

“If the Son therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed.”

John 8:36

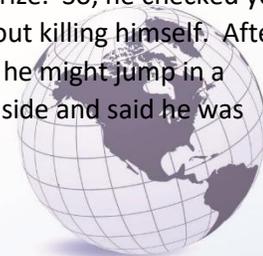
Dear partners

We want to first off start by apologizing for being late with this prayer letter, It has been a crazy year filled with mountain tops and valleys. But, this year We have so much planned and are so very excited about what God has in store for Staten Island!

Our official “grand opening” of our new building we held on our four-year anniversary for our church. The Calvary Quartet came and gave us special music. That was a special blessing hearing them sing and their fellowship was sweet. We had around 50 people in attendance, so it was our biggest day EVER! The Calvary quartet brought their own sound equipment with them and blessed us by leaving all the equipment to help our church have the sound things that we did not have! (Zooming a little ahead, we now have started recording our sermons and have them officially uploading online. The Calvary Quartet also took our church on for support and has been a tremendous blessing helping us pay the first years rent in the new building. Ferry ads also gave us a pro-bono billboard at the ferry! This service would have cost us \$16,000 but it was free to us! We have a lady attending somewhat regularly from that advertisement.

Neighborhood Bible time was our VBS this year and we had 30 kids from the neighborhood come and we still have a family coming because of it. The mom gave a testimony this past Sunday on how she isn't perfect but praises God that she is growing. We also gained two more teenagers as well that are allowed to come on Sundays.

Up until this year Elizabeth Homeschooled Hezekiah, but because he was having such difficulty in reading, we started praying about sending him to school. We didn't know how we were going to pay for school so we prayed that God would open doors. Elizabeth put on a Facebook page locally that she teaches piano and within two days she had twenty students and a waiting list! One of her piano students is now attending our church! That answered our prayers for an open door. We decided to send him to the Christian school on the island that is with a Baptist church on the other side of the island. They gave us half off because David is a pastor. That was a big open door for us as well. We love another school in Brooklyn but financially could not afford it this year. But that school is not a closed door, just was not the right timing for this year. Things are going well at the school and his reading is improving although he is still behind a lot of his class. We are praying that he gets a good grasp on it and begins to love it. Our “valley” this year was as a result to us getting him tested for possible dyslexia. Because of the way he was reading, someone suggested that he may need to be tested for it and standard here in the city is that we cannot be in the room with him during testing. It's a long story, but they apparently had other agendas than school related things and asked Hezekiah about discipline in the home. They had him sign consents to things he could not read and check boxes to questions he could not read. They told him that if he checked yes to everything, he would get a prize. So, he checked yes to everything and therefore accused us of child abuse. The also asked him about killing himself. After three times of them asking he finally responded that if he turns 100 years old, he might jump in a volcano because if he got that old, he wants to go to heaven. They pulled us aside and said he was



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suicidal because he "had a plan". Two days later ACS knocks on our door. That was the scariest time we have ever gone through in our lives! We were at the mercy of a social worker. Praise the Lord our children answered well and acted normal and not awkward around the lady. After 2 months of weekly visits and two visits to the school and pediatrician, they finally closed the case and labeled it unfounded. Praise the Lord. A few churches donated some extra to help us go on a family vacation and we hope to be able to get out of town for spring break.

We had a great turnout for our missions' conference international banquet. We hit 50 again. We were so very impressed with the missionaries that we had come through and some people that have not given to missions before became burdened. We pray continually that our people get a vision for the lost in the world.

This year we are rolling out a few new ministries. We will begin a college campus ministry on Staten Island college campus. This is will be Friday night Bible studies and a monthly outing or fun activity. This will include our singles as well that are already out of college. The next ministry is a choir. We have tried to have a choir many times but did not have enough faithfulness to keep it going. But we seem to have several interested now and we believe it is ready to take off.

Our current project that we are working on is collecting items for the coast guard families that will not have a pay check until the end of the government shutdown. Our church is walking distance from a coast guard base and we have been praying for years for an open door to the base. We have called many times the chaplain to talk with him about services on base, but he has never returned calls. We have now been this weekend into three coast guard family's homes and the door has swung wide open. Please pray with us that we will be able to minister to these families, not just on a physical level but also a spiritual level. Pray that we will finally be able to speak with the chaplain and get the needed permissions to evangelize on base.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayer for us! It is desperately needed. Pray for energy for us, we are tired, but love serving and enjoy it so very much! God is good. This years theme is "I Will Build My Church" Please pray that we grow and become self-supporting. Pray for people to become faithful. Pray that we reach new families. Thank you once again!

