

October 31, 2018

Dear elders

Greetings,

Well, another month has quickly come to an end. One of my favorite months. One of my favorites because it's the month that leads us into the changing of the season and the time when the leaves on many of the trees go through their change. Of course, in our area due to the excessive hot weather some of the trees have already lost their leaves at couple of weeks ago. But I have a couple of Red Maples that are still mostly green, but they will go through their change very soon and I suppose very quickly once it begins. Anyway, it's my favorite time of the year for me, and fortunately for us we are in the midst of some of our better weather of this entire year.

It's my prayer that this report finds all of you, including the entire congregation there doing well. Our family is all doing fine. God has blessed us with very good health for the month, And for that we're very thankful. My mother just turned 92-years-old as of yesterday. She's not doing too bad considering. Oh, she has her aches and pains as should be expected and some other failings. But, nevertheless she isn't doing too bad at this time. God has blessed her with pretty good health as well. I'm very thankful to have had her around this long, and I'm praying that she still has more good years ahead of her.

Things continue to go well for us as a congregation. I believe I mentioned in my last report that we lost a family. We anticipated it for a while although we were sorry to see them go. They will be missed. Anytime you're a congregation our size a family of four is always missed. They were a very talented family, and somewhat active in the work here, which also adds to it. But, about two weeks after we had to say goodbye to them we found out that we were gaining a family of four. An equally talented family from what we understand and very active in the Lord's work where they currently attending and worship. So, while it's not fair to say that God replaced the family that is gone with this family, number wise, in that sense of the discussion, it's a fair exchange. It would have been better for the group here if we could have had all eight. But we don't, so we'll just keep doing what the Lord would have us to do in doing His work to try and bring Him honor and glory, and to help this new family with anything they need to help them grow and become stronger in the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It will be great getting to know this new family. This is always a very exciting time. So, all of us are really looking forward to it with great anticipation. One thing we already know is, that this new family is a very faithful family that loves to do the Lord's work. That's always great news to be getting a family that has such a great reputation of faithful service in the Lord's kingdom. But, in essence that's a reputation that all of us should have isn't it? So, we're very happy that God is blessing us with this new family to help us in the work in the kingdom here.

We just concluded a very good series of lessons in our adult Bible class this past Sunday. It has been a very good series that has covered a wide range of topics that has not only been interesting, but it has allowed for some very rich Bible Class discussions. All of the way through this series there were many compliments about the material we were using and it was easy to tell that there was a high level of interest because of how well everyone prepared for the classes, and the good discussion we had in each of the classes.

Now we're excited and ready to begin a new study in our adult Bible Class having to do with the Life of Christ. We've had the material ready for the past 5-6-months and our first three teachers lined up who have been preparing, so it should be a series of good lessons. I'm looking forward to each class. It should be a really good series of lessons.

One of our members recently lost his father. He had been ill for some time now, but his passing still was a little unexpected. This brother has had a rather tough last 25-months. He has lost his wife, his only brother, and now his father to death. It's been a sad time for him to have to mourn the loss of the three people who were the closest to him in life in such a short span.

One of our college students has been studying with a friend of hers that she has known for some time now. She and I have been studying and talking about her study during the process although I've never met her friend. The good news is we think this friend is getting closer and closer to obeying the gospel. Although I may never get to meet her, it would be so exciting to hear of her being baptized into Christ for the remission of her sins. Oh, I guess I should explain. The friend of this college student lives back home where this student is from. She does some texting with her and she talks with her whenever she goes back home to visit with her parents. She has actually known her for 6-7-years and has tried talking with her for the past 4-years, but she said the discussions weren't very serious discussions until about 2-years ago. And then she said she thought things changed. Then she approached me and asked what she should do and say. I offered a couple of suggestions that seemed to help and we've been talking ever since and things have been going well. There's no hurry because her time with her friend is somewhat limited, but the time she does have with her seems to be paying dividends. Please pray for her efforts. This is a pretty exciting time for a 20-year-old nursing student in college to have such an important part in leading a friend to the Lord. I'll close with that.

But I never want to close without expressing my heartfelt thanks for your continued fellowship with me in the Gospel. Your help means so much and helps so much. So, thank you! Please keep us in your prayers!

God bless.

Randy