

Smith Soundings January 2009

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen"
Jude 24-25

2009! How is God going to work in us and through us this year? We never know what is to come, but what a joy it is to be chosen by God, redeemed by the blood of the Son – Jesus Christ, and to have the third person of God dwell in us, sealing us. As if that is not enough, God has ordained to use man for His Glory. With that in mind we head into 2009 with great joy, and a pressing mission!

Elizabeth and I had a great time with family and friends during the Christmas holiday. Most of our family lives in Marshalltown near us, but we were also able to see two of Elizabeth's sisters from out of town. Now that the New Year has started we look forward to continuing our ministry with CBM.

With the New Year comes another year of presenting at churches. We praise God that he has given us a full schedule through June. We are reserving time in April through June for baby #2. Please continue to pray for the last half of the year – we are hoping to book another 7 to 8 meetings on Sundays. We are planning on going back out East sometime around the end of July to the beginning of August, and then coming back West for meetings at the beginning of November. Thus far we are hoping to take our truck and trailer out East. This will make our travel much more comfortable not only for Elizabeth and me, but also for baby.

Now, to the news that we left you hanging on last month! We did find out that we are having a BOY! This was most exciting! We are both overjoyed to spread the Smith name even more. A development just recently that you can keep in prayer is that Elizabeth is now on full bed rest (that is why I, Andy, am writing this update!) On Monday night (January 12th) I took Elizabeth to the ER, and it was determined that Elizabeth has prematurely dilated. The doctor has recommended complete and total bed rest for the remainder of the pregnancy. The comforting news is that Elizabeth is 24 weeks into the pregnancy, which means the baby is now viable, or able to live outside the womb with lots of extra care. Her bed rest started Tuesday the 13th, and we are praying and asking you to pray that the baby stays inside the womb for as long as possible (till May 6th!). We will also start to see the doctor every week, to make sure things are going well.

God continues to bring us closer and closer to being on the field full time, and what a joy that is to our hearts! We have watched God raise our finances greatly this last month. This is due to some brand new commitments, but also to some people deciding to give more. God has not slowed down for the economy! He continues to work on the hearts of his servants, and for that we are humbled. We have gone up 5% this month, which brings us to 67%. We need an additional \$890/month to reach 85%. We know that in God's timing through whom He chooses this will happen.

Here are some ways that you can pray for us:

- Pray for God's timing for our son to be born.
- Pray for Elizabeth's comfort, it's going to be very difficult to stay in bed nearly 24/7 for 3 1/2 months - although we are praying that our baby will stay in the womb that long.
- We praise God that I am home to take care of Elizabeth's needs, but do pray for those times when I am traveling to churches to present - that someone will be able to meet the needs for Elizabeth.
- Continue to pray for me and my mission endeavors. My first priority is my wife and my son - do pray that by God's grace I can continue to move forward in our prefield ministry.

Thank you so much for your prayers,
This will prove to be a good time to watch together in how our God glorifies Himself!

By God's grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy & Elizabeth Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy & Elizabeth

