

9/13/2021

Greetings!

I pray this letter finds you all doing well. Thank you for your continued support of my work. I am grateful for your confidence and love. May God continue to bless you all as you have me.

Since my letter last August, I have been blessed with much good work. Below is an account of that work.

In October 2020 I had the distinct pleasure to officiate at my sister's, Emily, wedding. It was especially gratifying as I think very highly of her husband. His sincerity and love for the Lord are evident, and I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for their marriage.

Unfortunately, two days after their wedding I came down with Covid-19. It was not kind to me and invited a secondary infection of pneumonia to set in. Thankfully, I had a wonderful helper who demanded I visit the doctor much sooner than I would have wished. By the first of November I felt near normal and began traveling among the congregations again.

There have been a few positive developments at the congregation at Vincennes over the last year. One of the young men repented and began taking a zealous role in the congregation. His help has been much appreciated. Their men are all in their late 20's and early 30's, so we're not able to consider elders at this time, but I am encouraged to see the three men taking up the responsibility of edifying the body without complaint. Currently they are working on a plan to present to me for how they will get the building repaired. It has some foundational issues. It is encouraging to see them working together to resolve the issue. I make it down to meet with them once a month and try to make it for two months of their Wednesday evening bible study. Recently we've been studying through the Psalms. We all appreciated the timely reminder in Psalm 33:10-11, "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations." How encouraging to know we belong to the kingdom whose Lord is King of kings.

Mike Kirby and I remain heavily involved in the congregation in Sullivan, IL. Unfortunately, two of the dear sisters of the congregation passed away over the last year. We're left with four members, one of whom is homebound. Their spirit remains unified in the Lord, and they want to continue meeting. As long as they are willing, we will do our best to support them. Who knows what the Lord may have in store for them in the future. Generally, I visit with them once a month.

My work at Ore Branch in rural Bloomfield has ceased for the time being. They are not meeting currently. Several of their members began meeting with the congregation in Bloomfield, and we will see what the Lord has in store. One of the prominent members of Ore Branch has undergone significant treatment for brain lesions and cancer throughout his body. He is a wonderful man who bore quite a bit of the teaching responsibility. He is also very dear to me as I grew up spending time with him and his wife. Please keep Jeff and his wife, Joyce, in your prayers.

In late December 2020 I had the opportunity to share the teaching of the College Rally with Tad Morris. The congregation at Lone Jack asked me to cover I Timothy, a Chronology of Jesus Christ's crucifixion through his resurrection, and Finding Truth: Using the WORD to answer the Big Questions of Life. It was

encouraging to see the group together, even with the extra precautions to abide by the laws and keep each other safe.

Lone Jack asked me to come back in April for a weekend meeting. We were able to study the seven miracles in John's gospel and evaluate the history and tenants of the Social Gospel, comparing it to the true gospel.

Beginning in April, the congregation at Martinsville and I worked together to follow God's pattern for the appointment of elders. We were able to see this effort bear fruit as I appointed Roger Bolinger in August to serve in the eldership with the two brothers currently serving. Pray for Roger and Debbie as he begins serving the congregation through the work the Holy Spirit has given him to do. Beyond this appointment, I was pleased to see the congregation point to men who are nearly qualified that we could encourage. May the Lord continue to spur these men on to further faith and desire to serve his kingdom.

I continue my monthly teen study with the young folks at Martinsville. We just finished a series studying perplexing passages in the gospels. We studied through Luke 16's parable of the unfaithful steward, Matthew 24's description of the time not known to anyone except the Father, and a few incidents where a skimming of the passage might lead to misunderstanding about Jesus' true intent.

In June we took the family to Vandalia's weekend meeting, where they asked me to speak on the subject Somebody, Anybody, Everybody, Nobody. It was good to see so many and be encouraged by the other speakers.

I received a call in June regarding a congregation in the Bloomington, IN area seeking my assistance speaking. They recently lost their preacher to his home state of Texas. The two elders of this group are familiar with individuals attending my home congregation. I agreed to assist them if they would allow me to discuss how I might help them become self-sufficient. I spoke for their morning and evening July 18 and will be back with them October 31. There did not seem to be much traction during my last visit, but planted seeds take a while to sprout.

The week after my first visit with Highland Village in Bloomington, I was able to spend three days hosting Flint Fenton. He and I spent the weekend studying through the grace of God. He taught the teen study in Martinsville on Saturday evening and spoke for New Castle and Bloomfield on Sunday. His faith is evident to all, and it was encouraging to have him alongside.

As time allows, I continue to visit with the congregations in New Castle, IN and Pond Creek, TN. They are led by two faithful brothers, Bob Caudill at New Castle and Stan Hazelwood at Pond Creek. I appreciate their faith and continued willingness to serve as elders despite having no other elders remaining to help them.

Recently I've begun a bible study via e-mail. The distance between us prevents any opportunity to meet in person, and our schedules didn't match well for a zoom call. I'm excited to see how the Lord will use this new study and what we will gain from the ability to consider our responses more thoroughly before responding.

My family is doing well. Candace recently began 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. She's attending Bloomfield Elementary and has Miss Hill as her teacher. Miss Hill is better known to us as Stephanie, one of the sisters at

Bloomfield. We couldn't be more pleased to have a faithful lady walking her through 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Caleb turned four in August. He was not quite three months old the first weekend meeting I had with you all in 2017. Connie began preschool with him a couple weeks ago. They're walking through the alphabet. Micah turns two in October. His communication skills are growing daily. It is quite fun listening to him learn new words. He has an infectious laugh and is developing a good sense of humor. Connie and I celebrated nine years of marriage in June. God has been very good to us this year. We pray the same is true for you all.

Thank you all again for your continued encouragement in our work. We pray God is glorified by what we do.

In Christian Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joshua L. Rojas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.