



*Please pray for*

# THE HODGES

*Missionaries to OKLAHOMA "Native America"*



January 9, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:" Psalm 103:1-2.** Oh, the benefits of being "a child of the King": Redemption, Forgiveness, Justification, Sanctification, and one happy, happy day, Glorification! And then there is the church; our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the privilege to hold, to read, and to listen to the very words of God and then share and publish His great truths throughout the world!

In December, we had such a privilege to stand before over 70 young, Native Americans, ages 7-18, from many different tribes at the Chickasaw Children's Village. However, the church had been battling a terrible stomach virus and the Sunday afternoon we were expected there, we were a smaller handful of purpose than usual. I, myself, had awoken with severe neck pain around 2-3 a.m. that Sunday morning and was left with no choice but to take strong medication knowing we were not only supposed to preach and lead the services for Sunday, but with great expectation, we were supposed to take the shoeboxes and toys to the Chickasaw Children's Village by 4:30 that afternoon. My eyes filled with tears and my heart was hurting knowing the devil was trying to keep us from sharing the Gospel with those young, Native Americans. Yet, I had no choice but to let go and let God as I drifted off to sleep. Normally I would've been down the rest of the day and night. But I woke up at 2 p.m. and the neck pain was gone. Still heavily sedated and moving slow, I began to get ready. The church had had a wonderful service that morning. Being instant in season and out of season, our son, Isaiah, preached and folks testified. With not a minute to spare, we loaded up the shoeboxes and toys. Upon arrival at the CCV, we were greeted at the parking lot by staff and house parents with an immediate atmosphere of God's liberty. They had all of the children in the gymnasium. We were concerned with such a small number of us to sing but God magnified our voices in that gym and it was such a blessing. Oh, the LORD was so gracious to give us several opportunities to share the Gospel, to tell that Blessed Old Story of JESUS and HIS LOVE!! I broke a few times and tears filled my eyes knowing what that sorry, no good for nothing, Apollyon had "tried" to do. Yet, there we stood by God's marvelous, immeasurable GRACE sharing the Gospel with all those young, Native Americans! **"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."** Please do pray that the LORD would enlighten the darkened minds of those young people with the Gospel. We have already begun stocking up for next December, Lord willing.

The Sunday afternoon before Christmas, we went out in the community and to a nursing home in Atoka, about 25 miles east of the church, and sang Christmas hymns. Some of the folks we visited stood in their doorway with tears and gratefulness. We are praying that these outreaches in the community will let people see that we care about them and Jesus loves them!

**Lord willing, I will be having a serious neck surgery once again in February. It is scheduled for the 18th.** The pain has become more and more frequent and much less manageable. I did try "pain management" from a doctor. He stuck a needle into my vertebrae. I almost blacked out. I never have cared for needles anyway and that one about did me in. It seemed to help for about 4 - 5 days then the pain was back. There is a risk of the surgery messing up my voice because the esophagus and larynx have to be pushed to the side. The neurosurgeon said, "The good news is there is no more bad ones left once this surgery is done." My others are in good shape supported by shoulder muscles and such. We sure do covet your prayers for this surgery. I have missed some services at church and have had to take a lot of medicine in the past few months. I have a pretty long recovery ahead of me and I believe that is what I dread the most. Please pray for the surgeon, Dr. Qualls Stevens, to see everything that the Lord knows is wrong, to guide his hands, and to fix what is causing all of the pain. I can hardly sleep at night and stay tired a lot. Please pray for Robin, the church, and Isaiah through this process also.

We will not ever be able to thank you here as we desire on this old earth for all of your faithful prayers and financial support, but one glorious day our precious LORD will reward all for every prayer and penny! **"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever. Amen." Jude 25.**

**P.S. Thank you SO MUCH for all of the Christmas gifts!!**

**By His Grace and for His Glory,**

Mark Hodges

*Church Planting | Soul Winning | Open Air Evangelism | Tent Meetings*

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