



The Smith Family

Sept.- Oct. 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. Psalm 146:1-2

What a wonderful Lord and Saviour we have, how important it is that our trust is in Him and not in the things of this world. We value your prayers for us as we labour that we might continually and completely trust in the Lord.



We praise the Lord for the wonderful conclusion to the summer ministries. We had a VBS week at Fellowship Baptist in Colosse, NY. The busses were packed each night as parents and children attended the services. There were 153 children enrolled with almost all of them in attendance for the closing program. There were 8 salvation decisions recorded.

Our final VBS was in Jamaica-Queens, NY. We always enjoy the time at Gospel Light Baptist Church. We expanded our VBS this year to include a 3-day program reaching teens. We had several first-time teens come to hear the gospel, and then we were able to use the church teens to help in the evening. The Lord blessed us with 48 children and 36 teens enrolled and several parents attending the services.



My family and I then traveled back to Ohio so that Ashley and Abigail could prepare to head to Kenya to help Bethany during the last months of her pregnancy. Lydia, Andrew and I prepared to start school and help some churches with evangelistic outreaches. During this time, we also discovered some bad bearings on the rear axle of the truck. I am thankful that Andrew was able to help as we tackled this job before heading back out on the road.

We then spent 10 days in Oklahoma City helping Beth Haven Baptist Church with their fair booth. This church is the home of H.O.P.E, an excellent addictions ministry, and the Victory Ranch a resident home ministry for men and women. Over the years Pastor Carter has been a great help to my ministry as I travel and serve churches. God has greatly blessed him with the ability to apply scriptures to the problems people are facing today. If you need materials and training in helping people overcome addictions or you know someone in need I highly recommend this ministry. They are in the process of expanding the men's home to include a division for ladies. If you are looking for a mission project this would be a worthy cause. (victoryranchok.com)

We had a great week at the fair, exposing many to the help that can be found in the Scriptures. We were also blessed to be able to meet some new friends at the Rose Rock

Baptist Church in Noble, OK. This is the newest church plant out of Beth Haven Baptist Church. It is exciting to see a new church being established to reach this community. In the middle of this meeting we once again were mechanics as the trailer needed a serious upgrade on brakes. Once again Andrew had “shop class” in school as we replaced the whole system. We also discovered some other issues regarding our water tank mounts that needed repaired. It was finished just in time to head out to the mountains of Colorado and Oregon. The brakes passed the test and it was a blessing once again to feel like you could stop safely.

We were able to visit my parents in Colorado for a few days and help them move into a different house. I am so thankful for my parents and the family I have that loves the Lord. While we do not get to see each other much due to all our ministries it is a blessing any opportunity we get to visit.

Our next meeting was with Victory Baptist Church in Bend, OR. We usually preach a revival this time of year for them around their anniversary service. I have been helping here for 16 years. This year the church was reestablishing the bus ministry, so we focused on children’s ministry, we had a 3-day club in one neighborhood park and another at an apartment complex. God has greatly blessed this church with a great concept of teaching kids respect for God and man. This has opened incredible doors with the apartment complex. We followed it up with a special kids’ service Sunday – 47 bus riders and over 20 first time adults visited. Several have continued to attend the church. We are praying for their salvation and growth.

We then made a quick trip to visit churches in Vancouver BC as well as another church in Tri City OR. We are praying to be able to do some evangelistic work in these areas in the next year. Opportunities are everywhere and labourers are needed. Please pray with us as we prayerfully consider how to help more churches with evangelism.

We then made the long trip back to Ohio (3000 miles), stopping in Kansas to see my in-laws and to preach at the Xenia Baptist Church for the midweek service. We had a blessed time in that short visit and it is good to see what the Lord is doing there with Bro. Randy Smith now the pastor. We arrived back in Ohio in time to preach a weekend family conference at our home church as well as the Fall Festival event for our kids’ program. We are now packing and by the time this is mailed we will be on our way to South Africa.

