

Monthly Support Report

April 30, 2017

Dear elders

Well another month has come and gone. Our month is passing with April showers. Lots and lots of April showers, so I guess we should have beautiful May flowers. Or so the saying goes. It's my sincere and humble prayer that this report finds all of you doing well and the Lord's work there flourishing for His name's honor and glory. We are all doing well.

I can't believe another school year is coming to a close. In less than a month the high schools in this area will be over for the year. And yes, time does go by very quickly. For us that means our junior will officially be a senior and a lot of our time and attention will be spent on ACT scores and decisions Colleges. But, it has to be done and it's important. We will see where he ends up. We think we know. But, we'll wait and see. The final decision hasn't been made yet. There's a lot that goes into making that decision as most of you already know. Now, let me talk about some things that are taking place in the Lord's work here and some things that are taking place with the Lord's people who live and work with the congregation here at this place.

One of the first things that I always like to stress is that we continue to work together in peace and unity. I'm always pleased to say that. As David stated in Psalm 133:1, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" And David was right! Good can only be accomplished when brethren work together in unity. That's what we continue to attempt to do in this place all for God's glory. Good attitudes help us to promote peace and harmony and we work together to accomplish good.

The husband of one of our members was recently diagnosed with Lupus. He will have to have chemotherapy for the next few months. His wife and girls have only been with us for a few short months now. He isn't a Christian, and thus far we've had limited exposure to him. We're hoping and praying that as time goes on we will have more opportunities to get to know him better. We continue to pray for open doors of opportunity such as this. Of course, we're hopeful and praying that these chemotherapy treatments will be successful in getting his Lupus under control. He spent close to a week in the hospital going through two blood transfusions, and they were finally able to get his blood pressure under control.

The men will be meeting in mid-May, and one of the things we will be talking about is what we can do to become more evangelistic once again. I think I mentioned once before how we had gone out into the neighborhood going door-to-door for 6-7-years in a row. Due to sickness and various hardships many in the congregation were faced with we suspended that effort with the intention of taking it or something similar to it again. Now we're ready to discuss this subject once again and begin doing some planning. While we may not begin immediately, it's encouraging to see those positive attitudes. We'll do some brainstorming and see where we're at in our thinking and hopefully when we present our thoughts to the congregation there will be some good ideas that will be put forth.

We've had good attendance the past few weeks. Our members are good to attend. Lately we've been encouraging each other to invite and bring visitors. We're trying! I can't say that our numbers have increased. But I can say that our members are inviting others to come with them. That's all we can do. I'm very proud of our members for trying. That's very encouraging.

I'm close to finishing my series on 1 John. My latest lesson was taken from 1 John 5:1-5. I've really enjoyed my studies and the series. I can truly say that I have continued to learn as I've studied and prepared my lessons. And from the comments I've received, the audience has also learned from the lessons. When there are questions after services about different verses that came up during the lesson and the members are taking notes, that's when I know the lessons are being effective. That's what I like. That encourages me to study harder and to dig deeper.

The same applies to our Bible class studies in the Parables. In today's Bible class our study was in Luke 18:1ff having to do with the persistent widow. It was one of the more interesting discussions in a Bible class that I can remember about this Parable. I think that's because the class came prepared and they were very engaged. It was one of those classes that you didn't want to see end. The time went by too quickly. This is one way I can see a lot of growth in the members. But, having said that, we are blessed with many good Bible students.

In three more days, we will have finished reading the Gospel of Matthew in our Daily Bible Reading. Then we will move on to the Gospel of Mark. We continue to read one chapter each day, 5-days per week along with the rest of our studies. I continue to send out each chapter via email to each member. Our mailing list continues to grow as our members add their friends, and relatives. Looking back as a group, if my records are correct, by the time 2017 is finished we have read through the entire Bible approximately five and one-half times over the past 8-years. That's an accomplishment that I feel really good about. I know it's helped me and from the comments I've heard from the others, it's had the same positive affect on them as well.

We continue to pray for open doors. We're anxious to teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are willing to listen and we're looking for opportunities. One of our members has an older son that I've had a couple of conversations with about his soul, and his life without God. But so far it hasn't developed into a Bible study per se. I'll keep trying as the opportunity presents itself. His mother is anxious for us to get together, but it's not going to happen until the son is ready. He's not quite there yet. He's allowing his problems in life to rule him and burden him down. I keep praying that the door will open.

We continue to have visitors who pass through. Mostly from out of town. All of our visitors are a great encouragement to us. It's a great pleasure to meet other Christians from other parts of the country who are seeking out a place to worship when they are traveling.

I don't want to close without taking this opportunity to express my thanks for your fellowship with me in the gospel. You are a blessing to me and to my family as I prayerfully do my best to preach and teach the truth of God's word here in this place. Thank you. You are an encouragement. You are in my prayers, and I hope you are praying for me and the humble efforts we are making in this place. It's my prayer that everything we do is for the Lord, and that it's for His honor and glory. May God richly bless us in His service as we try to spread His word so that souls might be saved.

God bless.

Randy