

Howdy from Ironwood,

There are so many stories to tell of God's goodness, working, and blessing over the last few months. I'll take the time to share just a few.

This summer there were about 1,000 different spiritual decisions, over a 120 of which were salvations! That number only includes the ones we know of, too. Last summer I had mentioned that the foster system is now allowing kids to choose to come to Ironwood as one of the camp options the government will pay for. Our government paid for at least 24 young people to hear the gospel and come to know the Lord as their personal Lord and Savior. The Lord can work in any situation!

Here's a story that came from that situation. There were two girls that came with the foster system that as soon as they got on the wagon they wanted to go home. Their attitudes were completely closed to anything to do with God. They built up a huge wall around their hearts, wouldn't let people talk to them, wouldn't play any of the games, pretty much do nothing. Tuesday morning they pushed and pushed to go home, so we called their social worker and let them talk and she said they were staying there at least that night. Many of us were praying specifically for the girls because we thought this might be the only time they get to hear about God's gift of salvation. Our counselors got together right before the service to pray for them. The service came and the girls would not even go in to the service. We finally talked them into coming into the service. At the invitation, one of the girls was one of the first to come out. That night she received the Lord as her personal Savior!!! At the end of the invitation the second girl came out and got saved as well! We let them call home that night because they now wanted to stay. One of the girls asked to speak to someone on the phone at home and got passed around to basically the whole family and one after another she shared the gospel and what the Jesus had done for here. We got her connected with a local church back home and some of our counselors got to see her get baptized this summer. It goes without saying (but we should say it anyway) God is so amazing.

It has been a very busy fall. We have had many camps and a big change in pace. Right now I am acting as the interim Rivertown program director. For those that haven't heard, Sheriff Tom and Sarah Horton had to move back to Alabama due to some health complications. This has been a huge learning and stretching time for us all as we fill a void in staff.

Alison is doing amazing as usual at the school and was able to take a group of the kids to a youth conference at International Baptist College. Both the trip and the conference were a blessing. The trip for the conversations it allowed and the conference for the spiritual challenges it brought.

Shelby is growing like crazy. She finally decided to cut her first two teeth! Her activity level continues to make us tired, especially now that she tries to climb just about everything. Pray for us as we strive to be godly parents and teach her both what's right and wrong and of God's love for her.

We also praise the Lord that we have a deputation meeting set up for the spring in Buckeye Arizona. The Lord continues to provide our needs in all areas. We serve a big God who does "exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think."

Please continue to pray with and for us in regards wisdom, growth, and as the Lord continues to build support. Please also pray for discernment as we strive to raise a godly young lady.

Thank you are for sharing in the ministry God has given us at Ironwood,

The Watson Family (Stephen, Alison, Shelby)



Shelby's first experience as a flower girl!



The Watson family all duded up.

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