

July 1, 2020

Monthly Support Report

Dear elders,

Greetings! It's my humble prayer that all is well with you, your immediate family. And the good congregation there. Our family is well, and things are going really good for us. It's a very busy time as the time is soon approaching for Aaron to head off for his 3rd year of College in about three weeks. He will be going to Western Kentucky University this year as he begins their 3-year program in Mechanical Engineering. So, no more Florida College. He completed his 2-years at FC and received his Associates Degree. So, now it's on to WKU in Bowling Green Kentucky. Another new will be the switch from dorm life to apartment life. So, this will be quite the transition for him. From a school of 500 to a school of 20,500 approximately, and from professors who were all Christians to professors who aren't Christians for the most part. The nice part is Aaron will have friends and relatives, plus a good church to attend in Bowling Green with preachers, and an eldership well aware of the needs of College Students away from home. Plus, it will be nice for us that Aaron will be much closer to home.

As we expected, some of Aaron's classes will be online due to our COVID-19 world. And, face masks will be mandatory in all of his classes that he attends. Being an Engineering student, Aaron will have at least 2-classes that will require labs, so that face mask rule will be important. Plus, the social distancing rules will be in place where possible. I know there's a lot of discussion and disagreement about both face masks and social distancing in the past and in current discussions by a lot of people who wonder if they are useful against the virus or how effective they are. While I don't as of yet know any of the particulars, I heard just recently from Christian friends who would have credible information of a wedding that they were invited to where 150-people attended. Out of that 150-people who attended the report is that 120-people are now infected with the COVID virus. I don't know of any of the particulars at this point to suggest whether or not they were or were not social distancing or wearing masks or not wearing masks. So, I'm not going to infer one way or the other. I'm just going to suggest the obvious. COVID-19 is for real and very infectious, and we should take every suggested and known precaution. So, I'm very happy at the University level that precautions are being taken. And Aaron has been forewarned that he will have to be extra careful because not every student will be as sanitary as he is. And not every student will avoid crowded places and wear masks when on their own when they are out in public. So, he will have to protect himself from those students while on campus.

The work of the Lord here goes well. We just recently concluded a study about the death – burial and resurrection of the Lord. So, now we are headed into the Acts of the Apostles. And while I've told the class that our study material will be useful to

us, we will only use it as our guide to take us through our study of Acts. For example, in our first lesson Jesus' instructions to his apostles as he is ready ascend it for them to go to Jerusalem and wait, for their they will be endued with power from on high. The question in our study material is simply: "Where did Jesus tell his apostles to go and wait and why?" As their teacher and as an added bonus, I want to know WHY Jerusalem? What's the history behind Jerusalem? And what's the history behind Jerusalem? What other names is or was Jerusalem known as? And, finally, could it be possible that there was some prophecy fulfillment in Jesus' instructions to his apostles? The second part of our study of the book of Acts will be to "date" to the best of ability the events that we encounter. Beginning with (going back a little in history) the 4-passovers from John's gospel that Jesus took part in, bringing us to Jesus' crucifixion and the Day of Pentecost (A.D. 30).

One additional thing we noted in a handout for the class to read and absorb on their own was how B.C. and A.D. came into existence 753 BC (on April 1, to be specific), when it was founded by the legendary Romulus and Remus. Roman years (using the abbreviation AUC- from the founding of Rome, "*ab urbe condita*") were counted from that legendary event—and note that the *B.C.* I used in this sentence in order to orient us moderns **did not exist** as a concept then. It's kind of interesting, and there's much more to it in the handout that I gave the class. Personally I've always found it interesting and very useful to have a general idea as to when the events recorded for us in the book of Acts took place considering Acts does cover the first 30+ years of the church. And, Acts covers quite a bit of history of both Peter and Paul (divided almost evenly somewhere in Acts 15).

We have been able to do two things in order to worship and stay within state mandates. Social distance (6-feet of distance unless it is a family member), and or the wearing of a mask. We have also placed an usher at the door to open and close the door. We also seat people according to social distancing rules. In serving the Lord's Supper, those serving wear masks and gloves, and they hand the individual cups to each person. So, no one handles the trays except those who are waiting on the table and wearing gloves. Of course, I don't wear a mask while preaching or teaching a Bible class. The family the is nearest to me is my family. If it were not my family they would have to be spaced ten feet from me according to the rules or I would have to be masked while preaching and or teaching a Bible Class.

I believe as I have mentioned to you in times past in one of these reports, we have a large number of young people. Well, those young people are growing up, and a good number of them are reaching the dating age, and the maturity level of giving consideration to obeying the gospel and becoming a Christian. As a matter-of-fact, it's my expectation that on any given Sunday that one or more of them could make that decision and decide to become a Christian. I'm in no hurry, and I encourage each of the parents to not be in a hurry either. The decision is not their decision. It's the decision of their children, and when the time is right, they will decide to put on Christ in baptism. It's times like this when a parent can get anxious and want to push their child into making that step. What I try to tell parents is, that they don't

have to push. I remember a fond memory from years ago when I received a call at about 2:44 in the morning and on the other end of the call was the voice of a 15-year-old asking me to please baptize them. When I asked "when?" That somewhat quivering voice said "now." I said something to the effect, "Do you mean at this hour of the morning?" The answer was, "Yes sir, if that's okay. I don't want to wait." My point is, even young people know when it's time. And it's "their time," not mom and dad's time. Isn't that the way it's supposed to be? Similar to that Day of Pentecost when hearts were pricked. Men and brethren what shall we do? They were told and they gladly responded. The time was right. Their heart told them so after the gospel message had done its prodding.

I pray that you will continue to be safe and practice all of the sanitizing means that we know that will keep us as germ free as possible. Freshly washed hands, no touching the mouth, nose or eyes. Face masks may not be the whole answer, but if a mask stops one droplet from getting through, then it's served its purpose. We certainly don't want to be among the many who have had to suffer through this horrid virus.

Thank you so much for your fellowship in the gospel. It continues to mean so very much to us and it is so very helpful. We're always so thankful when we see your check arrive in the mail. So very thankful. May God bless you in your effort to bring glory to Him in the Kingdom. Thank you for your good example and for your prayers as well.

God bless.

Randy

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