

Bertolet Praise and Prayer

September 2023

Growing Through the Year

The Delmarva region is growing, both with increases in the current church plants and also the addition of a new church plant in Elkton, MD starting this fall.

Chestertown - Grace Community

This summer they held a 3 on 3 basketball tournament for the teens in the community. There were over 18 teens playing and around 60 individuals who came to watch them spend an afternoon playing. Along with a devotional, it was a



great day. In fact, several teens have been asking when the next tournament would be scheduled.

They put up a tent up at the Chestertown Tea Party. This annual event brings many individuals out to the town and it has been a great place to have discussions about Jesus and share the gospel message.



All of these outreaches are bringing growth to the church and along with the help of Trace and Renee Haines they are seeing people coming to faith in Jesus Christ, being baptized and getting discipled. Continue to pray for James along with his wife Mindy as he ministers there in Chestertown.

Milford - Hope Community

Growth has to be the key word for Hope Community. Joshua and Juli experienced that growth in their family when, after the passing of Joshua's sister, her two children came to live with them. Grace and Aiden are adjusting to life in the country and finding new friends in their school.

Grace did well in school and is looking forward to attending Del State University. Aiden has finished 9th grade. He is looking into starting some sports in this fall school year.



There is also growth at Hope Community. We have seen folks getting involved with discipleship, teaching, MOPS group and taking the step of baptism. Clearly the biggest need is for a new larger location. God needs to open this door as several times we have considered a property and the door has closed.

We are also talking and exploring the possibility of another church in the area coming together with Hope Community. It would be critical to have a property for this merger to happen without many hiccups.

The group also had a display at the town's Bug and Bud festival. It was a wonderful time for connecting with folks in the community and sharing the gospel to those who came by the display.



Elkton - Elkton Bible Fellowship

After many years of prayer and consideration, there are plans in the works to begin a church plant in Elkton, Md. Steve and Niki felt God's call to plant a church in the



community where they have been living for the past

few years. They have recently formed a core group and also found a location that will be suitable for meetings when they launch in the fall. They will need to raise their support over the next few months as they seek to develop outreach plans and ministry goals for the community of Elkton.



Family News

After many years of dealing with back pain and challenges with sleep, Louise has no pain and is sleeping well. She has even joined an exercise program that meets twice a week. Plans are in place for her to be teaching the ladies fall Bible Study at New Life BFC in Long Neck, DE. New Life has had several other musicians join so that Louise only needs to play piano twice a month.

I am grateful for the safety during my travels as I drive in the range of 1,500 miles each month to meet with several of the church planters and time to reach out to pastors and have discussions about connecting with the BFC. Currently there are two churches / pastors who are considering that possibility. Keep this in prayer.

After many years of living in her own home in Fleetwood, my mom has moved into an independent living community. She is enjoying the many activities available.

Prayer Letters Updates

I want to encourage you and your church to sign up for our monthly email updates. Each of these includes short updates and simple praise and prayer requests for the month. We will also add you to our annual prayer letter electronically from Church Extension.

To receive our monthly email praise and prayer updates, please send an email request directly to us. raybertolet@verizon.net

Your Partner in Missions,

Louise & Raymond

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Email: raybertolet@verizon.net or
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Send support to:
Church Extension Ministries
PO Box 3534, Allentown, PA 18106

Praises -

- For the encouraging results from the 3 on 3 basketball outreach as well as the Chestertown Tea party
- Encouraging growth in Chestertown and Milford
- Lots of spiritual growth happening in Milford
- God faithfully providing our support and prayer partners
- The opening of the Elkton, MD Church plant
- Recently there were 7 people who got baptized at New Life
- Pastor Richard Bickings was called to serve as pastor at New Life

Prayer -

- Milford needs to find a larger place to worship
- Elkton BFC (and Steve Morton) as they plan to begin meeting this fall
- We are prayerfully seeking an assistant to help Joshua at Hope Community
- For those churches considering connecting with the BFC
- Financial support for opening new church plants and supporting church planters
- Need for several work teams to help with project at Adams County
- Church Extension as they help guide churches to develop plans for future plants



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