

# 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 cold and snowy Bozeman. Winter has now hit us in full force, bringing with it temperatures in the -15 to -20 degree range. We also have had quite a bit of snow to pile up on us!

We were able to make a trip East to see our families over the last couple of weeks of December. We were able to get out of Montana without much trouble, but our return trip ended up being quite adventurous. We drove the last several hundred miles over snow covered roads, with a lot of ice thrown in for good measure. We got as far as Billings, Montana, and had to stop for an extra night (only 150 miles from home) because the roads had been so bad as to have the interstate closed to all traffic most of the day. While they got it opened just before we got there, we knew we couldn't cross the dangerous roads safely at night, so we decided to put it off to the next morning. I guess this is the type of adventure that comes with moving to the northwest!

We enjoyed our time visiting with friends and family in West Virginia and Alabama. I was asked to preach in both Coraopolis, PA, and Rogersville, AL, while visiting there, and enjoyed those opportunities as always.

### ***Losing Some Folks...***

We are adjusting to losing the Winburns from among our number. James and Jonna were a great boost to our work here, and served as a great encouragement to our families. They quickly became a part of our spiritual family, and it was hard to see them move on. James was transferred to Alabama, where he could be closer to family and help with taking care of his aging mother. We were able to see them while we were in Alabama, and they

seem to be adjusting to their location well. While it was hard to see them leave, we are happy that they were able to find a transfer to the area they needed to fulfill their familial responsibilities. They are in the process of visiting local congregations, and determining where they can be of the most service. I know they will be great assets to whichever congregation they choose to be a part of!

### ***Website Woes...***

Sometime in December, our website was attacked with malware. It went unnoticed until it was so corrupted as to shut it down completely. As this has been a problem in the past on other sites I have tried to run, we have decided to switch our site over to a 3rd party supplier who will have the responsibility of keeping it clean of such problems. The downside is that we have lost much of the materials that we had populated the site with, and so we are essentially starting from scratch. Fortunately, I have kept copies of all of the audio, as well as the class materials that we had on the previous site. We will, however, have to work on re-compiling the written articles that were present. So, this will take some time to get organized and re-published.

### ***Studies and Sermons...***

I am continuing with a study of the Life and Journeys of the Apostle Paul on Sunday Mornings. I will have to figure out how to get these materials posted to our new website platform soon! Justin is continuing to teach the Wednesday evening Bible study from the book of Jeremiah. I have been thoroughly enjoying this study, and I think we all have gained a lot from it! It is, however, not quite the same without having James and Jonna

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join us via teleconferencing. This is just one of the things we are having to get used to with them having moved!

I was able to complete the series I was preaching on the book of Philippians. I am hopeful to have these sermons on the new website some time in the near future, but it will take quite a bit of time to work through uploading all the audio files, as I mentioned earlier. Justin has been preaching a series on 1 Corinthians, though he has taken a couple of breaks to preach on other topics along the way.

We are continuing with weekly MeetUp studies in the community. While we haven't had anyone actually show up to the study, I have been able to have some good discussions with some folks around the studies. We will continue to try and create opportunities and hope and pray that we will be able to find those that are open to studying the word of God in more detail. Though we continue to try to have these "more organized" study opportunities, I have found that the best discussions have come from chance encounters. We can only continue to plant the seed, and pray for the harvest.

### ***Continuing Growth...***

I believe we are seeing some growth here, even though our numbers have not shown it much. We had hoped that the challenge of families moving away would be less of an issue here, and yet, we have lost the first family we had. We do, however, see growth within the congregation.

My son, Jacob, who obeyed the gospel back in the summer, is steadily growing, and has been taking a more active role in the public assemblies. This is an encouragement to us, and it helps to take some of the burden off me and Justin. As Jacob continues to make friends from among the homeschooling community here, he will be able to be an influence for good, and perhaps find some with whom he can study God's word.

### ***Personal notes...***

We are settling comfortably into our new home. We enjoyed our first Thanksgiving in the new house, and we were very thankful for the blessings of it. Justin and Laura and their boys were able to join us for a big meal, which actually lasted 2 days (a tradition we have carried with us from our larger family gathering back in West Virginia, which we miss!). We are very thankful for the generosity of every congregation and individual that has chosen to financially support us to do the work here!

Please note that not only have we changed our address (see the box above), but we have also changed our phone numbers to local numbers. My phone numbers are available above. The top number is my personal line, and the bottom number is a number that we set up for the church.

Thank you all for your interest in our work. Please continue to pray for the church here! May the Lord bless you in your efforts!