

January-March 2021 Report - James Hamilton

RETURNING TO NORMAL

We give praise to the Lord for His mercy. His plan of salvation demonstrates His wisdom as well as His love, goodness, and mercy. He is working in us even now to transform us into the image of His Son, Jesus the Christ. We are striving to hold on to His word so that we can endure patiently with the temptations and continual trials of our faith.

Our brotherly love has been tested by the circumstances of the past year and by the considerations, plans, and readjustments this year. We have experienced a variety of opinions about wearing masks, taking vaccines, having Bible classes at the building; many things that we have taken for granted in the past have been altered because of the pandemic. I am thankful to the Lord that we have prevailed in unity with love for God and for one another.

The easiest part of my work to go back to normal was the focus on seeking the lost and finding more opportunities to engage in home Bible studies. I have enjoyed starting three new studies this year and having new people to teach at another study recently resumed at the Manor. I thank God for the fellowship that you provide to make these teaching efforts throughout the week to occur in the hopes of bearing fruit to the glory of God.

BENTON

Attendance is still down because of illness and self-isolation by some. We had a couple of days when the building seemed almost full. Recently, visitors have been dropping in more often. In spite of the lower attendance over the past year, members have made it a point to continue to contribute to the collection according to 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. Construction for the widening of Highway 5 from a two-lane to a five-lane road will begin soon. We had to remove our sign because it is not only too close to the new road boundaries; it was also on space that we have to let the construction crews use to maneuver their work equipment around during the process of construction. We will meet soon to discuss many things that will affect the future of the church that meets on Highway 5. We coped the best that we could for the past year, but we know that we need to do more in a wise manner to help everyone grow and to reach the lost more effectively.

I was excited to get a call from the Manor about resuming our Thursday afternoon Bible study. As soon as they reopened, Bob L. asked them to contact me about leading the Bible study again. We are covering Matthew. Jack B. is no longer there, and a couple of the original students passed away recently; however, there are several new people and four regulars that have returned so far: Mary Jo A., Sammie C., Herman H., and Bob L.

At the beginning of the year, I started two new home studies, with the Hall family (1 Peter) and with the Honorable family (First Principles). I started another study soon after this with Chris G. I am studying the epistle of James with him. Other studies I had in January through March were: Brandon C. (Personal Evangelism), Mildred P. (Leviticus), the Phillips family (John), the Dickerson family (Matthew), Thursday morning at Hwy. 5 (James), Jason and Angela C. (First Principles). It has been fascinating to see how often what is discussed in one study is often brought up in another study (online program, Bible study at Hwy. 5, or another home study) in the same week.

I publish a weekly bulletin for the members and preach twice on Sunday. Our Sunday morning Bible classes have continued since November, but most people are still coming for the worship service only. I teach the adult class as we study in Proverbs. We've had a Bible study on Wednesday evenings for a longer while. Herb M. is teaching the adult Wednesday evening Bible class on Hebrews. The radio program "Searching for the Truth" at 65th Street has ended on radio, but the Facebook Live and You Tube versions are continuing online on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 3pm Central Time. I have rearranged my schedule to help Don McClain on Mondays as well as Wednesdays and Fridays now. (However, my new home study on Friday afternoon has interfered with my ability to help Don on some Fridays.) People from all around the world tune in. Instead of a daily half-hour program, it is now one hour long on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

FELLOW WORKERS

I thank God for fellow workers such as the congregations that have supported me and those that are currently supporting me. This work would not be possible without God and without you, through whom He is working. It is honor to have fellowship with these churches of Christ: Fairview Park, Little Rock, AR; Prince Street, Conway, AR; Rose Avenue, Bellflower, CA. Nelson Street, Garden Grove, CA. May the Lord bless us all as we strive to glorify Him by obedient, loving faith.

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