

Lee Elkins
August 2016 Report

To the Elders at Fairview Park Church of Christ

I would like to start out by apologizing for not being able to send out an update letter this past month. There were some things to come up that caused me to change up my schedule during the past two months so I was not able to devote enough time in sending out update letters. However, it is my hope and prayer that with this letter, you all will be updated completely of what all is going on.

The local work here in Monticello is continuing to do well. We are now entering into our Fall study quarter on Sunday morning. The study will be coming from the book of Numbers and I will continue to teach the Sunday morning class. Our Wednesday night Bible study is still in the book of Genesis and we are currently in chapter 30. There were two new additions to our number over the past two months. The first one came at the end of July with sister Lisa Jones giving birth to a beautiful baby girl, Adalee Rhea Jones. That is the Jones' fourth child. On Sunday August 21st, we had a new sister added to the Church. It was shortly after services had ended, Anna Eason approached me wanting to talk about something. She told me that she was wanting to obey the Gospel. Of course in response, we made arrangements to make this happen.

During the month of July, I preached at the Hepburn Ave Church of Christ Gospel meeting. This was an interesting experience. There were some pretty nasty storms rolling through on that Thursday and Friday evenings. When I arrived at the building on Thursday, the storm had not hit Pine Bluff yet. About ten minutes before services were to begin, the power went out. Even with it being light outside late at night, that did not help at all because of how dark it was because of the storm clouds. So Thursday night, almost every one, myself included, pulled out their cell phones for lights. This was not only my first time preaching in the dark but preaching by the light of a cell phone. Then Friday came about and most of the power in that area of town was restored. So as I am driving up to the building, my assumption is that the power was back on. I was wrong. Even with the power being out, the brethren there at Hepburn Ave went out of their way to make sure that we had lights and fans on in that building. Brother Jerry Goodlow brought his generator up from his house and worked all day at setting up the building for that night. There were lamps in the corners of the auditorium, a lamp behind me in the pulpit, and a couple fans placed through out. It is not everyday that preachers here in America get to preach in the dark like I did in this instance. It was definitely a new experience for myself and it helped me appreciate the brethren there even more because even though we did not have any power, we continued on with the Gospel meeting anyways.

Over the past two months, things have been somewhat rocky for us. With that said, we are continuing to pray and keep ourselves focused on what is most important. Logan and Nathaniel both started school this year. This is actually the first year that both of our boys are in school. Logan went into the second grade and Nathaniel started Pre-K here in Monticello as well. The Pre-K program is considered to be in the Monticello school district. Both of our boys have enjoyed school so far. I sent a brief update a couple weeks ago but I will mention it again. Sarah's car broke down and it was the timing belt. For those of you who are mechanics or knows about engines, her car had an interference engine. This turned out to be problematic. Surprisingly, the car still starts and will run for a little bit but we have kept it parked in our driveway since getting it back home.

Overall, even with the problems, things are still going well. I am thankful for all of the encouragement, love, and support given to us. I hope and pray that everything continues to go well for you all at Fairview Park. I am thankful for all of the support given to me while I continue to work in Monticello.

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