

WILSONVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Fairview Park Church of Christ
18820 Fairview Park
Little Rock, AR 72222

May 5, 2016

To the saints of Christ's church that meets at Fairview Park with the elders and deacons. We send you greetings and joy for our common faith and hope in the Lord.

This will be a much shorter report as we have not had much newsy happening here. We all are well. Nothing big is going on with anyone.

Our studies are continuing with good results. The members are willing to take Bible principles and make modern applications so the fruits of our collective labors are evident.

One topic I am stressing to all who will listen is that of faithfulness in the face of persecution. I read a posting on one of the "brotherhood" (I use that term cautiously) mail lists regarding six or seven members of the church being among the dead in the suicide bombing in Pakistan last month. In Nigeria, a sister made the mistake of having lunch in a café run by Muslim women. The sister was poisoned and is not believed to fully recover. There is a small congregation in Malaysia, a largely Muslim country that is now considering whether to allow Sharia law to hold sway. That will be most ominous to brethren there. I read a news article several weeks ago about albinos in Malawi being killed due to the fears of witchcraft believing people. This has been going on for awhile in other African countries. I spoke with Alan Hitchen, preacher at the Holly Street church of Christ in Denver, who works with brethren in Malawi at least once a year. He had not heard of the albino "hunting" but told me that he has seen several albino brethren. If harm befalls them it would not be the result of their faith; rather the color of their skin, but it will negatively impact brethren nevertheless.

The ramping up of anti-Christian rhetoric and action here in the United States is undeniable. We need to stop pretending that "it won't happen here, because we are a Christian nation." Not anymore we aren't, or won't soon enough. Paul wrote to Timothy, "Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," 2 Timothy 3:12. American Christians need to accept that it is the height of arrogance and foolishness to think our day will not come. It is already coming. Nearing sixty years of age, I suspect I will miss the really bad stuff (institutionalized and government sponsored property seizures, imprisonments and blind eyes turned from public murder), but I doubt my children will and certainly anyone's grandchildren are likely to witness such, unless major changes occur.

I write this not to be alarmist, nor to scare brethren. What I hope to accomplish is for each of us to honestly assess our faith and determine that when really difficult, life altering challenges to our faith occur, what will be our course of action. I pray it will not be as those, in Jesus' parable of the Sower, who were sown on rocky ground and when faced with persecution, stumble, Matthew 13:21. We need to prepare to remain faithful as the unwelcome minority. We have to have our minds made up before this happens. As it is happening will be too late for many, I fear.

On that depressing note, I will end for this month.

Again, I am so grateful for your continuing support to me in my work here. I continue praying to God for His blessings on the work in Little Rock and the members thereof. Thank you.

In Christ,

Kevin R. Fermenick,
Evangelist