

# THE BOZEMAN REPORT

May/June 2021

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

As I sit to write this brief report this evening, we have just passed by our 6 year anniversary of the work here in Bozeman. In fact, 6 years ago today, we had our first assembly here. We came here with a commitment of at least 5 years, and as we evaluate the work here, we are still convinced that the work here is valuable, so we plan to remain in Bozeman and continue the work for the foreseeable future, Lord willing.

Bozeman continues to grow at a phenomenal pace. We have been, for 3 years in a row I believe, the fastest growing town in America. We continue to look at this growth, as well as the constant turnover of students at Montana State University, as opportunities that we hope to take full advantage of.

Our studies continue to go well. On Thursday evenings, Mike continues to lead a discussion online of the gospel of Mark. We have several visitors to the study that have made this study very interesting. We have had a man who has been joining us for several weeks now who can be quite a challenge, as he occasionally tries to take over the study. Mike does a good job of keeping things on track, and keeping this man from teaching dangerous doctrines that could lead others in the class astray. He is nearing the end of the book of Mark, which will certainly present some interesting opportunities as we move forward.

Our Acts study also continues to move forward, and we have been having several visitors. This one, however, has been somewhat "hit or miss" on consistent visitors. I think this may be because it is in the morning, and people are not always available at the same time in the middle of the day. We have had a couple that has been with us several times, and hope they will continue. I did have to miss this class a couple of times over the last month or so, as we were traveling.

In our Wednesday evening study, we are continuing with the study of Ephesians. We are currently nearing the end of chapter 4. This has been a great study, and I think it has benefited all of us greatly. On Sunday, I have started a study in Genesis. We have been in chapter 1 for several weeks. I believe the first few chapters of the book of Genesis are the foundation of the whole rest of the Bible. One cannot reject the teachings of these chapters, and then claim to accept the rest of what God has to say in the scriptures. I have enjoyed working through chapter 1, and I hope our studies have been beneficial to all.

## **Visitors...**

Recently, we have been having a lot of visitors travel through our area. We had well over 40 in attendance for two weeks in a row in June. It seems like a lot of people had to cancel their travels last year due to Covid, and so many are making those trips this year. We are always happy to have visitors with us. We have had several that have told us that they made it a point to schedule their trip in a way to be with us on a Sunday morning. It is especially encouraging to have visitors that make such an effort to be an encouragement to the brethren here! I hope they are as encouraged by being with us as we are by their being here!

I have written before about my friend Jim, and the studies I have had with his dad and stepmother over the last few years. They were able to visit for a couple of weeks, and so we had the opportunity to study a few times while they were in town. While they were present, I preached a plain sermon on the subject of baptism, and explained how denominational baptism is not biblical baptism. I believe they came to understand the truth on the subject, but were still unwilling to make the change necessary to be pleasing to God. I do not

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### **Average Attendance:**

*Sunday: 24*

*Wednesday: 14*

us in the work here in Bozeman. First, we visited with the brethren in Prattville, AL, at the Prattmont church of Christ. I had the privilege of speaking there, and was surprised (due to a wedding that was to happen the next day) to see several friends from many years ago. It was great having the opportunity to meet with the church there, and make new friends! Because of our delay, we also had the opportunity to meet with Westview church of Christ in Athens on Sunday morning, and then we drove to Nashville, and met with the Woodland Hills church of Christ. We flew out of Nashville early Monday morning, July 5th, and arrived home that afternoon. It is always encouraging to me to visit with congregations that have an interest in our work here.

### **Good news...**

I have saved the best news for last! Just after midnight on June 22nd, our daughter Skylar came to us and let us know that she was ready to be baptized into Christ. We gathered a few of the brethren together at a local lake, and Skylar was added to the body of Christ at about 1 AM. We are so pleased with her decision, and look forward to watching her growth in the years to come. Please keep her in your prayers!

I hope you are encouraged by what continues to happen here in Bozeman. Though our growth is slow, progress continues to be made, and we continue to have opportunities to teach those who have never had the chance to hear the true gospel message. Keep us in your prayers, that we might find those who would truly be seeking God and have a desire to obey Him!

know how many more opportunities they might be given to obey the Lord. I am also losing hope that Jim will ever heed the teachings of the New Testament. I still take every opportunity I am presented to try and show him the truth, and pray that he is given enough time and opportunity to change.

### **Traveling...**

Justin and his family had the opportunity to make a trip east to visit with family in May. In June, we were able to make a quick trip back to Alabama to take our kids to the summer camp we have enjoyed being a part of for several years and to visit with Cynthia's grandmother. We had the chance to purchase reasonably priced plane tickets for this trip, and so we tried to make it as quick as possible, and hoped to only be gone over one Sunday. However, Southwest Airlines decided to cancel our trip home on Saturday (with the only excuse being that air traffic control was canceling due to there being too many flights). So, we were delayed getting home until Monday.

There were some benefits to our delayed return. We had the opportunity to visit with three churches that help to support