

Lee Elkins
July 2019 Report

I hope this letter finds you all doing well. We have been busy this past month, but we are very thankful for the changes that have taken place and are looking forward to the changes that are to come, Lord willing.

Recently in my lesson plans, I have been attempting to utilize more practical lessons for my Sunday morning lessons because of the response from the brethren here. The lesson plans during the month of July were as follows.

7/7 When Compassion and Truth Collide

7/14 The Good Samaritan

7/21 Put Your Hand To The Plow

7/28 Church Discipline

I sometimes do other lessons on Sunday night, but for the most part, I tend to piggy-back off the Sunday morning lesson. I had seen and heard of brethren doing a question and answer session on Sunday evenings in order to talk about deeper issues. I liked the concept, but I tweaked it just a bit in order to better fit what we were trying to accomplish. I do not shy away from difficult topics on Sunday mornings as you can see, we talked about Church Discipline on the last Sunday of July. In fact, that was one of my rare two-part lessons. I usually attempt to preach anywhere between 25-35 minutes. Had I preached that lesson in one setting, it would have easily been an 80-minute lesson. One of the families who rarely comes on Sunday evenings (mainly because of how far they live), came back Sunday evening specifically because they wanted to hear the rest of the lesson.

Our Bible classes have been going well. The Wednesday evening study is still being taught by brother Robbie Baughn and I will fill in for him as needed. The study is coming out of Isaiah and we are currently going through the chapters dealing with what is known as “the 10 burdens” or prophecies concerning the foreign nations around. We finished up our Sunday morning study in the book of Philippians on the last Sunday of July and have since transitioned into 1 Timothy. Our children’s classes have been going through the “Discovering God’s Way” series and is currently being taught by sister Paula Majors. They are currently in the “From Egypt to the Promised Land” booklet. My wife, Sarah, will be taking over the children’s class once they finish up this last study in order to give sister Majors a break. It is very encouraging to have multiple people willing to teach bible studies. This includes the adult classes as well.

I mentioned in my last letter that one of the families (Jonathan and Scarlotte Ashcraft) that attend here has been struggling due to several things. After talking with them, their attendance and attitude has turned around tremendously. That was not their only problem though. Brother Jonathan is still waiting for his disability to come in (he said that it could be anytime now), and he is also waiting to hear back from the military regarding having his back injury “bought out”. I am not sure exactly how that works but he said that it had to do with his injury occurring while he was serving overseas. He stated that the Army would provide back pay for his appointments, treatments, and provide a lump sum for his injury. He is hoping to get this all taken care of by the end of August. They are requesting prayers from the brethren and that they will soon be able to put all of this mess past them. We are working closely with them so that they do not find themselves in a big financial burden.

On another note, the landlord of the building is continuing to do repairs and updates on the building. It is looking very nice and while there are times where there are minor inconveniences, we are very thankful that he is investing this money into the building. We have had stucco installed on the outside of

Lee Elkins
July 2019 Report

the building, brand new windows with new trim on the inside of the building, and he is also talking about doing more repairs as well. He has mentioned replacing the drop-tile ceiling, the lights, sanding the walls down and repainting them, and possibly replacing the carpet. I will continue to keep you updated on these repairs as they happen.

I am very appreciative of your continued support, prayers, and words of encouragement as I continue to work with the local church here in Monticello. I pray that this letter finds you all well and that the work there continues to do well.

Lee Elkins