



Dec 2020

Dear Pastor Turner and Metropolitan Baptist Church family,

I pray that this letter finds you all well and waiting patiently upon the Lord. I apologize for my profound negligence in regularly updating you on the work here in Idaho. It seems that 2020 has been a mixed-up blur of activity, changes, and uncertainty. Thankfully, through it all, I have never been more certain of the Lord's sovereignty than I am today. Without question, the more unsteady the earth seems to be beneath my feet, the more sure I am of the true foundation and my hope in Christ.

In the summer, the work here like everywhere was forced to make some changes which we could never have anticipated. We changed service times, we added a speaker outside to accommodate those unwilling or unable to attend in person, we cancelled planned outreach activities, and for a time even stopped meeting. As we look forward to the close of this year, I can thankfully report that services have resumed and the work is making preparations for the coming year and beyond.

In early October, I made the decision to step down as lead pastor here. After receiving counsel, I was able to coordinate the arrival of Mike Gross and his family. Bro. Gross is serving in an interim capacity by preaching and teaching as well as assisting us with the calling of a pastor who will, Lord willing, lead this congregation for a long time. Bro. Gross and his family serve in a ministry of church help and have agreed to stay with us for 6 months as we make these needed changes. I ask that you pray for him and his family now and for their ministry in the long-term.

Just today, the pulpit committee which consists of two men in the congregation and myself along with Bro. Gross were able to have a fruitful phone interview with a pastoral candidate. This man clearly has a heart for the Lord and a desire to see folks come to know Jesus. After our conversation, the decision was made to invite this man and his wife to come and spend time with us. As such, he will be with us from Wednesday the 16th through Sunday the 20th preaching in view of a call. I have no doubt, that God will make His will evident in this matter in short order. I ask that each of you would join me in fervent prayer, that not only would there be discernment, but obedience to the Lord in this matter.

I again apologize for my silence regarding the ministry here, but I look forward to providing another report in the near future. Until then God bless and Merry Christmas.

In Christ,

Harry Sheppard III