

Bro. Raymond and Deborah Johnson

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Prayer Letter – Summer 2011

Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. Psalms 16:1

Dear Bro. and Sis. in Christ:

The Lord has blessed us this summer. Deborah and I decided to take on a busy schedule this summer as the Lord opened the doors. Deborah was able to travel some and attended some of the meetings. There were those who worked with us this summer that stayed with Deborah when she was unable to go to services. Her condition has been stable, but her pain continually increases. The Doctors tell us she is declining and advised us not to take anymore trips. Deborah's blood counts are real low and she has lost her immune system. The Lord has been good to let us work together another busy summer. And for that we are thankful.

Summer Work

The month of June began with Vacation Bible School at Indian Baptist, the 2nd week of June was Indian Baptist Missions Family Camp in Eufaula Ok., the 4th week was the Choctaw Camp here in Honobia Ok. In July the 2nd week I preached a revival in a Cherokee Church at Mulberry Baptist church Stillwell Ok., and the 3rd week of July I preached a revival at Corinth Baptist church in Dry Prong La. The 4th week we began evangelist meetings and VBS with the Jena Band of Choctaws in Jena La. We are now getting ready for the Choctaw Labor Day meeting coming up. This is the largest gathering of Choctaws in the country and we hope to get tracts and Bible literature in their hands.

The meeting among the Jena Band of Choctaws went well. There is not an Indian church of any kind among this tribe. We found some Choctaws that were saved and were attending Baptists churches in the area. They have a tribal membership of 281 Choctaws and 80 Choctaws living around the Jena area. The meeting was well attended and the comment from the Chief and the Choctaw community was they enjoyed having services and classes with Choctaw language being used in the singing and the teaching. A good number of Choctaws and non-Indian people came to teach, sing, cook and preach for this meeting. We thank the Lord for the Churches that raised the money to host this meeting. We have been given the opportunity to return next year and a invitation to come and hold services once a month in their Choctaw Tribal facility. Please help us pray about this opportunity.

The Work At Smithville

The Indian Baptist Church in Smithville was able to get a new metal roof on the building this spring. Thank the Lord for answered prayer. We still need some more work on the building, side walks and parking lot. We believe God will help us with these needs, please continue to pray for us. Our attendance is averaging 20 to 25 and we have a new couple attending our services. Indian Baptist was able to lead in the mission trip to the Choctaws in Jena La.

Choctaw Hymnal Project

This past spring we began working on the Choctaw Hymn Book. Our hymn books are printed with no music and in small print. We have decided to enlarge the print, add more music that has been recently translated to Choctaw, and add the marriage ceremony and grave side committal services.

The Lord has blessed us with people to help put our hymns in music form using shape notes. The tunes we use have been committed to memory and have been passed down from generation to generation. A lot of our tunes have been lost or forgotten. I have spent several years in collecting tunes, revising tunes to fit the meters of our hymns and some cases writing new tunes for these existing Choctaw hymns. Our hymn book has 168 hymns and we now can sing about 80 of them. Please pray for Bro. Gilbert Breedlove as he labors to format, make corrections and get the hymn book ready for printing.

URGENTS NEEDS

1. Keep praying for Deborah and I, we need more grace.

Yours by Divine Mercy and Grace

Bro Raymond Johnson