

Broadmoor church of Christ

Report for the fall quarter 2018

From Lon Spurgeon at Smoky Mountain church of Christ

Dear brethren at Broadmoor,

I hope everything is going well and that most are free from sickness during the cold rainy season. Becky and I have been blessed with good health though several in our congregation have been under the weather recently. I have broken up the report into monthly sections as I have been doing in past reports.

October 2018

It has been a very eventful month here with both highs and lows, good and bad. I hope you all are doing well and enjoying the changing season and a little cooler weather.

Certainly, a high this last month was having Mike Roy hold a weekend meeting for us. Mike did a great job and our congregation enjoyed getting to know him and Carol. I concentrated my distribution of flyers in neighborhoods close to the building as well as asking different churches in this area to post our announcement. As far as I could tell we didn't have any local folks show up, but there was good support from our members and other churches of Christ in Knoxville.

While the meeting was going on some of our members were having to deal with difficult family trials. The Taylor's father, Jack in Arkansas was diagnosed with advanced cancer and not expected to live long so part of their family had to travel there and arrange for his care. Also, Becky's lifelong friend Kristi Scott who was visiting up here had to be taken to the hospital because of breathing difficulties and swelling due to her cancer. After a week in the hospital Kristi passed away and not long afterward we got word that Scott Taylor's dad had died also. Last week Becky and I went down to Plant City to be with Shane and the rest of the family during the funeral service for Kristi and afterward. We are just now starting to get back into our regular routine though we are still mourning and trying to support and comfort family and brethren here and in Florida and Illinois and Virginia. This has really been a painful loss and yet a joyful celebration of Kristi's triumph to be with Christ.

Meanwhile the preaching and teaching has continued here at Smoky Mountain. Wednesday night class has continued in Hebrews; Sunday morning is just beginning a study on dealing with negative emotions. Sermons continue to center around the life and teachings of Jesus on Sunday morning and study's on worship Sunday night. We have a couple of more enrolments in the correspondence course over the past two months.

November 2018

We have had more sickness since the colder weather but most has not been serious. Mary Ann Cable who has been through two surgeries for a brain tumor has continued to have headaches and some additional complications crop up this month. The members here continue to take

food and provide rides and financial assistance for her and her family. I know they would appreciate your prayers.

Wednesday night class is still in Hebrews though we are getting closer to the conclusion; Sunday morning we are talking about how to deal with painful negative emotions. The sermons have continued focusing on Jesus but I am beginning to draw the series to a close. I have presented a lesson on the crucifixion and one on the resurrection and will probably finish in a week or two.

I got to visit with a young man who is in Juvenile detention here in Blount County; his grandmother made me aware of his situation and desired for someone to visit with him. In my visit I confirmed that he had been baptized and active in the church in Cookeville, Tennessee but made some really bad choices and ended up in jail. I am not sure what his future situation will be as far as incarceration but he told me he had prayed for forgiveness and was trying to get back on track. He requested prayers for himself and his family since he is estranged from his mom and his dad is in prison serving a long-term sentence. I asked our church to pray for him and hope maybe you all will pray for him to be able to change and be faithful to the Lord's calling. His name is Caleb Swallows. He wants to take our correspondence course when it is settled where he will be detained.

We added another correspondence course student from Nevada and hope that they will complete it and learn more about Jesus and the gospel.

December 2018

Becky and I spent the holidays here in Tennessee without travels simply enjoying our time together and what rest we could enjoy.

I am sad to report that Mary Ann Cable's health has declined significantly over this past month and received word today she has passed on. She has been a member a very long time at Smoky Mountain and it is hard to think about her really being gone. She suffered through a lot of things but always seemed to keep a positive and happy attitude. Many of our other members are sick right now from colds and flu, but still have done their best to try to help Mary Ann's family.

This last month I finished my series on the life and teachings of Jesus by bringing lessons on the crucifixion and the resurrection and the meaning of these to us his followers. After that I have focused on lessons for improvement in the New Year. We are still in Hebrews in the Wednesday night class drawing near to finishing chapter ten. The Sunday morning class has been directed toward dealing with painful and negative emotions.

We have had a new couple visiting with us from the area. Josh and Valerie have come two weekends in a row. It turns out they know one of our members, Ronnie Dennis, and Josh has background in the church. We are praying for them to continue with us. This year we have had several couples visit who live here or were moving into the area but only one of them has stayed with us. Anyway, we are excited about Josh and Valerie and really like them they seem like nice folks.

The young man, Caleb in juvenile detention has been moved to another facility to serve out his sentence. I got an address from his grandmother and will try to see if I can write to him. He expressed interest in a correspondence course and so I hope we will be allowed to send that. We have also added a couple of more students to our list receiving correspondence courses.

Thank you all for your support, prayers, encouragement, visits and advice over the past year. I am so blessed to be able to preach the gospel and be supported. Also, I am very thankful for your love of the gospel and your desire to support its spread in other areas. I pray that your support will produce much good here, and in your congregation as well. Thank you so much!

In Christian love,

Lon Spurgeon