



# Bellevue

## BAPTIST CHURCH

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Dear Prayer Partner,

This is Joel Creekmore, your church planter in Bellevue, Washington with our summer 2021 update.

In late May we had the privilege of seeing our oldest son graduate from Heartland Baptist Bible College and get married. What a blessing that was. Even better is that Yernar and Rebekah have come to Bellevue Baptist to serve as unpaid staff. It is a wonderful thing to have your children serving the Lord, but it is a special blessing to be able to serve alongside them in ministry.

This summer we had another wave of Covid go through the church with my wife being among the infected. Thankfully nobody was hospitalized. I think by now it would seem that probably 50-75% of the church body has had the virus at different times. We are thankful that the several small outbreaks we have had have not kept people from attending services.

The summer we have had a new returning visitor attend services. She had been out of church for quite a while and determined while listening to our live stream that she needed to be in church and that Bellevue is where she needed be. Praise the Lord for that. She may end up returning to the east coast at the end of the year, but we are thankful that she has decided to get back on track with the Lord now.

Two weeks ago, we had a revival meeting and one of our members was able to bring a young man, Ethan, who used to be his neighbor. Ethan was interested in God and started reading the Bible but was not saved. The preacher preached one of the clearest salvation messages I have ever heard, and we both sat down with Ethan after the service. After speaking to him about salvation it was clear that there was no conviction in his heart. He left and said he would consider what he had heard. We were burdened for Ethan and sad at the lack of conviction. The next Sunday Ethan came back and at the invitation of the morning message he came forward wanting to get saved. Glory to God! I was able to walk him through the gospel again and he prayed and accepted Christ as his savior. Unfortunately, Ethan lives in Florida and won't be able to attend our church, but I am so grateful that he now has a home in Heaven, and I will see him again one day!

A young man that runs all the tech at our church just graduated from the University of Washington and took a job in Florida. We lost a member, a friend, and a technologist. Ugh. I didn't think that was an area we had a need, but Yernar will be able to step in and fill that spot so that is a blessing.

September 19<sup>th</sup> we will have our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary service. Our sending pastor will preach the service and we have decided that it makes sense for Bellevue Baptist to organize at that time. Our people are excited and looking forward to this momentous event. We have effectively operated independently for some time, but this will make it official from both a state perspective and more importantly a spiritual one. The people of Bellevue Baptist Church understand that it will be their responsibility to ensure that the doctrines of the church continue to be focused solely on the bible and to continue in the path which has been set. This is certainly an exciting time.

Lastly, I will give an update on our finances. I think we have enough funds in the bank for one more month of payroll as is. When that is gone, we have tithes, offerings, and support to pay for the church's rent, bills, and our housing allowance. This means that I will be doing some work outside the church to make up the difference. Please continue to pray with us that the Lord would give us an increase in souls getting saved, members, and of tithes and offerings.

Please also pray for Ethan. Although we won't be able to minister to him, we ask that you pray for his spiritual growth as a new creature in Christ! Thank you for your continued prayers and giving as we serve the Lord in Bellevue. God bless.

In Christ,

Joel Creekmore