Smoke Signals... From the McKinneys

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Dear Friends in Christ,

What a wonderful time we are having here in the southeast part of the country. I know now why it is called "Sweet Alabama". The people are friendly and the churches are very hospitable. It makes a person have a sense of appreciation!

The Mission Conference we were in, with Pastor David Webb in Alabama, has been one to remember. The church voted to take on the missionaries before they presented their ministries or even before they preached. It takes away the pressure and it allows us to enjoy the days of the conference and the fellowship of the church, knowing that we have been added to the church's missionary family....Wow! (No Pow-Wow, just Wow)

The Matter of the road travels has been good to us and without any dangerous road conditions. We stayed a day ahead of it as we came down and after we arrived, it got cold. The weather here is fine now after being in North Carolina and now in Texas. The month of February will keep us in Texas and Oklahoma and by the end of March, we will be back in Washington for a Native American Baptist Fellowship Meeting. Then, we will have to try and wrap it up by the end of May. Summer months are a coming, and we have family camp, camp meeting and vacation bible school!

The Missionaries we have met have been an encouragement to us as they were also in the U.S. and working to start new churches. One was to Arkansas, another in Maine, and one in Alabama. I believe we need to do some replacement works for the churches that are dying out all across America. I am seeing a need of that sort all across the midwest, but we need to have more young people willing and able to carry out the call of God. (Old People can go too!)

Please keep in prayer our road trips and the church back in Portland as it seems to be losing a few of the people. The car is holding up pretty well considering we have had to travel the dirt roads in the south, and some of them are wash board roads....I miss them!

Also, pray for my health, I was told by my doctor that I was carrying a gall stone about the size of a golf ball, but need not worry until it gets painful.....and then, well, pray for me!

My wife is taking all this in stride and enjoying furlough and fellowship!....She has become a really good Chaffuer without pay too!

Because He First Loved Us,

Larry G. McKinney

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