

Dear Pastors and praying friends,

Proverbs 17:6 “Children’s children are the crown of old men; ...”

Well, I have put off writing this prayer letter long enough. I have been waiting for the newest McIlvain to make her entrance, but much to her mother’s discomfort, she seems happy where she is at. I had hoped to tell you all about her. Who knows, maybe by the time I hit send, she will be here! (So look for a P.S. at the bottom). And do keep Kayla, my son, Jacob, and their little family in your prayers. After this, my daughter, Laura, is due in early May. Grandbabies everywhere! What a blessing.

It’s a new year, and it is off to a blessed start. Though many left for a week or so to be with family over the holidays, they all came back and have stayed faithful. The Ladies’ Bible study continues to go well. Tina is excited about this. I started a discipleship class on Wednesday evenings and those that come seem to be very eager, bringing questions from even their own devotions. This is really exciting for me!

Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* I have a blessing I would like to share with you. When you leave your hometown and the place you grew up to share the Gospel where ever the Lord sends you, I have found there will always be a soft place in your heart for your hometown. I was raised in an American Baptist Church in Moundsville, West Virginia. They said my great grandfather helped build the original building. My grandmother and mother were faithful there. It was the church my parents and all my brothers were married in. It is the church my wife grew up in and which her family goes back several generations. We left that church in the early ‘90s, and we never stopped praying for them. They left the American Baptist Association many years ago now. They were without a pastor for a while. They just recently called a pastor that attended Crown College. I spoke with Pastor Copeland, the new pastor, a couple weeks ago. I am so happy the Lord called him there, and my parents and brother have a good pastor now.

So here I am in Cut Bank sometimes wondering if we are doing anything here. You know how it goes, far away from your folks, hoping you’re making a difference. Well, last Sunday, in walks a tall, distinguished looking older couple. The man was full of excitement and taking pictures of everything. He recorded Jacob playing the piano. After the service, he told me he enjoyed the message. Then he shared with me that he grew up in our church building when it was an American Baptist church. His father and brother helped build the auditorium. His mother was the piano player. He was baptized in the baptistry here. He had all these memories there as a boy in the ‘60’s and early ‘70’s until they moved away to California. He had prayed for this church for years. As he went to leave, I went to shake his hand but instead, he hugged me and thanked me for coming to Cut Bank.

He said, “Now, I can tell my siblings the old church is going in the right direction.” As God has answered my prayer about my old church in Moundsville with Pastor Copeland, perhaps I have been the answer to this man’s prayer. God is the master orchestrator; and “we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

I am “re-excited” for the work God is doing here. Thank you for your prayers and your support. Please keep my children in your prayers: Laura and Levi with their first on the way; Jake and Kayla and their new little one; James as he gets ready to move to Butte in the fall for college; Jael as she prays for God’s direction and will for her life as she is now an adult and then Adeline and Fionn as they continue in their studies at home.

In His Service,

Don McIlvain

P.S. Still no baby!

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family
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