



A MINISTRY OF BAPTIST MID-MISSIONS
SOUTHWEST INDIAN
MINISTRIES

JOSEPH and DAWN LEE
P.O.Box 188 1268 Jones Ranch Road
Vanderwagen, NM 87326
505-778-5454
E-mail: joelee@starband.net

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Dear Praying Friends:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We pray that you will prosper in this fall season and see the Lord's hand in all you do. We thank all of you who remember us in your prayers, send us cards and emails and those who support us financially. What a joy to have you as part of the ministry.

PTL! The church ministry is going well. Our attendance has remained pretty good. We are teaching from the book of James, learning about the attributes of God, and studying some of the Psalms. We praise the Lord for those who are learning through these studies and the questions they generate. Our individual outreach in discipleship teaching and counseling is an area that has surprised us. We have 3 couples who are studying the Bible with us. Two couples get with us for marriage counseling and another two-some is a man and his mother who both want to know more. The man has gotten his life back to following the Lord and wants to have a Bible study. We meet at his house and his mom joins us. We are praising the Lord for her interest in spiritual things. Dawn and I don't feel like she is saved. We pray one of these days the Lord will open her heart. We have another couple that is approachable and do converse rather easily with us. They are somewhat skittish to have a study but we trust by the winter time they will want to study with us. Because we deal with personal problems we probably won't have a group Bible study. We are also thankful for a family of 4 adults who want to practice their Navajo. They've bought some Navajo interlinear Bibles and they are interested in looking into both English and Navajo. Lastly, one lady has invited us to her home a few times and she is coming to our church. She isn't saved and she really likes talking to us. My two kids, Rebekah and David have taken care of her horses also. We know God will work in her life.

Pray – for salvation and growth in the people we spend time with. Pray for the church to encourage one another and truly seek a relationship with Christ.

PTL! Our harvest party went well. David, Rebekah, Mr & Mrs Webb, and our friend Angie put it on as we were still flying in from Israel. From all reports people enjoyed it. Our next special church event is our Thanksgiving Banquet. We are excited for the holidays that are coming up and the opportunities we will have to visit and spend time with the people.

Pray – for contacts, strengthened relationships and possible friendships to be established and the gospel to be proclaimed.

PTL! We've returned from our trip to Israel in which we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. A great time! We will write next month and tell you about it since this letter is going to be long already.

PTL! We have openings for our 2 weeks of camp ministry in 2012. We need groups for both weeks. They need to run the program from sun up to sun down. Both weeks of camp will be scheduled in the month of June. If you feel your church could send out a group and help us, please contact us.

PTL! We once again are offering our R.S.V.P. program for which I would like to ask your prayers and help if God burdens your heart. R.S.V.P. stands for Reenlisted Saints in Volunteer Partnership. The purpose of this program is to enlist retired couples or any couple who could support themselves as they come here for a month or two in the fall or spring (if not for an extended stay.) They would help with projects and repairs needed around the property, possibly help with some teaching, and be a grandparent figure to those of the area. This should be considered an important ministry to the Lord. In our US Postal mailings I've enclosed a little bulletin advertisement. If you received this by way of email and want the brochure let me know. I'll send it to you.

Pray- for the summer camp ministry - preliminary plans to cover all the organization and groups to come to help. Pray for the kids God would have in camp to be attentive to God's leading. Pray for a godly spirit to be present during camp. Pray for the kids in our area to have an interest and respond favorably to the camp ministry.

PTL! God has provided our needs and we are thankful for what we have accomplished financially in the past 5 years. The groups who have come and completed work projects and teaching ministries have been a blessing. Those who responded with donations were truly a blessing to us. We sincerely appreciate the churches who have contributed in this way. In the last two years however, we've realized our support estimate is not covering the current expenses. The last time we raised our support estimate was five years ago. There have been some great needs in the last 3-4 months that cause us to realize we needed to raise our support estimate. The rising gas prices have really hurt our family finances. We've had a \$2100 bill for a new water pump in our 350ft well. The Water pump specialist told us also that our well pump needs to be cleaned and scrapped with chemicals to get rid of the rust that is in the main well shaft. This fall our furnace needs repairs due to lightning strikes that hit our electric lines and caused phones and computer equipment to be destroyed. We replaced the broken equipment which cost about \$350. But when the fall came and we needed to kick on the furnace it didn't work. The repair is under way but we still don't know what it will cost. I say that to say we are certainly down financially and we are praying for the Lord to help us get caught up on some of these expenses that aren't really planned by way of budgeted accounts. If the Lord leads you to want to help financially in any way please let us know. If you have experience in servicing water wells I'd be interested in your advice. Please contact me.

Pray – for our finances to improve at a time when many people have financial stresses.

Pray – for our support to increase so we can cover the ministry expenses as well as our personal family expenses.

Pray – for wisdom on whether we should plan a trip to raise support. In addition to that pray for churches that we could visit.

Dawn and I Thank you again for your prayers, support, and involvement with our ministry.

