

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that this letter finds you abounding in the love and blessings of our Father.

I consider myself blessed to be able to work in the fields of the Lord. In 2025, I was able to visit 19 congregations in 4 states. My goal is to encourage these congregations to continue their work, to help them grow personally in knowledge, and to strengthen their faith. Many of these congregations are small in number which can be discouraging. Several of the congregations have less than 15 members and a few have less than 10. I pray that God will grant them faithfulness and steadfastness in their service to Him.

I was also blessed to participate in 3 vacation bible schools. My goal during these meetings is to encourage the young people to learn more and establish a good foundation in the scripture through songs, activities and accounts of Bible people. I want them to see that these are not fictional characters, but real people and events. But if that is all they get, it won't last. They need to have a desire to continue learning, growing and maturing. That is the only way they will face their own questions and difficulties and emerge stronger and wiser.

We were able to attend 2 campout meetings. At these large gatherings of Christians from all over the country, I often spend time teaching, studying, counseling and planning with various individuals that are attending. These are usually unplanned and impromptu. It may be that a brother or sister needs encouragement or wants to investigate a Biblical truth closer. Sometimes a brother or sister needs advice or encouragement because of a difficult situation they are dealing with. The leaders of a congregation might want advice on how to handle an issue that has come up or want me to visit them and teach on a certain topic. I pray the Spirit of God will guide me as I strive to serve them.

The two congregational bible studies I participate in continue. They are both monthly studies within the Excelsior Springs congregation. One is a men's study and the other is a study open to anyone from the congregation. They have been well attended and have become a strength of the congregation. Since the teaching responsibility is rotated among the members, it is good to see the growth of many young men as they step forward to serve the brethren.

Every year I look forward to the Winter Youth Rally. This year was no different. Our topic this year was "Commandments of God." We looked into why God gave us the Bible and why we have commandments. We also specifically considered the first and second greatest commands, walking in the Spirit, repent and be baptized, remembering Jesus' death, and saw what James and Hebrews 11 say about obedience. There were about 65 teens attending each of the three days. It is always encouraging to me to be around these young people. Their behavior and interest in the truth is refreshing. They are to be commended for choosing to spend several days of their break with fellow believers. Also, their parents are to be commended for sacrificing for the spiritual growth of their children and showing, through their actions, the importance of learning and fellowship.

My goal with this part of my work is to start these young men and women on the process of gaining the next level of their knowledge of God and spiritual issues. For the most part, they know the accounts of the Bible and the basics of what God's desire is for their lives. Now it is time for them to increase their understanding by applying those lessons to their lives and beginning to immerse themselves in the wisdom of God. This is a time for them to begin the transition from the milk of the word to the solid food of God's teachings. My prayer is that they begin to see that God really does have a plan for mankind as well as beginning to figure out His plan for them individually and how they fit into the beautiful picture of the church.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to specifically serve the brethren in Meadville, MO. John Morris and I have been asked to share the responsibility of guiding them after the death of their only remaining elder. John and I are alternating so one of us is with them one Sunday per month. We are also holding Bible studies with several members and considering how we can help them with outreach. I pray that God will use us to guide them towards many more years of service.

I would like to use a little of this letter to give an update on my health. I remind myself that I am extremely blessed in many ways. My yearly MRI scan in November indicated my MS is stable with no progression or expansion of the disease. I am grateful that any issues I have had are small in comparison with what they could be. It is easy for me to convince myself that I can do things I shouldn't. Fortunately, I have many who watch out for me and keep me from going beyond what my limits should be. The foremost of those is Jill. I am grateful for her patience and advice.

I am continually thankful for the financial support given to me and my family. Your faith and love in action are a great encouragement. I pray that my efforts will be worthy of your sacrifice on my behalf. May God continue to bless you as you labor in His vineyard. His grace and mercy are never ceasing.

In His Service,



Doug Twaddell