

September 30, 2016

Monthly Support Report

Dear elders,

It is my sincere prayer that my report finds you well and the work in the Lord's kingdom prospering there. It's also my prayer that you are also well and that you are enjoying this milder weather now that we have entered into the fall season. Admittedly this is a very nice change. Cooler temperatures are always nice even if it's only temporary. I'm confident that we will see a few more days of warm temperatures before a true fall like weather finally sets in. The most recent report that I saw (which is nothing more than an educated guess) indicated this in many parts of the country that the expectation is that we are going to have a severe winter. My hope is that it's in a part of the country that isn't in my area. As per usual we'll have to wait and see won't we.

The work here in this place continues to go well. We continue to enjoy peace as we work together to do the Lord's work in this area. We are always thankful for the good attitudes that prevail. It's a true blessing to be able to continually report the peace that we enjoy. We work hard to maintain that peace knowing that it's commanded of us and that the work of the church here will only prosper if we continue to work together in harmony all pulling in the right and proper direction. We know that's the Lord's way and, so far that's been the success of the Lord's church here. With the Lord's help and the good attitudes that prevail we'll continue to press forward prayerfully doing what we can to spread the gospel as we continue looking for lost souls with good and honest hearts that are receptive to the gospel of the Lord.

Our adult Bible Class is getting ready to conclude our more recent study and then we're going to move into a 13-20-week study of the Parables of the New Testament. I know that most of us have heard many lessons taken from the Parables and it's possible that we've also studied about them in Bible Classes in times past. But personally, it's been a number of years since I have been a part of a Bible Class that's studied them thoroughly, and when the other adults were surveyed they all responded in like manner. So, I think it's going to be a very positive and interesting study. I'm looking forward to it and it appears that everyone else is as well. It should be a very good class.

It's been good to have new members among us. They have been very encouraging not only to have larger numbers, but it's also good just to meet new Christians and to get to know each other and to encourage each other. Have you ever noticed how encouraging it is to hear the stories of other Christians and what they've had to go through in order to maintain their faithfulness to the Lord? It's always so encouraging. Not everyone has had difficulties. Some more than others. But just to hear them tell of their faithfulness is so very encouraging. It makes you try harder in your own life to be more faithful to the Lord. It's wonderful how the Lord's plan to bring His people together in local congregations is so effective when it comes to mutual edification. We've had one of those months. It's been a very good month for encouragement. And we are thankful to God for such a month as the month that we have had.

The two new students that we've had with us recently have only been with us a couple of times. We don't expect them to be with us that often. They are fortunate enough to have their family close by and that gives them the ability to go home on most weekends. It's obviously a good thing that young college students can have the best of both worlds. Be able to go away from home to college, yet have their family close enough for the support they need. That's the case in both of these instances and both appear to be have close knit families. That's always so great to see and to be a part of even in a very small way such as this. But we will look forward to seeing them every opportunity that we have. They are both very nice young people and their families and no doubt very good families who have done an excellent jobs in raising strong – young faithful Christians. May God continue to bless both of their families in their walk with the Lord. Isn't it a blessing to get to know good quality people such as this in a world filled with so much turmoil? When you see God's word being lived out in the lives of other people it is such a beautiful sight. I'm confident that you get to experience the same kinds of things that I'm talking about so you know the same joys as I'm expressing.

We continue to have visitors almost weekly. Most of them are from out of town and are just passing through. But it's great to have them with us. All of our visitors are a great encouragement to us. Plus, now that we're getting to that time of year when all of our own members are no longer traveling or on vacation, so that helps with our attendance. We're thankful for that. We had a couple of times this past summer when due to business travel and vacation travel our attendance was very low. So it's been really nice to have everyone back together again. It's very encouraging.

One of our members has a brother who lives in Texas who has cancer. He just returned home from MD Anderson in Houston, Texas and apparently he isn't going to go through chemo treatment. His cancer is severe and surgery is too dangerous and the doctors said it's doubtful that the chemo will have any positive results on the tumor, so he has decided to forgo the treatments. While obviously doctors don't know for certain how long he has, they have suggested that it's about 3-6-months. It's sad. He's a good faithful Christian who lives in Lubbock, Texas who's been a good friend of this congregation for a number of years. Of course he has a brother who is a member here and other relatives. The brother who is a member here is the same brother in Christ who just recently (about 4-months ago) who lost his wife to cancer. So it goes without saying that 2016 has been a very difficult year for him and for his family. Our hearts are filled with grief having found out this news just this past week. We knew that he had cancer but we weren't aware of how severe it was until just a few days ago.

We are still praying for open doors. It's our desire to find good and honest hearts who want to know the Lord and who are willing to His truths. We're confident that such hearts are out there and if I know the congregation here, we're ready and willing to take advantage of good folks who are willing to learn.

Thank you for your fellowship with me in the Lord's kingdom here in this place. It's a great blessing to know of your interest in the work here, and your willingness to help. May God richly bless you in the work there. And may God bless you with good health for you and for your family.

God bless.

Randy