



The Smith Family

The field is the world

Matthew 13:38a



May—June 2011 Report

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to pray for us and stay informed of the ministry. The Lord has blessed in several areas and as always, there are things to pray for as difficulties arise in this sin cursed earth. In our last letter, we had just finished a soulwinning week in Omaha, NE. Our next meeting was in Custer, SD. It is a joy to see what the Lord is doing with the good people at Mountainview Baptist Church. We enjoyed a good week of revival services as well as helping put siding on their new building. We were blessed with the Brent Rochester family joining us for the week and singing during the services. It was also a blessing to preach in the ministry the church has in a local youth detention facility. On Sunday, the church had the privilege of baptizing one of the youth from the institute. This small town church is making a great impact on many lives. We enjoyed seeing their vision and labour for the Lord. You can reach your community with the Gospel. People can still be saved, and lives changed if we only have the right vision from God's Word.

My father drove up at the end of the week to spend some time with the girls and Andrew while I flew to New York for our Gospel Crusade in the park at the Gospel Light Baptist Church in Jamaica-Queens. We battled the rain, but God blessed the services each night whether we were inside the building or outside in the park. Several folks were saved and the Word of God was presented to multitudes on the streets each day. We had excellent help in this meeting from Pastor Rick Dawson and some men from his church in Arkansas as well as the Ambassador singing group from Oklahoma Baptist College. It was a blessing to see the young men from the college out soulwinning for several hours each day on the streets. I know that it was a great encouragement to the local church. Next up in the travels was a few days of detours.

I flew out of New York and found myself stranded in Minneapolis due to a power failure in the airport. It

was "Judgment Day" so there were some concerned folks at first I exhausted my tract supply, spent the day talking with folks, spent the night, and still waited the next day. I missed the Sunday meeting we had scheduled in Montana, but did arrive back in Custer for the evening service. I then headed out that night with my family only to be stopped by a road closure in Montana. The next morning I took a detour through Yellowstone National Park. At the summit of the mountain, a bearing seized up on the AC pulley of the truck. Praise the Lord I was able to remove the belt and continue on down the road. We arrived at our next meeting a little late, but enjoyed great fellowship with all the Pastors attending the fellowship at the Beaver Valley Baptist Church, Montrose, BC. I enjoyed the messages that were preached and I was challenged to be a more excellent servant for our Lord. We then began revival services with our good friends Pastor Tom Kline and the Castlegar Baptist Church. This is another church



where we see the Lord continuing to work. Each year there are new Christians and new growth among God's people. Faithfulness is the tool that always works. Many get discouraged and faint in the day of adversity, but we are blessed when we see those who are pressing on. Some of our meetings are in these smaller communities, but each year we notice the lives that are being transformed. Many today notice the big church in the big place, but please be mindful of our wayside areas. There is much fruit to be gleaned if someone will go and labour.

Precious Testimonies

We then made a short visit to encourage the folks at Heritage Bible Baptist Church in The Dalles, OR. Please pray for this church as they preach the Gospel. There has been quite a few struggles and this area greatly needs a Gospel preaching church to thrive. We then moved quickly on to South Dakota, where we started our first Bible School. We were back at the Mountainview Baptist Church. We had a great week



**VBS 2011
Fremont, NE**

with 82 kids and 32 teens registered. We were quite happy with the crowd and the number of visitors for the Friday closing program. Several adults heard the gospel and we know that the seed is planted and watered. Our next VBS was at the Liberty Baptist Church in Fremont, NE. We always enjoy our time with Pastor Luiken and the church. We registered 153 kids and 41 teens. Things were a little down on Friday night as a tornado siren went off 15 minutes before the closing program. There was no tornado, but it kept quite a few kids away. We still had visiting parents in and the gospel was preached to them. The following week we were in Decatur, IL. We had a wonderful evening Bible School with 103 children registered. We then finished the month of June with a Bible School in Marrero, LA. It was a good week with Pastor Foote and all the great workers. We had 139 children registered and 53 teens. So far this summer there have been over 50 folks saved in VBS and several saved in the follow-up times. It is always a blessing when we hear of a church following up on the contacts made during VBS. No true fruit is ever produced without planting and watering. It takes much work in the harvest field to see souls saved and lives transformed. We appreciate your prayers for the ministry. Pray especially for God's power, the Spirit's conviction, and the salvation of many souls. Thanks for your sacrifice that enables us to continue down the road each week. Continue to pray for our vehicles to run well and not cost much to fix and maintain. We would rather place our finances into other ministry.

