

## Monthly Support Report

June 30, 2018

Dear elders,

Happy end of June. I should say. Happy end of scorching June. I don't know about you, but, it's been three days of about 101-degrees here. That's kind of warm. My cycling has taken a little bit of a slowdown the past few days to put it mildly. Not too much except to say I'm up riding much earlier in the morning which isn't my favorite time to ride. But, life is hard isn't it? Sometimes we just have to do what we don't like doing. And if doing my cycling early in the morning instead of in the evening is my most difficult lot in life, I'll take it. My normal 10-12-miles in the hot sun when it's scorching with temperatures pushing 100-degrees makes the early morning routine pretty good. Enough of that, let's move away from my cardio to the more important part of this Monthly Support Report. But before we do I want to say that it's my prayer that all of you are doing well. I know this report finds some of you experiencing a not so great health situation. I want you to know that although I don't know who you are per se, in my prayers I continually pray for you knowing that our Great God knows who you are and who I'm praying for. I hope your knowing that one additional Christian, make that one additional family of Christians is praying for you adds gives you some additional encouragement.

Allow me to tell you about an interesting event that took place this month that is apparently going to result in something good for God's glory. I received a call from a lady from Arizona who is a faithful Christian. I'll begin the remainder of the story at this point. I had preached a number of years ago in California. My preaching in California had taken me to San Diego for Gospel Meetings, and sometimes while on vacation a fill-in for preachers. I'm not sure why I can't take a real vacation. I guess it's just my personality since I enjoy preaching the Gospel. I do take real vacations at times. Yet, in San Diego California there are so many things to enjoy. Plus, having friends there it's no problem to fill-in for someone on a Sunday. It's actually a pleasure when you actually know other Christians. Okay, let me get back to my story. Years before I was in California this lady and her family (mother, brother included) had lived in San Diego, and her husband had been one of the elders. Well of course they knew many families around the area, and even after they moved away they kept in contact with some. Her husband passed away a few years ago. She moved to Arizona to live with one of her sons and his family. Meanwhile her brother developed dementia and moved to Kansas to live with his daughter, His dementia is still in it's early stages, he surrendered his drivers license. Consequently, he stopped attending church services. And in reality with some other things to consider that I'll not get into, he stopped being faithful to the Lord.

His sister thorough contacts who put her in touch with me, I called her brother. We only spoke a couple of minutes the first time. But, he was very friendly. His sister called me and I gathered more information about him and his situation. Since he lives with his daughter and his daughter's husband has a form of stage 4-cancer (I'll not get into that either at this time), I have been hesitant to invade her home due to her stress level of taking her husband for treatments and making sure her father is safe and cared for. So, most of our discussions and studies have taken place via telephone. And then I would call his sister to get the feedback. To make a long story short, this man has started attending services. And although he does have an early stage of dementia, its somewhat difficult to detect in person. And since the

majority of his time with his daughter is spent inside due partly to his condition and her working fulltime and caring for her husband and father I sincerely believe getting out, number one has been very good for him. Number two, when he was faithful to the Lord, apparently, according to his sister he was an excellent song leader with a very sharp memory to the point that he had committed many songs to memory. What's of interest is that the brother who picks him up for services noticed that after about the third service his song book was partly closed. When he turned to look to see if he singing, he was. But, he was singing the words from memory. When I spoke to him Monday morning as I usually do, he said it was amazing how so much of it was all coming back. He said he hasn't felt this happy and whole in many years. If God wills I do believe we will have a new member soon. To God be the glory.

I'll make one more comment about this and then I'll move on. If he said he hasn't felt this happy and whole in a long time, I wonder, shouldn't I or we feel that way all of the time? Just thinking aloud.

God has blessed us with another family that may be moving our way in the near future. It's still a little uncertain and I don't know all of the detail at this time. But, it sure would be nice. I believe the future of this taking place has to do with this man's job, and whether or not it's going to be permanent. If it's going to be temporary then he and his family will make their decision about what they will do based upon the length of the assignment. That makes a whole lot of sense to me. My prayer is they will get the opportunity to do what's best for their family. I know there are a lot of situations where families have no choice but to commute. That seems to happen a lot in today's economy. Companies seem to hand out these short assignments so they don't have to pay out moving expenses without regard for the welfare of families. Clearly, I have a strong opinion about that. My prayer is this family will have an opportunity to do what's in their best interest. They will be a great asset for the Lord's work and for His glory wherever they are. And that's the more important issue.

So, that's some good news that we've been experiencing this month. It's been an interesting month filled with blessings. We've continued to pray for open doors and God continues to open doors for us to do His will and to do His work. It's so enjoyable to do His work.

As per usual- when the call goes out that someone needs a ride to come to services such as was the case with the man I mentioned earlier, we never have to ask twice. A couple of us talked about putting up a sign-up sheet and when the man who started out picking him up caught wind of a sign-up sheet his comment was, "Give it a couple of months or so, and I'll let you know if I need a break." That's just an example of the kind of attitudes the good Christians of this congregation have.

I'll close since aside from what I said in last month's report there isn't much new news to report. I have a couple of new things I could talk about, but I'll leave that until July. By-the-way, Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Be safe and God bless. Once again, it is a real blessing to have you help us do the work of the Lord here in this place by helping support me. Thank you so much. You truly are a blessing. It would be so difficult to do it without you. And thank you for your prayers. Your prayers mean so much to us in the work here.

God bless.

Randy