

James Hamilton
February 2016 Report

ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD

We thank the Lord for giving us a place in His great work of reaching the lost with the gospel. He provides us the opportunities to teach (1 Cor. 16:9). We must pray in faith for those opportunities (2 Thess. 3:1), because we know it is the Lord's will for all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). The Lord has given us more opportunities in February and March.

We praise the Lord for His wisdom to bring us closer together in fellowship through our working together for the Lord. I thank God for your love for the truth and the zeal to spread the Lord's word far and wide through preaching and supporting preachers such as I try to be.

BENTON

Attendance has become fairly consistent, though we have many absent because of illness (of the members and the care for family members of the members). One of the changes we made to Sunday evenings services were to have two speakers instead of just one for the evening assembly. This seems to have a positive effect. More men are involved in the public teaching, and the members are edified. Having two speakers instead of one seems to follow the example we see in 1 Corinthians 14:29 regarding a minimum of two prophets and a maximum of three. Of course, prophecy has ceased, but the principle of speaking one at a time and having more than one speaker for the purpose of edifying the church would still apply.

I had four new studies in February and March with people that I had never taught before. My chain of home studies with several individuals started with a home Bible study established through one correspondence course student a few years ago. After completing the course, I asked if she would like a home Bible study with me. Since then, Lula M. has signed up several other people for correspondence courses and home studies with her friends and family members. I started studying with Lula's neighbor, Bertha J., and through that study I have also taught Bertha's relatives and another neighbor. The classes have grown until new classes actually get started for much-needed individually tailored studies for others. One person, Theo P., with whom I studied after Lula had him come to her place for the gospel, recently brought a new friend; his latest visit resulted in a new study arranged with Betty C. During the initial study with Betty C., another couple, the Mitchells, dropped by and I taught them, too. I have seen the Mitchells once since then.

Joey S., one of the people with whom I resumed studies last month, set me up to teach the gospel to Donna F., and then he found another person for me to teach, Jalen H. The Mt. Carmel study started as a home Bible study for the Butlers (members at Highway 5) and grew to include other members and non-members. The study moved to Mt. Carmel Retirement Center when the Butlers moved there. We have 8-12 each week. I continue another study set up for the Princes. These two studies with members each resulted in the conversion of a visitor to a study at the members' homes.

At this time, my studies include: Lula M. (Acts), Joey S. (The Church), Mt. Carmel (Philippians), Rhonda J. (Acts, another new study), Betty C., the Mitchells, Donna F., and Jalen H., (First Principles), Chad B. (Institutionalism), Bertha J. (Psalms), the Johnson family (Joshua), Mildred P. (2 Samuel), and the Dickerson family (Exodus). I remain in contact by phone with other people, even when we cannot study on a regular basis: Tony O., Theo P., Essex J.

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On Sunday mornings, we have begun a class on the Psalms. The Bible class situation is getting better, and we hope that they will continue to improve with other teachers helping out more classes. I plan on preaching lessons that tie in with our study of Psalms as I have opportunity. Boyce and his son Seth have been giving some great lessons, and Herb M. always does a great job on the second Sunday evening of the month.

I help Don McLain with the 65th Street church's live call-in radio program every day except Monday. Besides the home Bible studies, radio work, and preaching, I write the articles for our weekly bulletin.

FELLOW WORKERS

Dan Peters made his trip to Romania, and he plans to move there this summer. He is currently preaching in Bradley, AR. I received a call from Doru, who told me of Dan's visit, then I heard from Dan, who also told me that he went to Constanta as well as the western part of Romania where there are already more brethren. I am excited that Dan and Tami are making this important commitment, and I pray that they will find brethren to support them. Regardless of whether they will settle in the western or the eastern part of Romania, Dan assured that they will commute once a month to the opposite end of the country for the edification of Romanian brethren that live 500 miles away. The Peters' youngest son Sam spent a week with his parents in Constanta. He is also very interested in evangelizing in Romania. This makes me very happy, more importantly, it pleases the Lord.

I rejoice that the Lord has blessed me with many opportunities to teach others, especially several new classes and contacts. The Lord is working through you to provide for my support so that I have the time to conduct all these studies. May the Lord richly bless our work together, and may He bless your efforts in your community.

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