

# MARK AND TRICIA HAYNES

## *Missionaries to the Navajo Nation*



"...Streams in the desert." Isaiah 35:6 b

Dear Pastor and Church,

November – December 2020

### HOW TO REVIEW 2020

It is safe to say that there has never been a year like 2020. The Covid-19 era makes it a bit more challenging to evaluate what the ministry here accomplished in the recently passed year. The months of January through March were very fruitful indeed. We actually had more people baptized during that time (7) than we did in all of 2019. Attendance found us hitting over 100 fairly often. We had an excellent group of folks going soulwinning on a regular basis. We were seeing folks saved in the services and in our nursing home ministry. Then, seemingly, everything on the Reservation screeched to a halt. Though Ganado Baptist physically met through the entire pandemic (except for one week when the heating system cratered), it was still very different. Curfews, lockdowns, restrictions, these all became the name of the game! So, from April to December really didn't match what happened in January through March, right?



Folks, hear me out – 2020 was a difficult but a great year. I think we often define a good year by circumstances. The truth is, in good years there are bad circumstances and in bad years there are good circumstances. Circumstances can play a roll, but if they become the standard by which we judge our ministries or lives, I think we err greatly! I mean, we learned that God is still God in the midst of crisis. We learned how to be creative in our outreach efforts. I believe we had opportunities to get the Gospel out that we never would have had there not been a pandemic. Don't get me wrong! I long for it to be over. But I learned a lot about our people and how many have now realized how important assembly is. They will never take it for granted again. In America, and on our Reservation, I think it is time we bucked up and realized that there are folks around the world that have to deal with more than we do. This is our time, our opportunity. Let's not blow it! So how was 2020? God still moved, churches still got planted, people still got saved, and Jesus is still King!

### HOW TO RESPOND AT FUNERALS

I would guess that I have done more funerals in the past six months than in my entire time here on the Rez. Just

last week, it was my honor to lead or assist in three services. These most recent services involved folks that had made a profession of faith. One was a church member, the first and only one we have lost to the pandemic. Our response to funerals has always been to preach the Gospel of Christ and present the plan of salvation with succinctness and clarity. The families always know that it will be a salvation message. In Navajo tradition, it is taboo to speak of death, but the taboo is lifted at a funeral. This gives us an opportunity to give the truth

to many who we would not normally be able to reach. We pass out tracts, distribute a DVD called "Native Voices" which is also a great soulwinning tool. I am glad to report that over a dozen people have responded to our invitations to receive Christ. Follow-up can often be difficult in these settings but pray for us as we attempt to do so.



### HOW TO RECHARGE FOR 2021

We are going to plan out our year as we always do and then be flexible enough to adjust as we deal with whatever restrictions may come our way. We gave numerous gifts recently to the residents and staff at our local nursing home. Some would say this will not directly benefit the church, but we are seeking to honor His Word by helping these dear ones that are so often forgotten and pushed aside. We are planning camps, VBS, retreats, and many other things fully aware that last second change may be needed. But the Lord already knows about that, doesn't He? We will then continue to seek to be faithful and to please the Lord as His great work continues!

We would like to thank you for all the cards, financial gifts, and notes of encouragement over Christmas. We do not take these things for granted! Praying that 2021 will be your greatest year yet for our Lord!

*Dr. and Mrs. Mark Haynes*

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