

the Cooleys

Ben & Carrie
Noah, Elsie, & Emma

Reaching the
Northwest USA

Brethren, pray for us. 1 Thessalonians 5:25

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To our Beloved Brethren in Christ,

May 2023

OUR REPORT: It is hard to believe we are almost through the first half of this year—time waits for no man, and eternity is swiftly approaching for every man! The Lord has been faithful in the month of May to our family and in the ministry here. We want to begin this letter by saying **Thanks** to all of our supporters. We give thanks to God for each one of you and appreciate your love for us and your labor in the Lord. You are a vital part to the work of the Lord here in Oregon. You are a vital part to the work right where you are—let's all stay faithful!

We have begun reaching out to the rural areas we did not reach in person before our opening meetings in April. This is a much slower paced outreach, and at times we are most unwelcome as many people move to central Oregon because they want to be left alone. Souls are confronted with the gospel of Christ and with the second coming of Christ on a regular basis. We are planning to canvass in the town of Terrebonne on Saturday, June 10th. **Please help us in prayer for this outreach.** We have a church scheduled to come over from the Willamette Valley of Oregon to help with distribution. We are also asking those meeting in service with us to take part as well. Some of our folks have indicated a willingness and desire to reach out in their own neighborhoods where they live, and for this we are grateful.

We are maintaining between 21 and 25 on Sunday mornings for the worship hour. We are striving to feed the flock which gathers, most of which profess faith in Christ. There are some we are certainly concerned about, and these souls are being confronted with the necessity of being born again. We continue to follow up with new guests and meet in houses where we are invited to do so. Our Sunday afternoon service is a time of teaching and of answering questions with the purpose of grounding people in sound doctrine and a Biblical understanding of the local church. So far, this service is not very well attended. We meet on Wednesday evenings for a time of preaching and praying, and again, very few come out. We continually urge the congregation on Sunday mornings, that with the day approaching, our hearts and homes should be drawn more and more to the local assembly. **Please continue to help us in prayer for the church plant.**

We offer one example of the challenges of church planting, and while it is minor—it is nonetheless real. We meet upstairs above a restaurant in an event center/meeting room. At first, it made sense to us, to identify our location with the name of the restaurant. People within the community knew the place and therefore knew where we were. So we printed up new gospel/invitation cards and included the name of the restaurant. As soon as we had them in hand and began handing them out, they changed the name of the restaurant without any warning (looking back, we should have known better than to include the restaurant name). Beyond that, they have changed the nature of the restaurant as well, and we now meet above a Public House. We are grateful to have a place to meet and strive to be a witness while there. **Would you pray about all of this and ask the Lord to be glorified in all of these things?**

OUR REQUESTS: Your prayers enable us, and we thank you! Please Pray...

- For those attending to be rooted and grounded in love (Eph. 3:17).
- For hearts to be established unblameably in holiness (1 Thess. 3:12-13).
- For a strong and healthy church to be self supporting sooner than later.
- For Tony, Dan, Brandi & her family, a lady in mobile home # 33.

OUR REJOICING: We rejoice in answered prayers where the rental cost of our meeting room is concerned. Instead of going up in June, we were given the next three months at the same price. This is a direct answer to prayer and to God be all the glory! We stand amazed at His great love for us! "We love him, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19).

- The Cooleys