

Lee Elkins
February 2017 Report

For starters, I would like to apologize for being rather late on sending out an update to everyone. My schedule has been what I refer to as being "heavier" since the bringing in the new year. Things have been somewhat rocky and good but all in all; we have food, clothing, and shelter. With that being said, I do not want to sound like I am complaining.

As far as our health goes, things have been pretty much normal for my wife, Sarah, and the boys. She has been doing well so far, no flu or anything serious. My boys have been healthy except for the occasional cold, or in Nathaniel's case, an ear infection. There is nothing set in stone as of yet but we will probably have to get tubes in his ears again and possibly have a tonsillectomy but again, we are following the doctor's orders so far. Nathaniel is doing well considering some of the stuff he has dealt with. As for me, I am confident that my doctor is ready to take a vacation from seeing me but I hope everything is now under control. To keep this from being too long, I was (still am) suffering from vertigo but my symptoms have not been near as harsh recently as they were in the past. At one point in time, I was really having a hard time with it. I do not want to make excuses but it is one of the reasons why I have not been on my computer as much. Sometimes after looking at my screen for about five minutes, I would get really dizzy and have a "spell" where it felt like I would be pulled to one side. Sometimes I would be fine 10 or 15 minutes after a "spell" but sometimes the lingering effects would last almost a whole day. My preaching during this time was suffering (at least from my point of view), but I began to do all of my sermon outlines by writing them out by hand instead of typing and staring at a screen. This helped at first but it did not cure all of my problems. Once my doctor realized that it vertigo, he gave me several options as far as medications goes to choose from. Something as simple as benadryl all the way to phenergan. I only use the phenergan if I am feeling really bad so I usually stick with the benadryl 99% of the time. I haven't had near as many "spells" as before but I am feeling much better now.

The local work here in Monticello is continuing to do well. We finally finished our study in Genesis on Wednesday evenings. We are now currently studying from a series of lessons put together by brother Mark Copeland called "The Church Jesus Built". While these lessons are presented in sermon outline form, I am reworking them for a classroom setting. There have been some questions raised recently about the work of the local church so after doing some research and study of my own, I felt that those lessons would help answer some questions that were raised. Our Sunday morning bible class is currently in the book of Ephesians and then will transition over to Revelation 2 since that was another Ephesian letter there at the beginning of the chapter. We have not had any growth in number recently but we do still meet on the first Sunday of every month out at Chapel Woods Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. We are doing our best to help encourage several sisters who stay out there full time but we are also hoping that we are helping to encourage others that are out there. We usually have several visitors in the class who enjoys the singing. They even admit that they grow tired of the piano playing because it drowns out the singing.

From January 9th - 12th, I traveled to Nacogdoches, TX to attend a seminar by brother Jeff Asher and the Stallings Drive Church of Christ. The subject matter for the class were the books of Obadiah, Amos, and Joel. This trip was special for me because I was able to stay with one of the elders from the church there. What was special about it was the fact that they used to live in Monticello during the 80s and 90s while he worked as a Dean over the forestry department at the University of Arkansas-Monticello. During that time, there was no sound local church in Monticello. The closest ones were in Warren, AR and at Griffith Springs which is right outside of Star City/Pine Bluff. The group from Warren was the group that merged with us back in late 2015 and they still knew some of the members from there.

Lee Elkins

February 2017 Report

Overall, the trip went well. We had a good study and I was able to get a better understanding of the books.

I do ask that you all pray for a sister from here, sister Annie Wimberly. She is going through a rough time right now and we have been doing all that we can to continue to encourage her during these hard times. She recently lost her son on January 12th, 2017 and he was only 38 years old. He suffered from crohn's disease and was in the hospital for an infection. He was going to be discharged on January 12th and as they were getting everything ready, he had heart failure. From what I was told, it was due to all of the medications that he was on but it was definitely a sudden death for everyone. Annie has a lot on her plate right now and has been requesting prayers from everybody.

I would also like to mention briefly that I am now on the volunteer fire department here in Monticello. They do have 11 full time firefighters but the majority of their department is volunteer based. There are several benefits for being a volunteer and that is I am able to continue doing the work of an evangelist. There are some financial benefit but it is certainly not something to get rich off of. If I understood them correctly, I would get paid for each call that I help respond to at \$20 and then \$10 for every hour after that. I would also be able to build up a small retirement fund as well so there are some perks of being on the volunteer fire department. I do not have all of the information about it yet since this all took place last week but it has gone well so far.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support. Sometimes it is hard to convey what I want to say without making it sound odd but you guys are not simply supporting through just money / financial means. You guys are helping support me through your prayers, words of encouragement, and example that you guys are helping set by your actions. It helps me by allowing me to see how other Christians work so that I can do better in my efforts of preaching the Gospel. As I mentioned above about my traveling to Texas for a study, those types of things are not possible without the help of all of you guys. I do not wish to sound like I am tooting my own horn but I have been able to see a huge difference in myself and being able to present the Gospel over the years. When I first started, I know that I was rough around the edges and was that way for quite some time. Being able to set time aside for private study is important but I learn so much when I am able to get in a room with a bunch of different preachers who have many more years of experience than I do. I hope and pray that everything is going well for all of you and that you continue to grow and prosper.

870-260-0769 Cell Phone

870-210-3651 Home Phone

systemrootuser@gmail.com Email Address

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

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mastersniperjinx/videos> Youtube channel

--

Lee Elkins