



# ELWART FAMILY

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

## Exciting things going on!

We started August with the Shanks Family Strings. Pastor & Mrs. Shanks have 9 kids, and each of the kids play stringed instruments. So, during their vacation each year to Big Bear, they choose to be a blessing to our church family on the Sunday they are here by ministering with music and preaching. Our church always enjoys their music and fellowship with their family.

We immediately followed that up with missionaries Jason & Ana Russell presenting their work here at BBBC. They have faithfully served the Lord in Papua New Guinea for over 25 years. It was such a blessing to hear of all the Lord has done there. We love missionaries and pray we can begin supporting some within the next year.

Our kids started school in the middle of August as well. Charlotte started her first semester at Pacific Baptist College, so that was a big change for her, our family, and church with her being gone living about 2 hours away. We are so excited for her desire to follow the Lord in missions. Audrey is now in 11th grade, Sadie is in 9th, and Elijah started Kindergarten. We praise the Lord for His work in each of their lives.

In the beginning of September, we had our first Baby Dedication Sunday. This was the first time many of our folks have ever seen something like this, so that was exciting. It is always neat watching the firsts in peoples lives.

Brittany and I were invited to a pastor's marriage retreat in September. This was a wonderfully refreshing time to get away, be ministered to, and be able to fellowship with other couples in ministry. We are thankful for the opportunity to go, and have already made plans to attend next year.

September brought a host of special events and guest preachers as well. We had Evangelist Jake D'Andrea and his wife in for a Fall Revival meeting. It was such a wonderful week, and we were helped by the preaching and encouraged by the fellowship. Pastor Jay O'Dell and his wife Sharon came up to visit with us as well. Their church supports our family, and it is always great being with them. The director of our missions agency, Jeremy Lockhart and his family, were able to visit with us for a few days. They are always an encouragement to be around, and this trip was certainly no exception. We enjoyed hearing him preach as well.

October is always a busy month for us as we prepare for our biggest event of the year, Community Family Fun Day at the beginning of October. We have this event every Fall to allow families an opportunity to come and enjoy some food, games, and fun with their families. It also allows people to find out about our church as we

give a John/Romans, gospel tract, and a small gospel booklet in each gift bag for each family. This year's event went well, and we now have a family of 4 that has been coming pretty faithfully since. We finished the month off with Missionary Noah Clarke. He is heading to Brazil to work with another missionary in the bush. He was a blessing to have, and our church was encouraged.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support! God continues to work in the lives of the people of Big Bear.



### Praises

- 2 missionary families presented
- Great Community Family Fun Day with fruit from the labor
- Great Revival services
- Encouragement of ministry friends

