



Bellevue

BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore, church planter in Bellevue, Washington. The last several months have been a challenge for the church but we have experienced some great blessings as well. I'll start with the blessings.

Recently we added a member through transfer. While it is always a blessing to add to the body, it is a great to have established and faithful Christians added to the body that can help edify and grow others. We are thankful for the addition.

Just before Christmas we were contacted by a woman who received an invitation on her door. She had just lost her father and she was personally struggling. Thankfully her dad had a profession of salvation. Christelle and I were able to comfort her and give her biblical truth. She said she reached out to several churches, but we were the only ones that contacted her back. She traveled to Texas for her Father's funeral and when she came home, she came to church. She has since been back several times and even sought council on how to read the bible. She has heard the gospel several times from us, and we are praying that she will get saved soon.

One of our members loves to fish. He met a gentleman on the river and created a relationship with him. This was an appointment created by the Lord because this man got saved shortly thereafter through a series of events and our member has been discipling him and watching the Lord transform him in a demonstrative way. He started coming to church and just last week he was baptized and joined. It is so encouraging to see new believers walk with the Lord and to witness both their transformation and their response to the Spirit's leading. This has been the most encouraging thing for me personally in some time.

Last summer I led a young man to the Lord who had battled cancer. Over the last several months he started coming to church and I have been able to meet with him several times for discipleship and to review what the bible says about baptism. This man is Persian and there are some significant social pressures regarding baptism that he is battling. He says that he would like to but has yet to pick the date. We are praying that he will follow through with his desire and follow the Lord in Baptism soon.

We also have had several more visitors that have started to come and are regular attenders. We are praying that they would desire to unite with us and join the body. Two weeks ago, a woman who is a new Christian and just moved to the area came to hear the preaching and decided that she wanted to make this her church. Christelle and I have discipleship scheduled with her and we are looking forward to getting to know her and minister to her. The Lord has blessed us with opportunities to serve him and for that we are grateful.

We have had some challenges as well. We have several members that have fallen away or are in the process of doing so for one reason or another. We are praying that they would understand their need to be united with the church and participate. For this reason, even though we have had guests, our attendance seems to be rather flat.

The biggest challenge for the church continues to be finances. Although our giving has increased from 2020 which was very low, it continues to be significantly short of where we need to be. For this reason, I have received only housing allowance for the last 5 months. This has been a challenge for me personally and my family has been living off our emergency fund. Last letter I asked for prayer for a passive income plan, but unfortunately that has not come to fruition. With our family nearing the end of our emergency funds, I will be looking for alternate sources of income. It is

likely that I will end up taking a full-time contract position for several months at a time. We are praying that either God would providentially provide through the church, or he would miraculously provide a means of income that doesn't impact the church and my family significantly. I am grateful the Lord has blessed us such that we had an emergency fund to sustain us through this time.

Thank you for your prayers. I ask that you continue to pray for the people of Bellevue to get saved and walk with the Lord. I ask that you pray for those that we are working with specifically. And I ask that you pray for the finances of the church such that we can continue our efforts with full focus. As always, thank you for both your financial support and your prayers.

Thank you and God Bless.

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore