

Dear brethren,

We have kicked off the New Year, and after a very mild winter overall, we have hit some cold and snowy weather. I am not complaining, mind you, I love the snow and cold! The only big issue has been that we have had two chipped windshields turn into two very cracked windshields, and that means replacing! It is amazing how many windshields get broken here in Montana. Most trucks have at least one crack. We usually don't get overly concerned until it impairs vision, or looks like it has reached the edges where it might fall out. Anyway, I spent parts of two days in the last week getting windshields replaced...and I hope that keeps us for a while!

The work continues to go well. We did have to cancel one Wednesday evening bible study because of the weather. That is rare, even though we have quite a bit of bad weather. Unfortunately, on that evening, the storm was just hitting, so it was not wise to have the brethren out on the roads. Otherwise, the weather hasn't been much of an impact.

We continue to have various studies in public places around town. We've re-started some advertising that we had put on hold, so we are hoping that will stir up some more contacts again. We have a couple of studies in which we simply read a passage of scripture, currently in the gospel of Luke, and then discuss the materials found therein. This provides a pretty easy way to have people join us, even if they haven't been a part of the study before. On one study, Justin has been teaching 1 John. This is one of our newer studies, and I'm hopeful that the change of topic and venue might provide us with good opportunities. The Phillips family has jumped right in to the work, and has already been a big help and encouragement to us. Just having some of them come to our studies accomplishes a couple of things. First, it provides more people for the studies, so that others see a little larger group studying together and provide a bit more comfort in the situation. Second, it has been helpful for Justin and I as we have enjoyed having more folks to participate. The influx of new folks has been a good tool to help bump us out of a rut!

Our regular Sunday and Wednesday classes also continue to go well. I am continuing the study of How to Study the Bible on Sunday. Recently we have been looking at how to approach a context. I introduced what I labeled a "journalistic approach" in which we look at who, what, when, where and why something has been given in a particular context. Justin has been continuing his study on How We Got the Bible. We have been looking recently at the early English translations, and the process by which they were brought into existence. As I have

mentioned before, these two studies seem to go together well. I know I have restrained myself from covering some materials simply because I knew Justin had already covered, or would be covering, the same material in his study.

We were surprised by a fairly large contingent of visitors in January. On one Sunday, we have 10 visitors from out of town. That is not uncommon in the summer months, but it is far more rare in the winter, unless there is one large group. We had 3 different groups, visiting from Alabama and Tennessee. They had come to our area to ski. We always enjoy visitors, and especially in the winter when they are few and far between, we are glad to see them. 4 of those visitors were with us for two Sundays. That, too, is a very rare occurrence! While our work has been slow in the community, I am glad that we are here for those who often travel through this part of the country. While our primary goal is, and always will be, to spread the gospel in this area, we believe those who travel appreciate our presence as well. We are the only sound congregation in the state of Montana (as far as we can find), and the nearest other works are about 250 miles away!

We appreciate your support in our work here. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. We pray that you all are off to a good year as well! May God bless you in your efforts!

Your Servant,

Kris Brewer