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Smart Road Church of Christ
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Friends -

I'm not sure there are words to describe the unworthiness I felt when I was informed of your plan to provide financial support for my evangelistic work this year. Please know I am very thankful for your commitment. I also want you to be assured that at the present time the needs of my family are entirely fulfilled. My secular work (Cox College) and your recurring financial support more than cover the additional expenses incurred by my evangelistic efforts. Thank you. "Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received ... the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God." (Philippians 4:18)

I do want you all to be aware of the work you are supporting. My goal from the beginning has been to focus my efforts in southern Missouri, especially in the congregations in the Summersville community ("Flatrock" and "Summersville"). I am very involved in speaking and teaching at other congregations, but these congregations are my first priorities. Summersville currently has one elder (Bill Fleener) and Flatrock has no formal leadership.

After years of aging and attrition, both congregations have been blessed with several energetic young families and numerous young children. These groups also have middle-aged men (and supportive wives) that are capable of developing into elders and deacons.

Currently, my efforts are focused more on the congregations themselves and less on the surrounding communities. Outreach efforts will come with time. My specific objectives are:

- Build up the congregations through biblical teaching (2 Timothy 4:2)
- Prepare men to be public teachers (2 Timothy 2:2)
- Establish long-term leadership (Titus 1:5)

In pursuit of these goals, I meet with one congregation or the other each month. When my schedule allows, I also teach on Wednesday evenings. This began as a study of the book of Revelation which recently ended after 27 sessions. Future studies on Wednesday evenings are in the works. Please pray for these congregations and the work that God may accomplish in them.

Outside of the Summersville community, my work in 2016 included speaking engagements at Nixa, Kirksville, and Lone Jack, VBS at Excelsior Springs and Ozark, and extended Bible studies at the Midwest Bible Campout, Smart Road Summer Youth Study, and the College Rally at

Lone Jack. This year my current speaking engagements include Flatrock (6), Summersville (6), Old Lamine (4), Martensdale, Nixa, Dean Avenue, Lawrence, Fayette, and Braymer, VBS at Ozark, Smart Road, and Excelsior Springs, and Bible studies at the Midwest Bible Campout, Smart Road Summer Youth Study, and the Lone Jack College Rally.

This is a very full schedule, but the nature of my secular work allows for it. As a professor at Cox College I am off of work for a few weeks each semester, 3 weeks in the winter, and several weeks over the summer. I plan on maintaining this position at the Cox College for the foreseeable future. It's a great blessing that the nature of my job allows me to commit significant time to the Lord's Church. My wife JoAnna takes care of our son Nate (4) at home, so they are usually able to come with me when I travel.

Again, your financial support is appreciated and much more so your prayers and encouragement. If you have any questions about my work, please feel free to contact me at any time.

God bless,

Tad Morris