

July 2021

Dear Metropolitan Baptist Church family,

It seems that despite all we experienced over the last year, the world continues to turn, and life carries on as it has since the beginning. I pray that the first half of this year has been an improvement over the previous six months. We here are in the midst of a record shattering heat wave with temperatures as much as 40 degrees above normal and the spring rains a distant memory. The high temperatures and dry conditions have set us up for what they are saying may be the worst fire season on record. Please pray that the Lord would be merciful as the population boom here now means there are that many thousands more people in the path of potential harm. So far, all the fires in our area have been fairly small and no one has been harmed. Again, I ask for continued prayers for safety.

After five long years laboring to establish a New Testament Church here, that season of ministry is finally drawing to a close. In the past few months, the website, p.o. box, phone and other administrative aspects have been closed and at the end of July, the lease will expire. We still have a few outstanding bills to take care of afterwards, but that will be the end of Mountain View Baptist Church.

Recently I visited the building where we met, and it struck me as tragic. Where a group met regularly for five years, the only evidence was some trash needing to be hauled out. Honestly, it left me reeling and struggling to find justification for all the labor and heartache. Thankfully, The Lord brought to mind the knowledge that: thousands of pieces of gospel literature had been distributed to the community over the years, hundreds of visitors had attended services and heard a clear Biblical gospel presentation, and a handful, including my own children made professions of faith and were baptized as a result of this ministry. God also brought to mind the realization that were we not here, perhaps the Hill family would not have come and there would not be a church plant being birthed in Rathdrum.

You may recall that in my last letter I mentioned the church plant in Athol. As the Lord would have it, another church planter was already working in the area and had just secured a meeting place for the several families he is ministering to, just down the road from the planned rental. After discussion and prayer, a temporary location was found and now a long-term meeting place has been secured in Rathdrum Idaho. This new location is very visible, is very affordable, and very serviceable to the needs of this work for the foreseeable future. In just the last three weeks there have been multiple visitors and a woman made a profession of faith. Please pray for continued growth in this new work.

Please pray for me and for my family as we continue to seek the Lord's will in serving Him. As we wait upon Him, we are making the most of this season. We are endeavoring to be a help to the Hill family in whatever capacity is needed until the Lord gives other direction. Please pray for the Hills as they continue to acclimate to the culture here and get settled into the work.

I again thank each one of you for your continued support and prayers. I pray the Lord bless you richly for it.

In Christ,

Harry Sheppard