
OCTOBER 2020

THE HOFFSTETTER HERALD

The latest news and updates from the Hoffstetter Family



"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." - Lamentations 3:22-23

Funny, isn't it? Jeremiah pens this line when the people of God are being taken from their homes and exiled by the Babylonian superpower. They were probably looking around and thinking, "God, you never said anything about doing this!" From the outside, God's faithfulness looks anything but great, yet Jeremiah knows that His promises remain true even when circumstances seem to say otherwise.

A NEW CHAPTER

From Lanesville, MA
to Topton, PA

Well, for our family, this last year has been a lot of looking around and saying, "God, this is not how we expected things to happen!" After making the decision to transition back to Pennsylvania to be closer to family, and thinking that this might happen last Winter, God made it clear that He had other plans. And after months of prayer and discernment, the opportunity to plant a new Bible Fellowship Church in Topton, PA (about 30 mins from Dan's parents) became the clear door through which God was asking us to step.

Why Church Planting and Why Tipton?

Church planting, or starting a new church from scratch, is always something that has interested us. The idea of God using our gifts of outreach, community service, and a desire for the unchurched to know the love of God combined with the opportunity to help start something new is exactly what we feel the Lord has been preparing us for over the years. And to do this in a place like Tipton, a town of about 2000 which has been without a Gospel preaching church for decades seems like the perfect place to start this work. And best of all, we are not alone! We are joining a team of churches who have been praying for this church plant for some time. Our plan is to begin on staff at New Life Bible Fellowship Church in Oley, PA for the first 6-8 months while we train a core team, find a location, and vision cast for the work that the Lord has planned for us in Tipton. So, to be able to use our unique gifts and passions in an area where it is so needed while having the support and partnership of several other area churches - what is there to not be excited about?

How Does this Work?

You may be wondering, how does one go about starting a new church with no building, no people, and no money? Well, we are glad you asked! For the beginning stages of a church plant, the planter must rely on personal financial support for their salary. After seeking the assistance of partnering churches in the area, we are looking to our friends and family to help us raise the last little bit of our support for our salary. Our goal is to reach \$10,000 dollars (or around \$850/mo.). We feel that this is attainable, especially when it means having just 40 people support us at \$20/mo.! We are also exploring options for additional part-time jobs to help reach this goal. But we cannot do it without your support! It's not just financial - the work of starting a new church is a spiritually grueling one that will test the stamina and fortitude of our entire family, so we will be in great need of a prayer team as well! If you are receiving this letter, then we cherish the opportunity to have you on our prayer and support team as you are willing and able! The attached response form will help you with all the details in order to partner with us!



Come and visit us or write to us at our new house! Coffee from the Market Cafe is on us!

132 S Haas St.,
Tipton, PA 19562

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Looking Ahead

So, what does this all look like? Here is a tentative timeline for our upcoming transition:

- October - Begin support raising
 - Move into our new house in Topton!
- Nov-Jan - Start work at New Life BFC in Oley
 - Begin making relationships in Topton and with surrounding churches
- Summer/Fall 2021 - Begin thinking about Topton church launch

We would love to chat more with anyone who would like to hear more about our vision, excitement, or details about our new work in Topton, PA. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us and keep us up to date on your end as well! This is a partnership and we look forward to keeping in contact with you all throughout this transition.

Thank you for your consideration of how you might be able to join our team, whether through prayer or financial support!



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