

Brethren,

We are definitely in the throes of winter here in Bozeman. We have had quite a bit of snow over the last few weeks, but it hasn't been too bad as the temperatures have been comfortable for most of the time. In fact, the pattern has been that before each snow, we have had a rise in temps that have allowed some of the snow on the ground to melt a bit before the new coat was laid down. The negative side of this is that we've also had a lot of ice on the roads. Sometimes we will have a bit of rain, then snow on top that freezes into a nice crust of ice. Most days we can still get out, but there have been a few that we just stayed in to avoid slick roads!

We've been struggling a lot with illnesses lately. It seems like we just keep passing these things around and around. Almost all of us have had some form of this cold/flu, and some have had multiple bouts with it. The small number in the church here contributes, I'm afraid, to having trouble getting free of these viruses. We spend a lot of time together, and even when we think everyone may be OK, we come to find out that someone else was "carrying" the illness, and just hadn't shown the symptoms yet. Anyway, I hope we are able to get over these maladies before too much longer!

Our regular community studies have been somewhat "hit or miss" over the last 2 months. That is partly because we have been adjusting to the new baby in the house, and partly because of all the sickness. We have been busy with the studies around town as we have been able. Our regular bible studies continue as well. While Justin was out of town I did some lessons on the Parables in the Gospel of Luke. I have been working on this series for a while, any time that Justin and his family is out of town. It has been a good study, which I have tried to tailor to be beneficial to all age groups, as we have everyone in one class if some of our folks are traveling. Now, we are back to our study of the Journeys of Paul. We are taking a little longer than I anticipated to complete that study, as we have been spending some time in the various epistles that Paul wrote. We may go through March with that study before moving on to the next class I am scheduled to teach: How to Study the Bible. Justin continues leading his study of How We Got The Bible on Wednesday evenings. He has done a good job of compiling a lot of valuable information that has been beneficial to us all. I think these studies are a helpful to us all, but especially to my kids who are teens/pre-teens.

We did enjoy a visit from my parents who were able to come out to meet their new baby granddaughter. Unfortunately, they too were sick much of the time they were here. My dad, David Brewer, did speak for us over one of the Sundays that they were here. He was also able to join us for some of our studies in the community, when we were well enough to get out!

We have started back up with some of our activities that we are hopeful will lead to some contacts in the community. We have tried to become more active in things that lead to contacts with other families, including homeschooling activities and 4-H activities. I believe that the best contacts come from areas that we have real interaction with people...rather than just from things like door-knocking and handing out fliers. Thus far, we have not had a lot of success in those areas. With our small numbers, we have to maximize our connections into the community so that we have the best opportunity to meet people who might be interested in studying with us!

I did finally get an answer to what has been causing me to lose my hearing in my left ear. After a CAT scan, my new ENT confirmed that I have cochlear otosclerosis in both ears, but it is far more severe in my left ear. Unfortunately, it seems that there is a good chance that the severe loss could eventually occur in my right ear as well. For the time being, we are having to explore another type of hearing aid that sends the sound from the left ear to the right ear. I will be testing a couple of different things over the next few weeks to see if there is something that can be helpful to me. One solution may still end up including minor surgery, as it is a bone anchored hearing aid. We will know more about this by the end of the month, Lord willing.

As I close, I'd like to ask you to pray for my friend, Angelo Miozza. Angelo, and his wife Patricia have been dear friends for many years, and have been very supportive of our work. Angelo was recently diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer that has metastasized to his bones. His doctors have not given him a good prognosis, but we continue to pray for him. He has shown a tremendous attitude toward his circumstances, but understandably hopes for more time with his family. Please pray for him and his family during this very difficult time.

Thank you all so much for your support and prayers for our work here. We cannot express how much we appreciate you all!

In Him,

Kris Brewer