



## *Heritage Park Baptist Church*

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Dear Friends, Prayer Partners, and Financial Supporters,

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. We apologize for the delay in this prayer letter, but it is due to some major changes that have occurred within the life and ministry of the church. As you well know, we have been praying for some time for a church to get a heart to help the work in Woodsboro, as far as becoming a sort of mother church. Praise the Lord that God has allowed this to happen!

As of last month, we have partnered with Ambassador Baptist Church of Frederick, MD. Bro. Tom Fry is the pastor of this church and has offered to help us in a variety of ways, until we can become established. With the full support of our church family, we have gone forward by faith that this is the Lord's leading.

This partnership is one that is a bit unusual and rare in this day and age. It is unusual, in that we are a church restart, instead of a simple church plant. This means that we maintain our autonomy, while also staying accountable to Pastor Fry and those that support us. This also means that we continue to do the work in Woodsboro, as always, but also have help from Pastor Fry's church in doing so. What a blessing!

This partnership is rare, in that two Bible-believing churches that exist in a close proximity are working together to help one another. Granted that this ought to be the norm, according to the patterns we see in the scriptures, but, in our day and age, it usually is not. The agreement between our two church families is to work together to spread the Gospel to both areas.

Because of our partnering with Ambassador Baptist Church, we continue to move forward with both the prison and recovery program ministries. God continues to open the door for one-on-one discipleship in the Frederick County Detention Center. Currently, we are working with seven individuals on a weekly basis. Each one of them are growing in the Lord, as they read their Bibles, learn to pray, and serve Christ where they are. Many of them are going to be released this year and, prayerfully, will end up at either our church or Ambassador Baptist (depending on where they live). Please continue to pray for church partners and laborers for the harvest, as we have at least four more men that are interested in the discipleship program. Please pray for the men and women that are in the Frederick County Detention Center, that they will grow in grace.

God also continues to open the door for us to start an after-care recovery program in Frederick County. Heroin is a large problem in this county, as is drunkenness and other sins that land individuals into jail. Those that are released from the detention center need a haven in which to grow in Christ. We believe it is the job of the local church to provide such a haven.

Currently, we are praying for support for both this program and our fledgling church. We have chosen to take our house off the market, by faith and godly counsel. To keep this, we will need the church to grow and others to get a heart for what is being done here. We are also praying for someone to donate a house that we can convert into a group home. In addition, we will need manpower and many open doors to get this work off the ground. It is my intention to send a separate letter in the near future, explaining exactly what we will be doing with this program and what needs we will have.

Please continue to pray for us, as we seek to reach our community with the Gospel message and doctrine of Jesus Christ. This year, we are reaching out to areas that we have never been to before, but are still a part of our local area. We also continue to minister in a local nursing home every month and are discipling those of the church family that desire to learn about Christ. Praise the Lord that one lady recently finished the discipleship curriculum and is now excited to go out on visitation!

Thank you praying for James, as he continues to write. We currently have five out of six discipleship units in a published book format. It is a blessing to be able to give a workbook to someone, instead of sheets of paper. It is his hope to get the final unit complete within the month. After these are completed, he will resume work on the Bible study workbooks. It is our prayer that a publisher will pick these books up, so that they can be a help to more people. For more information on these books, look for the Continuing in God's Word Series and Delighting in God's Word Series on Amazon.com and Facebook.

We are thankful for God's clear direction, protection, and provision for us. We have had frozen pipes this winter that did not burst, vehicle repairs that God provided for, and dental repairs that God made cheaper. In all of this and more, we have never lacked and He gets the glory for it.

We are blessed to partner with Pastor Fry and to work together to help the needy in our community, so that they can grow in Christ and overcome Satan's temptations. Please pray for us, as we seek support and direction with this work that God's will be done and that He would get the glory for it all. Thank you for your encouragement, friendship, and help.

Your Servants in Christ,

James and Sarah Bussard (Phoebe, Jimmy, and Andrea)

***Proverbs 3:5-6***

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