

THE BOZEMAN REPORT

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

In my last update, I mentioned that we have had some success in having Bible studies with several contacts. One in particular seemed to be quite promising. Unfortunately, all but one of those promising contacts has now fallen through. It is quite discouraging to think that there are people who have come so close to learning and obeying the truth only to be turned back by their own preconceived ideas. The lady we had the most hope for was joining us for a study of the book of Acts. Once we reached chapter 9, and she saw what the scriptures actually said about the need for obedience, she decided she was "too busy" to study with us any longer. We continue to pray that she will reconsider her decision and will return to profitable study with us once again.

Our recent experiences have driven the point home: God's word will not return unto Him void (Isaiah 55:11). Our responsibility is to preach the word. We can have no real impact on how that is received. Of course, we question our methods, and try to make sure that we are presenting the word with compassion and love. However, every person who hears God's gospel must make a decision for himself to either reject it or obey it. As I have expressed my discouragement over the last few months, I am thankful for those who have reminded me of this lesson. The work may seem to be fruitless, as we have no numbers to show for the labors. However, as I have been reminded frequently of late, there are many who are having an opportunity to hear the gospel message that may not have had that opportunity if we were not here striving to do this work. I want to say "Thank you!" for all of the continued encouragement we receive in these efforts! You cannot know how much your words of encouragement and prayers mean to our continued efforts!

Continued studies...

Throughout the month of May we were able to maintain a good schedule of regular studies, even though we lost some of our participants along the way. We also decided that we are going to try and do at least one virtual study during the week. We are still working on mastering the technology to make this as effective as possible, so the studies have not commenced, but we are hopeful to get these underway soon. Our hope is that we might be able to bring some of our MeetUp group out to interact more with us if they can get a first contact virtually. We currently have nearly 100 members in our online group, but are only seeing a very small portion of those come out to an actual study. If we can "break the ice" through a virtual MeetUp, we are hopeful that we will start to see some come out and join us for small group studies.

Our regular studies on Sunday and Wednesday continue to progress well. Justin is continuing with his series on "How We Got the Bible" and I am continuing with a series on "How to Study the Bible." I think both of these studies have been good for our own members, and are equally good for any visitors that we have.

We have been blessed with many visitors over the last few months. Of course, summer is the "vacation season" for our area, and so we typically have a few visitors every Sunday. This continues to be an encouragement for us. It is uplifting to know that there are other Christians looking to serve the Lord who are willing to go to the effort of finding us and traveling to be with us. Unfortunately, I have missed several friends visiting through the area, as we were traveling in the month of June ourselves. They were a great

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encouragement to Justin and his family while we were gone! In many ways, we hate to travel away, as it leaves only one family (for the time being) here by themselves to continue the work and conduct the worship services. At those times, the visitors really encourage!

June travels...

As I wrote in my last report, we were to travel east during the month of June. We actually extended the trip a bit longer than we would normally do to be able to visit with a couple more churches that are supporting us or interested in our work. We were able to meet with Woodland Hills in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 10th in the morning services. On the evening of the 10th, we were with the Eastside church of Christ in Bowling Green, Kentucky. From Bowling Green, we were able to travel north and visit with my family near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We had the opportunity to meet with the Westside church of Christ in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, for a couple of services (the 13th and 17th). We were able to travel through Huntington, West Virginia, on the way to Alabama. We had the opportunity to meet with our beloved brethren there on Wednesday, June 20th. From there, we traveled south to North Alabama, where we were able to visit with Cynthia's family for a few days. We visited with the Westview church of Christ in Athens on the morning of Sunday, June 24th, before taking the kids to a summer camp in Russellville, Alabama. We were able to

visit with the Belgreen church of Christ in Belgreen, Alabama, on Sunday evening the 24th, as well as during their midweek worship on the 27th. On July 1st, we were able to be with the Confluence church of Christ in Rogersville, Alabama, for the morning service, and then visited with the Pepper Road church of Christ in Athens, Alabama, for the evening worship. We also were at Confluence on Wednesday evening, July 4th, before starting for home on the 5th. I enjoyed the opportunity to speak for several of those congregations.

We are so thankful for a safe, and very encouraging trip! We covered over 6,000 miles and had the opportunity to visit with 8 different churches that either have a part in our financial support, or who are interested in the work we are doing and supporting us with encouragement and prayers. We also had the opportunity to visit with our families and many other Christians from numerous other congregations who provided great encouragement. I hope that we have been able to provide as much encouragement to others in our travels and discussions as they have provided to us!

Support update...

I have been tremendously blessed in being cared for financially during our time here in Bozeman. I believe we have only had to replace support one time before now. However, we are currently in need of raising \$250 per month as soon as we can. Some very dear friends have been providing this amount for a while now, but need to be relieved of the burden. We cannot express how much we appreciate what they have done! If you know of a congregation that may be in a position to help us with this, please let me know, and I can be in contact with them!

Thank you once again for your tremendous support of our work. Your prayers, words of encouragement and financial support mean so much to us! We certainly covet your prayers that our work may continue, and if it be the Lord's will, be profitable through the conversion of souls!