281-756-7957

ROBERT RAIF 171 CALDWELL ST. LIVINGSTON, TX 77351

## Dear Brethren,

I hope your new year is going well. We were blessed to have our two sons home at the end of the year with their wives and 11 children. David lives in Philly and Stephen in the Dallas area, so we don't see either very often. What a wonderful way to close out the year. They helped me do things I couldn't do because of my hip surgery, like going up into the attic and mulching the leaves with the mower. I want to say to any of you who might be going in for such an operation, get the anterior (front) and not the posterior (back) operation. The posterior operation takes longer to recover and you have to really take pains for the hip not to pop out of place. (A longer time not driving). I was operated on Dec 17 (Monday) and I was released Tuesday and was back delivering my three lessons the next Sunday. I waited until after the New Year before I went back to the prison. It has been 4 weeks today since the operation, and I am doing well - - just can't do heavy lifting for about another month. The doctor said the other hip will have to be done in a couple of years because of build up of arthritis. We are sure grateful to God, for I was crippled before the operation. I was really praying for healing so I would not be kept from the prison work that I love so dearly.

I found out last week that I had been removed from the rotation of preaching at the prison. I had been limited to every 8 weeks, but at least that was something. I told the Chaplain that for the members of the church I was the only one who brought in the Lord's supper and had a scriptural service without a lot of shouting and an orderly service, and that I thought it was wrong those men couldn't have that any more. To make a long story short, we got it so I can have a service EVERY Lord's day at the prison for the brethren. I will preach in Corrigan, rest an hour, then drive the 50 miles to the Estelle Unit and have an 1 ½ hour service, then drive the hour back to Corrigan and have the night service at 5. Monday I'll put my feet up. :-)

The Chaplain also asked if I would be interested in teaching in a service at the high security on Wednesday. I said yes, so my time is every third Wednesday at noon. I am sure excited for these opportunities, because now the brethren can have a true worship every Lord's day and anyone can come and learn the truth. Also, I had only spoken to the high security inmates over the computer. Now I will be able to see them face to face and have that personal connection. It will be great to shake hands with them. I have no idea what will be expected of me there, but I know it will be a blessing to touch new hearts with the Good News.

This makes 11 sermons and classes I teach every week, 5 of them being two hours long. I am so excited for these new opportunities. Brethren, keep praying for open doors because doors are opening - - and pray for workers who will go out into the harvest. Perhaps it is time for a younger but experienced man to be thinking of moving to Huntsville to get involved in this work and to be closer to the prisons than I am. I KNOW that there are more opportunities, because there are about 12 prisons in this area alone.

Concerning support, I mentioned last month that I was losing \$500 support in 2019. The Twin Cities church in College Station picked up that support, for which I am thankful. Thanks to all of you who love the Lord and who love to see His word proclaimed. Together we are giving many an opportunity to hear and respond to the unadulterated gospel.

Yours in Him who saves, Robert