

The Smiths

GO WEST FOR GOD



SERVING WITH WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSION

Dear Prayer Partners,

May-June

"O magnify His name with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord and He delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:3, 4

What a wonderful, awesome God we serve! He is present with me always, His love is unending and nothing separates us from His love, His grace is amazing and His faithfulness is great! It is truly a joy to walk with our Lord every day, and watch Him answer prayer, guide our steps, and give us direction as we serve Him in the way He chooses. While we are unable physically to do all the tasks we did 25 years ago, yet the Lord opens doors and show us ways we can continue to serve. We are truly thankful for these opportunities and for prayer warriors like you who help to make it possible.

GIFT

As we recognized that we are getting older as are several other workers in the church, we prayed for a couple of years that the Lord would send us a younger family, with children, who would be capable of taking over some of the duties we have had. The Lord answered this past January by sending us exactly what we requested and who He knew we needed. The Metzgers are truly a *gift* to us and the ministry here in Camp Verde! They began attending our church over a year ago, traveling from Prescott (over the mountain about 50+ miles away) on Sundays. After a couple of months, they told us they believed the Lord wanted them to minister with us, and they joined the church and began looking for nearby housing. God provided exactly what they needed for their family of 5, and they moved in March. We had a wonderful church fellowship at their home with about 30 people attending! They have experience in previous ministry on the mission field and are eager and willing to help in any way they are needed.

GO-BETWEEN

It has been a special blessing to have the Metzgers take over Sue's Children's Church ministry for the summer. They also have filled in as needed to help Mike with teaching the adult Sunday School class when we were away.

Sue's piano student, Ruthanne Sondergaard, has progressed in her hymnplaying so well that she has been able to fill in for Sue as needed.

Mike, on the other hand, has been able to be a help to Pastor Paul, preaching at times when he needs a break due to other pressures of the ministry and/or family.

It is a tremendous blessing to have others be a go-between in the ministry, enabling us to take a break once in a while, but also sharing in the ministry where needed.

GROWTH

What a blessing it has been to see the growth in our church, both in numbers and spiritually! It's been a special privilege to assist the Pastor in counseling a young couple as they prepared for marriage. They started attending our church

about 6 months ago, went through marriage counseling, using the Exchange Bible Study. What a thrill it has been to watch them become assured of their relationship with Christ, and begin their married life with Him as head of their home!

Several new people who have become regular attenders have volunteered to help with VBS, which begins next week, July 20-23. We have seen folks who have never been involved in VBS, such as our neighbor, Becky who recently found a new relationship with Christ, and others get excited about serving the Lord. We've had several folks, including children, come to help with canvassing for VBS, others signing up to assist in crafts, refreshments, etc. One of our faithful men made a large ship as a front for the presentation of Jonah! What a joy to see how God has been working in the hearts of His people! And we continue to see new folks come on Sunday! Praise the Lord for the growth He has brought!

GET-AWAY

Because we've had extra help in the ministry, and Sue had taken a break from piano teaching during the summer months, God enabled us to take a trip to see family. What a special time we enjoyed, visiting with our Colorado family, Jeff and Becky and several of their children! Mike and Stephanie took a couple of days and visited us while there also. Their daughter, Bethany, drove over from Western Colorado with her two little girls, so we were blessed to see these two great granddaughters as well as our newest one, Jeff's and Becky's granddaughter, Karis, who was just born in May! Then Mike's daughter, Katelyn, came down from Maranatha, to see us AND her Mom and Dad! What a joyous fellowship we had!

After spending a week in Colorado, we were blessed to fly to Cincinnati to visit our youngest son, Ed and Heather, and family. It was especially a blessing that they helped us with the flight as well as took us to the Creation Museum while there.

During the week there in Ohio, our daughter, Joy, surprised us and drove over from Maryland for a few days! So we actually spent time with 4 of our 5 children and several grandchildren and 3 greats! Isn't the Lord good?

While we were gone, there were 8 children and teens from our church who attended WestBranch Camp two different weeks. What a blessing it was that they were able to go!

PRAYER REQUESTS

+ While we were in Colorado, our granddaughter, Katelyn Smith, told us that God is leading her to spend a little over a month in a mission work in Central African Republic. She will be helping Donna Bixby with the orphanage ministry there during the month of August, returning to her ministry at Maranatha in September. We would appreciate your prayers for her as she follows the Lord's leading in her life!

- + Pray for VBS July 20-23 and follow-up
- + Continued wisdom for future expansion of church building
- + Financial support

We appreciate your partnering with us in reaching the people here in the Verde Valley of Arizona!

In His service,

Mike & Sue Smith

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Living Waters Baptist Church
Camp Verde, Arizona



"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God ..." **I Corinthians 3:8,9**