

Monthly Report, June 2010
Involving the Seminole church of Christ
by Frederic Gray

Dear Brethren,

While God continues to bless us all, I ask you to join me in giving Him all praise for His kindness and benevolence. He is empowering me to preach the gospel full time, which is a dream come true. And He is empowering you to serve as a conduit of His grace, and of His financial blessings. I thank you for allowing yourselves to be used in such a special way. And I thank God for being the giver of all good things.

Evangelism

We continue to have Bible studies with people that we gave free Bibles to during our evangelism push in April. Some of the key studies are the following people.

- 1) Marquita. Marquita is talking about getting baptized, and also wants us to start studying with her 16 year old son. She has had some financial challenges lately that stem from her home being broken into and robbed. She is in the process of moving, and our studies have been broken up, but she still wants to study, and get us started with her son.
- 2) Tracy. Tracy is a Christian, and her husband is an agnostic. We are scheduled to start studying with him this week. He is very open to a study, but also skeptical at the same time. It has taken a while to get his commitment to study, so I am really excited about this.
- 3) You may recall LaWanda Nance, who was baptized in April. Her mom is in "search mode." She asks great questions, but is somewhat put off by the fact that so many different "groups" differ on their understanding of the Bible.

More and more, I am moved by Jesus' prayer for us to be "one" and what that will communicate to the world. It breaks my heart to see such divisiveness fueled by people's passion for the Bible. I wish people were more open-minded in an attempt to look at the whole counsel of God, instead of basing their salvation teachings on just one verse, or once Biblical concept.

We also are getting ready for our fall evangelism push. You will hear more about that as we get closer.

Edification

We are getting close to announce new elders and deacons. Please pray for us about that.

Also, we are going to have our second annual lectureship in August. It's the last weekend in August, from Friday to Sunday. That went well last year, with a theme of Friendship. This year's theme is Radical Devotion to God. We are excited about how this will encourage the brethren. (and also be used to reach out to our non-Christian friends)

Our monthly ladies' Bible study is continuing to progress. It is a strong representation of our female members. Recently, an elder's wife from a local congregation came to one of our ladies' studies, and was shocked at how many of our ladies come to our ladies' Bible study. That was nice to hear. We have a strong congregational family, and our female members make up a majority of the congregation.

Also, there is an interesting thing our men have been doing that is particularly edifying. There is a family who has four children, and lived in a two bedroom, one bathroom house. Well, our members for the past several years have been getting together on Fridays and Saturdays to add on to their house. They now have a three bedroom, two bath house, and the finishing touches are being put on. It just passed inspection, and we give God the glory for that, and for teaching us how to love. Everyone is excited about this effort coming to fruition!

Personal

June was a busy month for us. I performed a wedding for Wayne Welsh and Jenna Fielding. Wayne is one of the guys that worked with our congregation this past year in a training capacity. It was a beautiful wedding.

One funny thing that happened was with my daughter Maleia. (3 years old) She said to us after the wedding, "Jenna didn't spin in her dress! Her do it again tomorrow?" She thought the wedding wasn't valid since the bride didn't twirl in her dress, and thought they should get married again the next day. She is hilarious!

We spent a lot of time travelling in June. It was our first family vacation since I have been at Seminole. (two years) I performed a wedding in Bowling Green, KY, for two of our dear friends, Jady Copeland and Julianne Metzger. Julianne, who is very sweet, knew about what Maleia said after Wayne and Jenna's wedding. In the midst of her wedding reception, she was thoughtful enough to come find my daughters, and make sure she twirled in her wedding dress for Maleia. Maleia's eyes got huge as she put her hands over her mouth in awe and excitement. As a parent, I was very touched.

While there, I preached at Lost River in Bowling Green. One of the elders there was influential in me becoming a Christian when he lived in Minnesota. I also preached at Broadmoor in Nashville. Then we went to Minnesota to visit my family. Bringing my children to meet their grandmother for the first time was special.

My mom had more energy than she has had for quite a while. They started giving her chemotherapy in late May, but they had to stop. You see, the chemo made her vomit, and the vomiting tore open her wound, and also caused tearing in her colon.

The best thing about the trip, for me, was that it was the first time my mom ever asked me questions about God. She is going through a lot of confusion, disappointment, and has a lot of questions about God's involvement in her cancer, and what is the appropriate response to that.

On the way back from Minnesota, we took advantage of some free passes to the Creation Museum that some loving brethren gave us. That was an amazing experience. It was great to have a few days of vacation where it was just us as a family—especially in a place that makes every effort to glorify God in all they do. Outside of some clearly Calvinistic influences, from an apologetics perspective the Creation Museum experience is a wonderful one. I was encouraged, and even feel like my preaching has taken a turn for the better, regarding foundational concepts. (especially from Genesis chapters 1-11)

Please continue to pray for our family. The challenges of time management are real for us.

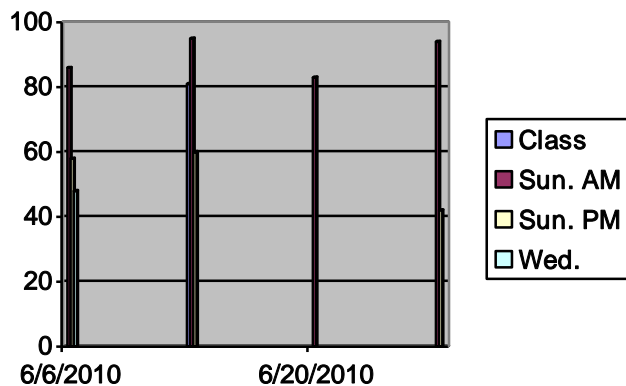
Again, thank you for your support, and for allowing God to use you to empower us financially to live a dream come true. We love you, and thank God for you.

Attendance

Our attendance was as follows:

Week Of	June 6 th	June 13 th	June 20 th	June 27 th
Bible Class		81		
AM Worship	86	95	83	94
PM Worship	58	60		42
Wednesday	48			

Attendance Chart



Visitors

We make sure every non-Christian visitor is touched in multiple ways. They get cards/notes sent to them in the mail. They get at least one email, and one phone call. The purpose of these contacts is to build trust through the natural growing of relationships. The theory is that the more ways a visitor is “touched,” the more solid our connection will be. (and the faster it will grow).

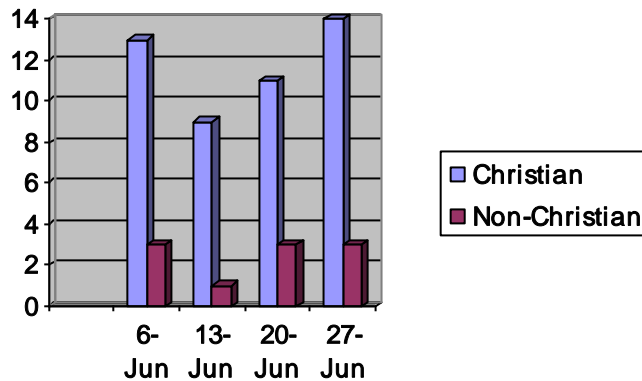
Christian visitors are handled differently, bases on our judgment. Some are college students, some are in ‘limbo,’ (not having a congregational home), some are looking for a place to worship, some are happy where they are and are just visiting us to visit, some are

from out of town, etc. The particular circumstances dictate our approach with Christian visitors.

Here is a chart, showing our Christian and non-Christian visitors for the month of June.

Visitor Chart

Visitors	June 6th	June 13th	June 20th	June 27th	
Christian	13	9	11	14	
Non-Christians	3	1	3	3	
New Members	2			1	



Baptisms

We had no baptisms in June.

New Members

In June we had three new members. Rhudine Collier, along with Don and Neva Mullins met with the elders and they decided to cast their lot with us as their home congregation. Rhudine is a woman who has lived in Tampa her whole life. Don and Neva Mullins are from the San Fernando Valley in California, and have recently moved to the Tampa Bay area.

We are blessed to have all three of them!