



August 2023

Sending Church

First Baptist Church
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Pastor Micaiah Stanley
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To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Acts 26:18

**Current Support:
76%**

Prayer Requests

- Support from churches
- Traveling safety
- Language school decision
- Laborers for God's Harvest

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

It is so encouraging to know we serve a God Who is both never taken by surprise and is also gracious and merciful to us when we go through difficult seasons of life. So has it been for our family over the last few weeks with our minivan. Many of you are aware from last month's prayer letter that we struck a boulder rock while in Colorado, which did quite a bit of damage in the undercarriage of the vehicle. After a headache of dealing with insurance and having the van taken out of the shop to be put right back in the shop to repair additional issues, we finally got the van back after close to a month without it. Earlier this week, we were driving the van to our destination in Wisconsin, when we lost control of the vehicle, hitting a concrete bridge abutment. **We praise the Lord no one was hurt and that His hand of protection was evident at that moment.** The reason why our vehicle swerved off the road was because our vehicle's subframe had somehow broken, causing the rear passenger tire to separate from the main body of the vehicle. It seems certain that our insurance is not willing to cover expenses for the subframe, and only to the body work needed from hitting the concrete barrier. While we are contesting this, it seems unlikely that our insurance will change. Our van is considered totaled, which has not only left us without a vehicle, but also without the financial help of insurance to purchase a new vehicle. Of course, we do not know why these things happen; but **we do know that if this is from the attacks of Satan, that not only has the Lord allowed it, but what Satan means for evil "God meant it unto good."** We also know that the Lord many times brings these events into our lives to bring us closer to Him, while He purges us and seeks to grow us. We have seen these faithful principles of Scripture played out through this entire season of life. **While in Colorado, on the way to pick up a rental car, I had the privilege of leading my Uber driver, Norman, to the Lord!** This has brought a deeper understanding to what the Lord is doing through this. Please pray for Norman that he will grow and get involved in a local church. **Another amazing development by the grace of God has been a dear couple in Wisconsin whose church we were in for a Wednesday night service feel led of the Lord to give us their van!** We praise the Lord for this answer to prayer and thank each of you for your prayers this week about this matter. Many of you have been so considerate in desiring to help us in a variety of ways. We are grateful for your love towards us in Christ. **"Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf." (2 Corinthians 1:11)** We serve an Almighty God!

In the midst of our vehicle situation, we were blessed above measure this past month with the churches we met with. We began August in the heat of Texas with Gatewood Baptist Church whose pastor used to be my grandparents' pastor in Iowa years ago. It was a sweet time of renewed fellowship. Before leaving Texas, we headed to Austin to be with Capitol City Baptist Church for a full Sunday. We then made our way back to Colorado to be with two more churches, Ellicott Baptist Church in Ellicott and Gospel Way Baptist Church in Grand Junction. These two churches and their pastors were a tremendous blessing. We were able to finish this past month attending our home church's missions conference. We enjoyed our time of respite with family and church family. **I had the privilege of officially being ordained by my home church during this week.** Those who were on my ordination council were so gracious and encouraging. I was personally encouraged and blessed by a number of local supporting pastors who took the time to come support me during the process. My former Pastor Wade Cash and my current Pastor Micaiah Stanley both brought convicting, powerful charges in my ordination service. It is an honor to have these men in the ministry continue to make an impact in my life. "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, and counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." We are grateful for all of your prayers. **One more blessing we would like to mention is the Lord has given us four more supporting churches this past month!** God is good!

In Christ,
The Nickell Family - Jordan, Katrina, Champion, Emmitt, & Autumn