



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – July 1, 2018

Heart to Heart...

As you have noticed, the changes at this congregation are now complete as Carey has taken over the pulpit preaching while Jonathan White along with Joe Robinson and Matt Hankins have taken on the youth work. What a blessing for us here with such men.

After twenty-five years of serving in the pulpit we need help in other areas. While you have seen me, and now see Carey at the podium each week, that is not all that is going on behind the scenes. The counseling both within the church and community, the working on classes, the personal Bible studies, reaching out to bring a saving message to the lost, the preparing of writing Bible class material, and the study it takes to prepare sermons are very time consuming. Both Carey and myself spend time during the evenings and weekends meeting with people beyond what would be normal 'office hours'. As the Lord has blessed this congregation we have a great need to re-arrange some things to be more efficient and effective. While we aren't in a position to hire another man presently, by moving in the current direction of Carey taking on the pulpit preaching it allows me to be the other man needed. It has been a change for both Carey and myself. I find myself a little lost on Sunday's from not standing at the podium. The elders here are making sure this congregation is fed and doing things according to the Lord's way.

In all of this, I will still be going to other places preaching/teaching to help them. While in Virginia recently, the brethren there had spoken to me concerning how grateful they were for the elders here to allow me to come for their needs. In New York, the brethren sent their love to the elders and this congregation for allowing me to come, working with them for a few days teaching/preaching and one-on-one counseling. The elders have gotten letters from places thanking them for this congregation's efforts to reach out by my coming to them to help their weaknesses, to the building up Christ's body. I'm grateful the eldership here sees that need also, and they continue to allow my going to these places. It is a mission out-reach that we are doing here when I go and when Carey goes. You labor with us. I pray you are thankful for this also.

In these changes, we all are making adjustments to the new roles. I want to re-assure you that we are all working together for the spiritual well-being of this congregation. There is nothing more important than getting people to heaven and we are trying to do our part. You have a part in this too. Pray for Carey. Pray for our elders. Pray for one another. Pray for me.

Here are the remaining dates to remind you of what is coming:

July 18 – Brent speaking at a summer lectureship series in Higden, Arkansas

July 22 – Brent speaking in Centralia, Missouri

July 29-Aug. 2 – Carey in Temperanceville, Virginia

Aug. 1 – Brent speaking in Bernie, Missouri

Aug. 8 – Carey speaking in Eldon (summer series)

Aug. 15 – Brent speaking in Eldon (summer series)

Sept. 16-20 – Brent in Higden, Arkansas

Sept. 23-27 – Brent in Kennebunk, Maine

Oct. 12-14 – Couples retreat at Camp Allen (Brent will be teaching)

Oct. 21-25 – Brent in Fruitland, Missouri

I love my Lord and this congregation. Our doors are open for you. May God grant us continued growth as we submit our hearts to Him. Think about it!!!

Brent