

THE BALINGIT FAMILY

Serving in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear pastors and churches,

Thank you so much for your prayers and support during the summer months. We greatly appreciate your prayers and hearing from so many of you. As we entered into July, we had a great day of celebration for the church as we baptized 3 of our young men at a local park nearby and had a church picnic to follow with over 30 in attendance. One of the young guys that was baptized invited several of his basketball teammates who are unsaved to celebrate the day with us. I was able to share his salvation testimony and how God got a hold of his heart and I am thankful that his teammates were able to hear that. It was a big encouragement to our church as we headed into the summer months of ministry. We are always thankful to see those follow in obedience and not be ashamed of their faith in Christ.

Although we saw our numbers dip in the summer months with vacations and students heading home for the summer, God continued to show Himself faithful in the life of our church. We have seen growth in individuals and families, as well as a real sense of service and unity being built in the church. I have been preaching through 1 Peter and continue to emphasize Peter's urgency to unity and fervent love for one another and I believe we are seeing the Spirit work in our life, as well as the church's. It has been exciting watching people in the church get excited about serving one another, and carrying that excitement to inviting friends and family to church.

We continued our Life Groups Bible Study held at our house and truthfully, that has been some of my favourite moments in the church. It has been encouraging seeing believers study the Word, engage in discussions about the text, while also being an encouragement to others to continue loving and serving the Lord. We are thankful that we have seen consistently 10-12 people come out to these every month. Also, during these summer months, I have been able to meet and study the Word with two of our men regularly meeting at coffee shops and seeing growth in their lives.

Pray for us moving forward, as we are looking to ramp up our outreaches into the community. For the last few weeks, a group of us have been going out and passing invitations to homes in the neighbourhoods around the church and we are hoping to continue that as long as the weather allows us to. Pray for these invitations that they would find the right people and we would see fruit from our efforts. Although we are starting a little later than I would like to, next week we are beginning our college campus ministry again, and are excited to see where this goes! Last year we had one soul saved and many great conversations come out of this, and we praying that God would do an even greater work than what we saw before.

One last prayer request, and that would be the building that started working on in the Spring. The project has stalled and it is completely out of our control at this point but we are praying that it can move forward in His timing. While we are thankful for the community centre we are in, we are facing battles many of you have been familiar with with renting public spaces. For these next two Sundays, there are no available rooms in the community centre, but we are extremely thankful for a couple in our church opening up their home and allowing us to have service in their space.

Thank you again for your prayers and kind words. We are humbled anytime we hear from any of you letting us know you are thinking about us and our ministry. We are praying for you all and that God would bless your ministries as we enter into the Fall!

