



Bellevue

BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore, your church planter in Bellevue, Washington. I have struggled a bit with how to update our supporting churches as we have just focused on being faithful for the past months. Faithful to preach, faithful to go on outreach and faithful to assemble. As I have said before, God has blessed us with normal attendance from our members through Covid, but we have seen a difference when it comes to visitors.

With that said, we do have some exciting news to share. Back in the fall of 2020 we had a young man attend church who had visited on and off some time ago. He needed to be saved and we were praying for him. He said he would start coming to church faithfully. Some time went by and we didn't hear from him. Come to find out that this young man in his early 20's was diagnosed with Leukemia. We couldn't visit him in the hospital, but we prayed that he would be healed and that he would be saved. Two weeks ago, he was released from the hospital and several of us from the church were able to take him out to lunch. We heard how his cancer was in complete remission, the first answer to prayer. Then I asked him about salvation and his eternal destiny. He said that spending a month in the hospital, he remembered thinking he may never leave and that he needed to get saved. After walking him through the gospel he bowed his head and prayed to receive Christ in faith. We told him that we were praying for both his healing and his salvation and God answered both requests. This is exciting. Please pray with us that he would continue in discipleship with me and grow in grace.

It is wonderful when someone trusts Christ in faith, but it is also good to see Christians grow. Today we took our missions commitments as a church and I am thrilled to announce that we have committed more this year than last. It looks like our preliminary number is around \$30,000 committed for missions.

In the last several months we have seen one member move but we have also gained two new members. It is not fast growth, but God is still at work here in Bellevue and for that we are thankful!

At the end of January, we had our business meeting and gave the church the update that in 2020 we saw a 27% year over year decrease in our tithes and offerings. It is not clear whether that is COVID related or other factors, but it does mean that we are drawing on our reserves faster and will run out of operating income sooner than expected. I have been asked by folks when we expect to be self-supporting and the answer continues to remain, I don't know. To the best of our ability, we will continue to be faithful and serve the Lord. If there comes a time when we are unable to make payroll, I will have to seek additional employment outside the church. Our church knows this, and we continue to pray for God to provide both souls and funds.

I have recently started teaching Karate again. I got saved through a karate ministry but then took a ten-year break and focused on church service, family, bible college and church planting. Right now, we have limited attendance to church members and members of other local churches to grow a base of students that know the Lord. We currently have 22 students both children and adult. Our church is praying that God would guide and open some very specific doors to make this a real ministry of the church especially when it comes to reaching children. Would you pray with us? We are seeking guidance, wisdom, and some open doors to be able to utilize this skill for God's glory. If the Lord would create the opportunity, I believe that this could be a great opportunity for our church.

We appreciate your continued prayers and giving as we endeavor to faithfully reach the people of Bellevue. Thank you and God bless.

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore