

THE BAGLEY BRIEF

January 4, 2025

Dear Praying Friends,

Happy New Year to all of you! We pray that 2025 is off to an encouraging start. We sent our last update out right after the inaugural service of Hope Bible Church on November 10. Now that we've been meeting for eight weeks, we wanted to update you on the answered prayers that we've seen. Your prayers have been making a difference!

One of the special blessings over the last eight Sundays has been the way that God has brought in someone new from Montpelier or the surrounding little towns each Sunday. What a joy to meet these people and to hear a part of their story as we visit with them. Some of the visitors have indicated that they've been praying for a church in town and that God has answered their prayers through Hope Bible Church. Some of the visitors are LDS people who have become disillusioned with the Mormon church and are checking us out with curiosity.

Montpelier has a lot of large families and some of the visitors attend on a Sunday and then bring additional family members the next week. Please pray that God will turn entire extended families to the Gospel of grace. We've been excited to see these fresh faces each week. Pray with us that God will continue to bring new people each time we meet.

We have been able to get to know some of our unsaved neighbors and to have them over for a meal or to gather at their home for a meal. Our first church outreach was a Christmas Eve Service. We invited two sets of neighbors to join us at the service. God answered prayers and brought them all out. We ended up with forty-five people at the service and I had privilege of sharing the Gospel with a group that was predominantly unsaved. Please pray that we will see our neighbors place their faith in Christ.

So far, we've been averaging thirty-six people at our services. Pray that the believers who are attending will begin to come together as a close-knit family. These believers have been intentional about inviting others to come and our hearts have been refreshed by their willingness to bring others.

Whenever God begins a new work, we can expect opposition to come in all sorts of ways. It's been no different at Hope Bible Church. The evil one has tried a wide variety of tactics in seeking to discourage, derail or distract in this new church. Pray that our family and our co-workers will remain vigilant spiritually and consistently take up the armor of God to stand against the enemy.

Speaking of co-workers, Amos and Emily Stott have been an absolute Godsend in this new endeavor. God is using their unique gifts to help in so many practical ways. Mary Jo Kvistad is such an encouragement to us with her talents. I've also loved having my parents at Hope Bible Church. Their prayers, wisdom and experience are invaluable to the work.

Laura plays the piano each week. Joy has begun helping by playing the guitar and Cherish handles the slides for the Worship Service. Delight is a huge help watching Comfort for us during church. Will sets up the Children's area and helps me in many ways with the church building. One of my favorite parts of this ministry is being able to work together as family in this new church. We had all our children (and our grandson) home for Christmas and our hearts were so full to be able to be all together again.

Montpelier has a hospital and skilled nursing facility. Laura, Cherish and I will begin serving as volunteers in the Hospital Auxiliary this year. We're praying God will use it to connect us to many people in the community. Pray that we will have God's insight to know how to make the connections that He wants us to make.

This month, we'll be making ministry plans for the year. We are putting together a Purpose, Mission, and Vision Statement for Hope Bible Church. Pray that the Lord will give us all special wisdom as we seek His will for the work that He wants us to do in the valley.

Our goal is to have each person who attends the church over to our home so that we can get to know them better. Pray that these personal visits will open doors to special pastoral ministry. I'll be starting a new sermon series next Sunday in the book of Philippians. Pray that God will guide my preaching. I'm realizing that most of the people coming are either young believers or not saved yet. I need wisdom in preaching to that audience.

This year, we are looking forward to putting down some roots here in Montpelier and learning all we can about the people and the culture. We can't thank you enough for your prayers, financial support, and encouragement all along the way. We can't wait to see what God has in store!

With Much Gratitude,

Bill, for all the Bagleys Address: 355 N. 2nd St., Montpelier, ID 83254 Email: bagleybunch5@gmail.com