

December 2010 – James Hamilton

A STRONG FINISH

We praise the Lord for our positive progress. He has blessed us in many ways, and He continues to give the increase because we have continued to sow (teaching those who have never heard—1 Cor. 3:6-7). Sowing bountifully results in reaping bountifully, and sowing sparingly results in reaping sparingly (2 Cor. 9:6).

Solomon said, “The end of a thing is better than the beginning.” (Ecclesiastes 7:8) We certainly feel this way about 2010. Last year ended with one choosing to put on Christ by being baptized into Christ on the last Sunday. Several also came forward asking for prayers throughout the month. We are encouraged to see the increase in spirituality and determination to do better. Our goal is for God to complete the good work which He has begun in us. To this end we work. Thank you for making it possible.

BENTON, AR

Our year ended on a high note with Jacob Murphy being baptized into Christ on the last Sunday of the year. Boyce had been studying with him. Other personal evangelism efforts are also keeping us busy. We have studies with several of the new Christians and younger members. Studies are going very well with Gale Davis. Our other regular visitors, Jerry and Arlen, continue to come but have not consented to more study at this time. Three other visitors, Candy, David, and a friend of Linda R. have started coming recently.

We are excited about projects for the coming year. We continue to teach on an individual basis, and many members are doing this. We want to start utilizing our website and start a Facebook page. Hopefully, we will get some help from brethren who know about these things. It is good for them to use their talents for the kingdom. I bought a digital voice recorder to start recording sermons to hear or download from the internet. We are overhauling our primary and junior grades' curriculum. We are planning a gospel meeting for later this year, too.

I continue to publish a weekly bulletin (We will try to put the articles online, too). With many new converts with less Bible knowledge, I plan on giving more basic lessons this year. Hopefully, these lessons will still be challenging to the older members. After all, our biggest spiritual challenge is not lack of information but motivation to do what we know is right.

HASKELL, AR

There was a church in Haskell, AR I would pass every once in a while. The sign said “Church of Christ” on it. The building had no classrooms; a family owned the land and donated it for the church. The son of the man who donated the land was the preacher there. He did not have a good reputation in the community, and the church struggled through the years.

Recently, I drove by and saw the sign had been changed to “District Court: Town of Haskell.” I later learned that the preacher had died and the church no longer met there. When one of the Christians living in Haskell approached me about starting a work in Haskell, I was interested in helping him. He is currently a member at 65th St. in Little Rock, and I want to continue helping the church in Benton, so we are beginning to start Bible studies on Sunday afternoons in the old church building. We agree that there is an opportunity to establish the Lord’s church in Haskell. There ought to be one in this growing town about ten miles southwest of Benton. I will not lessen my work with the Hwy. 5 church, which meets on the opposite side of Benton. The elders at Hwy. 5 approve of my efforts to evangelize in that community (something they had tried to do in meeting with the leadership there several years ago).

FELLOW WORKERS

The Lord has provided for us yet again. In order to help me, Fairview Park church of Christ increased their support from \$300 each month to \$700 per month. Fairview will always be “home” for me, since it is the church I grew up to learn God’s word from many good Bible teachers and elders through the years.

A brother in California contacted me about support when he learned from his father, who is an elder at Tustin, CA, about my situation. He is sending \$500 each month for 2011. His decision was based upon the recommendations of a couple of the elders at Tustin. The church in Tustin supported me in the early 90’s until I left for Romania and was fully supported by the College View church in Florence, AL. I visited Tustin last year during the same trip when I went to Bellflower to preach a gospel meeting. It is encouraging to know of the good works being done by brethren in California, and I am happy to have fellowship with brethren there.

The Hwy. 5 church filled the loss of my monthly outside for the last four months of 2010. You are also fellow workers with me because of the support you provide. I know there are many who wish they could do more to help preachers in need; I appreciate the sacrifices you make. May the Lord continue to reward your fellowship in our work with more souls saved and the growth of the kingdom.

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