

Dear Praying Friends,

January - February 2024

## Building update:

Our building project has been coming along slowly, but surely. Our church members have given around \$600.00 to enable us to hire construction workers to finish up the renovation of the auditorium. We should be finishing the major building portion within the next couple of weeks. After that is finished, we will just be left with painting, lighting, and final touches. We are far from finishing the entire building. Once we finish the auditorium, we will begin on making the lobby and Sunday school rooms proper. We ask that you pray that the renovation process will come along quickly and no one would be injured.

#### Salvations:

A couple of weeks ago, a man named Daniel visited the church. He had seen the church sign and decided to stop by. After the evening service I spent over an hour sharing the plan of salvation with him. When I finished, he looked at me and asked, "Do you think I should just pray now?" I responded with a very excited "ABSOLUTELY!" A couple weeks later he followed through in believer's baptism. He has been faithfully attending all the services. He has also pitched in and helped with the building projects. He has finished the first discipleship book and is half way through the second book. This last Sunday, I saw him writing out the words to the hymns in our church song book. I asked him why he was doing it. He told me he wanted to go sing the songs in his house. He explained that even though he doesn't know the tunes very well, the words mean a lot to him. I am overjoyed with what God is doing in his life. I ask that you pray with me that he would continue to grow in his faith.

Mama Ruth is another story that comes to mind when I remember those who were saved in the last couple of months. Mama Ruth has attended our church for over a year. She comes faithfully with her children and grandchild every Sunday. A few Sundays ago, my wife had the opportunity to share the plan of salvation with her for a second or third time. This time she really seemed to understand and even asked questions. After years of believing she had to be good to go to heaven, she finally put her complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

#### Ministry Update:

In January, the children and teens went back to school after having a two month break. Some went away to boarding school and others became involved in sports. Both of those things have a tendency to keep children out of church. There are three boys in particular that have prioritized education and sports over church. I ask that you pray with me that God would do a work in their hearts.

In February we ended out the month with our first ever valentine's banquet. My wife and Erica Bohman, and some of the church ladies, did an excellent job with the food and decorations. My wife had put out floating candles as one of the decorations. It was hilarious to see the people so enamored by candles floating on water. I think they thought my wife had performed some kind of witchcraft! All in all, we had a great time of fellowship and learning about marriage from the Word of God.

## Family Update:

Thank you for your prayers for our family. The sicknesses have slowed down a lot. Right now a few of our children have mumps, but they are on the mend. Other than that, everyone else is healthy and happy.

In Christ, David Smith

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