

Dear Praying Friends, Sept. 25, 2024

By June, we had settled into our new home. We are deeply grateful that God provided for us and helped us overcome every challenge during the move. Upon starting my pastoral role at Desert Streams Baptist Church, we hit the ground running. Despite one individual attempting to stir up difficulty with the voting process, the transition was quick and smooth. The church seems eager to move forward and there has been a wonderful spirit in our people. A few weeks after the vote, we held an installation service where the previous pastor preached. It was a meaningful service that we believe brought closure and motivated the church for the future.

In June, we tried something new by celebrating Pentecost with an "all-night preaching" event focused on the Ten Commandments. On Sunday, I preached on Acts 2 with our Spanish preacher translating for a bilingual service. This approach taught the context of Acts 2 and emphasized the church's foundational purpose.

The Lord has confirmed our calling to Desert Streams in several ways. It was a blessing to support friends as they navigated the challenges of the pastoral transition. We were also able to encourage others to return to church and stay committed. One family, who had only recently started attending before Pastor Thomas left, seemed unlikely to return. However, after a conversation at a birthday party and a family tragedy, the father came to us late at night, ready to give his life to Christ. By God's grace, we were able to help some old friends work on reconciling their marriage. This is truly the Lord's doing as we seek to align ourselves with His will.

After we began at Desert Streams, a couple with a strong burden to start a teen ministry took on the responsibility. They've done a fantastic job, and several teens have become more faithful, including a boy named Josue. He initially connected with us while looking for a place to complete community service hours. Now that his hours are fulfilled, we are praying for his salvation and continued attendance.

In our last letter, I mentioned Ashley, who recently accepted Christ but has not been able to attend church due to her situation. Please pray she will soon be able to attend. Charity also met Bridgett whose family has since visited Desert Streams; please pray for their spiritual growth and/or salvation! Through Cub Scouts, we met a family who moved here from England. The mother Alex seems to be searching for spiritual answers and last Saturday, she brought her son to our kids' event at Desert Streams—his first time in church. He was quite inquisitive during the lessons! Please pray for their salvation!

On Saturday, we hosted a four-hour kids' event with a Hot Wheels theme. We had 46 children in attendance, and at least one trusted Christ as his Savior. Seeds were planted in many hearts. We plan to hold the same event at Shepherd's Call Baptist Church on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

You may have heard of the fires near us! The fire department did an excellent job in containing the fire to the forest. While several homes were lost (including a house on the same street as the kid's music teacher), thankfully, everyone is safe! Shepherd's Call was unable to meet for a few services because of the evacuations and the fire department using the community building, but we are back to our regular service times now!

Your love and prayers have been an essential part of our ministry. As you partner with us for the sake of the Gospel, we consider our ministry to be yours as well. God bless you, dear friends! Thank you! In His Service,

Stephen, Charity, Judson (10), Samuel (8), Noah (7), and Valiana (5) Jenney