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Report for December, 2008

The North Terrace Congregation

December is always unique due to heavy travel by most of the congregation. Our Sunday attendance for most of this month ranged from 56 to 86, well below our current average of 105+. But these reduced numbers still reflect our growth. Our average attendance two years ago was around 85.

Teaching

Sermons

I presented a bilingual sermon this month on “Our Ultimate Hope.” In a dark world, we will not always see justice for the pain brought about by sinful behavior. Sometimes we will see deliverance from suffering, but sometimes we will have to patiently endure it and wait for our ultimate hope of Heaven.

Classes

I concluded my Spanish-language *Archaeology and the Bible* class and my English-language *James* class in the middle of the month. I believe both studies went well. I now have my full *Archaeology* series in both English and Spanish, which can be useful in the future.

Special Lesson Series

We time the conclusion of our September-December classes to our college students’ break and plan a special series for the remainder of the month. (The series runs on Sunday mornings and evenings, and on Wednesday nights.) This series’ theme was “From Shadow to Reality”, a study of how the Mosaic Covenant foreshadowed the New. Various men in the congregation presented these lessons. I led a study on how the Feast of Weeks foreshadowed the events in Acts 2.

Other Activities

I completed a senior-level course at Florida College titled “A Critical Introduction to the Old Testament.” (I already have a B.A. in Ancient History plus Graduate work, but I thought this class would be useful as an evangelist.) The course was enriching and enjoyable, and I was happy to receive an ‘A’ for the semester. Due to travel and family obligations in early ’09, I will not enroll in any spring semester courses.

Family

Melanie is feeling a little better with the pregnancy, although she still has bouts with sickness. Otherwise, everything appears to be fine. We hope to learn the gender of the baby in late January.

My paternal grandmother has been suffering unknown health problems recently, and my maternal grandparents have suffered significant difficulties for some time. We are asking God to watch over them in His mercy and grace.

Preparing for Spain

As I write this, I am getting ready to fly to Spain for three weeks. We will visit churches in Barcelona, Seville and Dos Hermanas (near Seville). Our group of three is to depart on Thursday, January 8th and return to the U.S. on the 27th. Please pray for our safety, and for success in encouraging the brethren there.

Those who wish to follow the trip may do so on my Internet Blog: www.lukechandler.wordpress.com . I will post photos and updates throughout the trip. Feel free to visit and learn about our brethren there.

Thank you for your attention, interest and support. May the Lord bless you in this New Year.

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