

October 2021

Dear Metropolitan Baptist Church family,

What an interesting three months it has been since our last report. We continue to thank God and pray daily for everyone there in Ft. Worth and I thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Since our last letter, the danger of fire has finally passed and with the return of rain, the weather has cooled. Now begins the mad dash to prepare for winter. The seasons pass swiftly here, and it seems there is always something which can serve to distract from the main thing if we are not careful.

We continue to labor alongside the Hill family in the work of establishing a work in the area of Rathdrum Idaho. In the past few months, I have been able to provide pulpit supply for Bro. Hill so that he may continue to travel and raise support, as well as visit with his daughter who is attending college in California. The focus of our efforts have been to provide manpower and to facilitate the set up and breakdown involved each week and to free Bro. Hill to pray and study.

It is such a blessing to me to see my children continuing to cheerfully serve the Lord in this as well. They not only help in moving chairs and setting up the building, but Rebekah filled in on the piano and Harrison assists in the collection of the offering. Jennifer of course continues to extend a smile and engage with the ladies who visit and to assist Mrs. Hill in providing those feminine touches.

In the last few weeks, it has been wonderful to see other men and women taking active roles wherever they can and several now show up early and seek opportunities to get involved. There are now several families who attend regularly and the Lord continues to bring new visitors, including 8 first-time visitors from 3 different families, this past Sunday alone.

Over the summer, we were able to secure the use of the Rathdrum Community Center as we prayed for a more permanent meeting place. Real estate prices in the area continue to skyrocket and the choices are few, but we serve a big God who has all the resources we could ever need.

Last week Bro. Hill approached the Community Center Board to discuss renting the building for the entire day beginning in November. Unfortunately, instead of securing more time, he was informed that yesterday would be the last Sunday period. They have decided that a church limits their ability to reach the community, which should give some insight into the spiritual climate here. There is a storefront available in a busy location on the highway which is available, and we are waiting for God to provide its use for His work. In the past, the landlord also declined to rent to a church, but God is able to change hearts. I hope to hear an answer in the affirmative in the next 24 hours and will send an update at that time.

As many of you know, the past ten months have been a time of healing and of strengthening for me after the closure of the work in Ponderay. I truly appreciate all of the prayer and patience you have offered. God has graciously and lovingly bound up my wounds and though I am not sure of His long-term plans for me this side of heaven, I am at least striving to wholly follow the Lord.

God bless each one of you and I again ask that you pray for the Hill family as they continue to adjust to the climate and the culture which can both be frigid at times. I ask that you pray for me and my family as we seek the Lord's will in all things.

In Christ,

Harry Sheppard