

Monthly Support Report

05/31-/2018

Dear elders,

Happy end of May and beginning of June. I do think we have missed Spring and just jumped right into Summer. I'm not complaining, I'm just wondering where Spring went. Maybe it passed by and I wasn't looking. Seriously, this isn't the first time this has happened. The Spring we had was nice, and the rains we've had did indeed bring some beautiful May flowers. And I'm sincere when I say I prayerfully hope that this beginning of June finds all of you, including the congregation there doing well both physically and of course spiritually. My immediate family for the most part is doing well. We've gotten through a graduation that was enjoyable although I must say that it's hard to believe that it has come and gone. But, I guess that could be said about most everything in life with the passing of time. I'm quite certain that you would concur with that statement. And I guess all of you can in many ways relate to it because of how events in your own life have seemingly flown by. You would think we would have learned by now to cherish each and every day and each moment with those we love. Anyway, I pray that your month of June will be getting off to a fantastic start and that your summer will be very enjoyable as well.

Speaking of summer, our summer will be one of the busiest summers on record for us. While it's not officially summer as of yet, we can see on our calendar that we have much to plan for because of what we have ahead of us. And it's much like I mentioned before, the days and the weeks will pass us by too quickly. And we will find ourselves headed toward Florida to drop a young man off at College. That's one of those moments that has a positive and a negative. It's a good place for a young person to enter into their freshman year of college, but it's our young person we'll be leaving behind when we get into our car and head back home. You can relate to that can't you? If I just don't think about it will that make it better when the time comes?

The work here continues on a very positive note. The family we have connected with the military has orders to go to Japan this August. We sure hate to see them go. But we knew when they moved here that since there were in the Military they were here on loan. We've had enough experience with military families to understand the cycle. It's usually 2-3-years at the very most. We will really miss them, but we know that Japan will be a great experience for them. We're in the process now of researching information about a church where they are going to be stationed. I guess that's an ongoing concern of families in the military. Finding a church to worship with. In this instance the isolation will be great being on a base in Japan. The wife is a faithful Christian but the husband (the one who is currently in the military) is not. He has no interest at all at this point in his life. He even went through a serious illness during the past 18-months and that wasn't a persuasion for him to think in the direction of God. He and his wife met in the military. They have 3-beautiful young daughters who are all three very happy and respectful. We will miss all of them. We wish we could have done something to have persuaded her husband, but according to her his response has not changed regardless of where they have lived. He has shown no interest at all. He's nice and very respectful. He's just not interested in God. Period. I'm very confident that she will remain faithful and that their girls will be well taught without hindrances from him. It's just too bad he can't share that part of their lives.

The new family I wrote to you about is still worshiping with us. They are as nice as they can be. What's interesting is that the woman whose husband is in the military knows them (from a distance) from a congregation she worshiped at in another state. She didn't know them other than enough to say hello to them. But they were member of the same faithful congregation. They are very friendly, and they stay a couple of minutes to talk, but they're not ready to talk yet. So, I'm just friendly back to them knowing that when the time comes they will talk if they want to. I've asked a couple of times for them to fill out a visitor card, and they just haven't. So, I'm not going to ask again. I'll give them the space they need. But, they seem to be a great family of three. Their son of 13 is as pleasant and nice as any young man you could ever meet.

Our Bible classes are going very well. Our subject last week and this coming Sunday morning will be Sanctification. Great subject, and we've had great discussion thus far. When we finish our word topics (studies) we're going to move on to about a 16-week study of the Life of Christ. Because of our upcoming study of the Life of Christ I've been directing our Daily Bible Reading (5-days-per-week) back to the Gospels. We just finished Matthew and we're not into the 5th Chapter of the Gospel of Mark. We'll keep doing our reading in the Gospels until our study of the Life of Christ begins, and then we will temporarily cease our Daily Bible Reading for a season because our Bible Class Lesson will have built into it a Daily Bible Reading in order to prepare each lesson. We'll see how that goes and see if we can keep up a good pace. I hope we can and not get too bogged down. I guess that will be up to the class teacher. Which won't be me all of the time. We're going to have different teachers for each lesson and each teacher will have a backup teacher who will study as though he will be teaching the class in case he has to step in at a moments notice. One of the reasons for this is we have a couple of men that might have to miss or travel at a moment's notice and have been hesitant to take on a Bible Class as a teacher because of this in their work schedule. So, I decided there was something positive we could do to remedy the situation and get them into the classroom as a teacher. I think it's going to workout just fine. Others are beginning to see the difference in preparation that's required to teach verses preparing your lesson for Bible Class as a student. That doesn't mean that a student can't prepare the same way. But most don't. So, every time we have a teacher, that teacher will have a backup that is in the background preparing as though he may get a call on Saturday night informing him he will have to teach Bible Class the next morning. Truthfully, everyone is pretty excited about this arrangement because it kind of forces them to prepare differently. And they like preparing differently. But, this forces them to do so. I hope you can read between the lines and make sense out of it.

I've been preaching a few mini series lessons based upon suggestions of the group, and some based upon some of our Bible Classes. I asked the teachers who have been adult class Bible teachers for the first time to tell me what they thought in their studies they would like further explanation on. So, instead of taking up class time, I used that as a sermon. That's worked out well. I've enjoyed it and I let everyone know that the teacher asked me to expound on that particular subject further. That made it easy for me to illustrate it as well. What's interesting is once it's discussed in Bible Class it's much easier to illustrate something. It's been enjoyable.

I'll close with that. Thank you for your prayers. And thank you for your fellowship in the gospel. It's much appreciated. Thank you!

God bless.

Randy