



## Winter 2019/2020

Dear Supporting Churches,

We want to start off by thanking you for your faithful support financially and prayerfully! Many churches have sent encouraging words recently and it has been a blessing. We have had a challenging winter and pray that things will go more smoothly this spring.

Zion picked up a couple of viruses in November that sent him to the hospital twice within three weeks. The Doctor has him on a daily nebulizer for a while to make sure to prevent anything else settling in his lungs and I am praying that he doesn't have asthma like Alethia. Since November He has not had any extra reactions to viruses so, so far we seem to be in the clear.

December went smoothly and had a few visitors. Typically, the cold weather slows down visitors from coming out but we were encouraged to have a few stop in. A couple of new Coast guard families have started coming faithfully now and both families have children. Both fathers have not ever attended church since being married but both fathers have come at least once, and one has started coming off and on Sunday mornings. As the year came to a close, we worked diligently to prepare for vision Sunday and plan for more ways to outreach in our community.

For Vision Sunday we presented the theme, Power from on high. The church

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was encouraged to look toward the Lord for our strength to live for Him and serve Him. Elizabeth did amazing and catered the whole meal and made a cake, so to give all the ladies a break from cooking. We plan to roll out a men's group Bible study this year and to add an evening children's ministry to Sunday evening service to help bring families back for the evening service.

We had previously rejoiced over Antonio's Salvation this past July. He began Bible study with David once a week and soaked up the word of God like none other that we have disciplined! It was truly amazing and encouraging. He wrote more scripture, called to ask more questions regularly, and was faithful every week. At church it was evident that his anger from before was subsiding and his smile was bigger every week. When he finished His discipleship program, he even posted about how thankful he was to have found Christ. But, like with every new believer we have reached, the devil attacked Antonio repetitively. His coworkers slashed his bike tires multiple times, his home life was hard, and he was back and forth on breaking up with his long distance girl friend. She is not a Christian but that was his hard thing to let go of. After He made the post about church, his girlfriend called him up and called him a hypocrite and told him he was fake and not his true self anymore. The devil used that conversation to get him and he blocked all of us the next day and renounced Christianity. He since has come to church one time and visits before church because he still says he respects all of us, but leaves when the service starts. Our hearts are totally broken for him. Please pray that God will get ahold of his heart and convict him to return to Him. His smile is gone and he seems irritable now every time we see him. The devil does not want us gaining any ground for the cause of Christ and has made it very known.

A couple of years ago we had a young couple come and join with us to help the church. Recently he lost his city job and his home church has offered him a position to be the assistant pastor back in Michigan, so he told us this week that he took that position and plans to head home in April. Please pray for the church as he announces his move this Sunday. Change is always hard on

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ministries and we pray that this will strengthen our church body rather than hurt them. We are sad to see them go, but are now preparing for a busier season in ministry and covet your prayers that we will balance properly church and family during this time.

One last change in our ministry is we had to change our sending church. We had been praying about it and it was a mutual agreement. Our sending church had a pastor change since we started on deputation to come here and the church is now completely different people who do not know us except for two families. There are a few other reasons because of this that has prompted a sending church switch and we will be more than willing to answer any questions about it if you would like to ask. As for us, our doctrine is the same, we are still pressing forward to our goal of our church becoming self-supporting so we can start another work, and we are still representing you as church planters in New York City. We have no plan to quit, we are standing strong on His word and are still fighting for the cause of Christ. Our new sending church is the church that reached David, Wayside Baptist Church in Hagerstown, Maryland. We are looking forward to being an extension of their ministry in Staten Island. Thank you so very much every one of you, for your support and prayers. We are had seasons of discouragement but also seasons of joy as we watch baby Christians grow in Him. Please keep praying and reaching out. We love to hear from you! We also encourage you to visit! We would love for you to see first hand our ministry here so you know better how to pray and know better how your support has been used to build a ministry amongst the 500,000 in Staten island. Thank you! God Bless!

Reaching Staten Island for Him,  
David and Elizabeth Wilt

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**Our mailing address is:**

75 Dekay Street, Staten Island, NY 10310

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