

## Monthly Support Report.

February 29, 2016

Dear elders,

First of all, it's as though I'm making a mistake in typing February 29. But I double-checked and it's true. So this is my report for the month of February 2016 and the correct date is February 29, 2016.

I pray that this report finds you well. This has been an unusual winter. Our temperature today is in the 60's and that's the forecast for tomorrow as well. While I know Solomon tells us there's nothing new under the sun, this is unusual under the sun for us in this region of the country. Having said that, I'm not complaining, I'm enjoying every day in February that surpasses 50 degrees and we've had quite a few of those days, along with a few days in the 70's. But enough of a weather report. I sincerely pray that all is well with you physically, and that the congregation there is thriving spiritually. It's a blessing to be a part of a group of Christians who have a burning desire to serve the Lord, and I pray that this statement is an accurate reflection of the Christians there.

We are well. Personally my A Fib is doing much better if not gone. I'm hesitant to say that my last ablation has cured me since I don't go to my cardiologist until March 18. Yet I know from how I feel and especially my heart rhythm that things are definitely much, much better. I've had a few EKG's in recent days and so far all of them have shown a normal rhythm. Trust me when I say that I'm very thankful to God for the measure of health I enjoy. While my A Fib didn't slow me down (much) it was a bother at times. Sometimes more than other times. I would strongly encourage anyone who experiences irregular heart rhythms to have a doctor look into it because it can be a danger to their health, and because in many instances it can be either cured or brought under control due to medications. I hope and I pray that mine is a thing of the past. It's strange when you have something wrong with you how you come to learn of so many who have or had suffered from the same condition. In the past 1 ½ years that I've dealt with this issue I've either talked to, or someone has told me via another source of dozens of people (some I know personally) who have had A Fib or some similar heart rhythm issue that have had to deal with and or adjust to.

I'm sad to report that one of our older members passed away a couple of weeks ago. Our dear sister in Christ has been suffering with a number of health issues for the past 1 ½ years. And a Sunday morning about 3-weeks ago her son who she lives with – his sister who had also been staying with them temporarily walked downstairs to wake her up for breakfast found that she had passed. The coroner came and estimated that she had passed at about 4:00 that Sunday morning – possibly passing quietly in her sleep. Last week I did the service at the memorial service her family had for her and I can truly say that while there were obvious tears, it was a true celebration of her life. When one who tried to live a faithful Christian life for so many years and they had reached a point in their life where they were suffering pain and discomfort, then it is a day and a time of celebration for them to go and be in Abraham's bosom, that place of comfort the Lord spoke of in Luke 16.

I'm happy to report that we are making progress at getting more active in Personal Evangelism as a congregation. Everyone appears to be eager to get involved in doing what they can. And part of that process is educating folks about things they are capable of doing. The term Personal Evangelism over the years has been a frightening phrase for a lot of good Christians because they feel somewhat inadequate in sitting down with someone and teaching them. The fear is having to respond to objections or that whole list of "What about this or what about that?" I understand those concerns, because along with the concern of how to respond to questions are the questions: 1. Where do I begin? 2. Where do I go from there? 3. How do I systematically arrive at a conclusion? All are legitimate concerns, and obviously not everyone is at the point of conducting a Bible class such as that. And they are correct in assuming that a high percentage of Bible Classes go in those directions unless they are controlled Bible Classes. And controlled by someone that has experience in going point A to point B or point C. Brother Goodall at FC used to call them "smorgasbord lessons" or "classes" that never ever arrive at any kind of conclusion. Such classes are filled with the "what about this?" and "what about that?" and all you do is field those questions, try to respond thinking a quick response is necessary, without realizing the person you're attempting to teach isn't listening to your answer. All they're thinking about is the next question they're going to ask. Usually a person who's had experience with teaching someone in their home will take along a pad and pen to write on and tell that person, "That's a good question. Let me write that down, and we'll talk about that at another time. Now let's get back on track. What we're attempting to do at this point as a congregation is find ways and demonstrate ways that everyone can be involved in personal evangelism right now, and as time goes on develop the ability to teach someone enough to get them interested enough to allow someone else to step in and take them further. Or, things to say or do to get someone interested in coming to church with them, or to get them interested in having a Bible study with someone else doing all of the teaching. It's all Personal Evangelism, but it's everyone working together to use their talents to do what they're currently comfortable with doing. So, we are moving forward with that effort.

Speaking of Personal Evangelism, we continue to add names to our Daily Bible reading that we have participated in for many years now. Plus, we are considering the suggestions that many of you have sent to me telling me what you are personally doing. These suggestions are greatly appreciated.

I have some good news to pass along to you. We have recently added a family that just recently moved here. They are a great couple and their worshiping with us and working with us will be a great encouragement for us. We're so happy to have them with us. And we are thankful to God that they have settled in our area and are a part of our family. They should prove to be a big asset to us in the work we are attempting to do for the glory of God. It's our prayer that we will in turn be an encouragement to them as well.

Thank you for your fellowship in the gospel. I hope each report continues to assure you of the work we are attempting to do. I've been preaching a series on the book of Ecclesiastes that has been well received in the past few weeks on Sunday morning. As you know it's a great – practical book with so many lessons in life. I've really enjoyed getting back to a study of this book as well. The Bible remains to be such a great inspired book that teaches us new lessons each time we study it. I'm currently in chapter 7 as I work my way through. Thank you once again. Enjoy the spring that's quickly approaching.

God bless.

Randy