Faith, often talked about, greatly needed, yet so often failed in practice. The Lord taught me a good lesson on faith recently. For the past couple of years we have been holding an outdoor meeting in Jamaica-Queens, NY. Most of the ministry we do is outdoors. Naturally, when you are outside one of the items you have to work with is the weather. Many times, we have been blessed with just the right weather to allow us to go outside and door knock, hold an outreach program etc... Last year in New York we had a sudden outbreak in weather just after we had finished setting up the crusade equipment. Rain poured, a tornado touched down 10 blocks away, and we were all soaked trying to get everything out of the rain. The first night of this year's crusade, it rained again and we had to stay inside. The Lord blessed though and a good crowd attended the service. We prayed that night for good weather the rest of the week, because we really wanted to be outside where the people are passing by. On Tuesday night the sky looked nice and we were thinking of setting up outside. However, the weather forecast said a big storm was brewing. Remembering the previous years experience I made the decision to set up inside. Well the weather stayed beautiful and we had the Crusade inside. Still had a good crowd, but all I could think of was this – You asked the Lord to change the weather, and then stayed inside. “O ye of little faith.” Well the next night it poured rain again and we were still inside. I told the Lord I had learned the lesson. If there was no rain on Thursday, I was going outside no matter what the weather forecast said. Thursday night we



VBS 2011 Decatur, IL

set up outside, the clouds were threatening and a little rain sprinkled, but just as it came time to start, the weather cleared and we had a great night outside with a good crowd. Next time I ask God to do something, I believe I will just follow his leading instead of the ways of men.

I was talking to one of the men in the church about all of this and he agreed with how the Lord had taught us several things. He then explained to me how the Lord showed him that even though we could not be in the park, many folks still came to the service in the building. God can use anything if we will just be faithful to preach His Word. It is not the park that draws men unto the Lord, but rather his Spirit. If we want the Spirit of God to work then we must obey the Word of God. The greatest evidence of faith is when we simply do what God has commanded us to do and go preach the Gospel.

Practical Truths

Follow-up. As we travel from church to church we see the importance of follow-up work. Often times people visit the church during VBS or a special



meeting and then are never given proper follow-up. Obviously, there are always some that only come for the week. The best way to determine this though is to go and visit them. Every church member should be involved in the follow-up ministry. Men should visit the man in the home, ladies should visit the ladies, teens should visit teens, Sunday School teachers should visit each person for their class. It is good to mail a thank you note and an invitation to the church services. Obviously this can not all happen at once, but with a little organization it could be arranged to follow-up in every home. Perhaps over the next several weeks the home would get a visit from different members of the church, each one looking for that opportunity to follow-up.

When you go on the visit, introduce yourself and ask to speak directly to the person you are following up on. If they are not available, find out when is a good time to return and then plan to do so. Visit with the person at the door and do not be afraid to get invited in if the situation is appropriate. During the visit let the individual talk of their life and gradually move

the conversation to spiritual matters. Find out about their spiritual condition and then witness to them or disciple them. Encourage them to come to church again and lead them in the next step of their Christian life. Talk with them concerning Baptism, joining a Sunday School class, attending church activities etc... If the situation is open, invite them over to your house for a meal, or ask them out to eat. **Basically, follow-up is establishing a relationship that you might have an opportunity to take someone further along in their Christian life.**

