

*(Our first Pastorate!
- & last! - Ha! 1948)*

Rev. and Mrs. David & Family
Valley Farms, Arizona
Christmas time, 1948

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JOYOUS NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO YOU IN HIS NAME! *(Starting a Church by faith!)*

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW! THANKS BE UNTO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT! THANKS BE UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR US! AMEN!

How wonderful it has been to celebrate Christmas with the joy of Christ in our hearts! How thrilling it is to know the true meaning of His birth--God's love manifest in Jesus! How sweet it is to have the assurance of His salvation and His glorious peace within us through the blessed presence of His precious Holy Spirit, together with His tender, loving care for us in our daily lives! --And how comforting it is to know that He is coming soon! praise His precious name forever!

This was intended to be our Christmas greeting to you, but we have been so busy moving, getting settled, and taking up the work here that we have been delayed in getting it off to you. We do hope you have had a very blessed Christmas season! Our own hearts are simply welling over with praises to Him this season for all the manifold blessings with which He has showered us, especially the glorious opportunity which He has given us here in Valley Farms. We are preparing to build a church in this churchless community, just such pioneering missionary work that we have been longing to do, feeling keenly the Lord's command to "go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in". Our cross-country tour last year proved it could be done by faith and burdened our hearts with the earnest need of the smaller places that have been neglected. So when the Lord opened the door to Valley Farms we eagerly accepted the challenge--by faith.

Thanks to the faithful, sacrificial ministry and vision of the women missionaries who preceded us here, together with the help of friends, the Alliance, and the Lord, Valley Farms is no longer neglected. Sunday school and services are being carried on in the home of the missionaries until a modest chapel can be erected on the adjoining lot.

The entire property is being purchased at a very reasonable figure on long term payments, and we expect to begin building the first little church in Valley Farms next month, the Lord willing. Far removed from the nearest towns with churches, this village is sorely in need of such a gospel lighthouse, especially for the sake of the young people and children. Established a few years ago as a model farming community by the government in the midst of this fertile valley of cottonfields surrounded by lofty mountains and domed with sunny skies, Valley Farms is a part of one of America's most recently developed and growing frontiers--a front-line mission field for His Kingdom! There are many missionary challenges nearby--a large Indian reservation, cotton camps, state prison, etc.--and we have already had the privilege of broadcasting over a neighboring radio station, the voice of which reaches into nearly every home in this great valley--a glorious missionary opportunity! The Lord has truly blessed us! We'd love to have you visit us and see for yourself the possibilities of this land "where sunshine spends the winter"! --And if you're looking for a high, dry, warm, healthful climate in a peaceful and beautiful setting, come to Valley Farms! Occasionally there is reasonable housing and property available--and an abundance of opportunity of service for Him!

How grateful we are for our training in the evangelistic field for this type of work, especially the lessons learned in living the life of faith and for Mother's inspiring example and teaching along this line! She is now in Santa Barbara with Dad preparing for another evangelistic tour. When we left her here last summer and took some college work in Los Angeles, we were praying for just such an opportunity as this. Our classes there, the services we were privileged to attend, the inspiring speakers we heard, and our work amongst the thirty unchurched children of the trailer camp in which we lived were all splendid preparation ordered by the Lord, and the goodness of all our friends was a great encouragement, but above all, the faithfulness of the Lord! Amen.

God bless you! Thank you for your interest, help, and prayers!

David and Jane