

Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley – Annual Report; 2018-2019

Fathers and Brothers,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is a blessing to be able to give you a report on the work of the gospel in Hexham, England over the last year, as I have laboured here with MTW.

When our family moved to Hexham, 4 ½ years ago, there was not an evangelical church here. The churches in the county of Northumberland had been growing more and more liberal over the last century. And there had not been a church that could be described as an evangelical church in Hexham since 1973.

Northumberland is, statistically speaking, the most secular county in England, with about 0.20% of the population attending an evangelical congregation. We were able to plant Hexham Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales (EPCEW), 4 ½ years ago.

Over the last year I have continued to labour as the minister of this church plant. I was able to visit the US last Autumn and Winter for HMA. We spent several weeks visiting churches in Central Mississippi and I attended the meeting of Presbytery at Twin Lakes, in November. This time back in the States was a blessing to our family and to our support account, though we continue to raise financial support, but it was hard on the church plant that I pastor in Hexham. We have grown, through 2018, to a size of about 25 every Sunday morning, but the numbers were lower while we were away and there were several pastoral issues during that time, as well. However, we give thanks to the Lord that He used our return to reinvigorate the church plant and the church has seen much growth and even a profession of faith since our return. Since 1 February, we've seen an average attendance of 31, and we're preparing to add several new members in the coming weeks! We are also praising the Lord as we are currently conducting Elder training and may have our first Ruling Elder in the coming months. Pray that the Lord would give us wisdom through this process!

Two years ago I took on a new role with Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary (WPTS). I am serving as the Dean of Students with the seminary. This is a grand sounding title for what is really a pastoral role with the students at the seminary. WPTS is a new seminary, and the only seminary in England with a confessionally reformed MDiv program.

In addition to these 2 roles, I serve as an assessor elder for another congregation in Hull. East Hull Presbyterian Church is a small work that has been without a minister or elder for the last several years. I carry out the normal work of an elder in the congregation, as much as is possible at a distance.

Please continue to pray for the ministry here in Northern England. Pray that God will bless the work of church planting and that He will raise up labourers for the harvest.



I would ask your permission to continue to labour out of bounds.

Please continue to pray for our financial support and commend us to churches or individuals who may be able to help support the work in England.

In Christ,
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