



The Thornsleys **Church Planters in COLORADO**

Personal Contact Info: 7752 US Hwy 50 E ~ Howard, CO 81233 ~ Cell: (719) 239-8010 ~

Email: Pastor@OldPathsIBC.com

Dear Friends of the Gospel,

December 2017/January 2018

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

The last two months have caused that verse to ring so true in the Thornsley family. God lets us go through seasons of trials, victories, hardships, etc; but there is a purpose for it. He desires for us to be made pure and to draw closer to Him. Thank God He has a purpose!

We started December with a season of rejoicing, refreshing, and rededicating. Our home church, Little River Baptist Church, has a “Winter Revival” ever December and the church sacrificed greatly this year to fly my family and I back for twelve days to be part of it. What a blessing it was! We haven’t been back in five years and boy did we need it! As I said it was a season of rejoicing, refreshing, and rededicating; God greatly used the fellowship and the preaching to work in our family’s heart. I, for one, came back fired up to keep on the firing line! Thank you, Little River, for your sacrifices and fellowship. We love y’all! I was also able to preach at a friend’s church plant on a Sunday morning. What an encouragement it was. Thank you, Bro. Hinson and Harward Chapel Baptist Church, for your hospitality. We returned to Colorado to a whirlwind of work as we tried to catch up from being away. My secular jobs, youth meetings, Christmas parties, nursing home, and the churches all kept me very busy catching up.

God has decided to make January a season of trials. It started by spending nine days of the first three weeks struggling to put a new engine in our van. Our church decided to buy the engine, install it with the help of Bro. Dean Francini (Solid Rock Deaf Baptist Church Colo. Springs, CO), and give it to one of our missionaries who desperately needs it. Well, pulling and replacing an engine from a E-350 van is not the easiest thing to do. After many trips back and forth to Colorado Springs and in between my jobs we got it done! Thank you to Grace Baptist Church in Colorado Springs for allowing us to use your garage for those three weeks.

Another of our missionaries, The Grissom Family to England, asked if I could pick up some John & Romans from another church in Loveland, CO and deliver them to Oklahoma City for them to be loaded in their container. This had been arranged months ago and just happened to fall in line with all the work on the van. So, on the 5th I went to Loveland and Hope Baptist to pick up the J&Rs. After loading them I went to Co. Springs to work on the van. On the way to the Springs a tire on my trailer blew out! Thankfully, it was only about 14 miles to a town with a Wal-Mart. On the 12th, after driving the school basketball teams to a game, I started for OK City with two of my children (Nate & Pearl) leaving Cotopaxi around 10:30pm. As we neared the New Mexico border, almost at the top of Raton Pass, my truck started knocking and losing power! Thankfully it kept going until we got to the top of our exit in Raton, NM. At the top of the exit IT DIED and would not start! My son and I pushed it off the exit and coasted down to a hotel. The next morning we had it towed to a mechanic and he confirmed my fears, at least two blown pistons!

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Under the Authority of:
Little River Baptist Church ~ 741 Wheelless Rd ~ Spring Lake, NC 28390 ~ Pastor Robert Hoyle ~ (910) 497-1879

The mechanic would not be able to start looking into it for the warranty until Monday. Thankfully, my wife was able to come and pick us up. Bro. Grissom was able to get a van and come pick up the J&Rs from Raton. He arrived late that night and one of the mechanics had agreed to be on call to open up the shop to provide access. As he helped Bro. Grissom load the J&Rs he asked what they were. Bro. Grissom was able to spend a 1/2 hour witnessing to Donald. His life is a wreck and his wife had just left him and doesn't even want to have anything to do with their children. Please pray for Donald. I am hoping to be able to witness to him as well when I pick up my truck; and another church-planter close by in Trinidad, CO, Bro. Caleb Huling, has agreed to also visit him. AMEN! It is all worth it for that! Thankfully, my warranty is covering most of a new engine! I am getting a re-furbished, heavy duty, engine with a 5 year, unlimited miles, no questions asked, warranty!! I will have to pay close to \$900 of that but that is much better than \$5,000!

After all of this two of our children got Chicken Pox! We hoped the rest would at the same time but, nope! After the first two cleared up three more have now come down with it. LOL!! Please pray that all my children would get it and get over it! The three that have it now are John, Samantha, and Jane and they are miserable!

On the 26th, my son, JP, went out to load more wood in our boiler with which we heat our house and our water. He decided that it needed to be cleaned out and put some hot logs on the ground near the furnace. He doused them with water and figured it was good. When we returned from nursing home ministry he found that a stack of lumber we were going to burn in the furnace had caught fire and completely melted the control box, wiring harness, and some other plastic pieces on the furnace! I was, to say the least, furious. After I calmed down I called the repair man. The control box is \$450 and we are waiting for a price on the wiring harness. He said that once he looks at it he will be able to tell if he can fix it. If not we will be seeing if our insurance will cover a new one which costs around \$12,000. Because of using wood I had not had our propane refilled. That cost almost \$900! Needless to say this month is also looking to be a season of waiting on God to see how He will provide for all these things. In this, though, I am confident in my God! He has promised to supply my need and I believe Him!

It hasn't all been trials this month though. JP turned 16 this month and, even with this costly mistake on his part, he is a good young man. He is my right hand here in the ministry. He has filled the pulpit at the nursing home twice this month when I could not be there. He leads music, along with Nate, for our services. He is a big help with his siblings and has been spending time in Gunnison helping a church planter with a remodeling project for their home. He is a blessing! Pearl turned 12 this month and she is turning into such a godly, young lady. She is a big help to her mother with the younger girls and helps much with the cooking and cleaning. It is hard to see them growing up but at the same time exciting! Everyone else is doing well (except for the chicken pox). The kids' home schooling is going well and Michael will be graduating around September. I passed the exams to become a Technician Level Ham Radio operator! This is something I have wanted to do for a long time and finally got the opportunity. I am still trying to get my radio set up but once I do if any of you are Hams I'd love to talk to you on the airwaves. My call sign is KE0PWV. We all want to say THANK YOU to all who sent cards these last two months and special Christmas love offerings. They were a tremendous help and blessing!

I have written about these challenges to ask you to pray for God to show Himself mighty in these things. We are trusting Him in it all and continue to strive to fulfill the calling He has given me. We appreciate all who pray and correspond with us. We appreciate each church and individual who has partnered with us in this, the greatest of endeavors, reaching men with the Gospel. God bless y'all and may you have a wonderful year!

On the Firing Line,

Mike Thornsley and Family