

Hello Jud and Elaine,

I hope you are well and enjoyed some time of refreshment in February “down south.” Dan was just in Kentucky last weekend for his mother’s 90th birthday celebration. What a blessing. All of his brothers and sisters, some spouses and several nephews and nieces came. Dan enjoyed re-connecting with his family and seeing a few signs of spring.

Here are some prayer updates for March.

1. The Red Mesa Foundation board passed a \$600,000 budget Saturday! It’s based upon selling one block of property on “Churchrock Street” which we think is doable! However, there will be a lot of expenses before we get to any income, especially cash. So, it is a very “bold budget.” We are trusting the Lord.
2. We still have at least one more step in re-zoning our property. We have the planning and zoning commission meeting next Wednesday, the 14th. We appreciate prayers. This process has not gone as well as we hoped and partly due to a local engineer who didn’t deliver, we’ve looked a bit like we don’t know what we’re doing. We now have an architect, engineer, attorney, planner (same one) all out of Santa Fe! I met with them and was really impressed with their professionalism and knowledge and good spirit. We are hoping to get a big of a fresh launch at some point soon with our “new team.”
3. Yesterday, it came unexpectedly clear that the City of Gallup finally desires to annex our property. This all came about in a rather odd way, involving Rehoboth Christian School also fairly suddenly and somewhat unexpectedly wanting to be annexed (needing water for fire suppression from the City for their new gym). We now have to scramble a bit to be “in front” of this. Hopefully we have a week or so before they formally approach us. This is a very hopeful development and could actually save us a lot of time and money.
4. We are having two “benefits” this year for the Foundation. For the last several years we’ve had an event in the Gallup area. However, we don’t get much attendance from “up north.” Last year, I said to the board, “I may regret this....but I think we ought to have two of these next year....one in Shiprock and one in Gallup. So, this weekend is our Shiprock “Benefit” and the weekend of the 16th is our Gallup Benefit. Thanks to the work of the wife of one of our board members, the Shiprock Benefit is shaping up nicely and I’m looking forward to it. One of the things we are trying to foster is a sense of “togetherness” in our mutual mission among Native Americans. And part of that is the people in the grassroots seeing the Foundation as part of mutual work. It’s really hard for Navajo speakers to understand a “Foundation.” As one of our board members said recently, “We just take care of our sheep every day. We just accept the rain and grass as it comes. We don’t understand planning and going after things.” So, one of the things I’m planning for the benefit is a little demonstration comparing “the foundation” to a ranch. I have candy money and little candy lambs (the things you can get off the internet) to show how they both multiply if you keep enough in the pen (or the bank) and how through patience there will be enough to share with everyone. Another thing that is happening at both Benefits is worship being led by people who went to the Calvin Worship Symposium. At the Gallup Benefit we’re having two native American high school students.
5. One last thing. Last fall my board became quite concerned about my work-load and potential burn-out. They wanted me to hire an assistant. I was resistant because I didn’t feel like I had time to hire and train someone and because we don’t have the space in our office that allows someone to really get organized. Well, around the first of the year, the idea came to me that maybe the board itself could directly hire itself an assistant. This person would help the board to do its tasks and relieve me from a big aspect of administrative work. I made a proposal to the board and they approved it. However, we wondered if we would find someone to “fit the bill” as this had to be a very competent, mature and professional person and someone I could get along with. Well, just before this last board meeting, God sent us Stacey Hollebeek (yes Mart and Mary’s daughter-in-law) and the board hired her. So, I’m very thankful for this provision and think that Stacey will help the board get more organized and relieve me a big chunk of administrative work that I haven’t been able to do very well this last year.

Thank you and all of the Madison people so much for your prayers. We feel God’s guidance and blessing through you!

(I’ve copied this to my parents: Ralph and Elaine Bruxvoort as my mom wanted an update for her Tuesday family e-mail and the Wednesday Cornell Presbyterian prayer meeting).

Love,

Rhonda Berg, Executive Director

Gallup, NM 87305
505-722-2610; cell: 505-870-7424
berg@redmesafoundation.org
www.redmesafoundation.org