We appreciate all those who pray for us and sacrifice in giving to keep us going to these churches. It takes many giving some, an occasional abundant gift and it all works out in God’s plan. Over the last two months our fuel bill alone was just over \$3000. The repairs and maintenance items over \$4000. Thank you so much to each person that gave faithfully according to God’s leading.

Please keep all the travel in prayer as we look forward to helping with several churches while in South Africa and possibly a trip into Zimbabwe. Thank you for being a part of what the Lord allows us to do.

[Precious Testimonies](#)

At the Bible clubs in Oregon we were struggling to get the necessary permission to hold the club in the apartment complex the church had been praying about. Finally, the day before the clubs the youth leader made

contact. When he approached her with the ideas behind the club she gladly invited him to have the club.

She shared how great a need there was for someone to teach the children the truths of respect. It was a great answer to prayer as she not only went and got her own children to attend, but she promoted it and even attended the services at the church on Sunday. We pray for her and the other parents that came to understand the Gospel and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Practical Truths

Children's Ministries

I have shared the statement before – “Take a child by the hand and you take a parent by the heart.” This has been clearly witnessed in the many years of children’s ministry? I would like to encourage to look at your church and

community – are you reaching the hearts of the families with the children.

While you

may have many excuses for not reaching out to the families where you minister.

“We have no space for children” – What about having children’s services at a separate time – Saturday, Sunday Afternoon etc.... Why not go out to a neighborhood and have 5-day clubs or just one day outreaches.

“We have no workers” – We often think only young people can work with children. However, that is not true - train everyone to

work with the children. Once again you could hold the service at a separate time until you have more workers.

“We do not have a bus” – transportation is nice, but if you cannot bring them in then go to where they are.

“The children misbehave so badly today” – learn many methods of teaching, learn to love the children and watch their heart change.

If you are uncertain about what to do go to a Sunday School conference, find a good church with a children’s program and let them teach you, bring someone in to teach and work with your church for a time.

To often we are more like the disciples when they chased the mothers with their little children away – yet Jesus responded in this way - *But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.* Mark 10:14

Do you want the Lord to be pleased or displeased?

India Update

In recent letters I have received from India I sense the great need to pray for these dear friends and visit them again. Would you pray with me about how we can help them? There is a need to make a trip to visit and strengthen our brethren. I am more than willing to go but have not been able to figure out the timing and how it should be done. My heart is burdened for those who faithfully minister with very little resources.



Prayer Time

Future Meetings

South Africa November – April

- Leadership Course
- Youth Camps
- Holiday Bible Schools
- Bible Institute
- Trips to Village Areas
- Trip to Zimbabwe
- Soulwinning and Discipleship

Finances

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

India

- Pray for doctrinal purity
- Pray for a future trip
- Persecution is increasing, pray for the families of those who suffer

South Africa

- Solid Rock Bap. Ch. – Pastor Dlamini
- Hope Bapt. Ch. - Raymond & Dennis
- Village Ministries – Bro. Danke
- Solid Rock Baptist Institute
- December outreaches

Summer Training – North America

- Young men to train for ministry
- Churches in transition
- Wisdom for travels
- Discipleship of youth

Several churches that are looking for a pastor and for some that are transitioning as the Pastor hands the mantle over to a younger man.

“He that Winneth Souls is Wise”



Simplicity in Salvation – As a Little Child

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. Luke 18:17

How important it is to keep the message of salvation free of the clutter of religion. Salvation is so simple that even a little child can understand it. While a child nor anyone else can be saved without understanding, we must be careful to be certain that we do not complicate salvation. Remember the fact that our salvation rest in the finished work of Christ on the cross. He paid for our salvation with his own body and his blood on Calvary. His resurrection is the proof that our salvation is possible. To keep it simple, remember....

1. Salvation is found in the Scriptures not the dictionary or any other book. *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15*
2. Salvation is by grace through faith not through any of our works. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*
3. Salvation is eternal thus you cannot be saved again and again – it is one time for ever. *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:15*

You and I cannot see the heart, we have the responsibility to proclaim the truth and let the Spirit of God convict. He is able to draw a child to salvation just as he does an adult. Keep the message Biblical and it will be simple so even a child can understand.

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