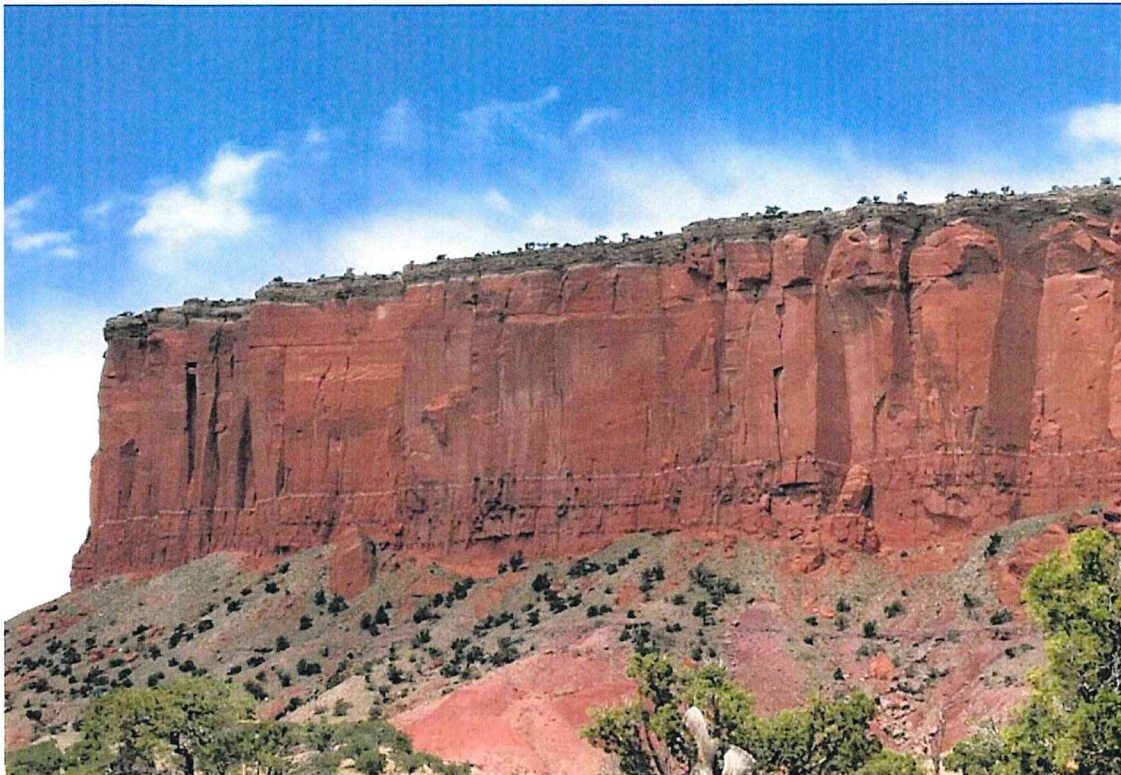


Niemonds Independent Church

From: Mark & Gina Morris <morrisfamily1989@send.mailchimpapp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:10 AM
To: info@niemonds.org
Subject: Morris Ministry -- Spring Update

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"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." ~John 16:33

As we started the New Year we were reminded of this verse as we met with trial after trial and little time to process each one. There have been so many suicides already this year and we've had front row seats to their family member's grief and pain. As I continue ministry as chaplain in the police department, the officers look to me to help the families through these terribly

difficult times. With seeing so much pain it tends to weigh on some officers more than others and suddenly it becomes very personal when an officer close to you is the one contemplating suicide and you have to talk them down. In the middle of all this I was praying and talking to God saying "God, I didn't sign up for this!" I was also, at this time, doing a personal Bible study on Job. I asked God "How is this study in Job supposed to help with all the pain I'm seeing and dealing with?" At that moment Esther 4:14 came to mind--"who knows if perhaps you were made for such a time as this!"

As I continued my study I was struck by how Job spoke openly and freely to God, telling Him how confused he was, how much it hurt and how he wanted answers. He let his true, raw, emotions pour out to God when he was hurting. I was also struck by the value of truly godly friends that don't judge you when you're down or confused by why God has called you to walk alongside hurting people during the worst days of their lives and you're burned out by trying to help them. A small sample of incidents I've recently been called out for: A pastor's son took his wife's life and then his own, a Christian young man was shot for his new car and tax return money, and another young man took his life after wrecking the car he just purchased while driving home on the muddy roads.

While these things, and many others, tend to weigh on our hearts, we know God still loves us and hears us when we cry out to Him from the deepest parts of our hearts. We can also share this hope with the hurting, who are also asking "why?".

We're thankful for godly friends we can call and ask for prayer, as well as friends who call us to check on us when God lays us on their hearts. We're thankful for all of you who pray for us because we know we couldn't do this work without the help of our heavenly Father!

~~Ways you can pray for us~~

Pray for the Lord to continue to strengthen us and uphold us, especially when we get hit with wave after wave of trauma and grief. Pray for us to be mindful

of taking time to get away to a quiet place for some time alone with God, for Him to refresh us and restore us.

Pray for Him to guide us and direct us as we balance ministry and a secular job.

Pray for Gina as she seeks the Lord's direction for what He would have her do for ministry as things have changed drastically since covid. Pray for her as she ministers to several girls who have recently reconnected with her and are struggling.

Pray for our kids to grow deeper and deeper in their relationship with Christ. Pray for Rachel, and Logan, as she's expecting our second grandbaby in November. Pray for Kristin and Efrain as they care for a troubled teen girl they've taken in. Pray for Paul as he continues his work as EMT/Firefighter and for Melissa as she seeks the Lord's direction in her life.

Pray for us to have more opportunities to share Christ with the hurting, and for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of those we speak into.

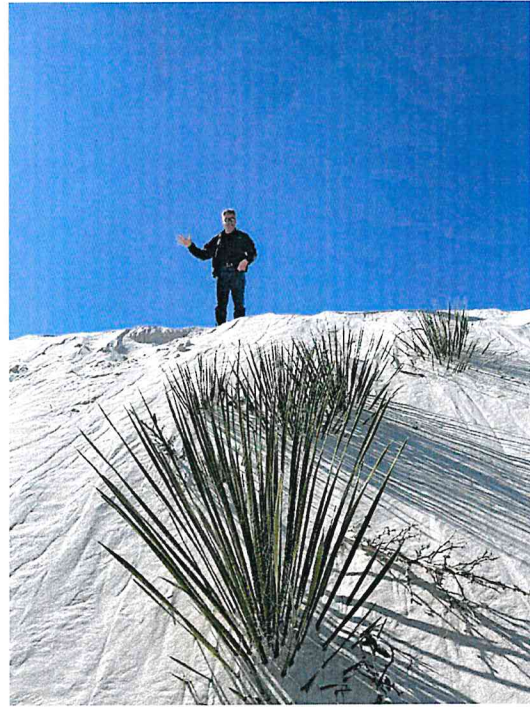
~~~A Couple Praises~~~

Our housing situation currently remains the same.

God's provision for so many things, but especially for a little time away for R&R to celebrate Mark's 55th birthday.

Pictures Below:

A few pictures of our time away visiting White Sands National Park in NM. God's creation is SO amazing and so vastly different, even just in New Mexico! Pictures can't even begin to show this amazing handiwork of our Creator! All the white....it's sand, not snow! (Although we do get snow here!) We're so grateful to be able to take a little time away to just breathe.



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