



## October Report 2019

S. A. Hutchinson Jr.

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Greetings brethren,

I am very excited and encouraged to announce the baptism of Jon Spencer that happened at the beginning of October. It has been a group effort to reach our new brother who was invited by Bro & Sis Vrooman. Jon has been visiting our assemblies and get-togethers regularly for some time. He had been listening to bible classes and sermons and frequently asking questions and participating in discussions with me periodically. Bro. Hud Griffith finally got him to commit to a bible study (we had all been trying), which resulted in Jon's recent obedience to the gospel. We are so blessed to have a small team of brethren who are willing to put in the effort together. Jon is working very hard to change himself and to be a good example for his son Jonathan Jr who shows great promise in our children's bible classes.

Sadly, I had to lead a funeral & a burial service for Ray Lakies. Ray was the son in law of Ken & Velma Wolf who are members here at RGV. Ray & his wife Ashley recently returned to the Lord after falling away for a time. He died of complications due to infection and autoimmune disease.

As far as personal things go my wife is still struggling with an infection that will not go away. The brethren at the Oaks West church in Burnett, TX graciously aided us financially with some Orthodontist bills that had piled up after my wife's jaw surgery. They attempted to get rid of the infection (which had spread from her ear down into her jaw), but with her autoimmune disease the surgery and aggressive antibiotic treatments have not been successful. Doctors from multiple healthcare providers across Albuquerque have been consulting on her unique situation and are getting in contact with doctors at the Mayo Clinic. We do not have insurance at this

time and will be actively pursuing it come the open enrollment season. The doctors have confirmed that her kidneys are indeed damaged as a result of Lupus; and her MRSA infection and her thyroid disease is also complicating matters as well. Please pray for her.

Our sister Dolores Somora's middle son Santiago has been missing for around a month now. He has a history of drug abuse and addiction. Please pray for his mother Dolores, his brother Andrew Lujan and sister Britney Wolf who are all Christians. They are concerned for his safety as it is not only the drugs, but those who are drawn to such things that are a threat to the welfare of anyone caught in the snare of addiction.

We faced a situation where a second serving of the Lord's Supper was temporarily instituted as I mentioned in previous reports. We have since resolved the conflict through prayer, fasting, study and a spirit of love and unity.

I recently preached a lesson on God's hate. This lesson unintentionally spurred controversy within the body as some had never heard such a lesson preached and firmly believed God could not hate and that hate in and of itself is a sin. Highlighting many passages that speak of God's hate throughout the Old and New Testament, we spoke of God's nature and ability to hate and how that does not change the fact that the Father is still a God of love who is capable of righteous hate. During our Q&A in October I addressed the matter again in order to A.) Differentiate between man's hate & God's hate, B.) Clear up any ambiguity that I might have left behind in my first lesson due to my inexperience and C.) Directly answer questions that had been brought up between the two lessons. There are many details

that I am leaving out of intrapersonal interactions in order to preserve some semblance of autonomy, I just wish to share the issue at hand to help illustrate some of the challenges that I am facing in the work. This has since turned into a larger issue that we are striving to solve. These are certainly situations that can either be used for the sake of growth or can break a “newish” preacher. I know that I am going on five years preaching, but I certainly still don’t feel like a veteran. I have learned a lot from study and from older men who advise me, and I am trying to apply what I have learned over the last (almost) five years to these problem-solving situations. These constant issues however tend to burn me out when factored with the other stressful situations I have with my wife’s health concerns and the many concerns that I have for the other brethren who need encouragement, teaching, etc. This incessant upheaval that we have been trying to slog through has not only hampered evangelism efforts, but they have also affected my wife tremendously as stress is not good for her condition. Sometimes I have a tendency to dwell on matters (which I know is not good), and I sometimes get into a “woe-is-me” funk that I need to then pull myself out of. I have often struggled with depression throughout my life and I understand that the downward spiral is often the result of dwelling in my own head and allowing my thoughts to drift toward a more offended and self-centered perspective. This is a battle that I wage within myself more often than I care to admit and find myself repenting of. I ask that you pray for me that I might overcome these things (sometimes I am better at it than others), but I would also ask that you pray for all of us here who make up the church that meets in Belen. We need your prayers for unity, that our love and brotherly kindness toward one another would prevail and that we would grow in maturity. I also often pray that the Lord would send to us qualified men so that an eldership may be established here. Thank you.

I have picked up two new studies with the lost in our community which I am very excited about!

Personal Work:

**Tuesday 3:30pm Denery/Hathorn** Counseling, Growth & Restoration Study

**Tuesday 6:30pm Duena** Conversion Study

Mr. Duena and his wife are in their mid-70s and are 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists. Bro. Griffith and I are teaming up for this study and I am very excited for it. We are using Bro. Jerry Blount’s book entitled **Learn Your Bible: A general introduction to the Bible and God’s dealing with mankind through the ages.** It can be downloaded for free from his blog: <http://jerrychristianjottings.blogspot.com/p/learn-your-bible-series.html>

**Wednesday 1:30pm Hughes** Growth Study

**Thursday 12:00pm Haughness** Conversion Study

**Thursday 6:00pm Watson/AD 70 Group** Correction/Restoration Study

**Saturday 3:30pm Lujan** Counseling/Growth Study

Thank you all for your continued support of the work here in Belen.

Support by the Month:

**RGV (us)..... \$3,050**

**Heights..... \$200**

**Oaks West..... \$800**

**Rose Ave..... \$325**

**Wilkes-Charis..... \$750**

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**Total..... \$5,125**