



Please pray for

# THE HODGES

Missionaries to OKLAHOMA "Native America"



January 29, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." I John 4:10.** Praying before I began this letter, I began to hear that marvelous, old hymn, "The Love of God". "The Love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell" pretty much sums it up, praise His holy name! "It shall forever more endure, the saints and angels song!" To get to watch God's love work in sinners' hearts, hammering and shattering to pieces ole hard-hearted folk, full of iniquity, and to see them melt and fall on bended knee, to cry from the heart, "Oh, God, be merciful to me a sinner", with tears streaming down a once hard, cold, selfish countenance and then to rise humbled and broken with a quickened spirit, an enlightened mind, and a heart overwhelmed with the love of God, to then open a mouth that once took God's name in vain, that now thanks God for His mercy and for saving them. That, my dear brothers and sisters, is worth staying in the fight, earnestly contending for the faith!

It's been nearly 4 months since our October Arbor Meeting where the Lord got hold of Bud the second night of the meeting and saved him. Brother Bud, his wife, Mrs. Lauren, and their two, teenage children, Braxton and Zalee, have been very faithful to Sunday and Wednesday services and are always early in time for prayer before Sunday School. I looked back just this past Sunday and saw a big stature of a man with both hands toward the heavens with his eyes closed, unashamed to express his love toward his Lord and Savior who first loved him. He has stayed at length at the alter praying for family and friends. He has reached out to his mom in Florida and sends her devotionals every day. He has also started bringing his older brother to church when possible. Please continue to pray for Brother Bud and his family. I desire your prayers for discernment and direction in allowing the Lord to use me to effectively minister to this dear family.

In prayer letters of the past, I've mentioned to you and asked for prayers for Michael Barcus. He is the youngest Choctaw son of a dear mother and saint that has gone on to be with the Lord. She "preached" truth to him right up til she could no longer speak from the hospital bed in Oklahoma City. He's spent a lot of time in her bible. He testifies that after leaving a party of drinking and drugs, walking on the white line of a busy highway, he was wanting to just step in front of a semi and he says that's when God got hold of him. He has been coming to church regularly, spending hours in the scriptures and listening to preaching that I or another brother has recommended. One that once was very hard and rebellious, is now very tender-hearted and weeps often. The church has really stepped up in trying to disciple him. For over two decades, he was a drunkard and drug addict. We earnestly ask that you put him on your prayer list, that through Christ, he will overcome those temptations that Satan haunts him with. He got his drivers license back all on his own, paid his fines, etc. and has been working some with Brother Cody who has just been saved a little over a year. It's been a blessing to me to see how God, in His great wisdom, has orchestrated this opportunity for both of them. As I asked previously, I deeply desire your earnest, effectual prayers in how to be used of the Lord in Michael's life. He has been reaching out to many of his old partying friends and telling them about Jesus. Michael told me one day that he used to be "the boss" and they all used to follow him. But now he said, "Jesus is my King and I follow Him." There is a great potential for God to use his testimony to reach many of those he once ran with to be saved. Please pray for his protection, for courage and strength to truly follow the Lord and not fall into any traps or snares of the enemy.

We all rejoiced this past Sunday morning as an answer to many prayers came through the door and found a place on a pew beside his dear, godly wife. Sister Ruth is a dear, praying saint and at 81, battles often with health issues; fainting and falling. She has a heavy burden, along with us the church, for her husband of 80+ years old who is known to most as a grumpy, old man. Please pray for Wilburn Wilson to be saved before it's too late. There are numerous others on our heart. The Lord knows each one. Multitudes are lost all around us. My burden and prayer is that God will build an army in Emmanuel Baptist Church that will be unashamed and unafraid to praise Him and to testify of His love, goodness, mercy, and grace to all.

Preacher Arnt Greer use to say, "You better get in while God is troubling the water!" This past year has truly seemed as though God is troubling the water. It's through the prayers of you, the saints, all these years that the Lord has sustained us, protected us, and kept us in the fight and I cannot even begin to thank you enough, but our Lord will. We love and appreciate every one of you dear folk who pray for us and have supported us all these years. May the Lord bless you for every moment of prayer and every penny you have given. **"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" Jude 25.**

By His Grace and For His Glory,  
Mark Hodges

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Post Office Box 93  
Bromide, OK 74530

FIELD ADDRESS

Forest Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
Vilas, NC

SENDING CHURCH



Fundamental Baptist Home Missions, Inc.  
Post Office Box 1510  
Bessemer City, NC 28016  
MISSION BOARD

HOME (580) 279-6705  
CELL (580) 579-3909  
EMAIL [hodgesfam4ok@gmail.com](mailto:hodgesfam4ok@gmail.com)  
CONTACT US

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