

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers....And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42-47). God continues to bring this passage to life in our ministry. In a previous newsletter, I spoke about a man who visited our church months ago and took a picture with me to prove to his friends and co-workers that he had attended church. After months of working with him, answering questions and one of our church members meeting with him weekly, he has now professed faith in Christ Jesus and will be getting baptized alongside his daughter in the coming weeks. Please pray for him as he undergoes massive transformation and sets out on mission to reach friends, family and coworkers. Pray that his whole household will be receptive to this life-changing Gospel. Another young eighteen year old girl surprisingly and miraculously came to faith in Jesus this month after hearing and seeing the Gospel through the Lord’s Supper at one of our Sunday morning services. She goes home every day to a completely irreligious family and she is in desperate need of intentional discipleship and spiritual growth in the coming weeks. Pray for her spiritual growth and her spiritual influence in her family and at the local high school.

In addition to the new salvations, there have been many other very positive moves forward in the life of our church this month. We affirmed 11 new members who have completed the membership class this month bringing us up to 41 covenant church members. Last Saturday morning, a group from First Baptist Petal, MS helped us go door to door praying for our community and inviting them to Trunk or Treat. This turned out to be the most attended and best received outreach event in our community yet. We also saw record attendance last Sunday of 96 people in the worship service! Growth in numbers is fantastic, but it also means an even deeper need for growing leaders. We need prayer in the area of leadership development in the midst of so many new converts and un-disciplined attenders. I have completed the first draft of our church bylaws and we will be working on making revisions over the next month to establish clearly what the leadership structure will be once we constitute as an autonomous church.

There are many things to pray for as we move into the month of November. We received the bittersweet news that one of our foundational leaders will be leaving our fellowship to pursue a calling in his hometown of Florence, South Carolina. Stephen Crowley has assisted me with worship leadership, administration and discipleship, but with the news of a second baby on the way and a ministry opportunity in his home town, he is sensing a strong calling of the Lord to walk through this newly opened door. I too believe that God has sovereignly worked out this opportunity for him and his wife, but I would ask for your prayers as we make the necessary adjustments over the next month.

November will be packed full with a community thanksgiving meal, a serve saturday to begin the process of helping a homeless elderly man in the community, a new round of membership classes, a new partnership with the local elementary school for mentoring kids in

need, Indonesia mission trip planning, 2017 budget finalizing and a delicate situation of church discipline with a brand new member. Church planting is truly an overwhelming task that only the Spirit of God can truly accomplish. Pray that God would pour out his wisdom upon us as we continue to *“press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of god in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

By His Grace and For His Glory,
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