

Update from the Deputation Trail...

October 28, 2015

Thank you for all of your prayers and support for us as we have been traveling. Since early September, we have been in 22 different states and driven our car over 6,000 miles! Our two boys have done very well traveling. Ezekiel loves staying in hotels—although we do not have pillow fights at home, Russ and Ezekiel have a pillow fight almost every night.

About a week ago, the Lord answered a large prayer request for us. Christian Educator's Group (Pensacola Christian College's church-planting organization) committed to supporting us for a substantial amount each month for the first 3 years. It has been amazing to see the Lord provide for us and the future church plant; our faith has definitely been strengthened in these past two months.

This past weekend we had the privilege of being in our home church's Mission Conference. The members at Castleview Baptist were a huge blessing to us! We already knew they were an awesome group of people (with an amazing pastor), and over and over they encouraged us through their prayers, their words, and their giving.

We are currently in Las Vegas, Nevada, allowing Russ to meet with two pastors in the city: Pastor Josh Teis and Dr. Dave Teis. Both father and son have planted successful churches in Las Vegas, and we're excited to glean wisdom from them.

The more we travel and present our future ministry, the more and more we desire to move up and be a witness to those in Rexburg, Idaho. Yesterday, while traveling to Las Vegas, we passed through a city along Interstate 15 in Utah. From our view along the interstate, we counted at least five steeples from Mormon church buildings (each building is where one or more *wards* meet. A ward is a local Mormon congregation with anywhere from 200 to 700 members). We only saw one church building that was not Mormon. There is a great need out West for churches that preach the true

Gospel—that God the Son, Jesus, is “the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by [Jesus]” (John 14:6).

Deuteronomy 31:8 “And the LORD, He it is that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.”

ITINERARY

- October 31–November 4—Mission conference at Fundamental Baptist Church in Escondido, CA
- November 8—Presenting our ministry at Beacon Baptist Church in Phoenix, AZ
- November 11—Presenting our ministry at Open Door Baptist Church in Catalina, AZ
- November 22 (PM service)—Presenting our ministry at Elmwood Baptist Church in Brighton, CO

GLIMPSES INTO MORMONISM

Mormons, or Latter-day Saints (LDS), have their own unique culture and word definitions. Here are a few examples...

Seminary: LDS seminary does not include the college-level courses that the Christian world thinks of when they hear this word. These are Mormon classes in LDS theology for LDS youth during their four years of high school.

Mission call: An invitation from the LDS prophet to serve a two-year mission. The prospective missionary submits application forms to request the invitation. The prophet decides where he or she will serve. The age for a male LDS missionary was recently lowered from nineteen to eighteen.

Family home evening: Mormon families are encouraged to spend Monday evenings together praying and singing, reading their scriptures, teaching the [Mormon] gospel to one another,

and doing other activities that build family unity.

(Definitions are from the glossary of *Unveiling Grace: The Story of How We Found Our Way Out of the Mormon Church* by Lynn K. Wilder, a former Mormon)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Safety on the road
- Support from churches for 3-5 years [we are currently at 37% of our monthly support and are waiting on others to announce the amount of their support]
- Support team to help out with the church plant
- Open doors and hearts in Rexburg, Idaho
- The new church plant, beginning July 31st, 2016