

April 2022

Dear Metropolitan Baptist Church family,

The month of April has been a busy one with several blessings to share with you. We continue to labor alongside Bro. Raleigh Hill and the folks at Freedom Baptist Church in Spirit Lake Idaho. As I mentioned in our last update, Pastor Hill challenged the people in this young church plant with a month of missions emphasis. At the close of the month, they implemented Faith Promise giving and the Lord provided a commitment of \$1000 per month. Praise the Lord, what a joy to see a young church begin to develop a heart for missions.

Additionally, the Easter service saw a new high attendance for them, which has carried into the following weeks with many returning. They have now begun a children's church ministry using a tent, set up in the parking lot of their rented space. Please pray this would bear fruit and that God would soon provide them a larger more suitable location.

The people of Freedom Baptist Church continue to step up and take on more responsibility within the church plant and we continue to slowly phase ourselves out of the work. This has allowed us to, once again visit the church, in Deer Park Washington to offer whatever assistance they may need. I must share a blessing from the Lord on behalf of this church plant. As I mentioned before, they have been dealing with a bar as a neighbor. Pastor Bryon Kennedy was able to meet the bar owner who agreed to visit a service. He kept his word and attended on a Wednesday night. Afterward, while he did not profess Christ, he did agree to lower the volume and to install a double thickness of sheetrock to help lessen the noise. Please pray the Lord would continue to work in his heart and that the witness of the folks at Redeemed Baptist Church would bring him to a saving knowledge of Christ and a closure of this bar.

During our first visit with Redeemed Baptist Church, we able to stay and enjoy a fellowship meal. Since that time, Pastor Kennedy reports an increase in active participation from the people and a renewed desire to serve. It is a wonder how God can use simple fellowship to strengthen and encourage. We were able to visit with them again this month and intend to spend at least one Sunday morning each month with them. Please pray the Lord would use us to encourage the pastor and the people.

Finally, we have continued to help in the evening services with Pastor Shannon Chasteen of Blessed Hope Baptist Church in Newport Washington. I had the privilege of again providing pulpit supply for Brother Chasteen and will again toward the end of this month. This will allow him time to visit his home church in South Carolina while his teen-age son attends camp. This church plant has experienced struggles in the community over the last five years but God is now bringing together a solid core group. Please pray for both Brother Chasteen and the people of Blessed Hope Baptist Church.

I can not say enough how much your prayers do for us as we seek to minister to these church plants. Thank you for your love and support. We look forward to seeing you this summer as we are planning to come home for youth camp in June. Until then, God bless.

In Christ,

Harry Sheppard