



Missionary Report

Mike Mahler
Bringing God's Word to Siouxland (IA, NE, SD)
December 2015



Greetings

Greetings Brethren,

This month has been hectic. So hectic in fact that as I thought about typing this report I wasn't sure I could even remember what to put into my report. I've had one of those months that just felt like I couldn't get organized. Once I started one project another one opened up and had to take priority. Add to that other personal matters that came up, the entrance of the holiday season and ...well, I will try to make some coherent sense of what has been happening and what we've been up to these days.

Evangelism Updates

1 EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS:

This month has been an emotional and an interesting month. I've had a few opportunities to speak to some brethren who had been worshipping with a much more progressive group nearby. You may remember from past reports that I mentioned that the Morningside church of Christ closed, probably for the best. There was error being taught and practiced, there were men definitely unqualified to serve as elders, fighting and the like. Without going into great detail it is no surprise that the members from that congregation have disbanded.



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In short, some of these members have responded to some letters I sent out. A couple families inquired about membership. Unfortunately we were not able to come to an agreement about issues surrounding the work of the church, the use of money and instrumental music in worship. (I assure you I did not even initiate the subjects, I think they were testing the waters to see where we stood and how firm we were about our convictions.) I did offer to study with them about these issues. They then told me they were not interested in studying and were happy at a large Baptist church they had been attending lately.

On top of this I've been doing some door-to-door, passing and handing out flyers and giving out my business card every chance I get. I have had several people act interested, but at the risk of sounding like I am "padding" my report (grin) I will wait to mention these individuals by name once a legitimate study opportunity arises.

We are currently looking into a mass mailing program.

We are also looking into the possibility of a radio program. After working with and talking to some of the members there seems to be a fair amount of support for such an effort where I will not be required to do it all myself.

I have slacked and haven't done as well keeping up with putting my ads on Craigslist or Facebook.

I've tried spending a little time nearby the mission speaking to folks. However that did not generate any tangible success to date.

Bible Studies

Continued Study & Relationship Building:

- **Yovani & Susan Garcia**
- **Lane Reinke & my son Josh**
- **Montana (my daughter)**
- **Cameron Brummond**

New Studies:

- **Kenny Adaire:** Kenny visited us some time ago and we began a discussion that never really took off. Recently Kenny contacted me again and

Positive Leads:

- **Holly**
- **Others**



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Our Work

2 TEACHING:

Sunday Morning Studies:

Ben Lawrence continues teaching the Sunday morning Bible class. Lane or I fill in when he is gone. Lane has challenged us with lessons on unity, the head covering and others. They were well received.

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday November 7, 2015 Doug Hathaway (a friend of one of our members) from Indiana taught us two lessons during morning Bible study and the sermon portion of our worship. He taught on doing the work of the church. It was well received.

Sermons:

- *Faithful Believers* (1 Jn. 1:-2:17)
- *Does God Exist*
- *Go to All & Speak*
- *Islam*

Wednesday Evening Studies

We continue to study 2 Samuel & 1 Chronicles

Web Site

I am continuing to work on more materials to be uploaded to the web site so that recent sermons can be heard there.

Prayer Requests

- **Those potential converts mentioned above**



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- **Deanna Judy**
- **Britton Mahler**
- **Shirley Meyer (heart)**
- **Myra Herbst (wrist)**

Personal/Closing

Brethren, as we enter into the holiday season near Thanksgiving I am reminded that I am thankful for you. I am thankful for those who write to me periodically to encourage me and let me know that I am in their prayers and I am thankful for your continued financial support. Without you all that I do would be much more difficult.

Montana is working on memorizing the names of the kings of Israel with me (in order). (Please don't embarrass me and test me on this...I think she might even be a little better at a couple of the names in their order than I am. Sometimes I make a deal with her...if she can get farther down the list without making a mistake then I take her to the convenience store for a soda (or give her two dollars to go toward a toy she has been saving for – her choice). That keeps things a little more lively and fun. I hardly think she realizes that she is learning the names of the kings.

I also ask for your prayers brethren. I honestly feel that we are doing good things here. Although I wish I had dozens of baptisms to report I am happy to tell you that many opportunities present themselves every day. I keep waiting for the flood gates to break open and report a harvest. For now I just want to share my excitement and beg you all...if there is any way that you could ever come and help us spread the news here, please let me know. I wish I were more diligent and knowledgeable about efficient means of sharing what goes on here on a daily basis. I think you would be encouraged.

On another matter please continue to pray for our son, Britton. He is ashamed of some things he has done. He feels it reflects upon who he is and is embarrassed about coming to services. He refuses to come. He feels people are judging him. (I believe he is mistaking their concern for him with being judgmental. They are simply asking if there is anything they can do to help and are asking him to return. I have tried bringing others with me to talk to him but that gets complicated. He is living with someone else (my ex-father-in-law) in a security locked building. He works irregular hours and makes lots of excuses about being busy when I mention needing to talk with him. In short he is avoiding discussing things any further.

So many more things I could write for now. I encourage you, as I write this letter to get out there and talk to someone today! They need the gospel and you just might be the one they'll listen to.

Godspeed,

Michel Mahler