

Hello Jud & Elaine,

I'm sitting outside with my lap top while the clouds form overhead for a possible afternoon thunderstorm. We have had a wet and somewhat cold spring – somewhat unusual for New Mexico. So we thank God for the moisture and the beauty of the green hills while worrying just a bit if all this growth is just creating fuel for a hot dry fire season. I don't know if it will be of any interest to anyone, but New Mexico seems to have several species of dandelions – all of them quite hardy!

Here are a few items for prayer:

- 1) The Foundation just received a lead on an entity that seems very interested in buying a lot and putting up a building in our new "east town" development. Since, I've been down this route before, I am trying to just wait and see how God leads. This entity would build a "back-office" building and employ 30 – 40 professionals at average annual salaries of \$50,000. This would be a really good anchor for the rest of the development.
- 2) In the next month, we need to find a source to borrow up to \$500,000 to tie us over on a cash basis until we realize the income from our development. The board wants to borrow the money against some property rather than our endowment to make sure we preserve something for the churches and ministries in case we go under. I'd appreciate for wisdom and prayers in this process which is a new one for me. Please pray that we might find a good lender.
- 3) Our board is starting to receive training and think more seriously about beginning to fund raise for Native American ministries. We are in the process of looking at the needs and opportunities that exist in the ministries we serve and we begin building bridges and friendships in this area. We have a local person, Sanjay Choudhrie helping us. He was a consultant to the Zuni Mission a few years ago and also works with the local newly started organization that serves homeless people. Sanjay grew up in a Swedish Lutheran Mission in India and is able to relate to some of the parallels for the Native Americans who grew up within the Christian Reformed Mission in New Mexico.
- 4) I have been getting out to our churches the past few months to do a little survey regarding their hopes and dreams for ministry and their desire for funding. These sessions have been quite delightful – especially a session in Red Valley Arizona in which everything I said had to be translated into Navajo by a very warm and articulate Navajo woman, Evelyn Benally, who was a teacher at Rehoboth Christian School, in her younger days. In almost all of the reservation churches, absence of youth and youth ministry is a concern that the churches just don't seem to be addressing, although the desire is expressed. This is an important matter for prayer.
- 5) Our family is doing well. Hillary was home for a little over a week before heading out to Germany. You may see Anders and her if you go to the CRC sesquicentennial celebration as they will be singing with the choir. Anders heads out on a bus at the end of this week. Dan and I have mapped out vacation plans for the summer, knowing that we both need to get away. His latest trial has been the return of one of his workers who was on military duty. This is the last of the three problem staff members he inherited that is completely insubordinate but also completely entrenched with seniority etc. Hillary got all Bs except for an A in lap swimming at Calvin last semester which helped pull her GPA up a bit and encourages her with her nursing program goals. She will be working at Blockbuster and for a law firm this summer. Anders also managed passing grades and would like to completely forget school for the summer. However, he's scheduled for Advanced Placement English (a necessity of scheduling) for next fall and has a summer reading list. He spent the week babysitting for our neighbors, will referee some adult soccer and hopefully pick up some additional work when he returns from Michigan.

Our love to all of you at Madison Square and elsewhere....We felt the distance when Dante passed away. We would have liked to have been with the Madison community at this time.

Much love,

Rhonda

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