Do not be discouraged at those who do not follow through. Our Saviour had multitudes in the crowd, but invested his ministry in around 120 people. Seventy or so were devoted enough to be sent out and most of his time was centered on 12 disciples. If each person in the church would get involved in one families life, what a difference it would make. Find someone this year that you can follow-up with and get them going in the right direction for the Lord. Take some time to disciple people in their home and encourage them in their walk with the Lord. Finally do not forget them when they come to the church. It is always good to greet people and visit with them in the church. A visitor should not feel like a target, but many friendly people should greet them. Never neglect the visitor, just so you can catch up with **your friends. Involve the visitors in your conversations.** Introduce them to people in the church and make them feel truly welcomed without being embarrassed. It is important to follow-up on every prospect the Lord sends.

India & South Africa Update

Recent reports from India give wonderful testimonies of souls saved and churches being established. I would ask you to pray about the plans I am making to visit India again. I am not sure of the timing, but in much prayer about it at this time. It has been many years since I visited my many wonderful friends in that place. Please pray for the necessary funds and the proper visa to give me the freedom to not only encourage the churches, but to also work with them in their evangelistic endeavors.

Bethany is doing very well in South Africa. Pray for the girls that she is discipling as well as for Pastor Percy Dlamini's needs. His car was stolen and he had no insurance to replace it. Pray for the establishment of a Bible Training Institute. There is a great need to break the trend of young people falling away. We need a place and the people to strengthen them until they are ready to go out into the ministry.

Prayer Time

Future Meetings

- July 17—21 Midwestern Baptist Church
 Omaha, NE
- July 24—28 Westwood Heights Baptist Church
 Omaha, NE
- July 31—Aug. 5 Grace Baptist Church
 Mitchell, SD
- Aug. 7—12 Summer Camp GBBC
 Fulton, NY
- Aug. 14— Maranatha Baptist Church
 Watertown, NY
- Aug. 21—26 Cornerstone Baptist Church
 Newmarket, ON
- Aug. 28 Sept. 5 Gospel Light Baptist Church
 Jamaica, NY
- Sept 7—10 Home
 Laura, OH

Finances

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

Philippians 4:19

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Matthew 7:7

So many opportunities to preach the Gospel are in this world . We are continuing to focus our attention on areas of great need.

India

- * **Increase in supporters and labourers**
- * **Continued need for Bibles and other literature**
- * **Future trip to encourage the Pastors**

South Africa

- * **Finances for return trip this October**
- * **Bible Training Institute in South Africa**
- * **Bethany as she is working with the Johnsons**



“A Credible Witness”

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
Acts 1:8

We see here in the Scriptures the command we have as believers to be a witness unto the Lord Jesus Christ. The witness begins at home and is expected to spread abroad. This occurs when God’s people are faithful witnesses.

A witness is one that can give first hand evidence of what they have seen and heard. Our witness is not so much as parroting a testimony, but rather giving witness of what the Lord has done and is doing for us. A witness cannot share what someone else told him about an event and expect it to hold up in court. Rather he must give clear testimony of what he saw, felt, or heard. A credible witness bears testimony of personal experience. *For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.* Acts 4:20

We also hear many times today of a witness that is no longer credible. What they saw or heard is going to be brought into question because of the lifestyle they lead. Many times in the Scriptures, we are warned of our testimony. How much more effective our witness will be when we have a testimony that cannot be reproached. How many times the Word of God is hindered by a Christian that is not leading a separated, Godly life. It is important how we live. We do not want to have the pharisaical reputation of unbiblical traditions, but neither do we want the carnal testimony of worldliness and a powerless gospel. A witness must have a life that provides credibility to the gospel message. This is done by allowing our life to be transformed by the Word of God and not conformed to the world.

Why not examine your life today and see if your witness would be able to hold up to the scrutiny of God’s Word. Surely, we want a testimony and life that is above reproach.

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