



ELWART FAMILY

Big Bear Baptist Church - PO Box 237 - Big Bear City, CA 92314

The Long Winter

Like last year, we have had a great amount of snow this winter. Thankfully, we didn't have any single huge snowfalls that shut the mountain down. Unfortunately, it seemed that we always got snow on a Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. This made for not having very good, consistent attendance at church. At times, this was quite discouraging, but we are thankful for those who were willing to come anyway. As a result, this winter was probably the hardest for our church and family...but we are pressing on. God still continues to



work in spite of the weather. 😊 We know this time in a church's life is usually the time when church planters have to just knuckle down and press on. We have been reminded of the verse Galatians 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." This has become a verse that Jackie has quoted often this year. It is our desire to be faithful no matter the circumstances that surround us.

In February, we enjoyed our Couple's Night out for Valentine's Day. It was a great time of fellowship with some of the other couples in our church. In the beginning of March, Jackie was able to take Audrey and Elijah with him to NC for a missions conference of a supporting church. The conference was such an encouragement, and the people of Neuse Baptist Church were such a blessing to be around and get to know. We are so thankful for how they loved on our family! We always love going to different Baptist churches and seeing fellow believers serving God faithfully. It is always a reminder to us that we are never alone as we serve God wherever He has called us. We love seeing the hearts of other churches for missions.

The middle of March brought about Spring Break for our community. We were privileged to have the Ben Everson family with us for a week of what we called Winter Refresh. The preaching, singing, and fellowship were all a blessing. It was so good to see our people encouraged by this meeting, as well as, being able to enjoy the music from the Everson family. We are so thankful for the giving hearts of the people of Lighthouse Baptist Church in La Verne, CA. They purchased 5,000 Easter invitations to be sent out into our community. Sadly, we didn't have any visitors that day due to a snowstorm. We did have a wonderful service though, and we know that God can always use those invitations long after they were received. We are also thankful that

Praises

- Visitors at church
- Safety during our winter storms
- Opportunities to witness and encourage believers.

one of our supporting pastors, Pastor Jon McConkey and wife Jami, were able to come out and fellowship with one weekend in April. He was also able to preach and give their family testimony during our services that weekend, which were an encouragement to our folks. God is still working, and we want to be faithful until His return.

Don't grow weary Christian, Press On!