Please pray for **THE HODGES**

Missionaries to OKLAHOMA "Native America"

January 22, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"I have planted, Apollis watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." I Cor. 3:6-7. And blessed be His Holy Name that by His grace and through faith, He does! On January 7th, just before 10 a.m., two, new faces walked into the church house. Well...3 if you count Walker, the blue healer service dog. I was quickly introduced to Cody and Brandi Cook (in their 40's) who had made 3 visits to our Sunday School teacher's and his dear wife's Creation Museum, the 3rd visit being just less than 24 hours the Saturday before. Brother Gordon had mentioned them after each visit to the museum with request for prayer. The visits lasted over an hour or two with many questions. Mrs. Brandi is an 11th and 12th grade Science teacher who was raised up in church during her youth. Cody has zero background of any religion at all, even questioning his wife about us praying before our meals after Sunday service.

We were to observe the Lord's supper that cold, January morning so I had been studying beforehand to preach specifically from I Corinthians 11 but was led by the dear, sweet Holy Ghost to go to Exodus 11 & 12 and preach on the passover and the "Blood of the Lamb of God"! Half-way or so through the message, Mrs. Brandi began to weep, constantly wiping tears, and the Holy Spirit said to me, "Stop right there. The Father's drawing one to His Son." We began to sing, "Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me! And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!" Well, hallelujah, bless His HOLY NAME! She came and knelt on the alter and my wife and Sister Gordon prayed "with" her. She stood up and testified that she thought she had gotten saved when she was a little girl. She shook her head no and said, "Now I'm saved!" It sure was a booster shot for us and a lot of joyful tears. They've been there every Wednesday night and Sunday that the doors are open, praise the Lord! She prayed about taking piano lessons the week after and asked someone at school if they knew anyone that gave lessons. They said they did but the lady is usually booked up way out. Mrs. Brandi called hoping to get in on Mondays. That piano teacher said she just had someone to no longer need Monday lessons and that was the only availability she had! Have I said Praise the Lord yet?! Cody wanted to speak with me after Wednesday night service. As I stood there looking up to a big oak tree of a man, his eyes filled with tears and he said, "I don't understand or know what's going on with me, but I'm seeing things I never saw that way before and I'm changing." I told him to just stay in The Word and I recommended John and Romans to him. Pray for him, for me, and for Brother Gordon. They both seem to be very intelligent and I need God's wisdom and Holy Ghost led discernment with both of them. They have two, grown daughters; Siarrah and Destiny who are both in their 20's. Siarrah is married with two, small children. Cody and Brandi have already gotten one of their daughters to listen to the church's radio broadcast this past Sunday morning. They drive 45 minutes to get to the church house. They had visited another Baptist church closer to them but that Wednesday night he spoke with me, he said, "It was just dead. They're good people but I just got nothing out of it. It was dead." And that's what we are surrounded by here locally and in further counties; dead and stagnant, going through the motions assemblies. But by the grace of God, we are here, praise the Lord! Because there's a God in Heaven, **"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** To see God move on an eternal soul like He did and hear the testimony of God's saving grace from a soul that once was lost but now is found; this is what life for the child of God is all about; living for our Saviour and laboring in the fields that are white already to harvest. One day, one glorious, Happy, Happy Day, we'll labor and toil for the last time only to cross over into gloryland and see for the first time those precious, nail scarred hands of the Precious, Dear, Darling LAMB OF GOD! Press on Pilgrim. Press on! For it surely won't be long! Glory to the LAMB, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!!

I try in every letter to express our thanks and appreciation for your many, faithful prayers and financial support all these years and feel so inadequate, but one day, one HAPPY, HAPPY DAY, our King will reward those who have been faithful. Yes, indeed. He will take care of it! My cup runneth over. Oh, Hallelujah, bless His Holy Name! **"To the ONLY wise God our SAVIOUR, be GLORY and MAJESTY and DOMINION and POWER NOW and FOREVER." Amen. Jude 25.**

Thank you SO MUCH for all of the Christmas cards and gifts!

Because of Calvary,

Mark Hodges

church planting | soul winning | open air evangelism | tent meetings

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"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." ~ Psalm 126:6