

Hello dear friends at Madison Square.

This morning I was reflecting on Psalm 20 that seems to be a blessing for the king – but this morning I read it as the blessing that you give and continue to give to so many people serving God in places around the globe including a strange little place called Gallup New Mexico. It's also a statement of our confidence and trust in God rather than "chariots and horses."

As you remember us in prayer, here are a few items:

- 1) We are working toward getting our first building permit for a building on Churchrock Street around a plaza. We still have a number of rather major "loose ends:" developer/contractor, financing, all of the approvals in place, buyers, and leases. I feel confident that things are coming together, but sure would love to see a ribbon tied around something!
- 2) Our board is beginning to discuss how we can become more active in building our endowment for the support of the churches, schools and ministries here. I was once again caught off guard by the amount of conflict and heated feelings that still exist regarding hurts from the "mission past." In some quarters there is an unhealthy "dwelling" and "picking at scabs." In other quarters there is an unwillingness to acknowledge real issues for fear of stirring up trouble. This is not an easy journey and I ask for your prayers for how we come out of being "a mission" to responding confidently to God's call to us today.
- 3) This is a busy time of year in which we're trying to get a lot accomplished on a lot of fronts before the lazy hazy days of summer set in. I'd appreciate your prayers for my health and sense of balance. I'm trying to "get in" several meetings with the churches of Red Mesa to do a survey that will help set priorities. Last week I was down in Zuni on a Tuesday evening and spent the day Sunday up at Red Valley. These are very enjoyable meetings and energizing in their own way. Still...it's time.
- 4) The family is doing pretty well. Hillary was encouraged by her nursing advisor, who didn't discourage her from "hanging in there" for the Calvin nursing program in spite of some disappointing grades. Anders has a 77 going in Algebra II, a minor (or major) miracle! We're looking forward to Hillary coming home in a few weeks. She's then headed to Germany with the Rehoboth Choir that is going on the tour to the community of Maria Holscher – the exchange student who died last spring in the big car accident. Anders will be part of the Rehoboth choir that will be at the big CRC celebration, June 10. And the Germany group will join them there. I thought maybe I'd come out there for that – but doesn't look like any of the meetings that would make it worthwhile from a work standpoint are likely to happen.
- 5) I know you folks in Michigan can't relate – but today I'm grateful for a grey drizzly day that follows a really nice evening shower last evening. I'm attaching one of my Red Valley photos – unusually green for this time of year. It was a beautiful drive Sunday. The bluish looking buildings on the right are the church and parsonage. My poor photography can't capture the incredible beauty of this area of God's world!

Love and Blessings!

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