



Bellevue

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Joel Creekmore

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Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore from Bellevue Baptist Church with our March 2018 update. We have had an exciting couple of months here. We had the pleasure of baptizing 6 different people with three adults joining the church. That brings our membership up to 33 people including children. One of our member families just had twins. That is one method to grow the church! On average we have a Sunday morning attendance in the mid to high 30's. We have seen our number of guests decrease, but God has brought some great individuals into our lives.

One young woman is from China and attends the college here in Bellevue. She had never been to church before, had never seen or read a bible and we had the opportunity to give her, her first bible. She comes faithfully to Sunday morning and just started attending Wednesday night. She is not saved, but in addition to her being under the preaching, Christelle is working to engage her in a discipleship class. The woman still feels uncomfortable with the language gap, although she has good English skills, (especially compared to our Mandarin). Please pray with us that we would be able to help this young woman and that she would get saved. We have another man that has attended on and off since last Easter. I have spent some time with him outside of church discussing what salvation is and how to get saved. He has heard a lot of different ideas of salvation that others have claimed, and he is lost. He stopped attending for several months, but recently came back. I am scheduling some time with him to continue the discussion. Please pray that he would allow God to convict his heart and that he would trust Christ.

In March we had our first full Missions Conference. I was grateful to have Brother Joe Decker Jr. preach the conference for us and host AJ Lutrick, church planter to West Seattle and the Alex Beauford family, missionaries to Uganda. It was a wonderful conference and it stirred the hearts of those that were there. At one point, I think the missionaries and guests outnumbered our members, but that was ok. By the end of the conference, the Lord allowed us to commit \$23,900 to worldwide missions. Our goal was \$24,000, which is a 22% increase from last year. Glory to God. Our missions commitment is just \$6,000 short of our support amount that we received from other churches in 2017. Isn't it amazing how God works? You give to missions so that churches can be started so that they can give for the purpose of churches started, souls won, baptized, disciplined, and sent. This missions giving goes on your account! I know for a fact that there are individuals that committed that have never given to missions before. That is exciting!

We recently had the opportunity to host a senior from Heartland Baptist Bible College over spring break. This young man desires to plant a church and was interested in coming to Bellevue for an unpaid church planting internship to develop additional skills before going out on his own as a church planter. I am so thrilled that there are young men that are so burdened about what they could do for God that gaining skills to be better equipped, is more important than receiving compensation. I am thrilled to announce that after prayer and council he has informed me that he would like to come out for the two-year internship! This will be beneficial for both he and the church. I am excited to be able to invest in a young man and to get additional help for certain aspects of the ministry.

Lastly, I would like to give you the update I just received regarding our building change of use request with the City. The City of Bellevue is requiring that not only our suite, but that the entire building we are in would have to install sprinklers for us to be able to continue to operate and meet as an assembly. This obviously is not agreeable to us, the property owners, or the other tenants. So, it seems that we are at an impasse. At some point soon, I assume the city will tell us

to stop assembling together in this location. We are praying and looking at different solutions and places to meet. Would you pray with us? We need the Lord to do something mighty on behalf of His church!

I want to thank you for your prayers for my family and this church. At our missions conference I had the opportunity to read cards of encouragement and prayer from one of our supporting churches, South Campbell Avenue Baptist Church. I got emotional just thinking about all of the churches and believers that are so faithful in their prayers for us. I want you to be encouraged and know that God is working. Please don't stop. I do believe it is the prayers of faithful saints that have moved the hand of God to bring us to where we are. Thank you for your faithfulness!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Creekmore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joel Creekmore