



# ELWART FAMILY

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

## Another End & Beginning

The end of the year is always a wonderful time to look back on and be reminded of all God has done through the valleys, on the mountaintops, and all of the in-betweens. 2024 was full of a number of challenging and trying times in the ministry, but there were wonderful times of rejoicing as well. For all of this, the good and the bad, we thank God. He is so wonderful!

In November, we were blessed to see 4 people follow the Lord in believer's baptism. Two of them have been saved here at our church. We rejoice in seeing these 4 take this next step of spiritual obedience in their lives. Of course, we are praying for more souls to be saved as we continue to reach out into our community with the gospel of Christ. Our family was also able to spend Thanksgiving with 3 other pastors and their families camping for a few nights. Each of them pastor Baptist churches here in Southern California and Southern Arizona. Our families always look forward to this time of fellowship and thanking God for what He has done in all of our lives, families, and ministries.

In December, we had our annual Youth Christmas Party and our BBBC Christmas Party the first 2 Fridays of the month. This has been and is always a wonderful time of fellowship for our entire church family. Jackie was able to go away for a few days with a pastor friend with the express purpose of spending lots of alone time with God. Their desire was to refocus spiritually, reprioritize their schedules, and renew their hearts and minds in the Lord. There was much time spent in prayer, reading, and fellowship. Needless to say, it was such an encouragement, that it will now be a priority to do each year. We are also so thankful Brittany's parents and 3 sisters were able to be with us for Christmas. This was the first time we have all been together since 2021.

In January, Brittany was able to get away with that same pastor's wife in January for a few days to be refreshed. We jokingly called it their week of silence, since we all have a lot of kids. 😊 They do so much for our families, and we are so glad they were able to get away for a few days and relax. We had our Vision Sunday in January, where we announced our theme for the year: **He Is Worthy!** It is our desire to point our church family to God in everything we do. We read our Bibles, because He Is Worthy. We spend time in prayer because He Is Worthy. We come to church, and serve, and encourage each other because He Is Worthy. We

tell others about Christ, lead them to Christ in salvation, disciple them, and repeat over and over again because He Is Worthy. With this thought at the forefront of our minds, it reminds us that we aren't just serving because we have nothing better to do. We love Him, serve Him, and follow Him because He Is Worthy. What will you do with your life this year because He Is Worthy?



### Praises

- 4 believers baptized!
- Christmas with family!
- Jackie's spiritual refreshment retreat!
- A New Year to serve the Lord!