



# Preaching Report

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New Carlisle, Ohio

October—December 2008

## New this past quarter

### Launched congregational evangelism effort

This past quarter the elders launched a new effort to engage every member in individual evangelism. The topic is addressed in some way at virtually every assembly. We are developing business-size cards with thought-provoking spiritual messages on one side and directions and time of services on the other. These can be handed out as people talk with neighbors, friends, co-workers and even strangers.

We're planning on showing a couple of video Bible presentations that can be used as teaching tools, engaging our Sunday evening edification groups in evangelistic efforts, and developing lists of people to contact and will have computerized letters that can be customized by the groups and sent each week.

Plans call for discussion-initiation training and other helps as they are deemed needed. But the greatest effort will be simply to get us moving with everyone evangelizing. **The congregation has received the effort well and we've already had contacts and a few regular visitors.**

### Moved our Thursday morning Bible study

We have moved our Early Riser's Bible study to another restaurant on Thursday mornings at 6 o'clock, hoping to draw in more non-members to the study. Currently we have just one non-member. He is almost always present and is a member of the Church of God.

### Modified the time of our second service on Sundays

We have moved our second worship service on Sundays to 2:30 p.m. We have three families that must drive about an hour each way, from the north. We also have several older members who are finding it difficult to negotiate snow covered roads in the dark. So, we decided to move the second service up for the rest of 2008 and the remainder of the winter, through March 31.

## Continuing efforts

**Monday night class in various homes:** This study has 6 members now, since one has moved away. We now are studying Bob and Sandra Waldron's *History and Geography of the Bible*.

**Early Risers' Study at Studebaker's Restaurant:** This 6 a.m. class each Thursday now has about 7 regular attendees and we have been studying *Luke*.

**Friday breakfast study:** This 6:30 a.m. class involves a few area preachers, elders and others from area churches. We've been studying *Luke and John*.

**Monthly preacher study in Evendale (near Cincinnati):**

**Knollwood congregation's monthly paper—*The Messenger*:** I write one or two articles a month

**Classes at the congregation—**On Sundays, we're studying from Robert Harkrider's class material on *Mark*, and on Wednesdays, we're studying *Prophecy*, using material I created in house

**Weekly bulletin—*The Christian Builder*—**This bulletin continues to be published weekly and contains teaching material, as well as a duty roster, news, prayer list and a Bible quiz.

**Other publications:** I contribute articles to *Truth Magazine* and other publications.

## Upcoming

### Song leader and singing training

Over the past couple of years we have encouraged each of our men to participate in some way in worship. We are delighted that during our monthly song and prayer service, every male member participates in either leading prayer or leading a song. This has been a major milestone since several are shy and fearful of being before crowds. I believe it speaks well of our congregation that men don't feel they must meet some sort of performance standard.

However, several of our song leaders lack some of the most fundamental song leading skills. Therefore, we've decided that we will follow up on our success in getting them to "try" by giving them some basic training. With that goal in mind, we've asked Brother Jim Grushon from the nearby Kettering congregation to come on January 25<sup>th</sup> and help us along this line. We had Brother Grushon speak last fall during our gospel meeting series on to role of singing in worship and the congregation seems to be looking forward to having him give us further teaching.

### Gospel meetings in 2009

- Spring: Simon Harris
- Fall: Steve Brewer

## Statistics

Average attendance:	Sunday a.m.	Sunday p.m.
	53	47
Number of members:	51	
Average weekly contribution:	\$1,227	
Total contributions in quarter:	\$15,953	
Bible studies in quarter	24	
Visits in quarter (estimate)	10	
Baptisms	0	
Deaths	0	
Moved in	0	
Moved away	0	
Restored	0	
Withdrawn from	0	
Regular visitors	2	

## Our financial support

New Carlisle.....	\$2,500 p/month.....	\$32,500 p/year	(\$625 p/wk)
Douglass Hills, Louisville, KY.....	450	“	
Knollwood, Beavercreek, OH.....	350	“	
Kettering, OH.....	500	“	
Northern Kentucky, Florence, KY.....	150	“	
Trader's Point, Indianapolis, IN.....	300	“	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,458</b>	<b>\$53,500 p/year</b>	

\* I just received notice that my Anthem health insurance premium will increase dramatically in 2009 from **\$697** to **\$860** a month. The congregation here pays that. While I've only received a \$25 per week raise since moving here in 2002, the congregation has borne the constantly increasing cost of our insurance. I will probably need to look into some means of reining in this expense, however. I may look into a plan that supplements a health or medical savings account. I have a son in the insurance business now, so I'll at least have him investigate.

## Sermons preached

### October

- 5 “Must A Woman Wear a Covering” Part 3  
*Singing and prayer service*
- 12 “Hobert Kendrick preached this morning  
“The 10 Commandments” Part 10
- 19 “The Church: God’s Ark of Safety”  
“The 10 Commandments” Part 11 (final)
- 26 “Baptism: Gateway to Salvation and the Church”  
“Our Duty to the Disciplined”

### November

- 2 Hobert Kendrick preached this morning (I was on vacation)  
*Song and prayer service*
- 9 “Evangelism: Restoring Our Love for the Lost”  
“The Glory of God and His Glorification” Part 1
- 16 “The Mystery and Revelation of Human Suffering”  
“The Glory of God and His Glorification” Part 2
- 23 “What is a Christian?”  
“Dealing with Prejudice”
- 30 “A Christian’s Priorities in Life”  
“Learning to be Compassionate”

### December

- 7 “  
*Song and prayer service*
- 14 Hobert Kendrick preached this morning  
“Faith Always Leads to Obedience”
- 21 “A Christmas Sermon”  
“Satan’s Role in Humanity’s Downfall”
- 28 “Jesus: The Great Physician”  
“Taking the Devoted Thing”

## Contact information

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