



NEELEY FAMILY FORISTELL, MISSOURI

OCTOBER



Seeing Results

Our first month of worship services in our new building has been awesome. For me, I don't have to set up and take down much in preparation for the services. I can get to the church house as early as I like and set out our signs and worship flags. It also gives me time to reflect on the message and pray before people arrive. I love it because I am more relaxed, and the flow of the worship service and preaching is more natural without being rushed to set up and take down.

We have been blessed with two people besides my family to worship with us this month. One of the individuals coming accepted Christ as his Savior last year and I have been able to have several Bible studies with him and spend time with him outside of a church setting. The other lady is a seasoned Christian who has been serving the Lord for several decades. She is hoping to get her husband back in church. He has trouble hearing and she thinks he should be able to hear me better in the house. Pray he will see the need to serve and worship God through a local church.

Another benefit of having our own place to worship is the time after worship. At the REC Center, I had to start taking everything down as soon as we said amen. Now I am typically done with my sermon around 11:30, but the people stay and visit another thirty minutes or more. We are able to build the culture of the church. I desire to build a church that is biblically sound but also warm with compassion and fellowship within the membership as well as a welcoming atmosphere to our guests. We need to be a place people want to be, a place where people find encouragement and hope in this dark world. Church should never be a chore but rather a cheerful time of growth.

Our Wednesday night Calvary Kids is holding up well. We never know how many kids, or which kids are going to show up. With all the school activities, it is hard to keep up with who has practice or games each week. They keep showing up when they don't have a game or some other scheduling conflict. Some kids we thought we had lost because they had not responded to us in a few weeks, came last week and made themselves at home. Church is not the parents' highest priority. Many of the parents don't have a relationship with God, and that is why we came here. The field is white and there is a need for the gospel right here in our neighborhood.

City Council meetings are still proving to be a valuable place to establish ourselves in the community. Every meeting has people coming and filing their complaints to the city. Some are angry while others are afraid of the changes taking place in the city. Each meeting I have the opportunity to meet more people and share our plans to establish a church and offer the hope and peace that I have found in Christ. The last meeting, I was able to meet three ladies who live in the neighborhood that backs up to the church property. We had a good chat, and they seemed to be interested in coming to check us out one day.

Our neighborhood is growing and events like Halloween are great times of outreach. We cooked hotdogs and chili and told the neighbors to stop by and eat on their trick or treat route. We handed out invitations to each family that stopped by our house. It was nice to be able to call some of the kids by name and watch their reaction when they realized their substitute teacher is their neighbor.

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