



# The Joel Haynes Family

*to the Navajo Nation*

May-June 2024

Dear Pastor, Church and Praying Friends,

## **YOU WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE BEEN THERE!**

Has anyone ever said, “You would have had to have been there”, when trying to describe an indescribable happening? Have you ever taken a scenic picture and had to attach the disclaimer, “The picture doesn’t do it justice”, because there was no way to fully capture the glory of the view? This is the feeling I get trying to write letters to describe what God is doing in Navajoland. I will try to encapsulate what has been happening so far this Summer, but please know, this letter doesn’t do justice the miracles my tear-filled eyes are beholding as I see dreams transforming into realities among our people!

## **VBS/COWBOY REVIVAL/TRAILRIDE**

This year we combined our VBS with the Navajo Nation Cowboy Revival and our first ever Strong Hold Community Trail Ride! Our church people worked tirelessly to visit and advertise the meeting by passing out over 2,000 flyers in just a few weeks. Leading into the meeting we ordered church T-shirts to stand out in the community and identify ourselves as Christians! We challenged our folks to do the altar work during the invitation. “It’s our job to reach our people” was the spirit and motto we pushed in the leadup. Bro. McKelroy and his team from Waco came and fought through high winds and dust devils that swirled through our local, rodeo arena as they performed mounted action shooting demos, sang, preached and invited lost souls to come to Christ! On Friday we had a six-mile trail ride and gave away prizes and snack bags to the riders to draw in the community to hear the preaching. Our folks ran van routes and 9 of our church members led a soul to Christ for their very first time! God blessed with 22 precious souls saved! On the last night there were even two medicine men that attended and heard the Gospel! Saturday, we butchered a sheep in celebration and on Sunday had over 120 in church with the father of one of our teen girls walking the aisle and accepting Christ as his Savior! Amen!

## **NAVAJOLAND BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP**

Each year at Camp I wonder how it could get any better than the year before! Yet, in these four years of camp it always does! If you have ever been to Youth Camp, things always seem to come to a peak either on Wednesday or Thursday night, but in my ponderings after Camp, I recalled not one, but three particular services in which the presence of the Holy Spirit seemed to move greatly among the young people! For the week, 4 teens received Christ as Savior, 2 received assurance, 4 Navajo young men surrendered to preach, 2 teens settled a call to be missionaries and nearly 400 decision cards were filled out by the young people to make public the choices they made during the invitations! Thank you for praying and for those who gave special offerings to assist young people in going to camp or to help pay for projects on the camp facilities. In just four years of camp, a total of 26 young people have been saved, 14 young men have surrendered to preach and thousands of life-altering decisions have been made. You are making a difference in Navajoland through your investments!

## **THE BUILDING IN PINON**

The building in Pinon continues to move closer to completion in small steps. We have installed gutters, drainage and are purchasing all the electrical materials to proceed with wiring the entire structure in preparation of bringing power to the building. God has also blessed with the donation of a sound system that will be installed at the end of this month! We will look to install all the HVAC and plumbing components in the walls and straightway launch into insulating and drywalling the interior. There is still much work to be done! It is exciting to see God provide and progress being made!

## **FAMILY UPDATE AND MATTERS OF PRAYER**

The family will be traveling with me quite a bit over the next few weeks as I preach some camps and conferences. Please lift us up as we travel. I would also ask that you pray as we prepare to move our mobile home 72 miles Northwest to Pinon. We will tackle the move in the midst of travel, visiting groups, the Navajoland Revival and the start of the Fall Semester for the Bible College. We are confident that the helping hand of God will be present with us in the transition, but do ask that you would pray. Your prayers put wind under our heels and keep us going like nothing else!

Spreading the Light *from* Navajoland,

*Joel N. Haynes*