

The Winter Family



The Winter Family to Montevideo, Minnesota.

November 2022

Greetings from Minnesota! Snow is predicted for next week, and the harvest is nearly over. It is amazing how the landscape changes once all the crop is harvested. The view goes from corn, sugar beets, or soy beans as far as one can see to just soil and wide-open fields. Minnesota can truly be beautiful especially in the winters. During the winter, the fields look like a sea of white to the horizons.

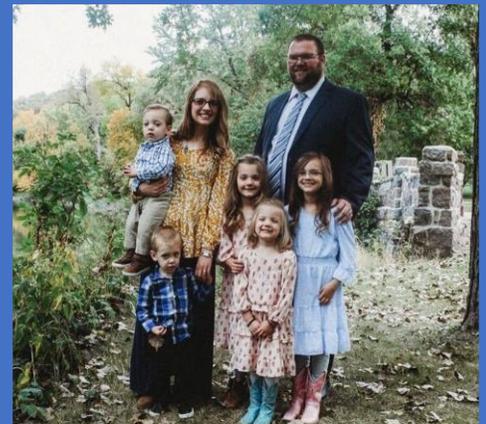
My family and I truly are grateful for your faithful prayers and support. It has been amazing to watch the Lord work in our lives, and we truly are thankful He has allowed us to have a small part in His ministry. I never dreamed as a boy from the woods in the south that I would one day find myself in Minnesota trying to reach Norwegians, Germans, and others for the Lord. They are a friendly people (Minnesota Nice) but also a very task-oriented people (they have to be because they only have about five to six months of good weather before winter sets in) and are hard to build relationships with. It takes time to do so. They make food such as Lutefisk (a pickled fish) and Lefse (a sweet tortilla). They also, think BBQ is sloppy joes (LOL). Being from the south, BBQ is pulled pork.

We truly do love these people. We knew when we came here our work would be cut out for us, and boy has it been. Trying to start a Baptist church in the heart of Lutheran country has definitely presented plenty of challenges. Many of the people here are Lutherans through ancestry, and the pressure to remain is high. There are some who practice and some who do not. We have had some who have professed salvation in Christ through our ministry, start coming to our church only to be threatened to be cut off by their family if they kept coming to "That Baptist Church." Unfortunately, they left us. We have spoken to others who have said they have been born again, but when we question them further, they speak about how it happened at their infant baptism. I think some of the people have sincerely trusted the Lord, but I do believe many of them have false hope. We have learned infant baptism here means several different things depending on who you speak to and where they attend or attended church. It could mean they are being given the gift of faith to be saved later in life (usually at confirmation), they are receiving salvation at infant baptism, or they are being dedicated to the Lord (like a baby dedication). This means we have to wade through the waters to figure out what they mean when they say they were baptized as infants.

I have spoken to some of the preachers here and have found several of them teach the "woke" doctrine, and one even teaches his people that the Bible cannot be trusted. When I first arrived, I spoke to a

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ✝ Pray for us as we minister here in Montevideo.
- ✝ Pray for wisdom in upcoming decisions
- ✝ Pray for our people
- ✝ Pray for our bus route to grow
- ✝ Pray for people to be saved



Lutheran preacher who admitted to me that he knew “you Baptist” preach a personal salvation, but he does not. I am not saying these things to be critical but to help you understand the reality of our ministry. Spiritual oppression is strong here, and the people are slow to respond. They are a patient people who wait to see what is going on. This has made our ministry slow (sometimes stagnant) but overall steady. I do believe in order to really get a foothold in these areas we have to view the church plants here as “generational works.” It is not something that will be done overnight but through much love, much patience, and much toil. Also, keep in mind we are outsiders, in a smaller town.

Though the work is slow, we are making progress with some of the people. Slowly but surely, we are making connections and building friendships with them. A few weeks ago, we had a kickball game and served BBQ (pulled pork). We had about 30 people show up. About 17 of them were people who were not part of the church, and some of them have befriended us and we consider them friends of ours. Our bus route is underway, and we have been having about seven to ten kids riding consistently. In my last letter I told you we were going to have a neighborhood Bible Club in August. We had about four kids from the neighborhood come every day. We did this at my house while my wife organized and taught it. We have one kid riding the bus now who attended it. Such a blessing! I also did go help Bro. Silas Clark canvas in Fergus Falls and attend the tent meeting. He is now conducting Bible studies, and last I heard, he has had some people from the community attending! Pray for him as he ministers there.

Things are happening in Minnesota. Souls are being saved, churches are being started, people are growing in Christ, people are being awakened to the need, and I am excited to see what the Lord will do in the future! Also, two other preachers and myself saw a great need for fellowship in this area. Therefore, we started a fifth Sunday fellowship. As of last week, we had five churches represented with about 75-80 people in attendance, and it just keeps growing. The preachers and the people here need this and look forward to it! We covet your prayers and thank you for having confidence in us to reach Minnesota for Christ. The Lord is good, and I do believe we are ever so close to His return. Serve Him while there is yet time to do so, dear brethren!

Lord Bless

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