

Dear Kent,

It was great to see everyone at Trenton at the end of January. The guys did a good job. Both the talks were put together very well. It is a great encouragement for everyone when young people demonstrate the willingness and ability to lead in worship services. It puts, or should put, some older folks to shame.

Theoretically, I had a chance to go to your meeting with Paul Blake, but weather conditions were such that it would not have been wise. As it turned out, I went north then west and avoided the snow completely. Had I waited, I would have been stuck in central Alabama. I hope the meeting went well.

We are delighted to have our first grandchild. She is healthy. She had to stay for a week in the hospital for pneumonia (retained fluid in her lungs). Ellen is staying there to help Rena take care of her during the first couple of weeks at home.

I just joined Facebook because a Romanian asked me to join. I believe it can be used as an evangelistic tool. I have contacted people I haven't seen in years.

We will be losing \$270 per month from Bellflower, California in August. The local church is taking up some of the anticipated slack. As always, I am thankful for your support. May God bless your work.

Your brother,

James

January 2010

A NEW YEAR

We praise God for His gift of another year. Our prayer for the new year is that we have even more opportunities to teach the lost and build up the saints for the work of service (Eph. 4:12). He is gracious to give us a part in His work of saving souls. With His help and guidance, 2010 will be an even better year than 2009.

I thank God for you and your desire to increase the borders of the Lord's kingdom. Your support is helping with the preaching of the gospel in central Arkansas and in Romania. Thank you for your fellowship with me in the gospel.

THE WORK IN BENTON

Just when Jeff was doing very well spiritually, he moved out of town. Jason is doing much better. He is at nearly every service now. We are also studying outside the regular meeting times. David has missed a little recently, and we haven't had a chance to see his parents again. Lindsey is unable to go anywhere with her pregnancy. Our older

members have missed due to illnesses last month. For the most part the members have been active outside the assembly helping those in need of help.

We are working on Tony, our most recent addition to the body of Christ. Shorty is doing very well. Chris and Caitlyn have done very well in several respects. A recent drawback, however, has been a change in her work schedule to Sundays. James Norman and Sarah have become regular visitors. Through Boyce Barger's work, Jerry has started visiting on Sundays.

We have changed our Sunday evenings to 4 pm so the older members can depart while there is light after we finish our class and worship. Due to sickness, attendance was slightly lower last month, but contribution increased in January.

More members are involved in following up on visitors and having studies with others. They are also more involved in helping with contacting those who missed services during the week.

I am developing other methods of evangelism through the internet in addition to our daily Bible reading schedule and the weekly bulletin.

THE WORK IN ROMANIA

I have received recent correspondence from Romania that indicates that I may be able to do some good there this year. I did not have an opportunity to go last year. I will continue to be in touch to make plans to help the Christians in Constanta and other cities. Discussions with some who went last year also have encouraged me to make preparations to go.

FELLOW WORKERS

The Lord answered our prayers and gave our daughter Rena her first baby (our first grandchild). Kaitlyn Elizabeth Gardana is doing well, though she had to stay for a week in the hospital because of pneumonia.

I also had the opportunity to visit the churches in Perry and Trenton that support me. I spoke at Spring Warrior and met Dan Cheney, the new preacher, there. It was a delight to stay with the Clay Bethea family. I did not speak at Trenton because it was the fifth Sunday evening service. The young men of the church conducted the entire service, from prayers and communion, to song leading and presenting the talks. The content of the talks and their use of scripture was impressive. I would encourage all churches to use their young people this way.

The Bellflower, CA congregation just notified me that they will reduce their support by \$270 monthly, beginning in August. I did receive another \$25/week raise this year from the local church in Benton.

Thanks to these churches and Fairview Park in Little Rock, AR; Prince St. in Conway, AR; and Woodland Hills in Nashville, TN for your support.

Please pray that we will continue to grow and have open doors to reach the lost in 2010. Also please pray for me to have an opportunity to help the Romanian brethren in person this year with evangelism and edification. I pray that the Lord bless your efforts in the kingdom for Him.

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