



Summer 2020 Update

As of this writing, the third quarter of the year is almost complete, and it has certainly been a whirlwind to say the least! Summertime in Phoenix usually brings with it more difficult days to endure because of the heat, but this year it wasn't just the heat that made for some long days and even longer nights. As we head to the fall and are returning to somewhat of a sense of normalcy in our area, we can look back on the past few months and see unexpected challenges that were presented, but also unexpected blessings that accompanied them. While much has been different this year, one thing has remained the same: the faithfulness of our God!

In our last update we told about the Arizona schools shutting down in March, causing us to relocate our services to our home and create a live stream ministry. Seeing as our school is a charter school and doesn't belong to a district, when our governor removed some of the restrictions in our state in May the school welcomed us to resume services in-person! We cannot emphasize enough how much of a blessing this is, as some of our sister churches meeting in schools have still not been able to resume and have been given no timetable of possibility either.

We held a dry-run service with our new social distancing procedures on Memorial Day weekend, with our main first service back being held the following Sunday, May 31st. While we anticipated some of our elderly folk remaining back home for health reasons, we didn't quite expect the events of this year to have such an effect on our core group. Perhaps the best way to

describe the month of May is that God performed a pruning of sorts among our people. As a result many of the families who started with us have now moved on, which left us with several ministry holes when we reopened. This combined with the challenges of Covid made for the most difficult season our church has endured to date.

But what we found to be true with bushes in our own backyard we also found to be true with the church - pruning is not easy or pleasant, but it is sometimes necessary for growth. In the months of July and August God brought in new visitors every single Sunday, save one. There are people attending each week now who found our church's live stream during our shutdown and were watching faithfully each week that we didn't even know about until they showed up! Some are unsaved but keep returning and hearing the Gospel. Some are saved, but are newer Christians and need to become grounded. In recent weeks one-on-one discipleship meetings have begun in our home, and more will begin this week via Zoom. It has been neat to see these new prospects become involved in entry-level ministries (setup/tear down), but please pray with us that more will soon join as there are many more opportunities available in which they can serve!

In spite of the difficult season, as the year continues to move forward so does the work of the Lord. We are incredibly excited about the new dynamic in our church with many young, eager-to-learn Christians and the sweet spirit that has been evidenced since our reopening. While 2020 has been strange and at times difficult, we are firm believers that the best is still yet to come! Thank you for your continued prayers and support!



Praise Reports

1. We are able to meet for church in the school once again!
2. Numbers of new prospective visitors!

Prayer Requests

1. Prospects would join the membership
2. Specific request for a sound man or someone with experience whom we can train further in that area

Please send all monthly support to our sending church:

North Valley Baptist Church, 2109 E. Rose Garden Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024
Checks payable to North Valley Baptist Church, Memo: Crittenden Support

Our mailing address is:

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