

Dear Pastors and praying friends,

Gal 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

We are quickly coming to the end of another year. 2025 is almost a memory. I must say this year has been the best year we have had in the ministry here in Cut Bank. God is building His church. After all the years we have been here, we are finally seeing a core group of believers that hunger for God's Word.

In October, we had our annual Chili cookoff. It was a great time with returning and first-time visitors. God worked in a great way. We had two native couples in first time attendance. One man has been coming faithfully ever since. He knows the Lord and was baptized in our building back in the eighties. Being retired, he is traveling south for the winter. Pray he stays faithful. Another family that has visited has started to become faithful. A week after the cookoff I stopped for a visit and shared the Gospel with the husband. He did not get saved then, but he has told me since that he has put his faith in Christ. He has been coming but is not as faithful as his wife and children. Like many I have found recently, he seems to be very uncomfortable around crowds. We have another lady like that. She has been faithful but sometimes gets overwhelmed and leaves suddenly. (Please pray for her as she is now having some serious health issues. She needs wisdom on some future decisions related to those.) We are really not that big for sure, but we take people where they are at and try to be a blessing.

My wife took a group of our ladies to Spokane, Washington for a ladies' meeting. They had a great time. They came home richly blessed and have formed a lady's Bible study that Tina is leading.

Beside the families I mentioned above, we have three others that have been so faithful. They have not joined, yet I have talked to each family about salvation and church membership. They all know the Lord; two need to be baptized. They are excited about joining and have mentioned it but have not yet. I don't want to force them; I want the Holy Spirit to move them. So, if you will, help me give them a simple prayer push. Let the Lord add to our church who He will.

I am so excited with our church growth. After the new year I am starting some discipleship lessons on Wednesday evenings with our new folk.

Interestingly enough none of our attendees are from Cut Bank. Most are from the West Coast and a few from other places in Montana. Even our Native folk are not from the local reservation. I think it is a reflection on how hard this area is.

I am greatly looking forward to celebrating Christmas with my two grandchildren – and their parents, of course! My oldest daughter, Laura, is expecting in May, and I have mentioned Jacob and Kayla's new little girl coming in February. My heart is truly overwhelmed with the goodness of God towards us. May God bless all your holidays as well.

Thank you all who have given special offerings for our Christmas. These are greatly appreciated and do not go unnoticed. We pray that God will richly bless you where you are.

In His Service,

Don McIlvain

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