



# ELWART FAMILY

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

## A New Year

Jackie took the beginning of January revealing our 2026 church theme and verse, and to lay out the direction he believes God wants our church to go for this year. Our theme this year is "Be Transformed" from Romans 12:1-2. It has been great to see how God has already used this theme and the series of messages in people's lives these first 3 months. Jackie was able to begin a series on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 and how it relates to the transformation that God makes in a believers life from salvation onward.



Jackie's grandma (his last remaining grandparent) in MI passed away in the middle of the month. We took the opportunity for our whole family to drive the 32+ hour trip in about 45 hours. We made there just a couple of hours before the visitation and were able to go to the funeral the next day as well. We were able to report, sing, and preach in one supporting church on that Sunday, and present, sing, and preach in a new church the following Wednesday on our way back home to CA. It was an extremely tiring trip, but we were so blessed and thankful that we were able to make it safely there and back, see so many of our family and friends, report in a couple of churches, and that our church family was so gracious and encouraging for us to be able to go.

In February, Audrey (our 2nd oldest daughter) celebrated her 17th birthday. We thank the Lord for her, and how the Lord is working in her life. We also had a number of couples join us for our Couple's Night Out Dinner for Valentine's Day. It has always been an enjoyable time of fellowship together.

This winter has brought another opportunity to cut and split a bunch of firewood for people. This has become an unintended ministry that our church men have been able to do the last couple winters to help different people in our church and community in providing wood for them during the winters here. Many people use only firewood to heat their homes during the winter months here because our electricity costs are 2nd highest in the nation only to Hawaii. We have a single mother with 3 kids that has been coming faithfully since last fall because of this ministry. It has been exciting to see what God has done through something as simple as meeting a physical need, so we can meet a spiritual need. This was often the pattern of Jesus in the Gospels, and has been something we are always on the lookout for here in Big Bear. We would appreciate prayers for Jackie and our church men as they work to get wood split at different times throughout the summer in preparation for this next coming winter. It has been amazing to see how God has used this, and we are excited to see how He will use it for His glory in the future.

We'd appreciate prayers for our church and family this year. We'll be traveling a few different times to report in supporting churches throughout different times of the year and to raise new support. Since we started deputation in 2019, inflation has caused our needed support level to increase by \$2,500 per month. Jackie has been able to get some VA disability within the last year due to some military qualifications, and our church has been able to pay him a little bit each month. These two amounts have been able to cover the support we have lost since moving

## Praises

- Safety to and from grandma's funeral in MI
- God using our firewood ministry
- Your faithful prayers and support

here and since starting the church, but has not covered the increase in living expense and needed support. There is much growth needed in His church here, and we are seeing it slowly but surely. We praise Him for that, and we are trusting Him to provide what is needed along the way. Please pray for wisdom, discernment, and continued provision for our needs. We thank you for your prayers and financial support.