

Monthly Support Report

March 31, 2016

Dear elders,

It's a beautiful day today. The weather is near perfect. At least it is for me. I really enjoy this time of year although I know we're entering into tornado season. Nevertheless, I still enjoy the springtime. The trees and the grass are both beginning to show signs of life. Even perennial flowers have pushed up through the ground. I drove to the grocery the other day and saw the tulips. I've always wished that tulips would bloom all spring and all summer long. But I know I won't get my wish. Yet, they are a very beautiful flower. I enjoy the way God has given us the seasons. Each passing season really makes you appreciate the one you are entering.

It is my hope and prayer that this report for the month of March finds you well physically, and striving to be the very best Christian you can be. We are well. Our son Aaron just finished high-school basketball a couple of weeks ago, and soon he will be playing Spring basketball. Since he only plays basketball it's never ending for our house. But that's okay! I enjoy it and Aaron enjoys it. Plus, it keeps him physically fit. And he actually enjoys the practices and the extra workouts. He's almost 16-years-old and so he's been driving with a permit for a few months now. Soon he will be able to drive on his own. I'll have no complaints about that. His driving will save me some time. Early morning workout before school; after school practices, etc. It seems like a never ending process.

The work in the Lord's Kingdom continues to go well here in this place. We continue to have peace. And it appears as though we are all headed in the same direction with our plans and goals as Christians working together in the Lord's Kingdom. We're very blessed to have such positive co-operative attitudes.

Additionally, as I've tried to indicate in my previous monthly updates we're trying to become more evangelistic as a congregation. Let me explain this a little. I enjoy talking about it because of the potential we have to do good in this area. Plus, it's been my experience that most of us as Christians would like to convert someone but even the terminology Personal Evangelism frightens many because they equate it to having to actually do the teaching. But, each of us have a friend or a neighbor, or a relative that we would love to see converted to the Lord. We've invited them to services with us, but we would like to do something else because they haven't visited our services, nor have they shown an interest in coming. So, what else can be done? And instead of waiting on just one person to have a change of heart and come to the Lord, are there others that we can possibly reach? And how do we go about it? These are legitimate questions and concerns that come from strong Christians who sincerely want to convert someone.

So what we are in the process of doing is having open discussion and classes to come up with ways that more of our members can become involved in the work of the church in this area. Our

list continues to grow each month when we get together. And one of the best things that's coming from this is all of the members are beginning to think in terms of reaching the lost. That in-and-of itself will create some additional interest and excitement, which can only lead to good and positive things. The bottom line is we are looking at ways of spreading the word of the Lord to the very best of our ability. If that means we have to work harder, then hopefully the attitudes will remain positive and we will prayerfully do the work necessary. Either way it will allow us as a congregation to be more active in the Lord's Kingdom.

I have just completed a series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes. I have really enjoyed the series and many of the members have expressed their appreciation of the series. As you well know Ecclesiastes is not only an interesting book, it is also a practical book that has many valuable lessons we can learn from and apply to our lives.

On Sunday morning our Bible classes are going in a very positive direction. We have started a 13-26-week period of study dealing with things like (1) Denominationalism, (2) Where the Bible came from, (3) The NT Canon, (4) Conversion of the heart, including the successes and failures, (5) Why I'm a NT Christian, (6) How to become a Christian, (7) How to be more dedicated and committed to the Lord, (8) Servants in the Lord's Kingdom, how to be a greater servant. There will be additional lesson titles as this class period series advances. On Wednesday evening a Bible class book on the book of Revelation is being used. As a side note, as discussions in the book of Revelation go, I'm not certain how long this study is going to take. It could take a long while to complete. We're a congregation prone to long – lengthy discussions.

We continue to participate in our Daily Bible Reading. We have great participation from all of the members.

We've had a few visitors pass through our area in recent weeks and they have been a great encouragement to us.

I will begin a new series of lessons two weeks from now. Now that Spring Break is over it will be good to have everyone back with us. Many of our members have been traveling due to the time of year. One of our members travels quite often on business this time of year.

As for an update on the sister-in-Christ who has cancer. Things are not looking good. Her latest report was that the cancer has spread to the lungs. The prognosis from the doctors is not very good at this time. We continue to pray for her and her family.

Thank you for your continued fellowship in the gospel here in this place. You continue to be a huge encouragement to me and my family. Thank you so much. We believe that the work here that we are trying to do in the Lord's Kingdom is a very important work, and your help is so very appreciated. Please express my thanks to all of the members there for their making this possible. And thank you for making this possible as well.

I pray that God will richly bless you in the work there as you lead and guide the congregation in truth and protect them from wolves. Your job and your work as elders in the Kingdom is a very important work. Thank you for dedicating yourselves to this work, and I'm thankful to your wives and your family for their willingness to share so much of your time.

Together I pray that we will continue to bring glory to the Lord. Thank you once again for everything.

God bless.

Randy