the Lord just in the past couple of weeks! What a thrill! Attendance has grown especially among their youth, having 20-30 young people in their youth meetings and activities.

Their oldest daughter, and husband, Jake are expecting their first baby (girl) in March. They live in California. Jeremy and Daniella continue to serve the Lord at the Wilds Christian Camp in NC, and welcomed Gideon to their family in March 2024! Melody and Jim are beyond excited to be grandparents! Joshua lives in SC, and works as a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. Debbie, their youngest, is in her Sophomore year at Bob Jones University, preparing for ministry. She served in a Christian Camp in PA last summer as videographer (which is in connection with her major).

Joy and Kent Ramler Ruth, Jonathan, Rose, David



Kent and our daughter, Joy, have been pastoring at People’s Baptist Church in Frederick, MD for about 15 years. This past year Joy was able to lead a Jewish lady to Christ that she’s been dealing with for several years, using the “Exchange” program. Praise the Lord for these new believers. This year has been somewhat challenging for Kent, as they lost their school administrator last summer, and recently their financial secretary resigned. With a substantial increase in enrollment this year, Kent has been doing double duty as pastor and administrator. We would appreciate prayers for their ministry. Their youngest, David, is in his 3rd year of Bible college, and is to be married January 3, 2025 Ruth and Justin continue to live an hour away from Joy and Kent, and are training their children about Jesus. Jack and Lindsay recently moved to California to work in an attorney firm, after Jack graduated from Northwestern University in Chicago with a law degree. Praying for his health to improve and as he retakes his bar exam in February. Also praying for Lindsay as they just announced they are having a baby in June. What a miracle God has done for the over the last few years, since Jack’s multiple surgeries with Crohn’s disease. Rose still lives in Chicago, and just began a new job in a hospital.



Mike & Stephanie
Sarah, Rachel, Bethany, Drew,
Katelyn

Mike and Stephanie live in Marysville, Utah where we were so privileged to attend the grand opening of Legacy Trade College in August. Due to much hard work and the many prayers answered, LTC is finally running with 4 current students and a number of prospects for the coming semester and next Fall! Since they are partnering with Maranatha Baptist University in academic subjects, it was truly a special privilege to have the President of Maranatha, Dr. David Anderson speak at the opening sessions of the college. LTC endeavors to train young people in areas of ministry like Mike has done for the past 25+ years. It has been a blessing to see the many miracles God has done to bring this to pass. If any of you would like more information about Legacy Trade School, please let us know and we will give you their contact information.

Their family has grown also. Rachel is a blessing in so many ways in the ministry. Katelyn continues her studies in Special Ed at Maranatha Baptist University. Drew and his wife, Sarah, live in Florida. Drew works in physical therapy and Sarah teaches in a Christian high school. Bethany and T.J. Lacock and Ember (1 year) live in Delta, CO, where T.J. serves as Pastor. Sarah, Colton and Josiah (1 year) continue to serve in their church in Brevard, NC. Colton has his own construction business and Sarah works part time in the business, but also has her own business as a doula, ministering to many expectant mothers.

Jeff & Becky
Jared, Joel, Jocelyn, Joanna, Jessica

Jeff and Becky continue to serve the Lord at their church in Colorado Springs, CO and they, too became grandparents. Their oldest son, Jared and, wife, Rose welcomed Emmet into their family in March, and live in Logan, Utah, and are very involved in a church there. Joel and Savanah live in Colorado Springs, attending Seminary, and working in their church. Jocelyn lives and works in Greenville, SC in architectural design. She also works and teaches part time, giving pottery classes. Joanna now lives and works from home, and is very active in her church there. Jessica, their youngest, is a Junior in a Christian College in California studying architecture, and preparing for a June wedding to Connor Murray, a sweet Christian young man from their church. We are just so thankful for each one who are pursuing serving the Lord.



Ed and Heather
Katie, Sophia, Tucker, Titus



Ed and Heather continue to live in Middletown, OH. Ed continues his nursing career in Cincinnati, and Heather continues teaching at the Christian School where all their children attend. Katie is a Sophomore at a Christian College pursuing a nursing degree. God has been teaching her many things! Sophia is a senior in high school, seeking the Lord's direction for her future. Tucker entered 9th grade and Titus is now in 3rd grade.

Even though our children live far away, we were blessed to see each one of them this past year at different times, and they all are so good to us, checking on us regularly. How thankful we are that each of our children are serving the Lord, and now several of the grandchildren are preparing for ministry! Only GOD can do such wonderful things! We are praying much for those in our family who still need to turn their lives over to Christ. And we are very thankful for the wonderful friends and loved ones He has given us and for the prayers of each one.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas as you reflect on what our Wonderful Lord has meant to you and your family this past year!

Mike and Sue Smith

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