

March 31, 2018

Monthly Support Report

Dear elders,

It's my prayer that this report finds all of you and the congregation there doing well. We're doing fine. I'm finishing this report, looking at my notes for the month while watching the Loyola and Michigan game. So, I hope I don't get away from my note and give you an update on the game since the game has nothing to do with the work I'm attempting to do here. I'm confident that many of you are watching on your own.

Let me begin my saying that the work here continues to go well. I have no complaints and nothings negative to report. I'm confident that you're happy to hear that. I know that I'm very pleased to be able to report that to you. If I don't say that every month, I could. The work here has continued to be a peaceful, harmonious work. That's a good thing, and that the way it's supposed to be. You know that without me telling you. That's the only way that the Lord's work can be accomplished. And that's what we're attempting to do along with bringing glory and honor to His great name.

I've talked quite a bit in the past reports about our Daily Bible Reading that we've been involved in for the past 8+ years. We're going to stop that momentarily and make some positive changes. We're going to add some new emails which will increase our number by about 15%-20%. (Maybe more). And one addition we're going to make is we are going to add a Daily Bible Message that will be available 7-days-per-week. Of course, our hope and prayer are that this Daily Bible Message will be a way to attract some interest from those outside the body of Christ. This will also give our members a tool to use when talking with friends and neighbors. I think most of you know how this tool can be used. It's simply another effort by the good church here to spread the Good News of the Gospel and at least give individuals the opportunity. We're optimistic that this will be a good thing. At the very least it will allow us to become a little more active in the work of the Lord and that will be a boast for us. It's always nice to know that we're doing a little more in service to the Lord.

Spring Break just past a few days ago. My family and I took the time to spend it in Atlanta with family. Our mothers happen to live there. My wife's mother unfortunately has Alzheimer's and lives in an assisted living facility that is capable of dealing with individuals with patients who have Alzheimer's. She was diagnosed a few years back and has been living in this facility for about 4-5-years. It's a very nice home for her and we're very pleased with the facility and the care they provide. Fortunately, her condition has not digressed very rapidly. I'm not sure she's much worse today that she was when she first entered. That's just a layman's opinion. Her doctor's professional diagnosis may differ with mine. My mother is 90-years-old and will be 91 this coming October. While physically she is digressing, her mind is still very sharp. I spent most of my time with her while in Atlanta although we did take a couple of days and go up to the Blue Ridge Mountains to relax a little. That was my first time there. Our drive was about 1 1/2 hours from Buford where our moms live. After coming back, I had a few things to take care of for mom. This time we drove to Atlanta and back to help cut back on the travel expenses. For us it's about a 13-13 1/2 hour drive each way. However, flights to Atlanta for us are very expensive. We're

fortunate to get flights for less than \$400 roundtrip. \$400 X 3 three, trust me it's much less expensive to drive although those last 3-hours each way sure seem long and tiresome. Oh well, it was well worth it. It's not easy being so far away from moms that are getting up there in years.

Our son has chosen to attend Florida College next year. That was his choice to attend FC. Of course, we support his decision. He will be playing basketball for FC. He had other offers from about 7-8 other schools that he seriously considered and most of the offers were considerably more. However, none of them offer what Florida College is able to offer. No, Florida College isn't perfect. And yes, we're going to have to figure out a way to pay for it when it's all said and done. Aaron was offered just about as much for his 3.75 GPA and ACT score in scholarship money at other schools than Florida College costs per year. That would have helped us greatly financially. One school offered a \$22K scholarship for his GPA and ACT not counting his athletic scholarship. But from a father's perspective when the head coaches asked me what I thought about leaving my son in their capable hands, I always said something very nice in reply because they seemed like very nice coaches. But when brother Todd, Head Coach at Florida College asked me a similar question after he and I spent about 4-5-hours talking about basketball (we had talked quite a bit over the telephone prior to this) about the Lord, plus the souls of some of his players who weren't Christians, my feeling was very different. My thought process and comfort level a lot different when I prayerfully considered sending and leaving Aaron in the hands of a Coach who is a Christian and an elder of the Lord's church. Need I say more? No, it's not a perfect world at FC, but it's worth finding a way to pay for whatever the extra is that it's going to cost us.

Our attendance is holding its own. It has been steady during the past month or so. We have had one of our members who had pneumonia and had to miss a couple of Sundays. This is the lady who had cancer that I believe I told you about. She seems to have recovered quickly from her pneumonia and she should be able to back to services soon. She will probably not be attendance tomorrow simple to be cautious. She also just this past week completed her final radiation treatment. She and her husband are very happy for that and now we pray that the treatments will do what they are intended to do. Thus far the cancer seems to be staying in remission. We're very thankful for that.

Our younger men who are teaching Bible Class for the first time continue to do an excellent job. Each subject they teach you can tell that they prepare a little more each time. As soon as we complete this study we are going to study the Life of Christ. This won't be a lengthy study, but it should be an interesting study. Once again we will do something different with our teachers in the adult Bible Class. There will be different teachers for each segment, and each teacher will have an understudy who will be equally prepared so if the teacher cannot be there on short notice the understudy will be prepared to step in immediately. This will be useful because we have many of our men who are in-and-out with work throughout the summer months. I'm looking forward to seeing how this works for us.

I'll close with that bit of information. Except to say my usual heartfelt humble thank you for your fellowship in the gospel here in this place. I am very grateful to have your help. We are doing our best to spread the Gospel here to those who are lost and especially edify those who are members here.

God bless.

Randy