

Planting in the Desert

A monthly newsletter from the Austin family

May 2024

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Bear Valley church of Christ
Camelback church of Christ
Country Club church of Christ
Creeside church of Christ
Crosstown church of Christ
Decatur church of Christ
Frisco church of Christ
Gold Canyon church of Christ
Hico church of Christ
League City church of Christ
North Valley church of Christ
Northside church of Christ
Salt River church of Christ
Sunset church of Christ
Westhill church of Christ
& many generous individuals

We began the month by having a church camp training for counselors and directors. I appreciate the work Chris Macey and Alex Bigham put into this to help prepare for a successful summer of youth camps. Wacey and Pam came up to Prescott with me and we enjoyed our time together.

The second weekend, we hosted an Ice Cream Social at our house. Around 20 people from the church showed up to share in a fun evening of games, movies, and ICE CREAM. Much appreciation to Divine for all her hard work.

Josiah and Alyssa's boyfriend, Taylor, helped me with some repairs on our trailer up in Kayenta. It was a short trip, but a lot was accomplished. Sadly, I got food poisoning on the way home which was not fun. The boys worked extremely hard, to which I am grateful.

The third weekend, I had the humble honor of conducting a funeral for Malachi. Sadly, he was just under two years of age when he passed from multiple health complications. He was born with Downs Syndrome. As the family said in the Eulogy: "my little hommie, with an extra chromie." The Lord opened this door, through Malachi's father, Calvin. Calvin attends all my Bible Studies in the DOC and he asked if I could help the family. It was a blessing to get to know the family through the whole process. The church also stepped up in a great way to show support. Praise God for Calvin and his finding peace in the promises of the Lord. He and the family would appreciate your prayers.



The fourth weekend, we had Alyssa's High School graduation and celebration party. It was a wonderful time! We thank God that all of our kids and my parents were all able to attend. The homeschool community has a full ceremony for the kids to get caps and gowns and walk with all the other "Home Educated" graduates. We are grateful for all the friends, family, and loved ones who came to her party and mailed cards of encouragement!

Divine and Alayna traveled through Texas visiting colleges, while Alyssa, Aaliyah, and I flew to Houston for my nephew's graduation. Aaliyah helped fly my parents to Houston too. Back to back graduations and long trips is not the easiest, but thankfully Mom and Dad hung in there. We are excited to see Tyler and Alyssa attending Freed-Hardeman University together.

One of the Sunday's, a group of 53 people from Graymere church worshipped with us. That nearly doubled our attendance that day - it was nice to have so many new faces get the opportunity to be in fellowship with us. They went from Phoenix up to the Grand Canyon surrounding destinations.

We continue to feel the void of our "Snow Birds" having flown for the summer. The Musselman's and the Sinkbeil's are such servants when they are with us. However, their being gone forces our other brethren to step up and we are grateful for them. Dean is one of our long-term members who has started teaching one of our children's classes. It is wonderful to see him take this role on again. It has been several years since he has taught.

It has also been encouraging to see fruit from the jail ministry. We have had as many as ten people attend worship recently who were all contacts from the Salt River DOC. God has opened that door and I am so thankful for those men and women who have obeyed the gospel and are now striving to live their new lives for Christ. We would ask your continued prayers for their faithful perseverance. ♥