

Dear Praying Friends,

Sept 07, 2022

We are ever grateful for your continued financial support and prayers. Summer has flown by once again and it has been a packed one. The devil has certainly thrown punches at our family and ministry, but it is always exciting to see the victories God gives through faithfulness. This letter brings the good and the bad news.

You may remember Paul, one of the first ones who came to our church from the initial flyers. He made a profession of faith at one of our services. I saw him at Aldi and received the news that Cynthia had passed away. She left the church not wanting our help with her struggle with alcohol. Sadly, it seems to be what brought on her untimely death. Please pray for Paul as we desire to see him back in church. He did not give me much feedback about his own spiritual state, but I fear he has strayed from the faith.

Betty, an elderly lady who had been supporting our church after coming just a couple times went home to be with the Lord. We had another death that was expected as Lee (also one of our earliest members) passed away. We truly believe our church exists largely due to her years of praying for a Baptist church to be started in Pinon Hills. We are filled with joy that she was able to witness that before she went home to be with the Lord. We are excited for our family to be part of her memorial service this week.

Charity has been keeping in touch with Carina and things might be changing with her job situation to allow her to hopefully come back to our Bible studies which is an answer to prayer. Brian has been attending faithfully still but needs a lot of prayer for his health and housing situation. He is borderline homeless with no one to help but the church.

When we started back at the center, Michael and Sarah believed the Lord was directing them to come help us. They have been a tremendous blessing. We are looking to appoint Michael as our first Deacon of Shepherd's Call Baptist Church as he already fulfills the role faithfully. Lee (who I mentioned passed away) owned the house across the street from the community center. We investigated getting the property for the church as it was one of Lee's desires for the church to buy it, but it was much too expensive for us right now. I had been praying for months that somehow Michael and Sarah would be able to purchase that home and as of right now it seems that they will. Please pray fervently with us that God will allow them to have it!

This summer a new family started attending our church. They have been struggling for years to find a church home and have attended many types of churches. They came to our Bible Study and then a Sunday service and it seems they feel at home. I think a lot of confusion from the other churches has been cleared up and they have been coming very faithfully.

In August, we had our annual Super Saturday VBS. We put on a four-hour program with a Lego Theme. The kids learned a lot about Jesus being the Master builder and the importance of building our lives on a solid foundation. We were blessed to have the help of friends from five different churches in the area who brought their kids as well. Truly, I'm not sure it could have been done without them. To date, we had by far the best Facebook response and a tremendous attendance. About 160 people had "responded" to the Facebook event. It would have been overwhelming if they all showed up (a problem we would have been very thankful for). On the day of the event, we had 34 children and several families from the community who expressed interest in coming back for a service. We are still praying and working towards that end. Space doesn't permit me to tell of the families that continue to express interest in coming but for some reason just aren't making the jump.

Charity and I had the opportunity to start some work up in Wrightwood (about 15 minutes away) cleaning and landscaping Airbnb's. This has been a blessing as we are able to bring the kids along, meet some of our needs and get more acquainted with some people in Wrightwood. I have been praying that we would get some people in church from that area. Shortly before writing this letter, I received a phone call about someone up there who ended up visiting this past Sunday. I look forward to giving you our next update. May God bless you for your love and care for our family. Thank you, brothers and sisters!

Because of Calvary,

Stephen, Charity, Judson(7), Samuel(6), Noah(5) and Valiana(3) Jenney