

# THE BOZEMAN REPORT

July/August 2018

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

We are enjoying a great summer here in Bozeman! We have had beautiful weather for several weeks. In fact, I believe we have only had 3 or 4 days of rain since we returned home from our trip east right after the 4th of July! Of course, the negative side of that dry weather is that we have had a summer full of wildfires once again. It does not seem that the fires are as bad this year as they were last year, but we have still had a few weeks of bad smoke in the valley, some days so dense it has masked the mountains that are only a couple of miles from our house!

## **Visitors...**

We have had a steady flow of visitors coming through our area throughout the summer. It is very encouraging to us to have travelers who make the effort to be with us in our worship services. I think I mention this in just about every summer time report, but visitors are such a boost to us during this time of year that I'd be remiss not to share with you the encouragement we gain from them.

In recent weeks, we have had several friends come through, many of whom we've had the pleasure of hosting in our home. In fact, every weekend for about a month we had folks that we know visit the area. I always enjoy getting to share our beautiful area with friends. One weekend, Carla Bragwell visited from Alabama. We were able to spend a couple of days with her, including one full day of visiting Yellowstone National Park. We enjoyed spending time with Carla, and it had been several months since we had made time to visit the park! We also had a visit from Brad and Lisa Sullivan and their children. We have been friends with the Sullivans for many years, and it was very enjoyable to renew

the friendship, and allow our kids to forge friendships with one another. It is especially valuable to us for good kids to visit with us, as our own kids are quite isolated from other Christians! Another weekend, Seth and April Hester visited with us, along with their kids. The Hesters have become good friends over the last several years, and it is always a blessing to spend time with them. Another upside to all of these visitors has been the help we have had for our public assemblies. It is great when we have visitors we know we can count on to help us out. Brad even presented a lesson for us while he was here. Visitors are great. Visitors that are good friends are an added bonus!

## **Studies...**

I received correspondence from several of you commenting on my discouragement concerning the loss of several study opportunities in my last report. I appreciate your words of encouragement for me, and the prayers that you offer up on our behalf for our evangelism efforts.

We continue to have a couple of studies per week with repeat students. Justin has been having a regular study with a young man that found us just prior to our trip. He came to a couple of our small group studies, but Justin has taken that study over as a one-on-one endeavor. For this young man, that setting seems to be working better, as he seems to be easily distracted in a group study. Justin reports that the study has been going well. Our other regular has been an older lady that has had a very difficult time over the last few years. We are hopeful that she may have found us at just the right time to be helpful to her, and that she might be

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### **Average Attendance:**

*Sunday: 13*

*Wednesday: 10*

willing to listen to the true gospel. As always, we can only pray that each of these individuals will continue to study with us and accept the truth.

We also continue with other small group studies in the community throughout the week. We seem to be gaining more and more interest in these efforts as time goes on. Our online MeetUp group continues to grow, which allows us to communicate with, and invite, a large group of folks every week. Most of our contacts have come through these invites, and other online advertisements. We do continue to have occasional visitors to these community studies, and often have discussions with those who “pass by” while we are having our studies. Each one of these is a “cracked door” that we hope to get our foot in for a true opportunity to teach. Please continue to pray for these efforts!

I am continuing to teach a class on *How to Study the Bible* on Sunday mornings. We have recently been discussing how we identify figurative language in scripture, and how that impacts our understanding of the scriptures. We are also looking at the various covenants that God has made with mankind over time. This part of our study helps to answer the question: What applies to me? By explaining the role of covenants, we can see what God has provided for man today, and understand our responsibility to Him.

Justin is continuing a study on the topic of *How We Got the*

*Bible*. He has done an excellent job of putting materials together and sharing them with us in the class. It is interesting to note just how much evidence for the scriptures has been found. One has to wonder what further manuscript evidence might be discovered as more time passes by!

### **Support Update...**

As I mentioned in my last report, we are currently in need of raising \$250 per month to replace some that we are losing. Please consider helping with this amount if you are able. If you know of any congregations that might be interested in helping us in this work, send me some information and I will get in touch with more information! Thanks for your consideration!

### **Request for Prayers...**

Mrs. Norma Lauer, who typically joins us via video conferencing on Wednesday evenings, has not been able to be with us for a few weeks now. She had been having several health problems, including a clot in her heart. Just as they thought all of that was about to be resolved, she fell and hit her head and had to be admitted to the hospital. Recently she was moved to a nursing home facility for further rehabilitation, with the hopes that she will be able to recover enough to eventually go home. Please keep her in your prayers.

I would also request prayers for my good friends, Wayne Teel and Angelo Miozza. Wayne has recently announced that he will need to leave the area he has been in for many years because of health issues. This will mean the closure of the local church there (as he is the only man there now). I know that has been a difficult decision for him, as I know the love he has for the work he has done, and few brethren are left in the area. Angelo is continuing to battle a very aggressive cancer. Both of these men are quiet, but strong soldiers in the Lord's kingdom. Please pray for them and their families in their difficult challenges.

Thanks for your constant encouragement for us. Please keep our work in your prayers as well!