

Thank you and the people at Madison for your prayers this past month. January ended up being quite a month and I'm feeling both tired and overwhelmed and eager to "get on with it!"

This month began with a quick trip to Michigan where I'm serving on the Christian Reformed Church Task Force dealing with "Communal and Covenantal Responsibilities (ministry shares and pensions). It is interesting to more fully realize that the issues we have in Red Mesa mirror the denominational issues. We have so much that God has accomplished through us as a body of churches and believers, but the understanding of church as something we do together has broken down. And I'm becoming more convinced that we do have to strengthen bonds among Christians in churches and that there is big value in committing to some things all together – like providing enough money for ministers to live on when they retire. All that is very counter-cultural in today's world where individualism and the corporation model reigns. It is counter-cultural in Red Mesa where there is still a strong sense of entitlement to on-going money for organizations without much, if any, accountability. So...all that to say is that somehow I feel like our little efforts here in Red Mesa are part of a movement of God's Spirit.

Back at home, I prepared for our annual meeting and a new board year. Our financial situation is both exciting and scary. Even though we project a balanced budget because of the projected growth (we hope) in investments, we will be working through what remains of our cash. So, by the mid-year, we need to be well on our way to a good plan. The scary part is obvious, but the exciting part is that I think we are really ready to do this and its time for the Red Mesa Foundation to become much more of a means whereby Native American Christians are "church" with each other (rather than little isolated organizations) and that the Christians God calls will be the body of Christ with Native Americans. It is exciting and encouraging to keep meeting people who are interested in our work and are eager to join us in prayer.

Things are still progressing, albeit extremely slowly, with our prospective land developer and I remain hopeful. At some time, soon I hope, I will likely be deluged with a contract and a pile of papers and our prospective developer will be eager for us to turn all of that around as quickly as possible. But, since I don't know exactly when or even if that day will ever come, I don't think or worry about it too much. An agreement with him or not with him doesn't have much affect on our immediate financial situation. And having this potential opportunity has got us out of the land development business, at least for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your prayers for husband Dan and his health and work situation. He went back to work this week and he has a lot of issues to work through there. The pressures from "on top" are enormous and don't necessarily correlate with serving juveniles and their families. However, their expectations have been clearly defined and Dan will have to work through them. Please pray for Dan's health and that we may trust God to bring good out of this situation. Please pray for my health. I feel worn out and have been struggling with a cold all of this week. Our daughter, Hillary, just started her semester at Calvin. She has applied to the Calvin nursing home and seems to be okay with waiting a year to get in, if she has to. She is re-taking one of the two Psych classes that she barely passed, this time with a different prof. She called me yesterday to say that she got 15 out of 15 on a quiz! Anders is planning to take a trip with a Rehoboth group to Trinity and College the 13th of February. His motivation for high school right now is hopefully not an indicator of motivation for studies in college!

You have been so helpful...in allowing this rambling prayer update. Hope you can make some sense out of it. But, if not, God will show you how to pray!

With love, Rhonda Berg, Executive Director