



Yá'át'ééh (Hello) Greetings from Gallup, New Mexico

**Your prayers are Vital!  
Without God's special help,  
obtained only through prayer,  
nothing for eternity will be accomplished!**

***September 2023 Newsletter***  
**Doug and Becky Stratton**  
***Serving as His Hand Extended***  
**to the Native Americans**

## DEVOTIONAL TO PONDER

### Being Proven

There He proved them – Exodus 15:25

I stood once in the test room of a great steel mill. All around me were little partitions and compartments. Steel had been tested to the limit, and marked with figures that showed its breaking point. Some pieces had been twisted until they broke, and the strength of torsion was marked on them. Some had been stretched to the breaking point and their tensile strength indicated. Some had been compressed to the crushing point, and also marked. The master of the steel mill knew just what these pieces of steel would stand under strain. He knew just what they would bear if placed in the great ship, building, or bridge. He knew this because his testing room revealed it.

It is often so with God's children. God does not want us to be like vases of glass or porcelain. He would have us like these toughened pieces of steel, able to bear twisting and crushing to the uttermost without collapse.

He wants us to be, not hothouse plants, but storm-beaten oaks; not sand dunes driven with every gust of wind, but granite rocks withstanding the fiercest storms. To make us such He must needs bring us into His testing room of suffering.

Many of us need no other argument than our own experiences to prove that suffering is indeed God's testing room of faith. - J.H.McC

It is very easy for us to speak and theorize about faith, but God often casts us into crucibles to try our gold, and to separate it from the dross and alloy. Oh, happy are we if the hurricanes that ripple life's unquiet sea have the effect of making Jesus more precious. Better the storm with Christ than smooth waters without Him.

– Macduff Taken from *Streams in the Desert*

**Tidbit Notes:** I had heard this term at the nursing home. The following Sunday I said that I had learned a new, respectful word - Ch Ching. Everyone burst into laughter. Then Randy said, "Pastor, it is Chay."

### MISSION NEWS in September

- \* A work crew that came out with Dennis Gardner, Jr. and built a barn over the cement foundation for the oil tank, and the barn. It is a great improvement and we are grateful. They also did electrical and plumbing work; plus insulation and drywall work in our houses near the road. (Pictures next month.)
- \* A Mystery Supper Fundraiser was given for our 3 Penn View students before they went back to Bible College at the end of August.
- \* The Church Family Night was an enjoyable time of fellowship. (See pictures on next page.) We have started having family night on the 3rd Friday of every month. All are welcome.
- \* A funeral took place this month for a very beloved mother of one of our attendees. Please pray for the family. She was loved by all who met and knew her.

**Bible Quiz question for the month:** Where in the Bible does it speak of a man washing dishes?

(Answer on page 4) Thank you Terry Bell for Quiz question. (If you have an interesting Quiz questions email it to: [doug.h.stratton@gmail.com](mailto:doug.h.stratton@gmail.com))

**Navajo words of the month:** Cheii – Grandfather (pronounced Chey )  
Shicheii – My grandfather (pronounced CH Chey)

**Doug:** The Work Team also did a great job at keeping a secret. My son, John, stopped by for a short visit. He is the Pastor at Indian Holiness Mission in Chambers, Arizona. I was outside working and he called to me that Mom needed me. So when I came into the house she asked me if I could take an item to the refrigerator in the basement. I went down the stairs and saw that the pantry door was open, and the light was on. So in passing, I went to shut the light off and close the door. Then I saw a man in there. I was shocked! At first sight I knew it was not someone from the work crew. It took a moment before I recognized my best friend from Ohio and his wife, who had come to surprise us with a visit for a week. When my brain came out of shock and I recognized him, I said, "Terry Bell." We enjoyed their visit, and were able to do some sightseeing. If you would come to the beautiful Southwest, we would enjoy showing you some of God's Creation, too.



Found Terry and Leah Bell  
In the pantry.



Window Rock



Leah helping to  
make fry bread

**Becky:** I want to praise the Lord for His amazing help over the last few months. I am confident He used your prayers to accomplish this. My body has withstood the chemo fairly well. I am blessed to have no nausea. Just exhaustion and bone pain. My last chemo brought my red blood counts dangerously low. But I know my Heavenly Father is able to solve this problem. I also want to thank Father for my wonderful husband. He does so much for me. Added to his responsibilities here at the mission. He is always here for me when I get to the end of my strength and endurance. He is always there to finish up what I can't do. I am blessed!



Above - Church family on a Sunday night

Right & Below - Mystery Supper Fund-raiser for our girls going back to Penn View Bible College .

Also pictures of August0 Family Night –



**PRAISE NOTES:**

God is helping a family that has been going through a difficult situation. The young man, that requested prayer for him and his family, has been coming or listening on the phone to the services. He has been finding more work to support his family. We are grateful to see how God is working in lives and in hearts. Becky's cancer counts have dropped from 1,500 to 212 after 2 sessions of chemo. A session now is 2 treatments over 2 weeks.

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS :**

Continue to pray for a young man who called for prayer. He lost all of his sheep and goats to a pack of dogs. Also pray for salvation of this young man and his uncle's families. God has been speaking to them. Prayer is needed for a bereaved family whose mother was in a nursing home but Christ took her home to be with Him in September. Pray that God will minister to their hearts as only He can. Continue to pray for another man who is trying, with the Lord's help, to break an addiction. Continue to pray for Becky as she has chemo treatments. Please pray for her healing.

**ANSWER TO QUIZ: Found in 2 Kings 21:13**

**FINANCIAL NEEDS:**

- \* Pray that God will supply the financial needs. (Please specify if for a particular project)
- \*Perhaps there is a person, a group, or a church who would feel led of the Lord to help provide Sunday School materials for the Mission. They cost about \$225 a quarter, which amounts to \$75 a month.
- \*Help is always needed for monthly operating expenses.
- \*Maintenance expenses are also always ongoing. General maintenance items add up very quickly.
- \*Heating oil expenses are a necessity for the coming cold winter months. Our elevation is about 6,647 feet.

**Please make checks out to: Free Trinity Navajo Mission Mail to: P.O.Box 115, Gamerco, NM 87317**

***A special Thank You to those who support this mission.***

*We could not be ministering here without you.*

**Will you sacrifice from one of these groups?**

**A little every day adds up**

- \$ .66 - a can of soda a day = \$ 20.00 a month
- \$ 1.00 - a candy bar a day = \$ 30.00 a month
- \$ 1.25 ½ - cup coffee a day= \$ 37.50 a month
- \$2.50 - 1 cup of coffee a day = \$ 75.00 a month
- \$3.33 a day = \$100.00 a month

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Free Trinity Navajo Mission  
P.O.Box 115 Gamerco, NM 87317  
Personal Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 237 Gamerco, NM 87317  
Doug's 505-906-0196  
Becky's 505-906-0296  
Parsonage Phone # 505-905-8422

***Would you consider a monthly donation for spreading the Gospel to the Navajo people?***

***Any amount is appreciated!***