

## **Newsletter: Winter 2010**

### **Open and Closed Doors**

First of all we want to thank all of you for your partnership with us in ministry here in Kotzebue. Your prayers do have an effect and we have seen God work in a miraculous way these last couple months. Many times God will close doors and we can become discouraged as we don't see the picture from His perspective. In January we were a little disheartened as a door in ministry closed here. The Sunday night services came to a close as the Lord spoke to the leadership's hearts about taking a step back. For us, this meant laying Children's ministry on the altar and praying for God's will to be known. We had just received brand new items to fully furnish the nursery at church. A home fellowship at Horizon San Diego had taken the time to order and send up a Little Tykes kitchen set, table and chairs, matchbox cars, dolls, trucks, etc... We were so blessed to be getting these items, but at the same time feeling bad because we didn't know how they were now going to be used.

Monday morning (January 11th) after our last Sunday night service we had a yearly inspection with Office of Children's Services. We were still a little perplexed as to why we didn't have any foster kids placed with us. It had been a couple months since Trent and Kendra had moved out. That morning OCS changed our status to receive more than 2 children if needed. Until this point we were only allowed to have 2 live with us.

Just days before this Keith and I were doing devotions together and Philemon 22 really made an impression on us both. "But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you." In faith, I started to get the spare room ready for any foster kids and continued to pray.

Tuesday morning (January 12th) Keith got a call at work from OCS. They wanted to know if we could please take in Trent, Kendra, and their little brother Hunter. What???? Of course!!!! I was in tears and astonishment when Keith called me to tell me to get ready for the 3 little ones that would be with us in a couple hours. I had sent out all of their toys when they moved out a couple months ago. I e-mailed the home fellowship leader from Horizon and asked if we could use the items they sent for the foster children instead. We were so blessed to have a whole nursery ready for them when they got here. God knew ahead of time what our needs would be and provided like He always does. The toys were perfect for a one, two, and three year old. We can see God's hand in the timing of every detail of this whole situation. We would be overwhelmed if we were taking care of 3 little ones while also trying to do Children's church on Sundays. We plan on doing Children's ministry again in time as the Lord leads. Right now we have a full time children's ministry in our home.

### **More Open Doors**

In our last newsletter we asked for prayer concerning Keith getting the Chaplaincy position here in Kotzebue. He was appointed the position about a week ago and is awaiting the arrival of his uniform and certificate. This volunteer position will allow Keith to accompany troopers out on calls to the surrounding villages to minister the love of Christ in much needed situations. We are praying that this will open more doors for ministry here, as well.

### **Daily Life**

Since the kids have moved in, we have had minor setbacks in the way of health. At the moment Trent and Kendra both have pneumonia and Hunter is recovering well from a bout of pneumonia that he was battling last week. I have had to learn to not pick up the children as much as I would like because my shoulder has been in pain. It is very cold out, so we have stayed indoors most of the win-ter. There were a few days in a row where the temps got about 10 degrees, so we took advantage and took the kids for a sledding trip out on Cemetery Hill. Many families were out enjoying the warm weather that day and it was so much fun. The kids had a blast. We can't wait for the weather to warm up a little and for the kids to feel well again. It will be nice to get outside!

### **Future Plans for Cameron**

As many of you know, Cameron will be graduating this year. He is praying about going to Murrieta Bible College or the Calvary Chapel Bible College in Europe next fall. He has done so well in his studies and it has been such a blessing to homeschool every inch of the way. It has opened doors of opportunity for us in ways we never imagined. We are going to miss him so much as he leaves the nest. He has been a blessing, encouragement, and a tremendous help to us in ministry here. He should be finished with high school in mid-May and is praying about different opportunities for the summer before he heads off to college.