

THE BOZEMAN REPORT

November/December 2017
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Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

Our New Addition!

Greetings once again from Bozeman, Montana! It is hard for me to believe that we have once again come to the end of another year, and are ready to start another.

December was a big month for us, as we added a new daughter to our family! Shella-Marie Brooke was born on December 5th. We are very thankful for safe delivery and a healthy mom and baby. It has been 10 years since we had a little one, so it has been an exciting experience to be reminded of what it is like having a baby in the house. I have enjoyed watching how much the other children have fallen in love with their baby sister. They have jumped in to help out in all manner of ways. They don't hesitate to hold her, play with her, and even (with only a little protest) change diapers. They have also been a big help around the house, doing chores, and even jumping in to cook dinner. I'm very proud of how hard they have worked to help take some pressure off of their mom.

Cynthia's parents were able to come in for a visit when the baby was born. They arrived the day she was born, and were able to stay for about a week and a half. It was nice having them with us, and they were a big help during their stay. Nanette was able to help with much of the cooking and cleaning, and just



let Cynthia rest and recover. We were also glad to have Johnny preach for us while he was here. It was great having the grandparents in for the short time they could stay!

Continuing the Work...

We are continuing to have various studies in the community. December has been a very slow month, however. I've had a lot more time spent at home with the new baby, and Justin has had the opportunity to make a trip east to visit with family and with a few of the churches that are supporting him. For obvious reasons, we were unable to make a similar trip this year. We certainly miss the opportunity to visit with brethren, but look forward to having a chance to see many of you in the summer.

While Justin has been out of town, I have been doing a study on the Parables in the Gospel of Luke for our public assembly Bible class periods. I've been able to tailor this study to be beneficial for our whole family. I've enjoyed putting the material together, and the study has been good for opening up some discussions with the kids in the classes. Because of our congregation's demographics, when either Justin or I are out of town, it makes no sense to have children's class. Also, we tend to have our older kids need to move into the "adult" classes at an earlier age. I am hoping that having these types of classes where all ages are able to be together in the class will make them less apprehensive to participate when they are forced into these classes at a younger age. Jacob has been a tremendous help in our assemblies while Justin has been traveling. He will, I am sure, be thankful for break from being the song leader when Justin returns!

Kris And Cynthia Brewer

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327 Coulee Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

Phone: 406-539-3760

Email: kris@learngodswill.com

Web: <http://www.learngodswill.com>
<http://gallatinvalleycoc.com>

Blog: <http://kris.learngodswill.com>

We continue to work toward making contacts in the community by simply trying to spend time out in various venues, and talking with people as we can make opportunity. I am looking forward to the new year, and seeking to open up more doors of opportunity through various advertising venues, and channels that we hope will be beneficial in our own community involvement. Of course, we will continue with our ongoing evangelism efforts, as we try to include other methods that we have not been able to implement as of yet. As I have discussed with many of you before, we believe that there are many opportunities for evangelism here, but we are limited in time and resources with only two families here. We continue to make some headway, and are hopeful that we can develop some contacts into conversions, which will help with future growth. It is a slow process, as we thought it would be when we decided to come here. Please continue praying for us and our efforts!

Heath Update...

I have been writing about various health concerns I have had over the last year or so. I've received some good news on that front, and some not so good news. I had a series of MRIs that were checking on an abnormality in my brain. At my last appointment, I was told that it appeared that this could be a very small, very slow growing meningioma. The doctor told me that this was not something to worry about at this time, which

Average Attendance:

Sunday: 9

Wednesday: 10

is good news. They initially found that problem when looking for a reason for my sudden deafness in my left ear. Since that has nothing to do with the hearing issue, they are still looking for what might be causing my hearing loss. The specialist that I have been seeing has had a couple of possible diagnoses that he is exploring. We have tried a couple of things, but have yet to see any kind of improvement. We are currently waiting for the reports from a cat-scan, which the doctor is hopeful will rule out a couple of more possibilities. It is looking like I will probably need some minor surgery to try and stop the hearing loss, and help with some vertigo that I have been having for a few months now. The doctor does not think this will help restore any hearing in my ear, but it should help with the other issues. The real problem will be that the hearing aids that I purchased early in the year are no longer helping because of how severe the hearing loss is in my left ear. I will probably have to invest in another set hearing aids that are designed to help send sound from the bad ear to the ear that is better. I am supposed to go back to the specialist in February, and should have some better idea of what we will have to do for the best possible outcome. I do appreciate you prayers for all of these issues. After being relatively healthy for many years, I spent more time with doctors last year than ever before!

Thanksgiving...

We were able to have a great Thanksgiving holiday, spending time with Justin and his family. It is great having them with us in this work, and we love having the opportunity to spend our favorite holiday together. We do miss that time of year back east. We used to spend Thanksgiving with a big part of our family, and would go hunting. Perhaps we can enjoy that tradition again before too long.

Thanksgiving makes us remember once again how thankful we are for all those who are so supportive of our work here. We have so many good folks that provide us with financial support, words of encouragement and prayers! We truly are thankful for all that you do. We remember you constantly in our prayers!