

James Hamilton
August/September 2019 Report

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GROWING IN THE LORD

God's love is so great that He gave His Son to be the atonement for the sins of the entire world. Having conquered sin, Jesus then conquered death and was exalted as Lord. He graciously saved us when we obeyed His gospel and added us to His church. We seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We seek to honor God by following the example that Jesus set for us to seek and to save those who are lost. We edify one another so that we all grow spiritually, both individually and collectively—growing more like Christ, growing closer to God, closer to one another, and praying that God will give the growth through our planting and watering.

BENTON

I mentioned in my last report that we started having some frequent visitors at Hwy. 5. One is a family that had been members in Hot Springs, but they live quite a distance away from Hot Springs and Benton. Jim and Sue Soliday and their son Shannon, who works at the Bryant fire department, placed membership with us in August. Their solid faith will be a good example and source of encouragement for other members at Hwy. 5. Jim was an elder in the church he was in when they lived in Indiana, so we are glad to have the Solidays' experience and knowledge to help us.

We have had a lot of sickness, including Jim and Sue; we had several who needed surgeries recently. Ellen and I have been spending quite a bit of time with a couple of the widows. (We have studies with Mae L., Mildred P., and Ruby H.—four others have been baptized because of these three studies. Ellen spends much extra time with Mae and Mildred because they have no family to see them often, and she frequently runs errands for them. In August, Mae was feeling fatigue and chest pressure when Ellen went to see her and immediately took her to the emergency room, where they gave Mae glycerin a couple of times. They later ran tests and discovered that Mae had a mild heart attack. Consequently, they kept her in ICU and ran a heart catheterization that revealed severe blockages in the main coronary arteries, so she was quickly taken to Hot Springs for a triple bypass. Ellen and I both had to make several trips and take care of Mae's business while she was in the hospital. She is doing better now. Mildred P. had carotid artery surgery that had some complications, but she is also doing better. Our sister-in-law Lori received a knee replacement, and her leg bone was fractured in the process, so she is still laid up. Jason's mother-in-law (who is not a member) had kidney stone surgery, and I had to provide transportation for them on several occasions for doctor appointments besides the hospital in Little Rock.

We have lost two more who had been coming to the study at the Manor; others are too sick to come at this time. Jack B. is the only one I see regularly at this time. My studies with the Dickersons ended in September. I did reestablish contact with Essex J. and hope to have more opportunities to study with him. Kelly's husband Richard joined our study on Acts because he was laid off. Sadly, this means that they will have to move to another town soon.

My regular weekly studies are: Mildred P. (Genesis), Mae L. (Life of Christ), Ruby H. and her son Roy N. (Romans), Scott N. (Exodus), the Phillips family (Old Testament), Rhonda J. (Hebrews), Joyce and Darryl M. (Acts), The Manor (Mark) and Thursday morning at Hwy. 5 (Hebrews).

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Besides the home studies listed above, my weekly work includes personal visitation, two sermons, teaching Psalms to the adult Bible class, writing bulletin articles, and working with Don McClain on the radio program of the 65th St. church in Little Rock two days per week.

FELLOW WORKERS

I had the privilege of preaching in a gospel meeting in early August at the Hepburn Street congregation in Pine Bluff, AR. I preached on personal evangelism during both services Sunday and on Monday evening. Lee Elkins preached about the work of the church on Tuesday and Wednesday. Zach Redmon preached on Leviticus on Thursday, and I heard him preach a great lesson about the nameless faithful in Hebrews 11 on Friday.

I also had the privilege of preaching at Fairview Park in Little Rock on August 25. It was wonderful to see brethren I have known for a long time and to meet some new ones. In both services, I preached about renewing the inner man daily. The congregation meeting at Fairview Park was the congregation I attended at Arch Street as I was growing up. They have consistently supported me throughout the years. I appreciate all of you who are trying to teach others and are also helping me to teach others.

Dan and Tami Peters did a good work in Constanta, Romania. The congregation is much more stable, and Ion Cristescu is now the regular preacher there. Still, the Romanian brethren want us to go over there. Alan Williamson and Iota Cocione (the first one baptized in Constanta) are visiting there now to strengthen and encourage the saints there. If the Lord wills, Ellen and I plan to go for the month of April. Pray for them.

Also, please pray for us. I thank God for your love for the truth and zeal to sow righteousness near and far. I feel honored by your support, encouragement, and fellowship. May the Lord continue to bless you richly. All glory to Him!

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