

Friends,

Since our last letter at the end of October, life has been a whirlwind for us. Let me give some highlights

before giving you our most urgent prayer needs:

1- We were delighted to have our ABWE president and wife, Paul and Martha Davis, visit us here in Colorado.

2- My **Council of 18** November meetings had to be shifted at the last minute from in-person to online. That certainly saved my traveling to the Chicago area and back!

3- Our annual **Pie and Praise** was SUCH a blessing as folks gave praise to God & thanksgiving for blessings!

4- A recent attender in 2020 has a craft business and she asked if she could use the church parking lot to host a holiday market for many local small businesses. We agreed. It was called "**Hollydays**" (our street is Holly). Our parking lot was filled with vendors and we had about 800 persons come to our church to check them out. Our lead pastor had a canopy at the end with hot drinks and literature to be passed out. One family came to church from it the next day and have now come 4 times and brought a brother's family as well. The husband just indicated last Sunday that he was wanting to commit his life to Christ! (Joe)



5- Then just 4 days later, we hosted a **Christmas By Candlelight** outreach. Host ladies were assigned a table for 8 and then asked to invite enough unsaved or unchurched ladies to fill the table.

A gospel message was given. Darlene & April's table was full with unsaved ladies, two of whom are neighbors. 55 ladies were present of which 30-something were not from our church... YET... ☐



6- **Christmas Eve** was a stunner for how well folks from the community and from our church came out. **144!** We haven't had that many in attendance for any event since we came 5 years ago. We're trying to follow them up. That's one of the nice things about COVID-19 - we can ask for contact info for contact tracing purposes.

7- We finally have children! I mean at the church! Yes, a group of about 10 kids did a little 12-minute

Christmas presentation that was cute as all git out! 15 months ago we only had 2 families with kids...



8- Sadly, **my father passed into eternity** in early December. It was a time of mixed emotions as Dad had suffered from dementia and had not recognized who I was for well over a year. He contracted COVID-19 about a week before and although he did not have significant symptoms, it evidently took its toll. April and I drove back to be in the service and to meet with family. Darlene was not able to go. Sadly, as well-known and respected as Dad was, the decision was made to only allow family to attend the service. The Gospel was able to be shared, but with a much smaller crowd than would have been present absent COVID-19.

You've heard of 21-gun salutes, but have you ever seen a **3-tractor salute**?!!? As a farmer for 80+ years, it was more than fitting to have 3 tractors lead the hearse and procession to the cemetery. What a sight!



More Family:

1- We love being close to our son, Trevor's, family with 2 daughters, only 20 minutes away.

2- Our eldest daughter, **Serena**, (Iowa) had twins this spring (making her total 7) and our middle daughter, Julie (rural NY), will be giving birth to #6 in a couple of weeks!! (My goal is 20 grandkids...) :-)

3- Youngest daughter, **April**, is living with us as she makes decisions about a relationship and work.

4- Darlene and I try to stay young with walks, exercise and an occasional flag football game (this year we had 15 come out on Thanksgiving for our annual "**Turkey Bowl**" which we played in snow). Darlene's "gut" issues continue to flare up at times, but she has had a really good 6 days leading up to this note.

Prayer:

1- For wisdom as to how to proceed with **ministry this year**. Our church is making plans to daughter a church in Aurora where we live. We are still quite small and finances are a challenge to consider doing so, but we want to dream big dreams when God is involved... On the other hand, perhaps God might want us to find another struggling church to "restore"... PRAY!

2- For our increasingly **effective outreach** into the community. We have had several "big

events" for the community and seen good numbers attend, but have not seen as many as hoped effectively reached with the Gospel.

3- For Darlene to get a one-on-one outreach Bible study started with Christina.

4- For wisdom as we rewrite the **Church Constitution**. We have been ignoring much of it for too long.

5- Although we finished strong in our year-end giving, a significant amount came from outside contacts thru our lead pastor. We need to have our attenders give so as to meet our **monthly financial needs**.

Have a wonderful, Spirit-led new year! May God grant us all the patience, perseverance, and peace we need regardless of whether it's similar to 2020 or life back to "normal". We are SO grateful for your ministry of prayer and finances on our behalf!

If you would like a digital or hard copy of our annual South Holly report, please reply and let me know. Thanks!

Because **CHRIST** lives!

Sam and Darlene Farlow (and April)

Sam's Cell: 208-371-3498

PS - a few more pics...



April's softball team this fall played into really cold weather in November. They even let me play when they were desperate (had to be

careful because I didn't have clearance to play after I broke my wrist...).



Father/daughter time is REALLY precious! (Especially eating homemade caramels!)


