

James Hamilton
April 2016 Report

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MORE PLANTING AND LESS WATERING

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness and His mercy! The Lord has blessed us with the knowledge of His Son through His word. We thank the Lord for giving us teachers who taught us, and we thank the Lord for giving us a part in teaching others.

We also praise the Lord for His wisdom in His plan of salvation. He wants us to sow bountifully in spreading the word of God (the seed—Luke 8:11) to the world. We must sow bountifully if we want to reap bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6). In evangelization, sowing is teaching someone the word for the first time; someone who has not heard the word. Watering is teaching those who have heard the word before. (1 Cor. 3:6-7). The reaping is not in proportion to teaching if all the teaching is watering and no planting is taking place. I fear that this is too common among churches today. Churches teach few outsiders and continue to water the Christians.

The Lord has blessed me with several new people to teach since the beginning of the year. We continue to pray in faith and then lift up our eyes to look in faith for the Lord's answer for those new opportunities (James 1:6; 2 Thess. 3:1; John 4:34).

BENTON

Cecilia W. was baptized on April 20. Her friend Alaina, one of our members, called me to say that Cecilia wanted to talk me about being baptized. Cecilia had recently gone through some difficult times in work and home, and knew she had not been living right. I talked with her during the time that our regular classes were in session. When the invitation was given, Cecilia came forward and confessed the Lord Jesus (Rom. 10:9) and was baptized in His name for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Attendance has been around 50 for Sunday mornings; we still have several who miss because of illness or because they help take care of others who are ill. More men are involved in the public teaching, and the members are edified. Several visitors attend on a regular basis. Two men are spouses to members at Highway 5. They have been attending more often. Seth has been bringing two friends frequently. Other young people have been bringing friends from time to time.

After four new studies in Feb. and March, I had a few more in April. Joey brought another co-worker, Cathy P., for me to teach. Jaylen is still very interested. I have not seen Donna. She has been having some serious health problems.

Lula introduced me to David C., a man whose mother had taken a correspondence course that Lula had advertised in the newspaper. Since then, Lula had several long conversations with them. Lula has asked me to start studying with David.

The third new study is with David J., a son of Barbara J. and grandson of Bertha J. They also have a neighbor, Richie, who I have taught the gospel. He is very open-minded, and I hope that he will obey the gospel soon.

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

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 have been asked to preach on how to establish Bible authority. These lessons have been very appreciated by the members. Boyce and his son Seth have also 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

I thank the Lord for you and your fellowship in the gospel. Your support gives me the time to teach many others throughout each week in addition to time to prepare lessons and classes for the Christians here and in Romania. Please pray for us. I pray that the Lord will bless your labors to His glory.

James Hamilton
5210 Boone Road
Bryant, AR 72022
(501) 303-0465
JHHamilton2001@yahoo.com