



The Joel Haynes Family

to the Navajo Nation

March-April 2023

Dear Pastor, Church and Praying Friends,

ARE THE RESULTS EVER REALLY “IN”?

From February 19th-March 26th we held our third annual Spring Evangelism Campaign at Strong Hold Baptist Church in Pinon. Many of you prayed for this evangelism push and for our Revival Meeting that led up to the Grand Finale Sunday of the campaign. How God answered prayer in an amazing way! At the end of 6 weeks, the congregation had distributed 3,689 Gospel tracts, presented a Gospel witness 59 times, produced 51 first-time visitors in services and saw 12 precious souls accept Christ as Savior in Sunday Services! On the final Sunday of the Campaign, we packed 115 people into the church building, 16 of which were first time visitors, 4 adults walked the aisle for salvation and 2 children in Jr. Church accepted Christ as Savior! The Bus Ministry took a major boost during this time as we averaged between 35-40 riders a week between the four routes! I announced to our folks on the Finale Sunday, “The Results are In!” only to arrive at a glorious thought in my personal time later – “Are the results ever REALLY in until Jesus comes?” My joy over these results is just a shadow of how wonderful it will be to know the full extent of what all our labor truly wrought in glory someday!

A BIT OF PERSPECTIVE ON GOD’S BLESSINGS

Seeing that Pinon only has a population of about 2,200 souls, I teased our people at the amount of tracts reportedly distributed. I asked humorously, “Were you giving tracts to your neighbor’s livestock!?” The truth was that many folks drove long distances and down dirt roads finding souls beyond the borders of our own community. Those 59 Gospel witnesses were so meaningful as many of those were given by people in our church who were pushing themselves to give the plan of salvation for the very first time! The visitors that came were comprised of professing Mormons, a Jehovah’s Witness lady, Catholics, Native Traditionalists and Native American Church (NAC) goers. There is no opportunity to pack the pews with saved relatives from the next town over on our Reservation. It’s tremendous labor to get a non-Christian in a “Church is for white people” society to actually attend their very first Bible-preaching church service! Our bus captains/drivers faithfully ran their routes through record snowfall and moisture, battling mud and satanic mischief every mile of the way. Praise the Lord!

POST-CAMPAIGN GROWTH

It is typical that after a big push, folks succumb to fleshly tendencies to let off the gas pedal so to speak in their church work. That has been the case in years past, but we have rejoiced in watching church attendance remain over 100 souls each Sunday with 2 more souls saved and 12 more first-time visitors. Bro. Anderson Begay brought 24 people on his van the Sunday after the campaign. One of our men is preaching at the Alcoholics Anonymous Group in Chinle on Thursday a sermon entitled “Don’t do it for yourself, Do it for God!” What a difference it would make if evangelism was a lifestyle for God’s people and not just a program scheduled on a calendar!

FAMILY UPDATE AND MATTERS OF PRAYER

The family is well with the boys on the home stretch to finish school by early May. Fabi does so well with them! They are excited to jump in with Dad and not be held back by the demand of personal studies over Summer. Joel, Jr. led two young men to Christ recently, Judah is helping his brother, Titus, get faithful in his daily Bible reading, while Justus and Jonas are busy being joyful, little nuts that make everything interesting. In the coming weeks, I will be preaching at our second church plant’s missions conference (Chambers Baptist Church) as well as 5 other meetings both on and off the Reservation. We will also host 4 missions trip groups, have our VBS and host the 3rd Annual Navajoland Baptist Youth Camp. Justus, Judah, Fabi, Joel, Jr., Jonas and myself will all be a year older by my next writing. Thank you for your faithfulness over the years!

Spreading the Light in Navajoland,

Joel N. Haynes