

November 30, 2018

Monthly Support Report

Dear elders,

It's my prayer that all of you had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. It's one of my very favorite holidays of the year. Not only is the food delicious, it's always such a blessing to be together with family. That's the best part. I hope and pray that all of you had the opportunity to be with many of your family members during Thanksgiving. We were blessed to be able to spend a few days with many of our family members. That was a tremendous blessing for us. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. And I'm very happy to report that most everyone is doing well. We're very blessed. I believe this was one of if not the largest gathering of family members we've ever had.

Oh, and I guess I should throw in football all day long, plus Black Friday for those brave enough to fight the crowds. Although if I remember correctly, some of our family members hit the shopping trail after Thanksgiving dinner. I don't know what that was called except shopping. And then they were up bright and early Friday morning to go at it again. Not me, I saved more money by staying home.

Thankful is the optimal word for all that God has blessed us with. Food, houses, reasonable health, and being surrounded by faithful Christians to worship with who also encourage us in good times and bad times. A good church family of faithful brothers and sisters is God's way. It's a great plan isn't it? It's something to be very thankful for every day of the year.

We're doing well and the Lord's work here is doing well. God continues to bless us. We may be small in number comparatively speaking, but those we have are faithful and doing their best to remain that way. That's a very good thing to be able to say. We are at peace. We try to encourage one another. And we do whatever else we can to help each other along life's way. I'd say that we have something pretty good going on. The key is for us to do our very best to prayerfully keep Satan from interfering with this peace and cooperation. We know that he will try, and that he has schemes at his disposal.

Our little free Facebook page that we've been working on and using has brought about two Bible questions, discussions or studies if I must place a label on them. I'm enjoying both of them a lot. It's always a pleasure to discuss God's word with anyone who has an interest in doing so. There's no pressure in either case. The questions are of a sincere nature and serious. I do my best to respond without attempting to overwhelm them and patiently await their response. In both instances the responses have come when they've had the time to consider my reply, and when they've been ready with a response. It's a different approach from sitting across from someone with your Bibles open going back and forth with responses. I like both ways, but this way is enjoyable. But I've taken advice from something I read a few years ago about how to email and text. After to write it, read it over a few times very carefully before sending it. Pretend you're the one receiving it and reading it. How does it come across? The point is very obvious. You only get one opportunity. Don't press SEND until you're sure it's written in a manner that won't be taken wrong. Sometimes that's hard to do, but it's absolutely

necessary. Not everyone is going to write you back and ask you if you meant it in the way it was written. If I come across too hard, harsh, unloving or demeaning, then I just might lose them. Then everything and every good intention will be lost. They don't know me, and they can't see the sincerity on the expression on my face. All they see is the words in an email and all they hear is their own interpretation.

A young lady who is one of our College Students is continuing to study with one of her friends she has had since high school. This young lady, a faithful Christian goes to Washburn University and her friend attends K-State. Sometimes they get together in person, and when they do, they might have a Bible discussion. Other times when they talk on the telephone, they might have a Bible discussion. This is something that is ongoing and it has been for at least a couple of years. Yes, it's taking some time, but it's making progress and it's not showing any signs of stopping. There is a genuine interest on the part of her friend. I know that because she's the one who usually brings it up, and she is at the point of understanding that she must be baptized in order to have her sins washed away by the blood of Jesus. Why she doesn't do it immediately is another question. I believe it's because she is still working on the conviction. That appears to be the way of many today that I've encountered. I know it, I understand it, I know it applies to me and I must do it. Yet, moving into that conviction stage requiring immediate action seems to be lacking because in the denominational world there really isn't much of anything of immediate urgency. I say that respectfully. But this College Student and I are discussing what's taking place on a regular basis and I'm impressed with the way she is handling it.

We do have another family of four that will be joining us as soon as school is out. The husband is already working here, but he travels home on the weekends. His wife is still working part-time and their two children are still in school. They will be a wonderful addition to our family of Christians here. That will bump up the number of our young people, not counting College students to about 12-13. That's a great number for a congregation of our size to have. We're very happy about that number.

Well we have finally gotten started in our study on Sunday morning on the Life of Christ. It's going to be a really good study. I sense some real excitement about this study. Who wouldn't be excited about studying about the Lord. And at the same time, we're back to our Daily Bible Reading in the New Testament. I guess I made a mistake one Sunday saying we were going to read the 4-gospels in chronological order because one sister came up to me after services and asked me if she should read Matthew, Mark, Luke or John first? That's not what I meant to say if that's what I said. But then when I tried to tell her what I meant I think I dug the hole even deeper. So, I just showed her the sheet that I had passed out the week before when she and her husband were on vacation. Here's what I meant. Day #1 – Luke 1; John 1.1-14. Day #2 – Matthew 1; Luke 2.1-38. Day #3 – Matthew 2; Luke 2.39-52, and so on. See, now I'm afraid to even attempt to explain it to anyone again. I'm just going to carry this sample around on a 3 x 5 card or take a picture of the first month on my phone and have it ready to show people what I mean. On the paper I handed out it says: These reading attempt to put the Bible in chronological order. But show and tell makes it much easier.

I'll close here, but not without expressing my gratitude for all that you do. Your fellowship in the gospel is really helpful and appreciated. It makes it so much easier for what we're attempting to do here for God's glory. So, thank you. Thank you for your help, your financial support, and for your prayers.

God bless.

Randy