



Bellevue

BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore from Bellevue Baptist Church. We are a little late on our updates and for that I apologize. Just after I sent out the last update we had our 1-year anniversary. What a great service! We had good attendance and it was a special celebration of God's faithfulness. Pastors Rich Farinella from our grandmother church and Matt Farinella from our sending church preached and our people enjoyed hearing of the church's heritage and accounts of God's faithfulness in the past. We had volunteers play the piano for us and sing specials and after the service we all enjoyed lunch and fellowship together. It truly was a special service and we thank God for one year of ministry here.

The Monday after Anniversary Sunday I was told at work that I would no longer be able to continue part-time at Microsoft. While I knew this day would come, you never think it is going to be today. The support we get from our supporting churches currently covers a little over half of our operational expenses at the church and God has provided for the needs of my family through my position at Microsoft. Combined with our current tithes, our support would be insufficient to pay for both a salary and the operational needs of the church. After prayer and council, I decided to switch back to full-time for a season to save more, with a plan to resign in the next 9 months or so. That transition happened in early October. What was already a busy schedule with a part time job and pastoring is now incredibly demanding. I would ask that you pray for me to be able to use the time that God gives me efficiently and effectively and that I would still be able to focus on the needs of my family during this season. Undoubtedly this will be difficult, but I believe with God's grace, it will be possible.

The church continues to grow despite that trial. On November 5th, we had our first Baptism Sunday. We had three people baptized and two people join the church. We have a small space with no dedicated baptistry and it took some planning, but with a three-hundred-gallon stock tank, some heaters, and help from our men, we were able to make it work. One of the people baptized received assurance of her salvation and rededicated her life to Christ through our new membership class several weeks before. This was my favorite service to date. Seeing people excited about following the Lord in believer's baptism and joining His church really creates an electrifying atmosphere.

I can't believe it has already been more than a year for the church! Many of you have been supporting us through deputation, finding the building, getting it ready, and starting the church. I want to thank you so very much. I have heard from some that they are in need of dropping or reducing support to be able to help others that are starting new works just like we did. To them I would like to say we are excited for other churches to start and I thank you for your support. Your support has been invaluable in establishing this church. I would like to ask that you continue to pray for us. Planting this church is a long-term effort and we cannot do it without the faithful prayers of His saints. Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support!

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore