

February-March 2024



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Dear Pastors and praying friends,

**Proverbs 17:6 “Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.”**

The first Jewel on my crown arrived on March 20th. Quentin Eion (pronounced Owen) McIlvain is a handsome little guy. His name is found throughout our McIlvain family history. We praise God for His watch care over mother and baby. Kayla's parents came up to see him the week of Easter, and they, of course, were as overjoyed as we are. While they were here, Jacob and Kayla wanted to dedicate him. He was wrapped in a little baby blanket I had made for him from the McIlvain family tartan, and he wore the same outfit his father did when we dedicated him. Grandpa Marteny gave the charge to the parents, and we both prayed over them. It is always a joy to have my son's in-laws here. Bro. Marteny is a preacher, and while he was here, he preached for us on Sunday evening. The next little jewel is due in October to my daughter, Mercy, and her husband, Isaiah. They recently bought a home in Anaconda, Montana.

God continues to bless the church, and we are still seeing occasional visitors. We had a new couple just this past Sunday. They seemed to enjoy it. They had no Baptist background, so it was entirely new to them. Many visitors we get come from a Lutheran or Catholic upbringing. I think often they look at me like the philosophers of the Epicureans and of the Stoics did at Paul “What will this babblers say? He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods”. The true Gospel is so different to the tradition of men that they are accustomed to hearing.

We have had a couple that have been coming for several years and a single mother and her children that have been coming since the beginning of the year. They all are leaving the area soon. I had hoped they would grow in the Lord. I pray that the Lord has done a work I can't see. We continue to sow the seed. We are really praying for souls to be saved. We have started the men's monthly breakfasts again, hoping to reach some young men. We were going to have breakfast, bring a small message, and then meet at the range. Unfortunately, a couple of guys, one I have been particularly anxious for, skipped the breakfast and the message but went to the range. Seems to be always a turn I haven't anticipated. Another example of this was the notebooks with pens that we gave out for Christmas. I had thought them to be a great idea, as people keep notebooks for years. Calendars, they throw away. We put our church name and address on them with a Gospel tract in them, figuring someday in a crisis time in the person's life, the Lord would focus them to it. Well, I have seen a few laying at different places. The church name and address had been cleverly covered over in some fashion or another. Still we try.

My daughter, Laura, is getting married June 1st. It will be the first wedding I have performed. You will probably want to pray for me, or at least for them. We are very excited for her and her fiancé. I do ask that you pray for their wedding. My parents are traveling from back east and his family and friends are traveling from Billings.

I pray the Lord will bless and keep you as we go into the busy spring and summer months. Thank you for your prayers for us.

In His Service,  
*Don McIlvain*