CROSSPOINT
BAPTIST CHURCH

August 20, 2021

Dear Friends,

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. ***John 16:33***

It's hard to even feel like what we have experienced here in Pasadena, with over a year of lockdowns and new mandates against our freedoms, that we have it so bad. We are praying fervently for our brothers and sisters in Christ especially in Afghanistan that wish that was all they faced.

Our church family rejoiced as masks came off on June 16 (right around the time of our last ministry update). The sanctuary resounded with our songs of praise to our great God. Life pretty much went back to normal with the blink of an eye. McKenzie said one day she even stopped to pray, "God help us not to forget you and the closeness we've felt to you with over a year of Covid restrictions. Don't allow our church community to harden their hearts to you in this time of freedom, and please keep our city soft. If we need to lose some freedom to keep us close to you, don't let us be done with this until you are done with our hearts."

It seemed within two weeks, everything returned to normal. People were traveling more than ever. Church attendance started to slump. We felt tension between people at church that we had NEVER felt since the beginning of the church plant almost 5 years ago.

However, after a month of freedom and the sweet bliss of normalcy, our mask mandate was back in full effect, and then talk of vaccine ID cards being required in our county to just do life became a real discussion by our local leaders. Pasadena sits on the border of Los Angeles. You can see the skyline from our freeway. If you travel just 30 minutes outside our area. Masks tend to be more are optional, and everything feels a little more free.

Several have asked us if we are planning to leave. No. We weren't called to come here because we thought it was cool, cheap, or easy. God called us so it doesn't matter what happens here. We will not leave unless He tells us to leave.

People are still being miraculously transformed by the Gospel. We have a baptism coming up at the end of the month. We have people enrolled in discipleship, and we are currently having a new members class.

The church hasn't gotten weaker or smaller during this time. It's stronger! I wish I had time to share every miracle and thing God has done to sustain and provide, but there isn't room on this page.

Our sons, Levi, Noah, and Luke are prospering spiritually and physically. McKenzie and I have learned to face spiritual warfare with more wisdom and use the armor of God more skillfully. We ask you to pray for us like Paul asked the Ephesians to pray for him.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. ***Ephesians 6:18-20***

We are gladly in "bonds" so to speak in Pasadena for the sake of the Gospel, and we pray for you too. All these trends, mandates, and so on usually start here and head your way. We pray for you. Learn to war skillfully and remember who it is we are actually warring against.

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