July 2019

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

We praise the Lord for His goodness to us here in the wonderful state of Montana. It has already been a very busy summer with youth camps, special meetings, and our tri-annual Macedonia World Baptist Missions orientation.

Back in June, I had the privilege to be a part of one of our youth camps called the Elisha's Academy. This is a leadership camp that is for teens to learn leadership skills, leading someone to the Lord, first aid, and working in and around the camp grounds in order to have an opportunity to assist in the younger youth camp weeks later in the summer. What a blessing as these skills are not only to assist in the other camps but also in the local church. I was talking to someone the other day and they made the statement that we are only one generation away from any given local church closing their doors (which is a growing sad reality). These young people are the future and I could not be prouder of our youth at Grace Baptist Church. We may not have a large youth group but I have seen spiritual growth in the ones we do have and how refreshing it is to see their excitement and eagerness to participate in the services. I try to meet with them once a week, before our Sunday night services, and spend some time with them in the Word of God. Just recently, we started a series on Baptist Distinctives with the intent of encouraging them to 1.) know what they believe and 2.) why they believe it. How devastating it is to hear the statistics of Baptist youth that once they reach the age of coming to church by choice, many leave and never come back. Then there are many that end up converting to some cult such as the Jehovah Witnesses, Mormonism, etc. (one of which I spoke to recently) that were raised in a Baptist Church, heard the preached Word of God and yet still did not know what they believed nor why they believed it. I am trying to work with the adults that God has given us to minister to, but I sure don’t want to overlook or neglect our future!

We recently had a “Friend Day” in which we had Evangelist Dwight Smith as our guest preacher. What a joy to see the involvement of some of our newer folks in getting our special invitations out and asking for more, and I praise God for the spiritual growth in adults as well as the youth. We had a good turn out with several first time visitors. We had one lady that came forward and needed assurance of her salvation. Isn't it good to know that you can know that you are born again!!! This precious lady, as well as a few others, have returned so far and we praise God!

Finally, as I mentioned, we just got back from our orientation with Macedonia World Baptist Missions held in Buffalo, Wyoming. What a wonderful time of revival, encouragement, and fellowship; for Jennifer, myself and our children! We were there with 9 other Northwest church planting/church rescue families, as well as several others that gave of their time, their own finances, their vacations, etc. just to be a help and a blessing to us; and they certainly were! What a blessing to be a part of one of the godliest missionary families that I know of, and if you by chance are looking for a very worthy mission board to support, I would highly recommend that you consider the home office of Macedonia World Baptist Missions! In doing this you will have an opportunity to be a part of 120 missionary families with mission ministries all over the world.

Thank you for all your love, support and prayers for us and the work that God is doing here in Billings, Montana.

With the Love of Christ,

Bro. John McKinney & Family