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2020 – 2nd Quarter Prayer Letter

Greetings in the name of our lovely Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

I do hope that this letter finds you well and in good spirits during these frustrating and often difficult days. All that I can think to say sometimes is "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." In the beginning of the pandemic, we did as many other Churches did (having given the benefit of the doubt to those that were giving us the information and mandates) and went to online services only for a period of time. Personally this proved to be much more difficult than I could have anticipated. Don't get me wrong, I do thank God for the technology and the ability to give the Gospel message to an expanded audience via the internet (and only eternality will reveal the result of each of our efforts in that area of ministry) but there is no substitution for God's original plan of assembling ourselves together. Our physical families are almost 2,000 miles away and although we can call or video chat at times, those methods can never replace being together physically and so it is with the church. These precious people; the people of Grace Baptist Church in Billings, Montana; the people that God has burdened our hearts for; and the people that we have the privilege to minister to because of your continued giving and support... these people are our family and to absent from them was truly heart breaking!

It was a glorious day when we resumed our in person services, although this came at a loss, as several families have yet to return as I feared would be the case. Having said that, we do give glory to God for several first time visitors that have been coming lately. We have one young family that told me that they have been attending and active in church for many years before they ever heard the Gospel message of salvation, and as many times as I have heard this similar story, it greaves me every time.

Our city is full of main stream ecumenical churches, churches that have to have multiple services due to the crowds that darken their doors, but churches that are more focused on "religion" or "Christian entertainment" instead of delivering a clear presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and my commitment to God and to you is that I am fully persuaded that Jesus Christ is THE WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE and that no man, woman, boy, or girl will be saved except through Christ! Furthermore, I am resolved no matter how big or how small the number of folks sitting in our pews, to give as clear of a prestation of the Gospel of Christ as I possibly can until God is finished with me or until our Saviour returns!

I do have a couple of prayer requests:

- We have an open door to get our recorded services in the local state women's prison (due to the shutdown of any volunteer services in the prisons and jails) and we will be working with a dear precious and faithful Rock of Ages Missionary that is in our church. Please pray that God will use the messages and that God will bless Sis. Yvonne Brown as she endeavors to keep serving the Lord with such hard restrictions on her in person prison ministry.
- Please help us pray about the roof on our building. We have had work done on several occasions but we are having a difficult time getting the issue fixed and it continues to leak off and on. The issue is coming from a portion where two roof lines connect and on top of that we may need a complete replacement for one section of the metal roof.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, thank you for your continued support, and thank you for allowing God to use you in our lives and in our ministry!

With the Love of Christ,

Bro. John McKinney & Family

