



Bellevue

BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore from Bellevue Baptist Church with our fall update. It has been a busy time here in Bellevue, Washington. It is hard to believe, but in September we celebrated our 3rd anniversary. It was a wonderful time of looking back at God's grace upon the church and thanking the Lord for all that He has done. We had a great attendance of 50 that day with some folks returning that hadn't been here in a while.

I don't ask people to join the church, but as we have been preaching through 1 Corinthians, the call to be a part of the body and serve to edify the church is undeniable. Some of those attending took the next step and decided to join the church. It was exciting to have one person join in October and two more join in November. I trust that Jesus is still in the business of building His church.

Recently we have had a number of visitors which is a blessing. Many do not give out their information and some choose not to return. Yet, there are those that do. Would you pray with us that we would be able to minister to our guests and they would allow us to follow up with them? We don't have a lot of amenities to offer, but I pray that our visitors would experience a loving and inviting body and clear preaching of God's word. We also have a number of hit and miss attenders that I am actively trying to engage and love-on to encourage faithfulness to the Lord, His word and His church. It will be exciting if we can be a part of their decision to strengthen their relationship with God.

I rarely speak of finances, but after three years I believe those supporting us should know how we are doing and where we are at. We currently have about \$2,000 of monthly support from faithful churches. That worked well when I wasn't receiving a salary, which was throughout deputation and during the first year and a half of the church. Since implementing a pastoral salary, the church has run a negative monthly delta. We stepped out in faith and continue to operate in the same manner today. We cover the monthly loss from our savings which is continually reducing. With that said, It has been amazing to see God provide through various large anomalous tithes and offerings from the people of the church over the last year. We are still on average losing money, but it is far less than it should have been. I say all of that just to let you know that we have seen that God is faithful and that he provides. Part of that provision continues to be your financial support. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had to see God come through and continue to trust in Him. I can't wait for the time when we organize, but I want to make sure we are financially self-supporting and that it is God's timing before we do so, as opposed to being a move motivated by Hubris or desire to be independent. So, we continue to trust that God will build His church in His time. So many Pastors have told me that they want to partner with us as long as it takes. I just want to say thank you to you and your churches. We so appreciate your sacrifice. I believe that God is doing a work here, it just is one of incremental rather than explosive growth.

Lastly, if I could ask for prayer for my family. We have seen God do some amazing things in our family this year. Yet, I am all too aware that ministry families are a target of the adversary and I have no shame in asking for special prayer. If when you think of us, you would just pray for our family, that would be a huge blessing to me. Thank you for sticking with us for three years and for your faithfulness! Thank you and God bless.

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore