

Dear Praying Friends and Partners in Ministry,

“I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee . . .” (Philemon 1:4-7).

Well, praise the Lord! We have just returned to home base after a very busy seven weeks on the road that had us in six churches for various ministry endeavors ranging from Canada to northern California. We logged over 4,500 road miles encountering some intense weather conditions representative of the last vestiges of winter. But, the Lord was gracious to us in that He kept us safe all along the way and we were not hindered in our travels from church to church. We came home a bit weary, so we are glad for a couple of weeks rest before we fly up to Alaska. We want to thank you all for the kindness of your prayers on our behalf as they are sensed and greatly appreciated.

I am always blessed and thankful to be asked to come and preach for a missions conference. The conference in Bend was a Sunday through Sunday endeavor that included dear missionary families in attendance to present their respective fields. The church was able to increase their missions giving commitment this year by a substantial amount, and new missionaries were added for support. To God be the glory!

For the past several years I have had the honor and privilege of preaching the fall and spring revival meetings for Mountain View Baptist Church. This year I was invited back to preach for the spring revival meeting and enjoyed a sweet reunion with our dear friends at MVBC. These are always Sunday through Sunday meetings, something that is unusual in this day and age, but always very fruitful as I have found that it takes time for the Holy Spirit to work in hearts and for the people to begin to break up their fallow ground and respond to the preaching of God’s Word. We finished up the revival meeting week on Resurrection Sunday with a well-attended service followed by a wonderful potluck meal. We saw a precious soul saved the first day of the meetings, and many folks at the altar throughout the week responding to the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word of God. It was good to be in the House of the Lord! Linda enjoyed ministering to the ladies of the church with special Saturday morning meeting set aside for them while the men spent some time in fellowship at a local park where we enjoyed a pulled pork sandwich lunch and the men pitched horseshoes.

As I close my ministry update this morning, I am reminded once again of the how very close we must be to the out-taking of the saints at the trump and the shout, and the cry, “Come up hither!” When I was first saved in the mid-1970s, there was much preaching on the Rapture and prophecy. There were many wonderful prophecy conferences being conducted in our independent Baptist churches, and eschatology was a frequent topic for Sunday evening expositions. God’s people were comforted with the promise of the soon return of the Lord Jesus for His own (I Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11). We had that upward look of expectation. We believed that He would not tarry in His coming but would come

right on schedule. “For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and **WILL NOT** tarry” (Hebrews 10:37). But it seems that over the course of the past couple of decades there has been far less emphasis on the imminent return of Christ. Could this be yet another indication of the great need for revival? I truly believe this to be so, and I hunger and thirst to see the Spirit of God move in our midst and fall fresh upon us in a powerful way. May He grant it to be so.

Please keep in mind that we have a few open dates yet this year, and we continue to schedule revival meetings for 2020 and 2021. It would be a blessing to help you with your revival meeting or other special meeting endeavor. Please know that we would count it an honor and privilege to minister to your church family should you sense the leading of the Lord to have us come.

As always, we are so very grateful for your kind, gracious, faithful support of the ministry God has entrusted to us. May God richly bless you for it. We love you all and thank God for you.

Addicted to the Ministry of the Saints

Paul and Linda Mershon