

"There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:3

September through December is typically the busiest time of the year on our church calendar--this year was no exception. December is filled with Christmas caroling, our annual Christmas breakfast, and Christmas party with 80 in attendance. We added a new tradition this year with our first Candlelight service on Christmas Eve. We were pleasantly surprised with the number who came for this event--especially with the weather. One additional "hitch" in the schedule, though, was the fact that my knee went out on me. I discovered that I will be needing knee replacement surgery which will be happening on January 29th. I would appreciate your prayers in this regard and that our church will continue to thrive in my absence. We have two different speakers scheduled during my recovery.

I would be disingenuous if I stated that church planting was all roses and puppy dogs--sometimes it's just...cats. If you know me any at all, you know I am not partial to cats (our own included)! Every year in January, my wife and I get the privilege of attending the Heartland Church Planter's Conference in Oklahoma City. Church planters and pastors from all over the nation attend this conference to share the needs of their ministries. We were blessed to be able to present this year and raise a generous amount toward our church loan--this brings our balance down to 33% of the original loan! Whether we are able to share our need or not, the preaching is always a shot in the arm which encourages us to keep pressing on. It is a blessing to realize that we are fellows in the same ship and that others understand the joy and challenges we face in this work.

The icing on the cake was being able to stay over and preach for the first inaugural Deaf morning service at Southwest Baptist Church. The workers there are doing a great job reaching the Deaf and training interpreters. It brought tears to my eyes to see Bro. Noe leading the music. He was a Deaf young man we led to the Lord years ago who walked over 10,000 miles from Guatemala to America to "hear" the Gospel. Please pray for this growing ministry.

We are soon to begin our new discipleship classes and have people like Natashoa, a young single mother, who are eager to learn. We were blessed recently to see her hearing daughter, Eva, make a profession of faith in Christ. We desire to do more with the young people, but we are desperately in need of workers in this regard.

Please continue to pray for Mrs. Clarence Sexton--our home church pastor's wife. Pastor Sexton went home to be with the Lord recently and we were blessed to be able to attend his home going service. It was amazing to see so many people whose lives have been impacted by this man of God. We ask you to also pray for Bro. Lawrence and Kathleen Shillingburg. Lawrence is a Deaf evangelist out of our church--he has now been placed on hospice due to cancer and will soon be with the Lord. His heart has been the Deaf and seeing them reached. As I visited him in West Virginia this week, his challenge from his hospice bed was--Just One More! May we all have this same desire.



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