

THE BOZEMAN REPORT

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

Greetings from the Gallatin Valley! Let me begin this report by apologizing for being a few days late getting it sent out. We were able to make a trip east, and have been on the road for the last few days heading into the weekend! We were glad to be able to visit with family, and take our kids to a summer camp in Russellville, AL. It has been very nice for our kids to be able to maintain good and godly friendships through this camp, as we are somewhat isolated here.

We did not have the opportunity to meet with as many brethren as we usually do on our summer trip. Our trip was a bit shorter this year, as we wanted to wait to leave the Bozeman area until Justin's wife, Laura, had their baby. We are excited for them to add Eliza Karen to their family. Mother and baby are doing well. We were glad that we were able to see her healthy entrance into the world before we headed off on our long road trip! I hope that we will be able to visit with more of you on our next trip.

Good News...

Since my last report, we have had a young man find us and be restored to the Lord after being away from Him for about 3 years. We are happy to have Joey Stagner now among our number. While numerical growth has been very slow in the work here, we believe there are some very good things happening in this area. We are excited about the prospects that are before us right now!

Studies...

We have completed the study on Sunday mornings entitled *Study to Show Yourselves Approved*. This was our study on how to study the Bible. I found this a challenging study to put together, but thought that it was very profitable both for me and for the group here. We have several young people now, and I think it was beneficial to talk about principles that we sometimes take for granted. Sometimes we do things without really thinking about how we do them when it comes to our study. One of the recurring themes we discussed was that understanding scripture is not much different than understanding any other communication. God has communicated with us, and we can understand His will for us!

I am planning, in the coming week, to begin a new study on Sunday mornings that I plan to entitle *Walking Worthy of Your Calling*. The focus of this study is to talk about what being a Christian looks like. We want to spend some time focused on what God really expects of His people. I intend to study both positive and negative examples of actions; things we should be doing, and things we should not be doing. While I anticipate another challenging time to put this material together, I am looking forward to our studies!

On Wednesday evenings, Justin is continuing our study of the book of Philippians. This continues to be an encouraging study of one of my favorite books. Paul wrote so much about unity of the saints in this short book, lessons that are beneficial for every Christian, and every church!

Our regular studies around town continue to go well. We continue to have good interactions, and occasional visitors. I hope that the contacts we make will eventually develop into something profitable in the kingdom. We never know when the seed will fall on the right heart, or if the seed will simply take some time to germinate!

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We are well into our summer visitor season. It is encouraging for us to have so many travelers come our way, many of whom travel a substantial distance on Sunday mornings to be with us. It is particularly encouraging to receive notes from those who have visited with us, telling us how much they appreciate our work here in Bozeman. Those who travel through our region know how sparse faithful congregations are. It is nice to have those with similar convictions visit with us!

Personal News...

Some of you probably know this already, but we have recently lost \$550 per month in regular support. I have recently sent some letters out to try and help cover this amount, but we are currently still seeking to raise that amount for the work here. If you are aware of any local congregations that might be in a position to provide some of what is now lacking, please let me know and I will send a letter of request.

Average Attendance:

Sunday: 19

Wednesday: 15

Thanksgiving...

I often think of this passage when I consider all who have been such a great part of the work here in Bozeman:

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ... (Philippians 1:3–6).

It would be very difficult for us to be able to do the work here without your generosity, encouragement and prayers. We think of you all often, and thank God for your support of our efforts! May God bless you in your efforts in your local places.