

July 31, 2018

## Monthly Support Report

Dear elders,

Greetings, on the day before August. I'm almost amazed to say the day before August because it's felt like August since May. Or at least it seems as though it has. Heat in the 90's most days – down close to 8" of rain and we're just now entering into August. I guess that's why it seems a little strange to look into the upper left-hand corner and still see July and think about tomorrow as being August 1.

I pray that this report finds all of you well and feeling blessed. We're fine. We are blessed. I read something recently that I'll share with you that has caused me to think. I believe it came from something I was reading from brother Gary Henry when he was writing about ingratitude. I didn't write it down so I'm a little hesitant to make it into a quote because I'm likely to miss a word or two and not say it as well as he did. But it's along the line of this. What if God took back every blessing that we haven't been properly thankful for? That thought really made me think. And I don't know about you, but if God did that with me, I would be missing a lot of wonderful blessings. That has caused me to be more mindful of my day-to-day blessings and try to be more thankful. When you start searching the Bible for verses about God's blessings it is and it isn't surprising how many verses you find that speak of God's blessings. I like how the NIV treats the wording of 2 Corinthians 9:8, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." A beautiful verse with a wonderful context.

We've had a busy month. Sunday was kind of a sad day for us. It was the last day for our family that's in the military. Actually, it's the husband who is in the military, and he isn't a member of the Lord's body. He is a Pacific Islander whose religion is primarily Catholic. It's the wife who is the Christian, and she comes from a family of Christians. They have three wonderful young daughters who have been well taught in the scriptures and I'm confident that will continue to be well taught in Japan. I've exhausted all of my resources in trying to find faithful Christians in Japan, so I guess she will have to do what she has done on other occasions. Make contact with the Chaplain on the base once they get there, and of course her main resource will be God who will make the necessary connections for her. I was able to provide her with 3-possibilities including 1-name and an email address in Japan. I also found a faithful congregation that videos their entire worship service including their Lord's Supper. While that's never equal to being with

brethren, that's certainly better than nothing for her and her girls until God brings them together with other Christians who are also looking for faithful Christians. I know she will be praying for other Christians, and we will be doing the same. Her name is Katherine, I would ask that you do the same. You know what James says about prayer in the latter part of James 5:16, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Let's pray and ask God to put Katherine and her three girls in contact with other Christians to worship together and encourage each other in Japan. I know there must be faithful Christians near where they will be. Won't it be great to get them in contact with one another? Thank you for your prayers in their behalf. And who knows, maybe this is the time and place for Katherine's husband John to become a Christian. While I could be negative and say we didn't make any progress with him while he was here, I've learned not to take that approach. Becoming a Christian is a process. A process that sometimes takes a little longer for some. I'm hopeful and praying that it's just taking a little longer for John.

We've had good attendance this past month. Visitors from the area and from out of the area. That's been very encouraging for us especially during the time of year when many of our own members are in and out of town during this vacation season. We will be leaving town soon to take Aaron to Florida College soon. During that time we'll stop off in Atlanta to see our family on the way there and on the way back. It's hard to believe that the time is almost here.

We're in the process of starting a new middle teenagers Bible Class to fill a need we have. That's a good problem to have. We have three members who have volunteered to be the teachers and rotate.

As we have two who will leave to go to college, we will have at least two college students who will be coming back soon. We will be happy to have them back. And who knows, we may even have a new student or two since we're so close to 4-colleges. Plus, we're always hopeful that we will have a new military family move in. In the past 5-7-years we have done well to let it be known at the military base who we are and where we are located. Plus, we have let brethren know that we are within 50-miles of Ft. Riley so that they can spread the word in case anyone asks. Getting the word out has been helpful for at least one family in the past.

I'll close with that. But I'll also close with saying thank you for your fellowship in the gospel. Your help and encouragement is greatly appreciated. It helps so much.

God bless.

Randy

