



ELWART FAMILY

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

Thanksgiving, Christmas, & a New Year

We are excited that we have been able to begin discipleship with 2 different couples in our church. Brittany and I are able to meet with one couple on Tuesday evenings and the other on Wednesdays. It has been so exciting to watch their growth and desire to serve the Lord more as we simply teach them what God has saved them from and what He has saved them to. Don't get discouraged believer when you are pouring your life into another. We may not always see the immediate results, but God is always working. This has been a reminder to me in this area, and I hope it encourages you too.



Brittany organized our first Ladies Paint Day the first Saturday in November. We have a dear 89 year old lady in our church who is a professional painter. When asked if she would be interested in teaching a group of ladies, she was more than willing to do so. She has such a sweet disposition. She led the ladies in a fall themed painting, and Brittany led a devotional with the ladies. Jackie was able to take 3 men from our church to a Men's Conference the next Saturday. This was the first time anyone has gone with him to this event, so that was an exciting step of growth. They all enjoyed the preaching, food, and fellowship so much, and each of them said they would love to go again next year.

The week before Thanksgiving, we were blessed to have another Baptism Sunday, where Jackie was privileged to baptize 3 people in believer's baptism. It is always such an exciting time to watch believers take this step of obedience.

In the beginning of December, we were able to visit Brittany's parents in FL for a week. It was the first time we have been able to be back there in 4 years, so it was such a wonderful time together. We were also able to report back to Victory Baptist Church in Zephyrhills, FL while there about what God has been doing in Big Bear. While we were away, some of the families of our church took care of the setup and tear down on that Sunday. It is always exciting to see this type of growth in different areas and watch people learning how to jump in and serve. We are so thankful for all the Lord is doing.

We ended the year with lots of Christmas and New Year's plans with our church, ministry friends, and our family...but God had a different plan. Our whole family ended up getting some sickness going around that included a fever, a deep chest cough, or both. One person got it, and we passed it right along through the family. We ended up not even having services for the last 2 weeks of the year due to this. Thankfully, everyone has recovered and we were able to get back to normal life the beginning of the year. We are thankful for God's protection during these times of sickness.

Praises

- Discipling 2 couples
- 3 believers baptized
- Safety traveling to and from FL
- Recovery from sickness and good health
- Another year to serve the Lord

From us to you, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Your faithful prayers and financial support are such a blessing to our family and this community. Because of your faithfulness, you have helped us be faithful to the Lord here where God has called us to serve Him. Thank you to each of the churches and individuals that gave our family Christmas gifts! These gifts met some very specific needs, and we are so grateful! May God bless!

