

April 26, 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

I am so thankful His mercies are new every morning. Truly, we have reason to rejoice. God has been doing great things at Ontonagon Baptist Church.

We have continued to see new families out. Over the winter, we've actually had four different households start coming to services. Not all attend regularly, but we're certainly grateful for the growth. Along with the growth in attendance, we now have 9 kids in our Junior Church program. Please pray for this aspect of the ministry. We praise God that it has grown, but now we need more laborers in this area. We've long prayed for the Lord to give us families with children, but unfortunately it seems most of the church doesn't have a heart for the Children's Ministry. We desperately need workers willing to take on some aspects of teaching children. Right now, Naomi does the bulk of the teaching, but it's really more than what she can handle by herself. Please pray that God would burden the hearts of our congregants and bring in laborers for our Children's Ministry. One lady, Vicki, has stepped in and is helping teach the kids during Sunday School and for that we are grateful.

Just before Easter, I fell out of the back of my truck. I thought that I had bruised my ribs. I didn't bother going to the doctor. Preaching Easter Sunday was difficult, but God gave me the strength and the grace. We had 14 visitors and three of them trusted Christ as Savior. Then, later in the week, another one trusted Christ as Savior. After another week, my ribs got a little worse so Naomi convinced me to go to the doctor. I have two broken ribs, one cracked rib, and some that have separated from my sternum. Please pray for my physical healing as well as the spiritual growth of the people that trusted Christ as Savior. Two of the people aren't from here. I was, however, able to pass information on to them about finding a good church in their area.

We just got excellent news from several specialists regarding Eliana. She is starting to catch up on her growth, which is completely unexpected. We've had numerous doctors warn us that she will likely stay very small unless we put her on growth hormones—which is a possibility we were praying about. However, at her most recent appointment last week, the specialist said she was starting to catch up on her growth all on her own. We're so very grateful for God's goodness. Will you please pray that Ellie continues to catch up on her growth naturally and that she stays otherwise healthy?

Nathanael is continuing his post-Lyme treatment and having lots of ups and downs. Please pray that we would have wisdom regarding how to continue his treatment. We're also praying what the Lord would have regarding schooling for next year. Simply put, Nathanael isn't doing well with being homeschooled. We're praying about the possibility of sending him to a public school for Fifth Grade. We're also praying about sending him to a Christian school, but that's an hour away, which would mean lots of driving as well as considerable tuition cost. Please pray that God shows us what He desires for our children's schooling.

As always, we rejoice that we can serve the Lord in a place such as Ontonagon.

In His Service,
The Masons