

## Monthly Support Report

02/28/2019

Dear elders,

I continue to remember all of you in my prayers. And I trust that all of you are doing well. We are fine, and blessed. And we are surviving the snowy winter of 2019. It's been quite a few years since we've had this much measurable snowfall. I believe I heard the other day on the local weather forecast that we have already had approximately 31" of snow and that since winter began there has been some snow (including flurries) that has fallen on 42-different days. I think I have that number correct. That's a lot of days to at least see flurries. I know for a fact from shoveling that we've had 4-snowfalls that have accumulated at least 4" of snow. I'll share with you my story about my little snowblower. A few years ago (maybe 5), I thought I was going to be smart, so, I bought a little 18" electric snowblower. This was the year after we had had 33" of snow that winter. So, when winter was over that year and snowblowers were marked down, I bought my very first snowblower. For the next 4-5-years it sat in the garage. I may have used it once each year. But, this year it has more than paid for itself in that my back has had a break from shoveling. It's kind of funny (at least it is for me), that it sat there collecting dust for 4-5-years until now. Okay, let's move away from the weather report and talk about things that are important to the Lord's Kingdom.

I'm really pleased with the lessons I've preached this month (including this coming Sunday's lesson). First of all, for our group they have been very timely. I preached on the Age of Accountability. And honestly, I can't ever remember hearing a sermon on this subject before. For sure, this is the very first time I've ever dedicated an entire lesson on this subject. I was very pleased with it. Plus, the reaction from our young people and their parents has been tremendous.

I don't know if the name Charles Goodall rings a bell with any of you or not. Brother Goodall is now retired. But, brother Goodall was a preacher and a Math Professor at Florida College for a number of years. He taught Pre-Calculus, Algebra and Trigonometry, Calculus I, II, and III. Anyway, I would think that many preachers have used his filing system for filing Bible related articles by number according to subject. He has a book that assigns a number to each topic. For example, elders of the Lord's church is #1502. I guess that was more useful when bulletins were printed and sent out to those on the mailing list of the church that mailed out bulletins. Now we preachers do that sort of thing electronically, or we simply save an article or site in our favorites. Anyway, he also published another book called "In the Same Hour of the Night." It's a book that mainly has to do with personal evangelism that gives you the opportunity to develop a lesson for teaching someone about the Lord. You can develop a very good systematic kind of lesson, point-by-point. It's a classic book that's well written. I would highly recommend it to every Christian. I studied it a number of years ago and developed 2-4-lessons that I can now use in trying to convert someone to the Lord, and teach them God's plan of Salvation. I have taken those lessons and developed sermons from them. That's what I'm currently preaching due to the need in the congregation here.

I believe I mentioned the fact that one of our young ladies, a very faithful Christian who goes to College here has been bringing her boyfriend with her to our services. We've had lunch with them on a number

of occasions and they have been to our home. He was raised as a Catholic although from his own admission, he doesn't profess Catholicism today. Well, he is very close to obeying the Gospel and becoming a Christian. The lesson I preached last Sunday, "What does the Bible say?" outlining what each person in the book of Acts who were converted to the Lord has just about cemented it for him. The basic structure of this lesson stems from a lesson I learned as I studied "In the same hour of the night."

It will be a blessing when he is baptized. He pays such good attention and is so easy to talk to, I suspect it will be soon. It will be a day of rejoicing. His name is Bruce and I would like for you to pray about his becoming a Christian. This Sunday's lesson will be a continuation of considering what the word of God says about one becoming a Christian. It's really a very simple lesson, but it's organized around the accounts of conversion and what they did and what they were commanded to do to be saved.

To add to the above, we have at least a couple of young people who I'm confident will be committing themselves and their lives to the Lord sometime in the near future. So, my lessons have been focused on those who will someday become a Christian. But, as I've told the congregation, these are lessons you can use to teach your friends and neighbors. These lessons make it very clear that immersion is FOR the remission of sins. Not, a public display that you have already had your sins covered by the blood of Christ.

Buy the book. Use some note cards. Write out a lesson that you can memorize. Make notes in your Bible as to where you go next in teaching this lesson. Practice it aloud and even practice it with a friend and a relative until you're comfortable with it. And then GO teach the LOST about Jesus, just like Philip did in Acts 8. Show them where immersion fits into God's redemption of mankind. And duplicate the worksheet found in the book, and allow a lost soul to see how simple it is to obey the Lord. They can read it and understand it for themselves. That's what they need to be doing as it is. When I'm trying to convert someone (although the Scriptures technically speaking do the converting), I rarely read a passage of Scripture. About 95% of the time I'll tell them to read it and then tell me what they've just read. Many times, both of us will have pieces of paper, and I'll write down what I believe the passage is saying, and the person I'm working with will do the same. Then, we will compare notes. It is a rare occasion when our notes don't agree. What I'm attempting to do is to allow that person come to their own conclusion about a subject. And if they're NOT steeped in prejudices they can clearly see God's plan of salvation.

Just this past Sunday I finished a 6-week lesson about the apostles of the Lord. The original twelve, not including Matthias and Paul. I truly enjoyed the class and from the comments so did everyone else. It was one of those classes that captured your attention and promoted study and class participation. And every Sunday when the bell rang to signal the end of class, we wished we had another hour extension added to our class time. I love it when a Bible Class promotes learning and energy that's brought to the classroom. This has been one of those classes and subjects. We will begin a class on the Miracles of Jesus this coming Sunday.

Thank you for taking the time to read and for allowing me to ramble on. Everything I've talked about is a positive. I honestly can't think of a negative. Which is a blessing. Thank you for your fellowship with me.

God bless.

Randy