

October 31, 2017

## Monthly Support Report

Dear elders,

Well, it's here. The end of another month. October is coming to an end tonight. Of course, what that means is that winter is soon approaching. For us that could possibly mean snow and cold. I think our son said there was snow in the forecast for tonight. O haven't paid much if any attention to the weather report, but I can truly say that I hope he is incorrect. Or, if he's right, I hope it's just a few flurries. But, eventually it will snow here and it will be more than flurries. We've been very fortunate in recent years, but about 6-7-years ago we had 33-inches. So, it's very possible for that white stuff to fall in bunches. I'm just hoping that it doesn't. I know what you're thinking. The same thing I am. When it comes to the weather, it doesn't really matter what I want does it? I know. But, it feels good to hope one way or the other.

I pray that you, your family, and the church family there is doing well. We're doing well. It's nice to be well and to feel good. Which reminds me, I'm a little late this year in getting my flu shot. I need to get that taken care of. Flu is one thing that I don't anything to do with. I've been fortunate to avoid ever since I started getting my flu shot. I'd love to keep that streak going. And yes, I attribute my avoiding the flu directly to getting flu shot every year. Anyway, I hope all is well there. One of our members found out a couple of weeks ago that she may have a reoccurrence of lymphoma. I believe you will join me and give a hardy amen when I say I truly hate cancer. Cancer had taken far too many of my friends and loved ones. I'm not sure why we can't get a handle on cancer. I guess I'd have to be a cancer research specialist to be able to answer that question, and that's way out of my league. But it seems like we've been fighting cancer for a very long time and it's still a menace to our society. I'd love to see it disappear. But, I'm beginning to wonder if I'll live long enough to see it happen.

I have a note here to remind me to thank the few who have taken the time to write me and share with me their thoughts on Personal Evangelism. I'm honestly always on the lookout for things to do when it comes to PE. While I understand the very best way as all of the polling continues to show is someone extending a personal invitation (78%), it's always nice to have something in your hand to hand to someone as an ice breaker when you are attempting to invite someone to either come to services or take a Bible Correspondence Course. It's encouraging to see that many of you are making use of business card (size) handouts that tell a person where your place of worship is, directions and times of services. I've tried that before and it does work. And what's so good about it is, everyone in a congregation can at least hand that card to a Grocery

Store Clerk and say, Please Come. Can't you? Sure you can! So, thank you for sending me a sample of the cards that you use. Anytime you can think about other methods you have used in times past, or are currently using, please let me know and send me a sample. My mind is always working (that might be an exaggeration) and looking for ways to reach folks. Remember, it's just one precious soul at a time. If we can rescue just one more precious soul from Satan's grasp we've done a wonderful thing. So, we don't have time to sit and think about it. We only have time to get out and work and do it all for the glory of God. I understand it's God who gives the increase. But, there's no increase to give without those who are willing to plant and water. Someone has to do it, and it appears to me as though there was a charge given by the Lord that we call the Great Commission that begins with the word "Go..."

The work here continues to go well. Doors continue to open and we continue to be blessed. And we are very thankful to God for blessing us with new opportunities and increase. Times have been very good in that way. We have a young lady who is a freshman at K-State who will be worshiping with us when she can. Her parents live about 90-minutes away in Kansas City. It's been our pleasure to meet them recently. And so weather permitting and when she isn't home with her parents or relatives who live close to her parents she will be worshiping with us. She is a very nice young lady who is a Christian. Her boyfriend is attending with her is not a Christian has been attending with her. So that presents us with another opportunity as we get to know him better. That's pretty exciting isn't it. One precious soul at a time. That gives us 4-college students. That's pretty exciting.

We also found out just this week that sometime in the month of November that a family (husband and wife) will be moving and worshiping with us. They are a very good couple and they will make a very good, positive addition to our family of Christians. So as you can see, we have really been blessed the past few months.

In addition, you probably remember the young woman I recently baptized don't you. That took place about 5-weeks ago (or less). I've been meeting with her now for about 4-weeks on a regular basis and we've had some very good discussion and Bible studies. That has been very exciting and rewarding. I really enjoy watching new converts grow in the Lord. I've said for many years now that I love seeing Christianity through the eyes of a new convert. I honestly think many new converts have the right perspective. Their energy and desire to grow appears to me to be like it must have been the way it was back in Acts 2. I find myself thinking, "No wonder there were so many converts following the Day of Pentecost." I think we convinced ourselves that days like that and following can never be duplicated. I think what's so difficult to duplicate is the new convert enthusiasm that you read about in Acts 2. And until we do, those who say we can't are correct. However I'm convinced it has very little to do with world conditions and attitudes of those we're trying to convert. I think it has more to do with the skeptics who are simply unwilling to do both the work and put in the time that's necessary to get the seed in the ground and watered. Give me 100-new converts and a bag of seed and let's see what the field produces.

Anyway, enough preaching. New converts are exciting. But, not just new converts. All Christians who love the Lord and give their lives to serving Him are a great encouragement. Just like all of you are an encouragement to me as you have fellowship in the gospel of the Lord with me in this place. Please understand that the work that is being done here is first and foremost for the glory and honor of God, but that you share in this work. This is a very poor church. As I've told you before, the Lord's church here has always been small and has struggled to continue to exist. I've stayed here longer than anyone before me, and our numbers have at one time have been close to 2 1/2 times larger than ever before in the history of this good church. But our numbers have fluctuated with people moving away due primarily to military reassignments. Thanks be to God we might be on our way back up. Who knows? All I know for sure is that we're still trying. That's what we do pretty good. We keep praying, and we keep trying. One precious soul at a time! Thanks for everything to do and for every prayer that you pray in our behalf.

God bless.

Randy