

The Smith Soundings: October 2008

Dear prayer and financial partners,

We have been looking forward to writing this letter all month! There is so much that we are excited to tell you about. The Lord has been so good to us while we are out here on the road. We left our home in Marshalltown, Iowa on Saturday, September 13th. Since then we have been in eight churches presenting the ministry. We have also met with 11 pastors individually to discuss future meetings with their congregations. We have been able to schedule several meetings for next fall when we come back again, Lord willing. The Lord has blessed our traveling. We have spent MANY hours in our van and, despite a few close calls, the Lord has kept us safe the whole way. Thank you for your prayers for our safety! We don't take God's protection for granted!

We started off our journey with a really great meeting in Illinois. The highlight of that meeting was the people we got to meet and the old friends we got to spend time with. Then we headed to Western New York and had a great meeting there the next Sunday. That church voted right after our presentation to start giving monthly toward our financial need. That has never happened before! What a blessing and a wonderful way to start off our trip. Ever since then, the Lord has continued to increase our support level and as of today, the Lord has blessed us with 60% of our total need! Praise the Lord! That's a 6.5% increase from last month! We have seen the Lord work in incredible ways!

We have been on the road for a good month now, and even though we are enjoying our time, and love to see how God is blessing, we do get home sick from time to time. We felt it the most a week after we left home. Elizabeth's grandpa back in Marshalltown passed away after battling with cancer. It was tough to be away during that time and not be able to attend the funeral. We missed being with family and grieving together, but we learned to let the Lord help us. We were able to see him before we left and are so thankful for the chance we got to say good-bye. We know he is in heaven and perfectly healed. We will see him again. We also gained two nephews this month. Justyn Alva was born on September 21 and lives in Alberta, Canada. Calvin Douglas was born September 27 and lives in Marshalltown, IA. We look forward to meeting both of them! For those of you who are counting, that makes 20 nieces and nephews for us, three are in heaven.

While we've been on the road we've been careful to take some time for ourselves too. It's important for our sanity to allow ourselves some time to relax and enjoy God's creation. We have been able to take many walks in and amongst the trees of Western New York. We also took an afternoon to visit Niagara Falls, which was absolutely beautiful! Just this last week we went to Peddler's Village in Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. It was essentially a village of little shops and restaurants. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed an afternoon of window shopping and had an ice cream cone. When we get tired of driving and having meetings all the time, we just look forward to these activities and times for refreshment!

Thank you for praying for our housing needs. The Lord has provided wonderful people to keep us in their homes each place we travel. We have seen so many people take us into their homes so selflessly over these two and a half years on deputation. Through their humble examples, the Lord has taught us so much about hospitality and serving Him with whatever we have. Praise the Lord with us for the people He has used and is using to provide us with warm places to stay and food to eat. It truly is such a blessing to us and we pray the Lord will bless those who have kept us.

The Lord has provided Andy with time to schedule next year's meetings. He has been able to get several Sundays booked, but please continue to pray for our schedule next year. We would love for our schedule to be full so that we can keep telling churches about CBM's ministry and their opportunity to partner with us in that ministry. Our goal is to be at 85% of our support need by spring-summer of 2009.

Please pray for our upcoming meetings:

October 19: Berean Baptist Church, Manassas, VA

October 20-23: Missions Conference at Bob Jones University

October 26: Washington Baptist Church, Turnersville, NJ

October 29: First Baptist Church, Medford, NJ (Update)

November 8-11: Capitol Baptist Church, Lothian, MD (Revisit and Update and DelMarVa conference mtg)

November 12: Haddon Heights Baptist Church, Haddon Heights, NJ (Update)

November 16: Open Bible Baptist Church, Riverside, NJ

November 19-22: Victory Baptist Church, Marysville, KS (Update and round-robin Missions Conference)

November 23: Community Baptist Church, Milledgeville, IL (Update)

Please remember to visit our website: www.andyandelizabethsmith.com. You can find prayer updates, read our blog, look at pictures, update yourself on our current building projects and so much more! We hope that through this website, we will be able to enhance our communication with you all, our partners and supporters!

Thank you for your prayers and giving this month!

By God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy & Elizabeth Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "By God's grace,".