

Monthly Support Report

September 30, 2020

Dear elders,

Well, I certainly hope and pray that all is well with you, and the congregation there. I pray for your health, and for God to be glorified by all of you. We are doing fine. We have thus far managed to stay safe from that horrible virus. I hope all of you have as well. We've had two granddaughters who have had COVID19 and they did just fine. Both said it felt like a horrible cold that lasted for about the normal length of time for a cold. Which is seven-days. Both were able to stay out of the hospital, although one works as a nurse in a hospital. Both, as the cold like symptoms were wearing off and their strength was coming back, lost both their sense of taste and smell. That last part was the strangest part to them. I guess pretty much like most of our senses, we take them for granted until we lose them. Then we realize how we rely upon them daily. But, I'm happy to report that both of them are doing fine, and there doesn't appear to be any lasting side-effects. At least not yet! We're thankful to God that both of their cases were not any more severe than they were.

Our work here, although winding down is going really well. One of our young people was just baptized. It was a beautiful sight to behold. I knew that it was just a matter of time for this young lady. However, I was so pleased when she obeyed the Lord. Her parents have been working closely with her for the past 4-weeks making use of a small book I shared with them. And they reported back to me that it was a very helpful and useful book to use as an organized guide in their studies.

And, while I'm not suggesting that the other young people will be baptized because she was baptized. However, her commitment to the Lord I think, in many ways will be the first of many in the weeks and months ahead. I've preached with a lot of young people in the audience in the past, and while they were all great, and they took notes and paid good attention. I would say that this group of young people compares with any that I can recall. I'm very proud of them, and I have a lot of confidence in them. Of course, my real confidence lies in the power of the Gospel to pierce those good and honest hearts. We are blessed to have a fine group of young people like we do with parents who love the Lord, and demonstrate that to their children in their homelife. These young people need that good godly example from their parents.

I continue my study with a woman who is a member of the Lord's church who had bad experiences at home while growing up. Her mother, who is a Christian in that she was baptized for the remission of her sins, used God as a negative in their household in order to control the family. And now, many years later, this woman, and her siblings struggle with the idea of God being good, loving and merciful. While we take those things for granted since that's what the Bible clearly teaches. Imagine if you can, being raised by a mother who only spoke of God using negative

terms and phrases. What's the biggest issue she and her siblings now face as adults due to their treatment/abuse while growing up? Religiously speaking, it's the question: Why, if God is omnipotent, omniscient, and benevolent, as the monotheistic religions believe; then why does evil continues to exist in the world? For someone who has had to endure mental abuse in a home where both the mother and father are supposed to be faithful Christians, that question becomes very personal. It becomes, God, if you're omnipotent, omniscient, loving, benevolent and good, why didn't you rescue me (us as children) from a home such as this? Much progress is being made with those issues; however, it hasn't been easy.

Parents, we really do have a profound affect on the mental and spiritual well-being of our children during those formative years. And I'm suggesting that we use all of that powerful influence we have as their parents in the most positive way we can. Make sure to reinforce the fact that God is loving and kind. The world continues to use the evil in the world, along with the unfortunate plight of so many, to paint a very negative picture of God. We need to make sure that we don't contribute to that dark picture the world is painting. Many young people have struggled with and even lost their faith due to the evil/suffering in the world, and someone with some influence in their life suggesting to them that IF GOD existed, or, IF HE were truly a loving God, then he would put an end to it. While I can answer those questions of Why does evil exist? to my own satisfaction, with answers that I consider to be reasonable. Convincing someone who is personally struggling because of what they faced at the hands of a parent who was and is supposed to be a Christian isn't as easy. I pray that God will grant me the wisdom to say and demonstrate from his word, and explanation that will have a lasting impact for good on her life.

Our Bible study in the book of Acts continues to go really well. I know I've stated this in many of my reports. But, the thing that makes this class good is the willingness of those in the class to come prepared.

I don't really have much if any update on our planned move to Georgia, except to say we're working out the details. With winter coming we're attempting to make it happen sooner rather than later. I'll keep you posted as to our timeframe. While houses are selling well, we can't predict when ours will sell and some other things to fall into place.

Thank you for your continued fellowship in the gospel here in this place. It has been and continues to be greatly appreciated. And the work that we have done in the past, and continue to do is for God's glory.

God bless.

Randy