Joe

Joseph & Dawn Lee

P.O. Box 188
Vanderwagen, NM 87326
505-778-5454
8011

e-mail: joelee@starband.net

Sending Church

Calvary Baptist Tabernacle

729 Main Street
Vestal, NY 13850

607-785-8994

Serving through:

Baptist Mid Missions

PO Box 308011
Cleveland, OH 44130-

440-826-3930

EXTRA MINISTRY THOUGHT.

PTL! Our last prayer letter added a section that I hoped would give our prayer letter family better understanding of the ministry. We had a section on our approach to the cultural difference as it pertains to the Navajo language. We received some favorable responses to that section.

In this letter I want to talk to you about our camp ministry.

To begin with let me clarify that Bible camp is only a fraction of our ministry. Our main objective is to establish a strong, healthy indigenous Baptist church. We do, however have good camp facilities. We run 2 weeks of Bible Camp every summer.

Camp is an important ministry. First of all, camp is for campers and obviously it is a time where the young people hear the word of God and respond favorable to the gospel. It is one of the fun and stimulating events in the summer for our kids. We draw kids from about 4 churches of like faith. We get anywhere from 25- 50 kids at camp. This year we got a record high of 63 campers in our Junior week.

Secondly, camp is a time of excitement and growth for the staff. We usually get favorable responses from the groups that run the camp.

The camp ministry is also a good discipleship experience for local believers who would like to exercise themselves in loving their neighbor as themselves. We try to involve people in our ministry with camp as help staff or camp counselors.

Thirdly, it is a great ministry tool for the local churches that send these campers. Kids usually leave camp with an excitement they take home to their churches or an excitement to find a church to attend.

Fourthly, camp can be for adults, too, as in family camps or men's and women's retreats. Our facilities make it possible to hold these events. This would be very beneficial to our own people. However, up to this point we have not implemented these ideas to the full extent due to a variety of reasons. The main reason is the lack of man power. Our hands are full with the oversight of the church, property maintenance and summer ministries.

We feel it would be beneficial to have someone to head up camp who has expertise and a calling in the field of camp administration. We hold summer camp for children every year with the help of groups. However, we think our camp ministry would reach its much greater potential if someone gifted in that area were to lead it.

To sum it up, a camping ministry is a good tool. When working properly it is an evangelistic outreach opportunity as well as an opportunity to disciple and train for spiritual leadership in the local church. But we could use help to make our camping ministry reach its full potential. Hopefully this gives you a better understanding of our camp ministry.

Pray- for our camp ministry. Pray for a couple who could work with our youth and as camp administrator.

Dawn and I feel you should know about what happened this summer during our camp season. As mentioned, our junior camp ministry experienced a record high attendance and the kids were certainly encouraged in the teaching they received. Our senior camp was a little different. The trouble revolved around the kids from our area. We had ten kids from our area come to the camp.

Our area is a close knit, large family (clan) oriented, Navajo culture driven area. We are somewhat isolated from the city of Gallup. One of the extended families stopped coming to church because they are upset with two of our church members who are dating each other. We have been experiencing a lot of gossip, and lies against us for trying to help this couple – **THEY ARE NOT** living together or in sin.

Our working policy is to help train and encourage the church people to get involved with the camping ministry for their own ministry discipleship opportunity. So this summer, because we didn't have a formal group to come for senior week we had to look for camp helpers. We felt the lady we mentioned above who is in the dating relationship would be a good match to help us with camp counseling. She would work with a more experienced counselor who has been involved in our camp ministry for a number of years.

Well, it so happened that seven of the ten kids that came from our area were disrespectful to staff and were giving this lady a very hard time. Tuesday afternoon these 7 campers created an uproar with lies and false information. Dawn and some counselors were in the middle of this for an hour or so. This lady did a great job keeping calm and maintaining a good testimony. She was also helping her daughter who was one of the 10 campers. The daughter was the brunt of a lot of anger at this time as well. I feel the Holy Spirit used this lady, her daughter and the three staff members who were there to squelch and diffuse the anger of the trouble makers in a calm, godly way. This happened during supper and after supper families started coming to take their kids home. Apparently the campers snuck cell phones into camp and called their parents and thus the campers who were causing the trouble went home. Seven of the ten campers from our area went home. I feel the rest of the camp week (Wed-Friday) was a joy. The disrespect was gone and the rest of the kids were a joy to be around.

In looking back at this Dawn and I feel this was an evil event that finds its root in a family feud. To control their family members and the church, this family reverted to Colossians 3:5 behaviors.

With all this said, I have two comments. One, it's obvious that this is a shock to our youth ministry. We now have fewer kids and the spirit of our kids remains the same. Secondly we need you to pray fervently for our camp and youth ministry. We really do need a missionary couple who will work with us in coming alongside the people of Jones Ranch and pastoring souls. Pray also for this situation that has hurt our church and for the families involved. We need to keep teaching and preaching the word of God and expect the Holy Spirit to take Col

3:5 type of people and turn them into Col 3:12-14 type of people. We can't let this attack from the enemy keep us stagnant or discouraged in the battle.

Take Care & God Bless

Joe