



Monday Morning Missive

Good morning from the front porch of 62 Fawn Lane. Sonya and I are officially on vacation celebrating our 38th wedding anniversary. It has been an amazing life with this wonderful woman, and I am praying for at least 38 more – unless the Lord decides to return first and then we will celebrate bigger and better. While neither of us will be working this week, you might see us around and we are always available if we are needed.

We had a great day yesterday. Bro. Forrest did a great job preaching. I am so very thankful for him and his family. God has blessed us with two great new staff members, and one of them has a birthday today. Happy birthday, Zack.

These two men have a heart for Jesus, for our church, and for our community. They are doing a great job and always look for ways they can help out. Sometimes when I think about Bro. James and these guys, I feel so very blessed to have the privilege of working with such a great staff. Of course, we have a great church to work with, so that makes it even better.

Back to yesterday. We had a great worship service. Our combined attendance was up significantly. I believe Bro. J.C. counted 271 in both services. Sunday School is holding steady, and our biggest barrier for increased attendance is that our current classes are pretty much maxed out in terms of space. Keep in mind that the 80% rule applies in Sunday School, too. When your classroom is at 80% capacity, growth is stunted. Bro. Joel was asking for ideas about how we can grow – after eating that cake that Peggy Kelley made last night, I think I personally grew about 3 pounds,

and I told her if we offered one of every Sunday in every class, we could just about double our attendance. I'm not sure she was okay with that.

We were blessed with two new members yesterday. Amanda Williams moved her membership to our church, and Kinsley Vegter made a profession of faith and will be baptized. Folks, I am so excited because I also had the opportunity to lead a young man to Jesus after church yesterday, and I believe we will soon see him making his profession of faith. God is so good!

Finally, let me just say that we had a great business meeting last night. Thank you to everyone who worked hard getting all of our policies, procedures, bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation to the point that they will serve us for the next 25 years or so. It was a big job, and as usual, these people handled it with

smiles on their faces. In fact, we had a great time getting it done, and I kind of miss our meetings. Well, maybe “miss” is the wrong word.

I’m going to close this off here. I could keep going for a couple of more pages, but I am on vacation. Just know that you have a pastor that loves you deeply.

Bro. Ben

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