



Bellevue

BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore, church planter in Bellevue, Washington. We just concluded the wettest May in the last 74 years but that doesn't dampen our spirits in Western Washington and although we haven't seen the sun, we have seen God's blessings.

Last update I asked you to pray for a young man that I led to the Lord and had met with about Baptism. We met several times and looked at what the Bible said about baptism, but he was still hesitant. He is Persian and there are some major ramifications for him if he were to get baptized. I am excited to tell you that several weeks after seeing another person get baptized in our church, he texted me and said he wanted to do it! We had the privilege of baptizing him this spring.

Shortly after we had a young couple that has been attending for about 8 months come forward for membership. After meeting with them, when I asked about their baptism they both already knew they needed to get rebaptized and they were ready! One was sprinkled as a child and the other was baptized as an infant. Both had already concluded that they needed to be biblically baptized as believers. We baptized this wonderful couple several weeks ago and added them to the church.

We have another gentleman who would like to join the church but would need to be rebaptized. He is struggling with that decision although he continues to attend and we continue to minister to him. Would you pray with us that he would decide to join through rebaptism?

The Lord has been at work in a wonderful way here at Bellevue Baptist and it is exciting. Last update I told you that finances have been a big struggle. We had 5 months where the church was unable to pay the pastoral salary. Several things have happened on that front that I would like to update you on.

I had set a date of March in which I would need to start looking for additional employment. As it turns out both Christelle and I started looking at the same time and praying that the Lord would guide and provide. The Lord blessed and I received an opportunity to consult on a part time basis with some colleagues that I had worked with in the past. I am working with good people, for a good rate and I can work from home. Just after that agreeing to that project, Christelle was hired as the HR Director for Bellevue Christian Schools and she is transitioning back to the workforce after leaving Microsoft and spending 15 years taking care of our children and home. Needless to say, things are chaotic and extremely busy in our lives right now. This is a huge change for both of us and our kids. Would you for grace as we navigate these changes and the impacts to our family and the church?

On top of all that, we received a large love offering from a family outside of our church who felt the Lord's leading to be a blessing to our church and financial situation. With this offering and other special offerings from several churches we were able to take care of all of the back salary that we had deferred and pay current salary. The special offering we received was the exact amount of the salary that we had deferred and yet we did not tell anyone outside the church what that number was. God's providence is astounding. Although our monthly financial situation hasn't changed considerably, with the financial true up that we were able to receive and the new outside income, my family is in a good position. Thank you for your prayers and for many, your special giving. God uses both!

Please pray with us as we continue to minister and ask God to do great things in Bellevue. I am confident that he is not done.

Thank you and God Bless.

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore