



Denny and Linda
Sneed
Post Glenrothes,
Scotland
Newsletter
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OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2010...

Greetings to all! Time has flown. It is already mid-February. We hope you all had a great time together with family and friends during the December holiday. We also hope that you had a great start to your new year.

COLD WEATHER + RV = UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

We know what it is like to live in a motor home in the middle of a bitter cold spell in Texas. In January, the water tank froze, as did the outside faucet. The sewer was almost full ...and also frozen, thus immobilizing the toilet. With a frozen water tank, there was no running water for anything.

Although the RV heater doesn't work, our 3 portable electric heaters keep us warm. The fridge/freezer went out temporarily in January. During this time our food was at the church building in the fridge/freezer of the kitchen there. You can only guess how inconvenient it was to have to walk to the church building for any food or drink we needed. Still we are thankful that we had a place to keep our food. When things thawed out, we again had running water and a working toilet. Strangely enough the fridge/freezer began working again when everything thawed out.

Several of the members here kept tabs on us. Some even asked if we wanted to come over and stay with them during the cold spell. But we opted to stay in the RV.

There is something special about just being the two of us, enjoying our privacy ... even though we had no water, food or toilet for awhile. We've been invited out for

occasional meals. That was nice to get out of the RV and eat something besides a ham sandwich we fixed at the church building. We were fine and we weathered the cold. We certainly will have a lot of adventures to tell our grandkids someday ... when we talk about the "good ole days."

Though it really wasn't any fun to experience the bitter freeze in the RV, we are extremely thankful that we have a place to live in. We may complain about the things that don't work, but we call this place "home." We can't imagine what we would do without it, since we have no income to pay rent on an apartment. Next time you pray, please mention these names: James & Lisa Sneed! Please thank God for them that they were so generous in lending us their RV last May. Of course we never dreamed (even in our *wildest dreams*) that we would *still* be living in it ... as I doubt they did.

Thursday, February 11th, we woke up to snow! It began about 4 am. Everything was under a blanket of white and the snow fell continuously for 18 hours. Many of the North Texas schools and business closed Thursday afternoon and also Friday. Power was out in some places because trees, so laden with snow, fell onto power lines. Below is a composite of pictures Linda took on Friday the 12th. According to the weatherman, Arlington had a total of 9 inches that fell in that 18-hour period. It seems so odd to have such weather now.



MEDICALLY SPEAKING ...

It is difficult to believe that it has actually been a year (as of Jan 21) since Linda had her knee surgery in Scotland. We are so thankful that the bone chip which was left inside her knee has not caused any major problems. All in all, we have been well and have escaped serious colds / allergy reactions and more importantly the flu (of any kind).

OUR FAMILY IN CALIFORNIA ...

It was good to see our kids from California when they came for Kim & Phil's wedding last month. When we met them at the DFW airport as they came for the wedding, we saw Ashlee for the first time since her haircut. She had recently cut her hair for "Locks of Love." From what we understand, you must have at least 11 inches to donate in order to do this. Her hair was virtually down to her waist. She had seen an advertisement for St. Jude's (we assume) and was touched by the pictures of the little kids with no hair. In a discussion with Susan, the subject of "Locks of Love" came up. Ashlee said that, since she had so much hair, she wanted to share with a child who has no hair.

Below is a picture of them at the airport and Ashlee's shorter hair. It was down to her waist before it was cut.



While Susan's family was here for the wedding, they stayed with Jennifer Gray. Her husband, Randy, is one of our elders and is currently in Chimala, Tanzania, East Africa and so she welcomed the company.

It was only our second time to see our youngest granddaughter, Emmalee. Here is a close-up of her.



JOB SEARCH NEWS ...

For the most part of our time back, there has been a famine of congregations looking for a preacher. When we moved back this past April, we were expecting the usual turnover during the summer. In reality, most preachers were not moving, but were "staying put". We attribute this to the economic situation.

Here we are, 10 months since our return from Scotland. And after a long time of hardly any openings, perhaps there is light at the end of the tunnel. Breckenridge, we mentioned last newsletter in our prayer request, recently turned us down.

Since we began our search, we have contacted 16 congregations in all and have been turned down by 13. We recently went from having active resumes at five congregations at one time to only two. Both of these are in Texas, though further away that we had hoped for. On January 25, we "tried out" at Whitewright and on

January 31st, we “tried out” at Collinsville. Whitewright, Hico, and Gladewater have turned us down.

Then recently, we heard about the Cedar Valley congregation in Lancaster, Texas (in Dallas County) and have submitted a resume to them.

Some have told us of openings in other states, but really want to stay in Texas. So if you know of any suitable openings for full-time pulpit ministry, especially in the greater DFW metroplex area, please let us know. And please keep us in your prayers.

NEW YORK AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST...

As we have expressed before, we feel that we would not have been able to endure this long wait if it were not for our church family here. We honestly cannot imagine anyone going through an experience such as this (or an illness, death, etc) without the support of a church family; without God to turn to for strength and courage and guidance. We are blessed with our family and especially our brothers and sisters throughout the world who have held us up in this stressful time. Thank you all.

Even though we have no idea of how long we will be here, we have had the privilege of being part of the Leadership Training Program which Bill & Kay Keele are conducting. Eight couples are participating in this program. We are learning how to improve our leadership qualities. The ladies meet separately once a month, as do the men. In these sessions, we pray and discuss books and CDs regarding spiritual leadership. We also have opportunities to “practice” visiting, learning how to be more effective in visiting hospitals, shut-ins, visitors, etc. The concept of “porch visits” is really interesting. We will have a couples’ retreat later this month at which time we will take Myers-Briggs personality test. That will be interesting.

In this small group we are also learning more about ourselves and how to understand people in general. This will

make us more successful in working with other people. We are truly thankful for this opportunity to grow in our spiritual life and to help us to become more effective and useful in His kingdom. What we learn here will only help our work wherever we are.

Two of the young girls in the congregation are competing in Signing for the Deaf in the North Texas Leadership Training for Christ program. They have asked Linda to coach them. She is really excited about the opportunity to work with them.

The church gave Denny a surprise birthday party after Bible study on Wednesday, February 10th, his birthday. Neither one of us suspected a thing!

AND THEY SAID, “I DO.” ...

It was simply beautiful. The weather was a tiny concern on Friday, but Saturday was absolutely gorgeous. No rain. No wind. There were only pretty clouds and sunshine. We couldn’t have asked for better weather for a wedding. January 16, Saturday, was the big day for our daughter Kim and our new son-in-law, Phil Stambaugh. (Note: Stambaugh rhymes with Rambo.)



We were so busy that day that we were not able to take any pictures ourselves. But here is one we were able to get from other family members. It is a little blurry, but still easy to see how happy Kim and Phil are. We don’t think we have ever seen Kim so happy. It was a joy to be there with them and to witness their pledge to each

other of a life devoted to each other, and to God, for the rest of their lives.

The chapel where they had the wedding is reminiscent of British architecture. It briefly took Denny, Kim & I back to our brief time in Scotland! That was the main attraction and also it had a center aisle whereas the church building where she worships does not. Her "little girl dream" has been "to walk down the center aisle". After looking around at nearby at church buildings she found her center aisle in the chapel of the First United Methodist of Irving. The Bible tells us that the building is not sacred and that the "church" is actually the people who follow God's teaching. The building is simply that ... a building. It does not matter where you are married, as long as you commit your life to Him to follow His will. We are sure that some may have wondered, when they noticed she was marrying in the Methodist "church."

SPECIAL PRAYER NEEDS ...

This past December, our brother-in-law, Vern Street was rushed to the hospital with a severe blood clot in his leg. The doctors first thought he would lose his leg. After several procedures and a month in the hospital, on complete bed rest, Vern is back at home. He is to undergo at least six months therapy. Please keep him in your prayers.

On February 4th, Denny's sister, Sara was admitted to a Tulsa hospital with heart attack symptoms. An angiogram was done. We are happy to say that she is doing well and was dismissed the next day. We are so thankful for this news.

ON THE CALENDAR...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

- February 7 - Daniel, age 5
- February 10 - Denny, age 59
- March 5 - Linda, age 59

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR ...

- Denny's mom in Oklahoma - moved from rehab, back to the assisted living,
- Linda's mom in Lubbock - continuing 24/7 oxygen use at home
- Vern Street, our brother-in-law in Oklahoma ---at home recovering.
- Sara Street, Denny's sister in Oklahoma - test show no heart attack
- Kim & Phil Stambaugh - their new life together as husband and wife
- Tim, Susan, Ashlee & Emmalee in California - job for Tim now and then, Lord willing, their move to Texas this summer
- Our friend in Glenrothes, Scotland, Carol Duncan-Farrell, ongoing treatments for cancer
- The church family we left behind in Glenrothes, Scotland
- Our church family here in Arlington
- Our successful relocation with a strong congregation in which we can grow spiritually while encouraging others to grow spiritually
- Congregations we have resumes at ... regarding a preaching job:
 - Collinsville church of Christ
 - League Street church of Christ (Sulfur Springs, Texas)
 - Cedar Valley church of Christ

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: OPEN DOORS

Look back and thank God.
Look forward and trust God.
Look around and serve God.
Look within and find God!

God closes doors no man can open and
God opens doors no man can close.

You can still contact us by email at: the2sneeds@gmail.com; by cell phone - 817. 851.7607; or by writing c/o 5371 New York Avenue / Arlington, Texas 76018. Check out the latest posts on the blog. <http://www.the2sneeds.wordpress.com>