

Barnabas

In Acts 4:32-37 we are introduced to a man by the name of Joses. We find also that he was from an island called Cyprus, and a Levite. Another thing is he had some land and sold it and laid that money from the sale of land at the apostles feet. This is a great thing that he did but there is one more thing in that passage that is even more outstanding. His name was changed or he was given a nickname of Barnabas. This was done by the apostles. There are parentheses in this passage that states in the New King James version, he was the Son of Encouragement. What a statement about someone. Think of this being recorded of this man for all of history. He was an encourager and he is still encouraging people today.

Last Sunday evening I preached a sermon about this man and some of what the Bible says about him. Let us emphasize that he was an encourager of others. Within this article let us be encouraged about the work here in Gray.

The numbers show an improvement. Last year the average for the first two months was eleven. Our lowest number was 4 during those two months. Our average attendance for all of last year was 13.76. This year our average attendance is 19. Our lowest has been 15. That is good! You are doing very good and supporting the work here, and let us keep it up. Next, our contributions is up also. Last year for the same first two months our contribution average was \$646. Our average for the year was \$639.24. This year for the first two months our average contributions has been \$788.00. This is very good.

You are doing really well, let us keep up the good work and continue doing what we have been doing to get the work to move forward.

Now on another front of good news, we have had two supporting congregations drop us from their missions. They both have been long time supporters of the work here. We want to thank them for this good work and have sent letters thanking them for this good work. It would be good for you to send letters to the elders thanking them for the support that they have given us over the years that this congregation has been in existence here in Gray.

We did have a visitor here Sunday who was going to talk to the elder there and seek support for us. That would be great. Others have been contacted about support if we need it. You see, we may not need to replace this lost financial support. We are going to study our records and see if we need to seek other supporters. We may be able to support ourselves with the increase amount of the giving here. This is great. It shows that the church here is going in the right direction. Let us keep doing these right things.

We can get this building filled! If we keep up the good work we will see the chairs filled and the parking lot overflowing! These are good problems for any church to have. People do notice how many cars there are in our parking lot. This will also get people to want to see what is going on and come inside to see what we are offering. It is all good. We are growing. It will take time.

There are upcoming events that we need to plan for also. We have the turkey festival coming up (this use to be the day lily festival but the changed the name. We have Vacation Bible School this summer. Also summer camp. We have our Gospel Meeting to plan for also. These are all good works that we can grow this church with. Yes, it is worth it, Yes, it will take time and effort on our part to make these things work. Yes, it is worth it for we are saving souls from the devil's hell.

Let us be encouraged at all of this. The devil will be after us and trying to keep us from these good work, but let us resist him. The Bible says when we do this he will flee from us. Let us be Barnabas!

Love, Keith