

## Monthly Support Report

March 31, 2019

Dear elders,

I guess technically speaking, this is goodbye to March Madness if I may make use of that Basketball Phrase, that we likely hear a little too often this time of year, and hello to April. Maybe now it's April Madness. Although doesn't the term "madness" seems better applied to April 1 than a Basketball Tournament, Wait a minute, I need to take that back. It's madness if you think your favorite team is going to make it all of the way to the final four. Maybe that's where that term came from. Solomon tried to discern the difference between Wisdom, madness and folly in Ecclesiastes 1.17. I suppose I've used all three over the years and still come up short in all of my brackets, although I don't think it was basketball that was on Solomon's mind. Humbled is the best word that I can think of.

Anyway, hopefully you don't go to bed at night with the sounds of basketballs pounding in your eardrums. For me however that sound would be such a familiar sound that would be a soothing sound of rhythm because I've heard it so much in my lifetime. But that's for another day.

It's my sincere prayer that you and your families are all well, and that the church there is doing fantastic. We're doing fine. The worst that's happened to us thus far this very snowy winter has been a scratchy throat that lasted for only about two-weeks. That's finally just about past and I pray it doesn't come back any time soon. We've had just about everyone at the congregation who have had something similar this season. Some a little worse off than the others. I guess that goes with the territory for this time of the year in just about every part of the country.

We've had some very good news this month. I reported to you in the last report or two that I had been studying with a young man who has been dating one of our young ladies. I sensed that things were moving in a very positive direction a couple of weeks ago in one of our studies. After services last Sunday morning we spent some time together and I baptized him that afternoon, It was a joyous occasion. I kind of knew it was coming even that morning. I mentioned to one of the ladies who takes care of the garments to doublecheck things because I expected to be back at the building later that day. She asked me how I knew, and I just told her I knew. She knew we had been studying together. Even though you know it's about ready to happen, it's still pretty fantastic when it finally does happen. He's a nice young man. He has been very interested and observant from the very first day he came through the door.

He has a Catholic background, and without putting anyone down, he said that he's learned much more about Jesus and the Bible in a few months with us than he's learned in his entire life. And, that it's been interesting and fun to learn. His family didn't attend church services very much when he was growing up. His memory was that it was rather inconsistent although he says his family was a very religious family.

I already have he and his girlfriend involved in a study with me that I'm confident will help both of them. She is an excellent young Christian lady who has been and will continue to be a very positive influence on him. But while she was raised in the church the study that I have them doing on their own that we will go over when we get together will be good for both of them. I may or may not have mentioned this to you, but she is studying to be a nurse and he is studying to be a high-school Science teacher. Both of them have brilliant minds and they seem to be able to retain things so easily in the studies we have been involved in. I've really been impressed. Bible studies. It was such a joyous occasion to baptize this nice young man. I'm very happy about this precious soul.

I'm also working with them on ways to tell their friends that they are New Testament Christians because they are eager to convert their circle of friends. Isn't that great? That shows where their thinking is. So, I have to do what I can to steer them in the right direction and take advantage of their zeal and love for the Lord. It's so wonderful to be around such eagerness as this. But I also want to make sure that they aren't disappointed. Rejection can be difficult.

In our Bible class on Sunday morning we are currently talking about the miracles of Jesus. It has been an interesting and a very thorough study thus far with a lot of class participation. But then again most of our classes are filled with class participation. I'll share part of one of our discussions with you and I'll just leave you hanging. It had to do with Jesus casting out demons. The question had to do with demon possession then and demon possession now. Have you ever been a part of a Bible class discussion like that? It was a good discussion.

We've had a few visitors from the neighborhood lately. One couple has visited with us two times. I've asked them out to lunch with us both times and they have politely refused. I hope they will visit again and give us an opportunity to get to know them better. All of our visitors are our honored guests. We are always happy to have them with us.

With that note I'll close by once again saying thank you. Thank you for your fellowship in the Gospel. The Gospel that has reached a good and honest heart. And that precious seed has found a place to grow. That's why we keep preaching it; teaching it; and planting it. There are still good hearts in this world of ours. We just have to keep planting.

Thank you!

God bless.

Randy