

THE BOZEMAN REPORT

May/June 2016

Volume 2, Issue 3



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

Let me begin this report by apologizing for being late in getting it out. We were able to spend some time traveling back to West Virginia and Alabama over the last couple of weeks of June, and just arrived back home on Saturday. We had a very good trip, and had the opportunity to meet with several congregations over the course of our travels. We met with the Westside church of Christ in Coraopolis, PA (where my dad works) on one Sunday, where I had the opportunity to speak. The next Sunday, we visited with the Confluence church of Christ outside of Rogersville, AL (where Cynthia's dad works). I also enjoyed speaking for the group there. We had a good visit with family and friends in both places. We also were able to take our kids to a youth camp that is run by friends of ours in Russellville, AL. We started taking them several years ago, and had hoped we could continue to do so, even though it is so far away. Because we are so isolated here, we think it is important to use that as an opportunity for our kids to get together with their friends from other Christian families. As always, they had a good time, and had the opportunity to renew and strengthen friendships, as did Cynthia and I! On our last Sunday, we were able to meet with 2 churches that help to support us in the work here in Bozeman: Westview church of Christ and Pepper Road church of Christ, both in Athens, AL. We were thankful for the opportunity to talk with many people about our work, and share what we believe to be very good things that are happening here in Montana!

It seems that traveling has a tendency to wear down immune systems. Thankfully, we made it home from this trip before coming down with some kind of malady that has caused sore throats and stuffy heads. On our last trip, our return home was delayed because of such an illness. We are certainly thankful to be home, and to have had a safe trip. In all, we traveled over 5000 miles and crossed 13

different states.

Continuing the Work...

We have been able to get back to our study of Divine Authority at the library on Thursdays. You can view the lessons on our website: <http://gallatinvalleycoc.com/index.php/resources/bible-studies/divine-authority>. We have been excited about this study, as we have the preacher from the local institutional church attending at least part of the time. Scott seems to be a genuine person, and is a very hard worker. He has said that he had never been exposed to any differences between churches before. We are hopeful that he will continue to show honesty toward the word of God, and see that there are some practices that he and the church he works with need to change in order to be truly following the will of the Lord. We have also received word that the preacher for the church in West Yellowstone may be interested in meeting with us. We are anxious to see if he is willing to study some of the differences that divide us or not. I know he has had some interaction with another preacher that I know, and his response was not very favorable. However, we are not willing to close the door of opportunity just yet!

Justin and I are continuing a Friday morning Bible reading group at local restaurants around town. Thus far, we have not had anyone local meet up with us, but we intend to continue to hold the [MeetUp](#) and advertise it in hopes that we will eventually get some visitors. Even though we haven't had visitors, this time has been a good opportunity for Justin and me to meet weekly, do some studying together and discuss the work. It is always an

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Average Attendance:

Sunday: 11

Wednesday: 10

encouraging time!

On Sunday morning, I have finished up our study of the gospel of Mark, and have begun a new study on the Life and Journeys of the Apostle Paul. It took me quite a while to finish up the material for this study, but was able to complete it so that it could all be printed out in book form. I also added this to our website, as we are unable to keep enough copies on hand for visitors, and it is easier to download it to mobile devices! If you would like to take a look, it is available here: <http://gallatinvalleycoc.com/index.php/resources/bible-studies/the-life-and-journeys-of-the-apostle-paul>.

Justin has been continuing a study of the book of Jeremiah on Wednesday evenings. Justin has been doing a good job with the class, and we always have thought provoking discussions. We have been able to teleconference in the Winburns on most Wednesday nights (they live about 140 miles away, so driving on Wednesday night is not much of an option for them!). We also have been able to invite some others from around the country that are in various circumstances that keep them from being able to join a regular Bible study group. We do not open this up to a general streaming, as the program we use is for teleconferencing, allowing all the participants to interact during the study.

I am continuing to preach a series from the book of Philippians, while Justin preaches from 1 Corinthians. Justin has taken a bit of a break in the last couple of weeks from the series, but intends

to get back to it shortly. While I am behind in getting the audio from these lessons to the website, it is my hope that they will be added shortly.

We have had a few visitors, and expect to have more as summer heats up and more people are vacationing in our area. We had Joe and Ramona Olson, friends from our time in Huntington, visit with us at the end of May, and Joe agreed to speak for us. It was very good to see them again, and spend a few hours catching up!

Personal News...

It is hard to believe that our first year here in Bozeman is already behind us! We have had ups and downs along the way, and the progress has been slow. However, we fully expected that to be the case, and we continue to reach forward, praying for God to give the increase. We are continuing to look for a home to purchase, and we have had that process sped up recently as we were notified by our rental agency that they were not going to allow us to go "month to month" at the end of our lease (an agreement we had made verbally, but not in writing at the beginning of our lease). So, we now have only a little time to find a home, or we will be forced back into a lease for another year. We can still have options if that happens, but it will make things a little more difficult and bring on undue anxiety on our part! We do have a couple of potential leads, so we will see what might be worked out in the future.

We are thankful for the interest you have in our work here in Bozeman, and we ask you to continue to keep us in your prayers. We have been encouraged by the interest that was shown to us as we traveled over the last few weeks. We had the opportunity to share with many all that is happening in this part of the country! We also continue to be very thankful for the financial support that is offered to us so that we can spend all of our time here working to spread the good news of the gospel. We could certainly not work so unencumbered without your help!