

Monthly Evangelism Report for December, 2017
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Dear Brethren,

As I consider my last report for 2017, I thank you, yet again, for your immense kindness and generosity.

Thank you for your support. I work very hard at what I do, and I love every bit of it!

May God richly bless your congregations, and your evangelism efforts.

With all my heart's gratitude,

Frederic Gray

Evangelism

I got word from Alfred Nunn. Evidently, he has gotten back in town, but he is not assembling with us. One of our members, the woman who invited him his first time with us, shared something with me.

She told me that she asked him why he wasn't assembling with us. He told her that he couldn't worship with us, because he was too attracted to her, and he knows he can't get married again.

He and I have interacted through Facebook messages, but he still has yet to take my call, or return my voice mails. Please pray for him.

Of the five people we baptized last year, he is the only one who has made a choice to not meet with us. Otto Gene Barnhardt is not with us all the time, but he comes regularly. He is very old, and sickly. Shirley Stein has moved back to Tampa, and is with us all the time. She is currently, as I write this, having a round of radiation for a large tumor in her brain. Demetrius Carroll moved back to Maryland, and is talking about moving back here in two months. Susan Stoa is faithful.

We pray that our evangelism efforts will continue to bear fruit. If you ever are in town, and visit us, let me know if you ever want to meet any of the people we have converted, or that you have prayed for.

I went to lunch with one of our visitors, Austin. It was a mini-Bible study, get to know each other session. That was several weeks ago. He works at a restaurant and has irregular hours. But already, there are a lot of connections. Please pray for him.

Edification

We have seven college students from out of town that have asked to be part of our church family. They are, to a person, exceptional individuals who go the extra mile. One male student came to a men's get together we had in December (the first of its kind). Two female students have been to our ladies' Bible study. And they all have servant's hearts. It's a joy to work with them.

I was wanting to get a year's schedule of Bible classes set up again, as I did for 2017. I had a number of things come up that delayed the process. And then we had trouble getting the year filled. We still have some vacant spots for people to assist teachers. We actually had some vacancies for teachers, until after I posted the schedule. Then some people volunteered to fill the gaps.

We are about tapped out for teachers. Part of what is making this quarter work, is that another gentleman is teaching the adult class, and I am teaching the 7-8 year olds. This gentleman was selected to teach this quarter, on how we got the Bible. So, I just filled in the last gap.

I feel like we are at a place where we are spread so thin, a handful of people are at risk of getting burned out. That's the last thing I want to see happen.

But, everyone at Seminole has such a spirit of service...people regularly step up. I saw a season where I felt like we were burned out as a congregation before. I just don't want to see it happen again. Please pray for us about that.

We have several people that in January are going to start a Bible reading program I promote. It's reading five Psalms each day, one Proverb chapter each day, and 10 New Testament chapters each day. I am really excited about that. That is the bible reading program that catapulted my growth as a brand new Christian. Please pray the fruit from this effort will be bountiful.

Personal

December was a great month! Noelani went to her follow up visit for Scoliosis treatment. I misunderstood what Heather shared with me about her initial treatment. Her curves did not get 10 degrees better in that two week initial treatment. The doctor told Heather that when Noelani was wearing her equipment, her curves all got 10 degrees better—and that was the prognosis.

It turns out that he gave her new equipment to use, and she responded better with them. He reiterated how challenging it can be with Scoliosis in the neck. He said even though her neck is the worst they have ever seen, surgery is not an option, for then she would not be able to move her neck. Please pray for this treatment to work well.

Also, our a/c unit broke, and we found out our roof needs to be replaced. We have five brown circular spots around our light in our dining room, and several more in the hall way between our bedrooms. I never put two and two together, but our dining room light flickers sometimes. Heather pointed out to me that it usually happens when it rains.

A Christian friend who repairs roofs told me there is no life left in mine. He said he wouldn't even feel good about fixing it because even if he did, a new leak could occur the next week. So, I will be praying about this, and putting my creative hat on with the goal of getting this fixed before the rainy season.

We also thought that this may explain the mold challenges that we have faced.

Our a/c unit is broken, so that has to be replaced. We are okay for now, because it's not that hot. And when it has been cold, it hasn't been so terribly cold that it's hard to deal with. I have a Christian friend who is in the a/c business, and will help me. He already got me an air handler from a scratch and dent place, and got a \$500 discount as "a favor." I just need to get a plan to pay everything.

I have been looking into every option, even getting loans. I don't really want to add the kind of monthly payments these things will give me. We may be able to sell a bunch of stuff to help pay for it. It's always a good time to downsize!

We are doing well with our memorization of scripture. Our children love to say our memory verses for people. Well, some of them do.

Heather is pushing herself too hard. She is homeschooling our children, ages 14, 10, eight, and six, while caring for two others, ages three and 10 months. She nurses Asher. She is creating curriculum for our 2-3 year olds. She just puts way too much pressure on herself.

And I'm not the best person to help with that, because I'm the same way. So, when we get crazy ideas together, there's no one to balance us out. But when it's her, I can slow her down. I made her reuse a quarter from this past year in the first quarter of 2018. She needed a break. 2017 was the first year of the curriculum. She even had someone from another congregation ask her about it. She is amazing, and embodies a level of excellence that astounds me. But sometimes she just needs to go to bed and get some sleep. (smiles)

I love you all, and hope our paths will continue to cross as long as I am on earth. And if you ever get to meet my children down the road, please let them know that you supported my efforts as an evangelist. You guys are part of how God puts clothes on their backs, and food in their bellies. I think they would appreciate knowing that you were a part of God's support for us.

May God bless you as only He can.

Frederic Gray (and family)