

UPPER MIDWEST CHURCH PLANTING

The ISEMINGER Family



January/February 2024

A lot has happened in the last two months!

We have 2 new members!

We have also had a newlywed couple, that moved to town last fall, attending the last month or so. They visited every church they could find and expressed their frustration to one of their friends that a lot of the churches in town were giving more “self-help” style sermons with little or no Bible. They remarked that it would be nice if someone started a church in town that just wanted to teach the Bible. Their friend said, “Oh, you guys should check out Gospel Light, that’s what they do.” They have been faithfully attending and bringing some others with them ever since!

Annemarie started a junior church for the morning service. This has been a big help to some families with younger kids. She takes my sermon notes and turns them into a more kid-friendly lesson so that the parents can further discuss the lesson with them.

I was asked to go visit with a man in town who was struggling with anxiety that had recently turned into regular panic attacks. I’ve done a lot of teaching on strongholds, and anxiety specifically, so because of this, someone that had heard me, connected us. I sat down with a man that had devoted his life to “Christian Ministry”, but was overcome with a fear of dying. We had a good conversation, but what struck me the most was that this man had no testimony of salvation and very little understanding of the gospel. I gave him a few tools but really tried to focus on presenting the gospel to him. He wasn’t interested and the basis of this disinterest was “I know all the stuff.”

I share this story with you because that story is Alexandria. This is our ministry. We minister to the religious but lost. A people whose faith is in pedobaptism or partaking in communion. They believe that Jesus died, and died for them! But they believe that salvation is theirs to earn, not His to give.

We had a lady visit church who was doubting her faith because she was in “school” being trained to perform miracles, but she couldn’t do it. She told me that she had never heard the gospel like we taught it. Haven’t seen her since.

We had a family visit that told me they learned more in one service at our church than seven years in their last church. Haven’t seen them since.

A big part of this is that there is an enormous amount of skepticism about us in the community. Mostly because we are new and it takes time, but also because we are different. We only have 1 person coming to church that is from Alexandria. Everyone else moved in the last 10 years, most of us moved here in the last 3 years. The one that is from here is regularly asked by her family and friends “Ready to leave that cult yet?”

So what is so different about us that would warrant this skepticism and “cult” label? Well, last year I preached every Sunday on Old Testament Christology and this year I’m preaching through the Gospel of John. I taught for 22 weeks in Sunday School about the Attributes of God and am currently teaching on the Names of God. Pretty standard stuff, yet I hear from most visitors “We’ve never heard this stuff before.” Alexandria is the most religious place I’ve ever been in my life, but there is a famine of Bible truth.

Skepticism is not the only hurdle we are facing. In the last 3 months, every family unit in the church has gone through major difficulty in some areas and we have dealt with fighting in the church over personal things that don’t relate to the ministry. Satan is attacking and the attacks look like discouragement, distraction, and disunity.

I am NOT complaining. Every ministry goes through this stuff from time to time, but I need your prayers. God is good and serving Him is the deepest joy that I know, but you and I are partnered together to see a church established in this town and these are the current trials related to that.

On one hand, the attacks of satan are so apparent that I’m excited to see what the Lord is going to do this year! On the other hand, I’m war-weary and need prayer.

**Your Church Planting Friends,
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