

Smith Soundings January 2010

Dear prayer partners,

Happy New Year! We had a wonderful Christmas, and in contrast to a very busy end to 2009, we have experienced a nice, slow beginning to 2010. We are still living in our trailer at the Outback Campground in Tama, IA. We have had many beautiful days as the weather has taken a turn to warmer temperatures recently. We will start traveling for more deputation meetings again next week, so we're praying that we will have good road conditions.

Our first winter in our trailer has proven to be a learning experience, to say the least. We have had to deal with ice on our inside walls, frozen hoses, ice blocking our water hookup (preventing us from being able to do laundry) and a refrigerator that won't keep cold. There is always a perfect explanation for why things aren't working though, and God has blessed Andy with the people to help and wisdom he needs in each situation. Keeping warm in a trailer costs more than we would like, but God is providing and we are not freezing. That is the most important thing.

Our little Judah turned 9 months old this month. Since Christmas he has learned to sit on his own and he has started to crawl everywhere! It seemed to happen all at once! It has proven to be a challenge to keep a curious, crawling infant out of trouble in our small trailer. We can tell he learns more and more each day. He has seven teeth and loves to chew up his Cheerios! He loves story time and laughing at his daddy. He is such a joy to us and all who love him.

We found out today that **God has blessed us with 100% of our support need!** We are thrilled and so thankful for this blessing! We are ecstatic to be able to start fulltime on the field at 100%! God has been so faithful to us; our work on deputation has not always been easy or convenient, but it has not been in vain. God has not only granted our full support need, but He has blessed us with countless opportunities to honor Him as we traveled. Deputation was definitely a test in persistence and faithfulness to our calling! We are glad to be able to say we persevered and God blessed! Thank you for the prayers and support you have provided during our time on deputation.

We still have not learned where our first building project will be. Please pray with us that God will reveal His plan to the CBM building directors and to us in His time.

We have been busy getting ready for life as fulltime missionary builders. We have made it our goal to get all of our stuff cleared out of the church's parsonage, where we used to live. We hope to be able to sell most of it at a garage sale this spring. Andy is busy writing another sermon, calling pastors, working on the trailer problems and organizing our tool trailer. I am working diligently to finish up a course I am taking on medical transcription; something I started a few years ago, and need to finish up before we get on the mission field fulltime. And, of course, Judah keeps himself and us busy, busy, busy!

This next month we are looking forward to taking off for Lafayette, IN for a Biblical Counseling Training Conference hosted by Faith Ministries. This is something that Andy and I have wanted to do for a long time, but because of deputation meetings, we have been unable to do so. Andy has a heart for counseling, and I studied counseling in college and look forward to taking a refresher course in this area. Our sending church and one of our supporting churches in New York have covered most of the costs of our trip, and for that we are so thankful! We anticipate learning invaluable skills to use now and on the mission field.

Please pray with us about something we are pursuing this year. We would like to purchase a bit of land in order to establish a home base for ourselves. It would be advantageous to us to have a place to park our trailer between projects and in the event that we need to be close to family for any occasion. Right now we have no place to park, except at the mercy of campgrounds, like we are now. It's not the most convenient arrangement, especially in the winter when most campgrounds do not dig water lines below frost level. We anticipate that we could use this land for ourselves and also to bless other missionaries who might need a place to park. Please pray that God would guide us to the right decision and the best solution to our desires.

Please pray for our upcoming schedule. These will be our last deputation meetings for awhile!

January 24, 2010: Calvary Baptist Church, Walnut IA

February 7-12: Biblical Counseling Training Conference, Lafayette, IN

February 28: Faith Baptist Church, Sauk Centre, MN

March 14: Brookdale Baptist Church, Moorhead, MN

March 21: Cornerstone Baptist Church, Montevideo, MN

Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

By God's Grace alone,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy & Elizabeth Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed names.

Andy, Elizabeth and Judah Smith