

Monthly Support Report

January 31, 2018

Dear elders,

I pray that this report finds all of you doing well and that the New Year is off to a good beginning for all of you. I know that as I write those words that some of you have suffered the loss of a dear loved one and friend. And for that I'm terribly sorry for your loss. Only you know what you are going through. May God richly bless you in your time of grief. And may this New Year give you the opportunity to grieve for your loss.

I was thinking just the other day how wonderful it is to be a Christian and the blessings we share knowing the Jesus is our Savior. It is my humble prayer that in 2018 we will be able to share that message with others who don't know Jesus and his saving blood. You know without being reminded that there are so many who need the Lord and the hope of eternal salvation. Think of how wonderful it would be if each of us would make a special effort in the coming weeks and months to do what we're capable of to reach out to one precious soul with the message of Jesus. Even if all we can do is invite them to come to church with us where they can hear the message being taught. That's a start. Do you remember the old, old Hymn that has these words in it? "If the Name of the Savior is precious to you..."

It's been a good month for us here. Everyone is well (a relative term of course) and back at services. The college students are back. Of course, a couple of our students go home on the weekends when class schedules permit. Most of them have at least a 3-5-hour or more roundtrip. So, it's not often they are able to go back and forth. But, many of you know from personal experience that if you are able, you will so you can have decent food to eat. They are all excellent young people and very faithful to attend services when they are in town. And, I might add, they are all very good students and they study really hard. It makes me happy to be able to be able to say both about our college students. They are faithful Christians and they work hard and do their very best in their College classes. That's the way it should be isn't it. Occasionally I will get a call from one of their parents and they are so pleased when I tell them how prepared their children are for Bible class. What parent wouldn't be overjoyed to hear those words when their children are away from home attending College?

One of our members that I've been writing to you about for the past couple of months or so about her cancer just received the results from her Pet Scan. They were very good results. There's no longer any sign of her cancer increasing. It's going in the opposite direction so much that it cannot be detectable. That's wonderful news. Her doctor has decided to stop her chemo treatments and to begin radiation treatments. Her radiation treatments will continue for the next 2-3-mnths. I wanted to thank all of you who may have been praying in her behalf. Both she and her husband are overjoyed and obviously very thankful to God for this good news. I'll tell you a little story that goes with this that I think is a great story. She has had cancer in this same area 2-3-times before. I won't say how old she is, but let's just say she's lived a few years. The last couple of times the chemo was horrible to endure. So bad, she had told her husband and she had told me when she was going for her test results that if the cancer was back, that she had

lived a long life, and a good life, faithful to the Lord. And she didn't want to go through chemo again. She had pretty much made up her mind not to go through it again. I can attest to the fact through her husband and through her that the last time the chemo was really bad. The test results came back, and it was cancer again. She thought about it and prayed about it for about 2-weeks before making a final decision. Meanwhile the doctor had given her some positive news about how to prepare for chemo, and this time she had two beautiful granddaughters living next door to her that weren't there before. So, she made her prayerful decision to take the chemo and fight. Number one, the chemo this time wasn't nearly as bad because of her pre-chemo preparation. Number two, you now know the results of her taking the chemo treatments and the fervent prayer of the righteous.

I have additional positive news to report. Two of our young men who have never taught an adult Bible class are now teaching. One of them is in his early 40s (young). He just completed his first round of teaching and I must say I was very impressed. His prep work was really good and the way he involved everyone in my opinion was excellent. It was great to have a fresh face teaching and to actually have a break and be a student. I had told him prior to his teaching that there was nothing to worry about that not only would I be in the audience to help him if he needed any help, but there would be others to help as well. The truth is, he really didn't need much help. He used the material I gave him to use and did research above and beyond and didn't really rely solely on the class material. He said when it was all over that he felt relaxed and that he had many compliments from most everyone in the Bible class. Those compliments were well deserved. The other young man (mid-twenties) will begin his Bible class this coming Sunday. I'm confident that he will do equally as well and that he will be very prepared. He has had about 5-weeks to prepare.

We haven't had very many visitors recently. That's been a little disappointing. We always like it when we have visitors. One of the reasons is, it gives us hope that we will have an opportunity to study with someone and help them spiritually. We occasionally do have the parents of our college students come for a visit. That's encouraging and it's always nice to see them and visit with them.

It's good that we have a group that encourages one another and looks out for each other's welfare. We see that every time a member is sick or needs encouraging. We also see that with the college students. Someone is always taking the college students out to lunch or home with them Sunday afternoon if they're available. I can remember having a conversation with one of the mothers prior to her daughter coming to school nearby and assuring her that this is a congregation that although we are relatively small in number, we would keep a watchful eye on her daughter and get to know her. I've been proven to be right over and over again about matters such as this.

We continue with our Daily Bible Reading 5-days each week. And without knowing for sure what every member is doing on a daily basis, I'm rather confident that we have close to 90%+ participation. I like that a lot. That says a lot about this group. We've been doing this for a number of years now and still going strong.

It's always nice to have someone in the group to ask me about what to say or how to approach one of their friends or neighbors about coming to church or about how to teach them. This happens on a regular basis. That is so nice to hear. But, whether I'm asked those questions or not, I know these Christians are trying because that's just who they are. They've

been that way ever since I've known them. They do what they can. Just like the rest of us. We do what we can.

Thank you for your fellowship in the gospel. Your fellowship in the gospel is greatly appreciated. We're doing fine. Our health is good. School and our work for the Lord is keeping us busy. My humble prayer is that February will be a great month for you and that you will be safe, healthy, and full of joy!

God bless.

Randy