

Lee Elkins
November 2016 Report

To the brethren

It is my hope and prayer that this letter will give you some insight of what has been going on recently in my life and the church in Monticello. There were a few bumps in the road but overall, everything has continued to work out.

I would like to start out with mentioning some of the things that has been going on in my life as far as health goes. I had a small hiccup in the middle of October and just to make things clear, everything turned out to be not as serious as originally thought. It was about one week before the Gospel meeting I was scheduled to preach at in Haynesville, I began to have some abdominal pain. At first, it was manageable but it quickly went from being an annoyance to being extremely painful. I was able to make a doctor's appointment and he decided that it would be best for me to go to the hospital to have some tests done. He was thinking it could have been appendicitis, diverticulitis, and he mentioned some other things that really didn't stick with me. I went across the street to the hospital to begin all of the tests or so I thought. They decided to admit me to do all of the tests and then to do a 24 hour observation. Once all of the tests were ran (blood work, x-ray, CT scan) they said that I had some blockage in my digestive tract. They did not go into much detail other than giving me some medication through my IV which was to help relieve the pain and the blockage. After 24 hours was up, I was feeling better so they discharged me. I went back for a follow up appointment and my doctor thinks that this blockage may have happened due to some of the medications that I am taking for some neck pain that I had been having recently. It was determined that I needed to add extra fiber in my diet to help with the additional medication. Thankfully, I am doing better at this time. My wife, Sarah, and oldest son, Logan have been doing well as far as health goes. Logan has had perfect attendance so far since school began and has been doing great in school. My youngest son, Nathaniel has been doing his best transitioning into a school schedule. This is his first official year in school and we all know how children love to share their germs. Back in July 2015, he had tubes put in his ears to help with all of his ear infections. Recently, the tube in his right ear fell out. The week that I was gone to Louisiana for a Gospel meeting, he started to get sick. He tested positive for strep throat and an ear infection in his right ear. We recently had an appointment with his ENT doctor and he said that as of now, we should just monitor him to see if we will need tubes put in again or not. I do ask that you pray for Nathaniel. Other than that, he has been doing well.

I mentioned above about preaching at a Gospel meeting in October. The meeting was in Haynesville, LA at the Woodland Church of Christ. The meeting began on Sunday Oct 16th and went through Wednesday Oct 19th. I thoroughly enjoyed my time down in Louisiana being able to get to know the brethren down there even more. I do not have any future Gospel meetings planned on my schedule at this time. The only thing I have scheduled right now is going to preach at a small church in Star City on Sunday evening (November 20th) and I am planning to go to Nacogdoches, TX in January to attend a week long seminar at the Stallings Drive Church of Christ.

The local work here in Monticello at this time is continuing to do well. We are still continuing our study in the book of Numbers on Sunday morning. There are two more lessons for our study in Numbers and then we will transition over into the book of Ephesians. Our Wednesday night study is still in the book of Genesis and we are in chapter 38. Once we finish the book of Genesis, my plan is to begin a study on elders and deacons. I have been preparing class materials for that class for quite some time and unless someone says otherwise, that is the official study plans for Wednesday evenings once we finish Genesis. We recently had a sister from the local church move into the Chapel Woods Health & Rehabilitation center. There is another sister that used to worship at the local church in Warren that stays there full

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time too. I discussed the possibility of trying to set up a Bible study up there with the brethren here. I was able to get in touch with the Activities Director from Chapel Woods and she has allowed us to use their chapel hall for a Bible study every first Sunday of the month. So far, we have had two studies there and there were more visitors there the second time we were there. This is something that I am hoping can turn into an every Sunday deal but right now, I am having to go by the schedule that the Director gives me. I have two boxes of old Sacred Selection hymnals that I take with me when we go out there. I usually lead a couple of songs and then I take requests if anyone wants a particular song led. After singing some songs, we have a prayer, and then I begin the Bible study. The studies out there are not in any particular order but I am doing my best to talk about things that they all can relate to. Once we finish up the study, we have a closing prayer and then I try to visit with the ones who come to try to encourage them. Most of these people who live here have severe health problems and complications. Many of them live there and never have anyone visit them or talk to them. It is my hope and prayer that maybe what we are doing will help encourage them. I finally have an update on a possible building for us. On Wednesday November 16th, we will be going to look at an empty building that used to be a Quality Cleaners at 10:00am. It is right off of Highway 278 West on Chester Street. It is a better location than what we are in and it is a much larger building. We are hoping that this may be a possibility for us to actually be able to consider.

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 and I am thankful for all of the support given to me while I continue to work in Monticello.

870-260-0769 Cell Phone

870-210-3651 Home Phone

lelkins@gmail.com Email Address

P.O. Box 265 Monticello, AR 71657 Mailing Address

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