

November 30, 2017

Monthly Support Report

Dear elders,

I pray that this letter finds you well. We are all doing fine. Very busy, but all is well. We're thankful for the good measure of health that we continue to enjoy, and it's our prayer that this report for November finds all of you in good health and the Lord's work prospering.

I'll begin this report briefly about the good increase in numbers that we've had recently. While Thanksgiving took away a lot of our member, it has been good to have the new members and the extra college students that have started worshiping with us. As I've mentioned to you previously in previous reports, we are in an area that has a military base approximately 60-miles away, next to a major University in one direction. We have 4-students and a family of 4 that drives in and is a part of our congregation. At one time we had 4-military-families and 2-students who were members. Since then, those 2-students have graduated, and those 4-families have been transferred to another base. We're thankful that we were here because had it not been for us, the closest faithful congregation would have been approximately 2 ½ hours away. I wanted you to know that because your support helps to make the work here possible. You're a part of helping those Christians.

Now that Thanksgiving is over it will be good to get everyone back and involved in the good Bible study that we have been having on Sunday morning. We're studying about the Godhead. It's a good study and we're going into a good amount of depth. We had a few visitors a couple of weeks ago and they made an interesting comment after the class. The comment was, they've been a member of the Lord's church a long, long time and they've never studied this subject in a Bible class before. While that hasn't been my experience, that's too bad. I've studied about the Godhead in previous Bible classes and I've always found it to be a good study. I will say this however, that many young Christians have seemingly not been exposed to a very detailed study of this subject. So, I'm happy that I have a captive audience and I'm happy that I'm taking my time and exploring some interesting and informative details. I pray that these details will leave a lasting impression on them. We began the class by discussion in a brief amount of detail concerning the disbelief that so many other religions have concerning their being three persons/personalities who are Divine. I think I surprised many in the class with those details because they assumed that if they're a mainstream religion that their beliefs about the Godhead are more similar to ours than dissimilar. And then, not only are they unlike what we know to be the truth, (how can I say this and still be respectful) their beliefs concerning the Godhead are very strange and without anything in the Scriptures to lend support. I sometimes wonder how many of the members that sit in the pews of these even know what their creeds teach about the Godhead?

It probably goes without saying that I'm pretty excited about this new study that we've recently started. We should be finished with our study about the Godhead in a couple of weeks, and then we will move on to other studies. We have about 11-total subjects. Righteousness will be lesson number two.

I just completed my series on the armor of God with a closing lesson on the subject of prayer. That's the way Paul closed his thoughts after discussing the armor of God. <sup>18</sup>praying always with all prayer. That's the first time I've closed a series about the armor of God in that way. I enjoyed that last lesson. It was a good series and it was well received.

I've been studying for 5-weeks now with our new convert. She is doing well and she has brought one person to church with her. That's always encouraging and that shows that she is talking with others about her faith. I like that. The studies are going extremely well. The goal is to get her on her way to maturity by getting her grounded. Now is the time to do that. I like that she does every assignment that I give her. Maybe I've already said this, but I'll say it again. I really enjoy seeing Christianity through the eyes of a new convert. The zeal of new converts is very contagious. And so is their willingness to tell others about their love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

With the addition of the new members recently we are back to having a large number of little children. That bodes well for us whenever we have visitors. We have two separate classes for young children now. It's exciting to have that many younger children once again. It's also good to be in a positive growth time again. I know that growth can be slow, and it usually is in this area, but we're happy and we feel blessed to have had the amount of increase that we've had in the past three months. As we continue to pray for open doors, we know that the increase belongs to God. Plus, we understand the responsibility that we have to edify and build-up the members that we currently have. That's a responsibility we prayerfully accept and take seriously. I know I'm always looking out for the spiritual well-being of the members. And the lessons that I preach I preach with a purpose.

I hope and pray that your Thanksgiving was enjoyable, and that you were able to spend it with family and friends. And I pray that you'll be able to spend the upcoming holidays with loved ones and friends as well. I'll take this opportunity to thank you for your continued fellowship with me in the gospel. The work that we're attempting to do for God's glory in this place, and my ability to be a part of that is partly made possible by your help. And for that I'm very thankful.

God bless.

Randy