



# The Jenney Family

Church Planting In Southern CA

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Dear Praying Friends,

May 8, 2021

We are ever grateful for your continual support. The last several months have been difficult as we suffered the loss of a much-loved family that has chosen to cut off all communication with us without notice. This is in relation to the closing prayer request in our last letter. I will start off with the negative so that we can end with the positive this time. The past year has certainly brought some challenges and heartaches. So far, we have lost two families that have been with us since the beginning as a result of them not wanting to take responsibility for some serious sin issues. We removed neither families from the church as they chose to leave on their own. In both cases, there was lying and deceitfulness to cover the shame which made it impossible for me to work with them on the problems. The bottom line was they preferred the excuses over the help and instead of dealing with the issues when the lying was revealed they chose to run away. Unfortunately, the family members are victims of bad choices and it breaks our hearts. Both we and the church think about and pray for them often. Nevertheless, despite the heartaches, the work of the Lord continues. No one said this would be easy, just that it is worth it. As my football coach once said, "nothing worth doing is easy and if it were easy everyone would be doing it".

After a year and three months, the Community Center finally opened back up to us. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we were able to have our reopening service. We are so thankful for Desert Streams Baptist Church in Adelanto, CA for sending out a group of people to hand out flyers before our reopening. On our first service back, we had an attendance of 19 including a couple of new families. Despite our losses, we were excited to see that many in our church service. We were pleasantly surprised to see a family who has been with us from the beginning finally come back to a church service. Please pray for this family as they are hanging on the fringe and do not seem to be open to telling us what is going on. I am fearful of the same end results that we had with the other two families. Charity was able to establish a relationship with a woman named Jordan who just recently opened a kid's clothing consignment shop in town. She came with her children for our reopening service but, unfortunately, right now her husband works on Sundays. She seemed to enjoy the service and plans to continue coming.

In my last letter, I mentioned a man who had started attending our services (Sean). He has been so faithful member and it has been refreshing to see his love for church. He has grown by leaps and bounds and is faithful to be out with me going door to door (or gate to gate out here) whenever we do so as a church. Prior to getting back into the Center, Sean brought a friend with him to church named Mark. While Mark seemed to enjoy the church service, he claims to be "spiritual" rather than Christian. He seems very receptive, but please pray for him as he does not seem to want to commit himself to belief in the Gospel alone. I am hopeful for more opportunities to speak with him. After our second service back, our dogs escaped our fence as we were setting up for church. Thankfully, a neighbor let us know right way. Charity had to drive back home quickly to get them put up. After we got home, they snuck out again while I was resting on the couch intending to watch them to see how they got out. Once again, the neighbor notified us and we ended up chatting. I believe God used our troublesome pets to give me an opportunity to witness to him. He confessed as a Catholic that he was unsure about his eternity. I invited him in to show him from the Bible how he could be sure. After reading several passages and explaining the Gospel to him, he left with the confidence that he knew where he would spend eternity (based on his own conclusion). I invited him to church but pray that he (Lionel) will be able to quickly break the chains of Catholicism and visit our church.

I apologize that I am late in getting out this update, but I was waiting until after this past Sunday for more to report. It seems Satan thwarted our effort as people were hindered by things from headaches to missing car keys. If Satan is working, I believe it must mean God is as well and we are hopeful for awesome things to come. We love you and thank you for your prayers.

Because of Calvary,

Stephen, Charity, Judson(6), Samuel(4), Noah(3) and Valiana(1) Jenney