



Bellevue

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Joel Creekmore

425-985-7360

joelcr@bellevuebaptistchurch.org

www.reachbellevue.com

Dear Prayer Partner,

I trust that you had a great Christmas and a wonderful start to your new year. We had the best start a church plant can have to a new year, which is new members joining! On the 14th of January we had another family join the church and we are rejoicing at what God is doing here in Bellevue. We now have a core of member families that equate to 26 people. We are averaging an attendance in the mid 30s on Sunday mornings. Some of the folks that had been attending have stopped coming at the same time people are joining. I will gladly take committed members over casual attenders. All the while, we continue to see visitors and pursue folks for the cause of Christ.

In January, Christelle and I had the opportunity to attend the National Church Planters Conference at Heartland Baptist Bible College. It was a blessing for the second year in a row to be able to give from our missions budget to church planters starting churches, building buildings, and furthering the gospel across this country. It was wonderful to be able to bring back some of the stories of how God is working and encourage the church.

In December we had a fire inspection. The fire inspection went very well and only identified a couple of issues that needed to be remediated. Unfortunately, one of the items is that we have to change our use from business to assembly. This is potentially a big issue. We quickly had an architect draw up plans and submit the permits to the city of Bellevue. After paying the \$1,300 for the city permits and the \$1,300 for the architect, we are praying that the city will approve the request. The changes required by the change of use will cause us to do some heavy remodeling even if they are approved. Would you pray with us that God gives us favor with the city? We still have 3.5 years on our lease and we need to be able to continue to use this space.

Last prayer letter I asked you to pray for my work situation as it was taking a heavy toll on my family and I. I am so thrilled to report that God has answered our prayers in an amazing way. Monday January 22nd was my last day at Microsoft as my position was eliminated at the company. I never thought about praying to get laid off, but that is what has happened. The layoff route enabled Microsoft to give me severance which is sure better than resigning. After 17 years of service to Microsoft it was a little odd to leave not as a retiree, but as one laid off, but I am not above that! The church will start paying a pastoral salary as of February, but some of that will have to be covered out of our bank reserves as our offerings and support is still short of the necessary amount. Would you pray with us as we step out in faith that God will continue to bless the church with growth and meet our needs? The plan is to be full time at the church and not work an additional job. After spending the last week's evenings with my family, I can say that I was neglecting my duty as Dad because of everything on my plate. I am thankful for this opportunity to focus.

Thank you for your continued support both financially and in your prayers. I am grateful that you have chosen to partner with us as we labor in Bellevue. I can't wait to see what God does this year!

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore