

The Howard Family

Rickey • April • Cash • Carter



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CHURCH PLANTING
MISSIONARIES
TO UTAH
AND THE
SOUTHWEST

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

September 2025

What's Happened:

During the month of July, the people who attended the meeting in Mesquite approached me about attending our morning service in St. George for a more "family like" atmosphere. They decided, as a group, to carpool up and attend our regular services. We have temporarily paused our ministry in Mesquite until we have someone who we can assist with planting a church. We do not look at this as a failure but an ongoing opportunity that needs to be met. The Lord is already working to fulfill this need! And I am happy to report that everyone has continued to be faithful to make the trip to St. George each week.

On August 3rd, we celebrated Carter's 10th birthday! We are thankful for how the Lord is using him. He is learning the piano so well and is now playing one congregational song each week, along with our offertory and invitational songs. He is praying that the Lord would use him as a missionary, and he has had the opportunity to now preach at our home church. Please pray for him and that the Lord would use him in a mighty way!

Early in August, we hosted a *Back 2 School Bash* at the local park near the church. The Lord blessed us with more than 80 people in attendance, nearly 60 of them children. The kids had a wonderful time, and one of the local snow cone shops even provided snowballs so we could finish the day with a huge snowball fight...in August...in over 110-degree temperatures! It was a blast! This event also served as the launch of our new youth group, **R.O.C.K. (Relying On Christ the King) Kids**, as well as an opportunity to promote our bus ministry. Already, we've seen fruit from this effort, with four new children attending on Wednesday evenings.

As you know, from my previous letter, my mother was very sick with cancer. On Sunday morning, August 24, I received a phone call from my stepdad. He told me he couldn't wake her. The hospice nurse called for an ambulance, but just a few hours later, after I finished preaching that morning, my brother called to let me know that she had passed away at the hospital. We rejoice that she is no longer in pain and is now with the Lord. That evening, my family flew back to Georgia to help my stepdad with arrangements. My mom's passing aligned with a trip we had already planned. We were scheduled to attend the Mission Conference at our home church; so we were able to adjust our flights accordingly. On Friday evening, we held a memorial service for my mother, where I had the opportunity to preach the Gospel to dozens of lost family members.

The next week, my stepdad called me with questions about salvation. He asked me, "How much does it cost to be baptized?" He had been told he needed to be baptized to go to heaven, but I was grateful to share the truth of the Gospel with him again. That Monday morning, over the phone, I had the privilege of leading him to the Lord! Praise God for His perfect timing! From September 6-10, we had the privilege to participate in the Mission Conference at our sending church, Philadelphia Baptist Church. We began with a youth meeting on Saturday, where four of us missionaries challenged nearly 100 young people about world evangelism. On Sunday morning, my pastor gave me the privilege of preaching the opening service. It was a wonderful week of encouragement and fellowship with the church and Christian school.

Lastly, one of our dearest friends and biggest helpers we have in our church was recently saved! She comes from an LDS background but gave a testimony of salvation and departure from the Mormon faith when we first met. She called us and said that she realized that she needed to be saved and she needed to KNOW. She said she had been relying on herself and past religious experiences for her eternity. We praise the Lord that His Word is still sufficient and we were able to talk with her and she called on the Lord to save her right then and there, and now she KNOWS!

What's Coming Up:

We've been given an exciting opportunity to move over to the neighboring unit of our building, which would provide us with nearly 900 additional square feet. This extra space will allow us to finally have a dedicated, built-out sanctuary. (At present, when someone enters the building, they step directly into the middle of our sanctuary area.) We are grateful for how the Lord continues to open doors for growth and ministry.

As we enter the fall season, we are thankful for the cooler weather and the new opportunities it brings. The coming weeks are filled with city and county events that will give us many chances to place Gospel packets and church invitations into people's hands. Please pray that the Lord will bless these efforts and that many souls will be reached through them.

Praises:

1. My stepdad, Stanley Young, got saved!
2. A number of young people surrendered their lives to the Lord during the Mission Conference.
3. Our dear friend Stacie called on the Lord to save her!

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for my stepdad to get plugged into a local church
2. ROCK Kids youth program.
3. Opportunity to move to larger unit in our building.

For Souls,

Richard L. Howard

The Howard Family
Jude 22