

THE BAGLEY BRIEF

September 30, 2024

Dear Prayer and Ministry Partners,

The year I graduated from Frontier School of the Bible (1993) a song came out written by Don Moen entitled, "God Will Make a Way." The song begins with these wonderful lyrics, "God will make a way, where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see. He will make a way for me." During the last thirty-one years of ministry, I have witnessed the truth of those words more times than I can count. But this past week, I've been singing that song with great conviction and emotion because, recently, I've seen God "make a way" more than ever before.

Our family has had some big answers to prayer from our big God and I need to share them with you since you've been praying right along with us. I last updated you on August 2 and then from August 5-11, we were in Nebraska to close on our home out there and pack up all our belongings. The closing went through without a hitch, and we worked long hours to pack, clean and load two U-Haul trucks. God provided ten strong graduates and current students of FSB to help me load the trucks. Thank you for praying for our journey back to Utah. The trip went remarkably well. We put our belongings in storage as we waited for our new home to close on August 23.

As I look back at my last newsletter, I told you all that our new home included every detail that we had prayed about as a family. I am sorry to say my statement wasn't completely accurate. There was one more thing I had asked for but in my weak faith I determined that it was just too much to expect that God could grant this request. I had prayed that God would provide us a home that was debt-free. However, as we continued to lower the price of our Nebraska home and saw the higher prices of the Idaho homes doubt crept in and I gave up on that request. So, we applied for a loan, we were prequalified and told that the loan would go through without any problems.

Well, two days before the closing, my loan officer reached out to me to let me know that, inexplicably, our loan had been denied. He couldn't understand why it had happened and he was so sorry to share the news. We were stunned by his call because the closing was in two days. But God works in ways we cannot see. The next morning, we woke up to see a new home listed in Montpelier. This home was right in town, had more square footage, was thirty-eight years newer, had more acreage for our horses AND... was at a price that would allow us to be debt-free! We made an offer, and it was accepted right away! God made a way where there seemed to be no way, and you can bet that I was as humbled as could be with my lack of faith. That was a huge growth moment for this new church planter who needs his faith stretched more. We closed on this home September 11, and we will be moving in next week!

Laura and I have been praying for a year about the date to start Hope Bible Church. We sensed the Lord directing us to a particular date which will mark one year since we left Nebraska for Bear Lake Valley. The inaugural service will be held on November 10, and we covet your prayers for that day. Having set the date, there was one more major hurdle we were facing and that was the issue of where we would meet.

As the days were moving quickly toward the start-up date, my faith was tested once again. The buildings we looked at in Montpelier were either priced too high for a fledgling church or were in such dire need of repairs or remodel that things were seeming very daunting. Ten days ago, we received word that a building might soon be available for rent. It had been a steakhouse, but the restaurant was closing. We heard what the rent had been in the past and it was a price that seemed too high for us to consider. Despite that, we decided to speak with the owners and see what the Lord would do. God made a way! I had an amount in mind that I believed would be just right for the rent. When I spoke to the owners, I was blown away to learn that the rent would be the exact amount I had in mind.

We asked you to pray that God would give us a building that was visible, affordable, accessible (good parking), and available (all week and not just on Sunday.) We've asked God to give us an owner that would show us favor. God answered all those prayers! He has also been teaching us how little our faith is and how we need to believe that He is a big God Who does big things. We can occupy the building starting tomorrow and we'll have forty days to get it ready for the first service. You are all invited to come!

I finished my job as Maintenance Supervisor at Sun Outdoors Resort on August 31. Since then, my time has been spent prepping for the launch of the new church, doing some remodel work at the new house, and participating in various pastoral work in the valley. I had the privilege of co-officiating a funeral with my father

on September 7. Being able to serve in that way with my dad was quite special. I remember officiating my first funeral like it was yesterday. Prior to that first funeral I had to spend a lot of time on the phone with my dad asking for his help preparing for that funeral. He has taught me so much about ministry over the years.

Speaking of my dad and mom, please keep praying for them as they deal with dad's Lewy Body Dementia and all its difficult symptoms. It's a challenging time for them but they are maintaining their joy and trust in the Lord through it. When we moved out here, I learned that my dad had a dream to plant one more church before God took him home. My parents have prayed for twelve years about a church getting started in Montpelier. Of course, with the disease dad has, planting a church on his own won't be possible now.

With all of this in mind, I asked my parents to prayerfully consider joining Laura and me, Amos and Emily Stott, and the others in our core group for this church plant endeavor. I really want my dad to see one more church begin and grow. In addition, I truly need their counsel, experience, and their prayers. Two weeks ago, my dad informed the Village Church that he and my mom would be joining our team to help plant Hope Bible Church. They will still live in Garden City but will be joining us on Sundays as we seek to reach the town of Montpelier with the Gospel. On November 3, dad and mom will participate in a farewell service at the Village Church which they planted eight years ago. Please be in prayer for them as they make this transition. God is making a way for them too!

God has also been making a way for our children and giving them real opportunities for outreach. Faith just started a new job as the dispatcher for the Rich County Sheriff's Office and she is living in a new place in Fish Haven, ID. Her job has given some open doors for Gospel conversations. Next week, Joy will start working for a Veterinarian in Montpelier whose office is a few blocks away from our new place. She will receive training to become a Vet Tech which is a dream come true for her. Pray that she will be a real witness there. Cherish and Delight continue to clean houses in the valley and have started another year of school along with Will. Comfort is now walking and getting into everything and giving us lots of laughs.

We have been planning, praying, and preparing for the start of Hope Bible Church for fourteen months. We know that you have all been participating through prayer, encouragement, and counsel throughout that time. Our family is profoundly grateful for all your support and help.

As we approach the first Sunday of this new church, we can sense the reality that the evil one is looking for ways to discourage, distract and try to devour this new work. We know that our God is getting set to do a powerful work in the lives of people. But we need your prayers in a targeted way as the church gets ready to begin. Pray that our family, Amos and Emily Stott, my parents and the core group of Hope Bible Church will be protected from the attacks of the evil one. Pray that God will be preparing hearts in Montpelier to receive the Gospel of grace. Pray that our testimony in the community will be blameless. Pray that Hope Bible Church will truly be a beacon of hope in the north end of Bear Lake Valley.

We can't thank you enough for your willingness to partner with us in this new ministry. We have included some pictures of the new building and our church logo. I'll include our new address at the end of this update. Let me conclude with a few more lines from the song "God Will Make a Way." "He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side. With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way. He will make a way!" Do you believe it? Let's trust Him to do big things for His glory.

Your Fellow-workers,

Bill, for all the Bagleys
New Address: 355 N 2nd St. Montpelier, ID 83254

