

10/10/2024

To the Advisory Board of the Joshua & Sunnyo Buck Mission Fund:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is hard to believe that at the end of October, I would have been at Lone Hill church for 3 years. I am very thankful to the JSBMF Board for supporting the work that I am doing at a small Church in the very strategic Silicon Valley, San Francisco Bay Area. While it is the Technology Hub of the world, it has a very liberal and socialistic mindset, and in general is hostile to the teachings of the world of God. Nevertheless, we remain steadfast in faithfully proclaim the Word of God with clarity, in an uncompromising manner. The heart soil condition is generally very hard, shallow, or full of thorns. It is not surprising, but the sowing of seeds and praying for the harvest of souls has been challenging.

The good news is that we have remained steady. The weekly Sunday attendance has been fairly consistent in the range between 40 and 50 people, slightly higher than in the prior year. I am also glad to report that the Church body rallied at the end of 2023 and we were able to close the gap in our budget and finished only slightly in the red, which was a huge praise. The other significant praise is that our music director made a remarkable recovery from the invasive removal of her esophagus. She and her husband were able to return in the summer and have faithfully resumed their roles of leading Sunday morning worship. During the time that they were away, we were able to identify a person in the congregation who could play piano and we were able to carry on with music for every Sunday of the calendar year.

We still have many elderly people with a variety of physical ailments, but that is an important part of our ministry to these faithful followers of Christ. Our oldest member is 93 and is an inspiration every time he is able to make it to Church. Thankfully, my mother Grace is actually one of the healthier ones and has been able to bless the congregation with serving in many different capacities within the Church. On the other hand, we had another baby born to our Church body. We now have three little ones under that age of three years old.

In terms of new ministries, we started a mid-week Young Adults Group in June of this year. The attendance has been a solid 10-15 per week. This has been a boost to the Young Adults in our congregation and we have been able to draw twenty something year olds to our Church on a consistent basis. This is the most exciting development in our Church and is an answer to a lot of prayer. This summer we baptized one of our Young Adults and he became a member of the Church.

While we are thankful for all that God has done. Many challenges remain. We would appreciate prayer for the following:

- The culture of the Church needs to change. Given that the Church had the same pastor for over 40 years, this is not too surprising. I need wisdom to know how best to approach this lest the Church be stuck.
- For our members and Church body to grow, especially for growth among the Young Adults. Our goal is to be a multi-generational Church. We have a long way to go, but there are signs of new growth in the Church.
- That we would be able to meet our budget for the year. As of the mid-point of the year, we were ahead of the pace from last year, but still in the red. Therefore, we still have a gap to close. On the other hand, giving seems to be the strongest in December: Christmas and the end of the year.
- That Lone Hill Church would continue to be an outpost for the Kingdom of God in the Silicon Valley.

I am certain that the challenges that Lone Hill Church is facing is not unique, but certainly an opportunity to trust in God each day, week, month, and year!

Many thanks to the JSBMF for your generous support.

In the love of Christ our Lord,

Pastor Sam Kim

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