

Dear Prayer Supporters,

Thank you so much for keeping us before the Lord on a regular basis. Several of you have mentioned that you pray for us every day. There is no question that is the reason we see evidences of progress here in Tucson.

### Praises

- 1) Summer Visitors? Since when? From late June through August we had a steady flow of visitors over the summer months. I wondered at this unusual phenomenon (hasn't happened the previous two summers). Eventually, my mother-in-law heard about it and had this insightful comment: in June we presented our ministry at two different churches (Victory in IN and Highlands in CO). People are coming, because people across the country are praying. Thank you for praying.
- 2) Jay, an unsaved American-born ethnic Chinese man, has been attending for nearly a year and a half with his wife and two grandchildren. I've tried for over a year to get this man in a Bible Study. Two weeks ago, we had our first session. Pray for his soul.
- 3) Carolyn had been out of church for nearly 5 years after being hurt in a previous ministry. She's been coming just three months, but is already helping at the piano during services. Pray for her husband Larry to come to church with her.
- 4) The spirit of our people has never been greater. Our people are loving the teaching through the Sermon on the Mount and there are visible evidences of growth in their lives. It thrills me to see the changes that God brings to lives who choose to follow Him.
- 5) We passed our third year mark in Tucson, the first week of September. Though we would love to be further along, we are grateful that the church here has nearly doubled in attendance and is stable.

Our big fall outreach event was a memorial service on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Here are a few highlights of the service: a Boy Scout troop flag presentation, a visiting Baptist brass group that played patriotic music, a testimony by a Tucson Jan. 8 shooting tragedy survivor (Christian), an All-American free lunch, a firetruck/ambulance demonstration for the kids, and – most importantly – a clear gospel message. God rewarded our efforts to get the word out. Counting the Boy Scouts and their families who only stayed for the opening flag presentation, we had 102 in the building (92 for the service). That was the highest single day attendance in our church's history. Better yet, we had 3 indicate praying to receive Christ during the invitation. One of those has attended church every Sunday since. And each has been followed up on. It was such a great Sunday for our church. I

wish you could have been with us to see it. (Some pictures are attached to this email.)

After three weeks of training, we launched the GROW program in October. On our first night, we had 6 lay people come to help evangelize our community. 6 others are scheduled to come later this month. I'm so grateful for how the Lord is moving in the hearts of our people to get involved. This represents about 25% of our Sunday AM attendance. The program allows people to pick between writing letters to new-move-ins, making phone calls, or visiting prospects in the community. On our first night we made contact with 18 separate homes. Here's a real plus, 2 of the helpers the first night were people who have just started attending in the last four weeks.

September was also a big month for our family. The month seemed to drag as we waited and waited and waited for our little girl to come. Megan arrived on Sept. 24 to some very anxious parents. The biggest thrill for us was knowing that we had asked the Lord about 10 months earlier for a girl, and our heavenly Father, who delights in His children, granted our hearts' desire. Mom and baby are both doing well. PTL!

### Pray

- 1) Fall GROW program. Consistent participation and evidence that God is using our efforts.
- 2) New souls, especially Jay who is in a Bible Study over the next 4-5 weeks.
- 3) Retention of visitors. We are brokenhearted over some guests who have recently fallen away due to work or other reasons.
- 4) Power. Our greatest need is for God to empower us as we seek to make Him known in the community (Col. 4:3).
- 5) Finances. God is meeting our needs and our bills are paid, but we are still not at the self-supporting stage in our ministry. And I am burdened to cut the purse strings to two supporting ministries and be finally on our own. Would you pray that God would work miraculously and help us get there by the end of 2011?
- 6) Tucson is the 11<sup>th</sup> most unchurched city in America. 37% of people go to church nowhere. Friends, there is so much work here to be done for Jesus Christ. We could use more help.

For Souls in Tucson,  
The Gradwells: Mike, Christina, Joshua, Andrew, Stefan, Matthew and Megan