

A Citylight in Allentown, PA

With the Diaz Family

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It's been several months since we last wrote and many big changes have taken place here. **First, we are no longer Lighthouse Bible Fellowship but recently have become Citylight Bible Church.** Let us tell you how we got a new name, and really how we've become a whole new church over the past several months.

Over the years, Lighthouse has been a sweet yet small congregation. We had some fruit, but since 2020, we've been asking the Lord for a more vital ministry in this city. Eventually, in 2021, we met another like-minded mission church, Allentown Bible Church, a ministry less than 10 minutes from us. Rick Dobrowolski is the church planter



from the Allentown Bible Church. He and a core group began the plant in 2011 with a house service. From there they grew and have been meeting at the East Side Youth Center. For over 9 months our leaders met with Rick and his team, and our churches had several combined services. Then on June 11 of 2022, our congregations approved joining our two ministries as one church plant. This has led to a summer of blending our two faith families as we have become the Citylight Bible Church plant—A Bible Fellowship Congregation.

What is our new church plant like? Both our founding churches are committed to minister to the city. For example, Allentown Bible Church over the years has had a heart for homeless ministry. Meanwhile, Lighthouse has reached Latino and a diversity of other neighbors. Together we have a blended faith family of over 80 participants, many



from East and South Allentown. **A congregation of this size is a blessing and a challenge since we are too big for our Genesee church building.** As such, we are currently meeting at the East Side Youth Center Social Hall (aka Bingo Hall) off Hanover Avenue. A big prayer request is that God provides and guides us to a new permanent location. (We are currently looking at a great place on Union Blvd.)

We have officially been meeting since July and are currently planning an October 9 launch to re-introduce ourselves to our neighbors. We also have a youth group every Wednesday with nearly 20 young people. Already, almost every week we are seeing visitors in our worship and youth meetings.

One of our recent highlights was on August 28 when nine of our congregation were baptized! Ages ranged from 11 to 60+ years old and included our son Danny. Pray for these disciples and that the Lord would continue to bless Citylight to be worshippers and witnesses in the City of Allentown and beyond.

FAMILY UPDATES

Thank you for keeping not just our ministry, but also our family in your prayers. We took a few summer trips out to Western Pennsylvania with some great family friends and took a youth camping trip which were once again the highlights of our year.

Our sons continue to grow and mature. Jacob (17) and Danny (13) go to Salem Christian School, and Josh (21) is studying at Lehigh Carbon Community College. **My wife, Angelica, has recently started working part-time as a cafeteria monitor at Central Elementary school.** Last but not least, we have become homeowners as our denomination has allowed us to buy the parsonage in which we were living. It is great to be able to buy a home yet not have to move. Meanwhile, we are busy fixing up our “new” place. Keep us all in your prayers. Mostly PRAY that we all stay in the grace and love of Jesus.

PRAISE & PRAYER

1. **PRAISE the Lord for all that He has been doing here to renew and revive this ministry.** PRAISE and PRAY for our new merger and the launch of Citylight Bible church plan. Pray for our two Staff Ministers, Rick Dobrowolski and me, and our other lay leaders from our new Elders Team. Also PRAY as all our people use their gifts to continue to better worship and witness Christ in the City of Allentown and beyond.
2. **PRAISE for all the ministries that are making disciples** of men, women, and children including our Student Ministries, which Angelica and I are especially involved with. PRAISE for all the young people, including our son Daniel, who were recently baptized. PRAY that they along with all our young people keep knowing, growing, and showing Christ in their lives and world.
3. **PRAISE & PRAY for all the opportunities and needs of Citylight Bible Church.** Specifically, PRAY for our support needs of us, the Diaz Family. Also, PRAY for God to provide for a permanent building for Citylight.

Rev. Stephen Diaz

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven”