

LIVE AND LOVE AS JESUS TO SEE OTHERS LIVE AND LOVE AS JESUS



 *Living*
Bible
Fellowship Church



**PLEASE
PRAY**

January 2023

PRAISE & PRAYER

- ✓ Praise God for the six new people who have joined the church this past year.
- ✓ PRAISE the LORD for new visitors attending. PRAY for visitors to transition to regular attenders.
- ✓ PRAY for God's direction as we begin earnest work to meet the graduation requirements by October 2023.
- ✓ PRAY that God would give us such a passion for Christ and His Gospel that the community and beyond would notice and desire to know Christ.
- ✓ PRAY that God would move us to financial self-sufficiency.
- ✓ PRAY that as we are faithful to the preaching and ministry of God's Word, God would help us grow spiritually, numerically, and financially so we could graduate as a particular BFC church in 2024.

2022 was a year of positive change for the church plant. Our overall attendance increased 24%, and our total giving increased 39%. This is a work of God and we are grateful for the Lord's faithfulness.

As the passage says, "unless the LORD builds the house." And we seek the Lord's guidance and strength, and we will redouble our efforts to sow and plant, praying that the Lord will bring the growth and build His church.

To that end, we are restarting our Administrative Team, and we will be using various tools and guidance from several sources. The bottom line is we desire to be out and about more in the community. I will be spending specific times at three basic locations in our community in hopes to connect with more people. Some of our members are already doing that well, whether volunteering at a local nonprofit, or having regular meals at the local diner, or connecting with neighbors via a barbeque.

We will be looking at how our first impressions impact our first-time guests. We also are working on our online presence to be more current. We also desire to find ways to be relevant to those outside the church. To that end, while still preaching God's Word exegetically, I am seeking the Lord's direction on how to connect to the issues our community is facing. And we continue to encourage our people to be looking at ways they can connect with those who do not know Jesus. In addition to working in public settings to meet people, I also am a member of the board at the Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce and on the board of the VFW Post 8896 in East Berlin.

It can be easy to be discouraged, especially when we look at what we don't have. I was reading John 6:1-13, the feeding of the five thousand. In verses 6-9, Jesus tests the disciples by asking where they can buy food for all the people as it was getting late. Philip responds with what they do not have, "Two hundred denarii would not be enough for each of them to get a little." But Andrew saw what they did have. He said, "There is a boy here who

has five barley loaves and two fishes, but what are they for so many?" Andrew saw what they had. I don't want to look with "What-I-don't-have" eyes. I am praying for the Lord to give us "What-we-do-have-eyes." For the Lord will use what we have and multiply it for His good purposes. I encourage you to look at what barley loaves and fishes you have and offer it for the Lord's service. In His hands, who we are and what we have will accomplish His will as He works through us.

You all are loved by all of us at Living Bible Fellowship Church plant. We have seen our people growing in the desire of reading God's Word and applying God's Word to their lives. So many of you receiving this letter only know us through these updates. We may be like "strangers" to you, yet your faithfulness in prayer and giving to support this mission church testify to your love before the church. You are doing well as you continue to send us on this journey and uphold us in reaching the lost in this rural land. Please consider how the Lord would have you help us. Your consistent and ongoing prayers are most valuable to us.



The reason you received this letter is because you are already strengthening us and we thank you for your prayers and support. You may be receiving this because you had asked to be included in the updates. We thank you as well for your interest and hope these updates will remind you of us and it will prompt you to pray for us, and should the Lord lead, support us financially.

Please pray that God would give us such a passion for Christ and His Gospel that the community and beyond would notice and desire to know Christ. Without seeking God's help and protection through prayer, little eternal work will be realized. We have 100% support and thank you so much for those who are helping us financially.

I thank God for teaching Lisa and I what it means to walk by faith. We certainly have not mastered this lesson, but we praise God for His loving-kindness towards us, and what He continues to teach us. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing funding in partnering with us in this exciting ministry. We look forward to what God will do in and through all of us (you all and us at the church plant) in the weeks and months to come in Adams County. May we graduate in 2024!

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

John Hanner, Church Planter



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