



Please pray for

THE HODGES

Missionaries to OKLAHOMA "Native America"



April 23, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear and shall trust in the LORD."

Psalm 40:1-3. It was when I was sharing Psalm 40:1-3 to Michael and his brother, Ricky, after the Sunday morning service on April 3rd, as I was quoting verse 2 and Michael began nodding his head and smiling and said, "Yep, that's what He did for me." On April 7th, I was out in the parking lot during Sunday School trying to help a confused, religious, controlling fella named Roy, which we will get back to later, when a car pulled in with 3 Choctaws; two whom I knew well. Their mother was a Choctaw member here and I'd heard and seen her weep often for her boys. Honestly, if I had not been so engaged in deep conversation with Roy, I'd probably have just started weeping. I hadn't seen nor heard a thing from them in 2 years plus. But here they were. I had a tough time leading the singing and getting started with the message for weeping. There was just something different about both of them; they listened intently while we preached the precious words of God. After the service, they began to tell me how God had gotten hold of them. Later, Michael would tell me that after a party of drinking and drugs, he was walking the white line of a major highway saying he was done as semi-trucks just barely missed him. He was wanting to end his life. He was telling me that's when God got hold of him and right by the highway, he repented and trusted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour; no rehab, no rehabilitation, or prescriptions. He said God took it all away! Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

His older brother, Ricky, told me God had done the same for him just a week or two before God got hold of Michael. They have been in service each Sunday since and one Wednesday night, when DWI class to get his license back, was cancelled. Michael has only 2 more DWI classes left and he said they'd be there on Wednesday nights. He has responded with an "Amen" to the devotions I send to him every day but Sunday. I cannot even begin to explain how wonderful this has been. For over 18 years, we have been praying and ministering to both of these dear souls with the Word. But it was a godly mother that left a well-marked and worn bible that had that final means that God used to convict and convert her boys. She went on to be with the Lord during all the Covid, but even on her death bed, she was "preaching" to Michael. He texted me one day and said, "Thank you for not giving up on us." I wept and said, "Thank the LORD!!" So, please pray for Ricky and Michael to stay faithful and grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord! I'm praying the LORD will use them to reach their people! They were so bad, but now being new creatures in Christ, many should really see a real change in them both. Praise the LORD!!

Now, another blessing and a heavy burden at the same time. Roy and Heather are married with 3 children; Emery, Austin, and Genesis. Heather came to church one Sunday morning in March and came to the alter weeping and testified that she had "hoped for this for a long time." She said she got saved and has seemed different in some ways but she has a very controlling, abusive husband, Roy. It's been tough not to get in the flesh with him. He thinks he knows everything, including bible knowledge. We really need your prayers in this matter. We're burdened as a church heavily. It's a dangerous situation. Please pray for Heather's safety and the children. Pray God will enlighten Roy's religious, darkened mind and break him of his pride and controlling spirit. Pray for me, please, for wisdom and direction.

In our last letter, we had the joy of telling you about Cody and Brandi. I rejoice to report that they BOTH have shown much evidence of fruits of repentance and faith in Christ our Lord. They have been a tremendous blessing; faithful as the sunrise, always working and doing something for the LORD and the church. Both have a burden for family and lost folks all around them. They read and study God's word a lot and listen to a lot of sound, bible preaching tht I recommend from Sermon Audio. Sister Brandi plays "Just As I Am" on the piano at the end of service for us when I need her to.

There has been 5 say that God has saved them since January 7th! Praise the LORD for His Amazing, Saving, Grace!! I want you all to know that in each one of these lives and instances where we've been so blessed to see God move, I've wept and thanked the LORD for all of you who have been praying for us and the ministry here! I've asked the LORD to lift your burdens and answer your prayers for your lost folks. Thank you for every prayer and every penny you send! **"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."** **Philippians 4:17.** To God be all the glory, now and ever. Amen.

Because of Calvary,
Mark Hodges

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"He that sows forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." ~ Psalm 126:6