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December 2016 – January 2017

Dear brethren,

Greetings and happy New Year to all of you! The work in Duluth is pressing on into 2017 with a number of changes I'd like to share with you. While this time of the year usually brings a little bit of a quiet period in Bible study activity because of everyone's holiday and travel schedules, the lull seems to be over and my schedule is picking back up to a more normal pace. The **Monday night Meetup study** through the book of Acts continues to be a really good opportunity for teaching, growth, and meeting new people. In addition to our original "core" group of three (Janelle, Melanie, and me), Kelley, Mariah, and Dave have all become fairly regular participants, as well as Kelley's coworker Shawn. They've also invited a number of their friends who join us from time to time, and the study has gotten big enough that we're having to change the location to a nearby university campus because we've outgrown our regular meeting space.

One of the new people we've met through this study is **Kevin**, an acquaintance of Kelley's who has a really strong interest in Christian apologetics and the evidence for God. Though Kevin hasn't been able to come to the Monday night Meetup very often, his interest in apologetics has led to a separate study that meets on Saturday mornings to discuss evidences for intelligent design and a Bible perspective on the origin of matter & life. So far, there are seven of us who regularly meet for this study, including Ryan & Sana Pearce, the young couple who recently placed membership with us at Hawk Ridge. My other studies with **Steve** (Tuesday mornings in Acts), **Dyrek** (Wednesday mornings studying some topical material on Christian growth), and **Bev & Mary** (Thursday mornings in Mark) are all meeting regularly. Mary & I have also been studying occasionally with a neighbor of hers named **Rob**, but his interest in these studies has seemingly started to get weaker over the last month or so. Your prayers for his interest to stay sharp and his heart to stay responsive would be a tremendous help.

As anticipated, my work at the **Federal Prison Camp** has changed somewhat over the last several months. The new chaplain took over the Sunday night preaching duties back in October, and although I've been able to continue the group Bible study that has been meeting on Tuesday nights, that study has now been moved to a different time slot (Thursday afternoons) due to some policy changes within the Bureau of Prisons. So far

the schedule change has led to smaller attendance, but I'm hopeful that once the inmates adjust to the new schedule, most of the regular participants will still be able to attend. By far the biggest change for Melanie & me in 2017 will be a change in our location. Last year, we were asked to consider moving to Indiana to work with the **Woodland Hills congregation in Marion**. After several months of conversations, follow-up visits, and weighing a potential move, we accepted their invitation to work with the church there, and will make the move to Indiana in May of this year, Lord willing. It is the most difficult decision we have ever had to make. While we are excited about the opportunities we will find in Marion, and I'm very eager to learn from and work with the church there, we are struggling with the reality of leaving our church family in Duluth. The brethren here have become very dear over the 8+ years I've lived in this area, and the same is true for Melanie, who has been in Duluth even longer (about 12 years). Melanie became a Christian here, and this is the first and only congregation I've worked with as an evangelist (not counting preacher training programs). Duluth is where we met, dated, and started our married life together, and we have both grown here in more ways than we ever imagined. The uniqueness and challenges of the work in Duluth have created bonds with our family here that will be hard to leave behind, but we also believe that the work in Marion will get us out of our comfort zones and push us to grow in different ways. At the end of the day, we decided that working with the Woodland Hills group was an opportunity we needed to take advantage of.

In the meantime, there is still (and will continue to be) plenty of opportunity and work to be done in Duluth. By staying until the beginning of May, we hope to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone at Hawk Ridge, while trying to prepare and equip the brethren to continue to work and grow. With that goal in mind, the congregation is also looking for someone to work with them as a full-time evangelist once we move in May. With so many changes on the horizon, we ask for your continued prayers for us and the congregation here. From a financial perspective, we are asking the congregations that send monthly support to continue their support through the month of April. Starting in May we will be fully supported by the Woodland Hills congregation and will not require any outside support. Words cannot adequately convey our gratitude to all of you for your role in the work here. It's only by God's grace working in each of your lives to produce such incredible generosity that we have been able to continue doing the Lords' work in Duluth as long as we have. I hope you believe, as we do, that the good things God has done in this area have been worth every prayer, every dollar, and every encouraging word you have invested in us over the years. May God reward you richly for all you do for Him and His people.

Grace & peace,

Taylor