

Dear pastors and praying friends,

***Proverbs 16:9, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."***

The leading of God is an amazing thing! As Christians we plan, we plot, praying all the time "If the Lord wills". Then we must be yielded to Him when he changes our plans and works out His own plans. I find great comfort in knowing He still cares enough for me to redirect my plans and to keep me in His will. Thus, has been the summer. I had great plans! God in His infinite wisdom redirected most of them. He did make it possible for my parents to be with us this summer. My children and grandchildren so enjoyed their visit. It was a great time to grow close to them after years of living across the world and country from them. Also, because of some canceled plans, we were able to take our first family vacation in years. We spent a week up in the mountains camping, hiking and fishing. It was so nice to get away. Then there was the ongoing saga of trying to sell our house so we could move out of town. We had a contract on it; thought it was sold, so we started packing up and moving stuff to storage. Then in a crazy series of events, it fell through leaving no doubt God has made His will clear. It still leaves us with a couple of unanswered questions and needs, but I am sure He will provide in His time.

What's really been amazing is how He has blessed our little church. We saw visitors all summer long. We had many visitors passing through on their way to Glacier National Park. We had several new people that moved into town. We are seeing some of our regulars grow and are now talking to me about being baptized and joining the church. This is long answered prayer! On our official church roles, we have had one other family as members, besides mine and my son's family in all the years we've been here. We have others that are growing as well. In a summer filled with distractions and rerouted plans, God has worked. Our regulars are starting to get faithful; our Sunday evening Bible studies are growing and occasionally, they are attending our Wednesday's prayer meeting.

In last few weeks since the assassination of Charlie Kirk, we have noticed people softening to the Gospel. Even this morning, I took a pocket full of tracts to the coffee shop with me. We just got some new large print "God's simple plan of salvation" tracts with beautiful mountain scenes on them. I came back with empty pockets. People are listening to the Gospel, and I pray we can reach people at this time while hearts are soft. His assassination was a horrible tragedy, but I believe God is using it. The message we have preached for the past ten years is finally being listened to. Covid didn't have this effect, nor did the economy. I just pray people will continue to listen.

Tina and I have seen the need to be able to go back east to see family at a moment's notice if needed, and also to visit some of our supporting churches as well as some new ones. One hinderance has been a car. The old faithful Honda Pilot has been run a lot of miles. The Lord has allowed us to purchase a newer car with less miles. We are planning some short furlough trips back east next year, spring time frame, between the arrival of some new grandbabies in the early spring. We need to visit some of our churches and my younger two children, especially need to see Tina's parents. This first little furlough will be about a month long and will center around the West Virginia/Kentucky area. They were but babies when we came out here. There are still issues with our part time work and full-time church we need to work out.

Pray for these new families that have been coming, the needs vary from salvation, obedience to baptism and joining the church. Pray for our upcoming Chili cook-off. This has been a good outreach for us in the past. Pray for our personal needs. It has been a different yet blessed summer. Pray for this fall and winter to be equally guided by God in His wisdom.

In His Service,  
*Don McIlvain*

**Don McIlvain &  
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