

# MARK AND TRICIA HAYNES

## *Missionaries to the Navajo Nation*



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

Dear Pastor and Church,

July - August 2020

### WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES

It is still a rare occasion that we are able to meet in our building for services. We met just a few weeks ago on a Wednesday night in our building for the first time since March. It seemed very tentative at first, but once we began to sing, everyone felt at home again! We are still very limited on the ability to meet inside, but other opportunities have opened up.

I have done five funerals over the past few weeks. Most of them have been for people that I had never met. Our church family pass on my name to friends who are looking for a preacher to lead in a prayer or conduct a service. Of course, if at all possible, I say "Yes" to such invitations. It is a privilege for me to serve the Navajo people, but also a "one-time shot" at getting the gospel to people I would otherwise not meet. This is just an estimate, but I believe that over 20 people have raised their hands at these services indicating that they were putting their trust in Christ. One of those funeral opportunities came because one of our church members took advantage of an impossible opportunity. That story follows.

### WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IMPOSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

Bro. Hank Haskie leads our Navajo speaking class in our church. He is a great soulwinner and I count on him to deal with folks who primarily speak Navajo. **Marie Begay was a little Navajo grandmother who was brought to church when we were having services in the building by her grandson. She had pretty intense dementia. We all loved her because of her sweetness. One day, after service, I saw Bro. Hank really intently talking to her at the back of the auditorium. He must have spent at least an hour with her. He came to me beaming letting me know that Marie had accepted Christ. He kept taking to her in Navajo and asked the Lord to grant just a moment of lucidity to this precious little woman. He said, "Pastor, I am convinced by her prayer that she understood!" Let that be a lesson to all of us never to give up on witnessing, no matter how impossible it seems. I was asked to conduct Marie's funeral service this month and family members who would never attend our church heard the gospel and were saved. NEVER give up to the impossible!**

### WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY



The annual Navajoland Baptist Revival (NBR) has become a very important time of encouragement when we have our churches come together for preaching, encouragement, and fellowship. It looked like we were dead in the water because of building restrictions. Our son, Joel, determined that we would have a drive-in NBR. It was amazing! It was planned carefully to fulfill all the requirements ordered by the Tribe. It was one of the hottest days of the year, but over 60 cars drove onto the Ganado church grounds carrying over 200 people! We had our young men assist in getting cars parked, running cold water to the folks in their vehicles, and had four hours of preaching and singing. It was an absolutely crazy idea and God smiled on us and gave us a great meeting. The preaching was spot on and outstanding! No one

seemed to care about the heat. I think it gave all of our churches a good shot in the arm to continue on despite the difficult circumstances.



### WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A LIFELONG OPPORTUNITY



On a personal note, we had the privilege of officiating the wedding of our baby daughter, Keturah, to Bro. Jason Humada. The gospel was preached by Joel at the service and folks were saved. Praise the Lord! Pray for Keturah and Jason as they seek to live a lifetime together in serving our Lord!!

*Dr. and Mrs. Mark Haynes*

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