



Spring 2022 Update

Greetings from North Phoenix, where we are enjoying our last few days of beautiful weather before the temperatures soar to ungodly levels for the foreseeable future! We are grateful for the many ways we've seen God at work through the early months of this year. On our annual Vision Sunday, I challenged the church family to not settle and stay in a place of complacency, but to continue "reaching forth" for the high calling of God in our lives. To help with this, we've made some adjustments logistically and are preparing to launch new ministries, both to which the church has responded wonderfully.



In January we moved our midweek location from the school to our home on Wednesday nights. Unlike our Sunday usage, the gym was not available for use, and we had been confined to a classroom down the hall, also sharing the building with two other groups at that same time. On some nights we had arrived only to find the school was having a drama performance, awards ceremony, or other assembly, creating an issue with parking. Especially as last year came to a close our midweek attendance suffered, so we tried something different and it has worked out nicely. We've seen our core group strengthened through the home Bible study, and the attendance has grown to more than what we were having regularly in the school. This format has availed itself to more opportunities for questions and discussion over the lesson, fellowship, and prayer partners. During this time, a young man moved to the area to work with one of our members. He was given up for adoption as a teenager, and has struggled with the ensuing questions as to why and how God could allow this. Though he has a religious background, there are also questions regarding his salvation as well. Pray with us for Michael, that his salvation would be settled and he'd find his true love and acceptance in his Heavenly Father.



A prayer request we've given in just about every previous update was for our children's ministry to expand. This year we are launching out with a youth program on Sunday nights that will begin weekly in the fall. To prepare for this, we have taken the last Sunday night of each month so far and dedicated our service to holding a Kids Rally, where we have invited the church to come back, observe, and participate in the rally to get an idea of what the program will be (and where they can be involved!) It's necessitated

leadership training sessions in between each monthly rally, but this past month's rally was the first time workers from the congregation led in the different aspects. There were some bumps along the way as was expected, but how refreshing it was to see people at least be willing to try and serve for the first time! What I appreciate my sending pastor drilling into me during my internship was: "If you never give them a chance to try they'll never have a chance to grow." How true that is! There is still much room for growth because this type of program is new to so many of our congregation. For example, one of our adults who came and observed one of the rallies asked me what the other flag was besides our nation's to which the kids were pledging allegiance. When I told him it was the Christian flag he said, "I never seen one before. I didn't even know such a thing existed."



We're excited about the start we've seen with this ministry and we're excited about what's ahead. The month of May will bring a major outreach for our first-ever VBS this summer, where we are not only praying to see children saved, but also to meet prospective families we can follow-up with for the ensuing summer Kids Rallies and hopefully see the program grow by the time it launches weekly in the fall. Pray with us that God will continue to give fruit for our efforts and these ministries will open doors to point many people to Jesus! Thank you for continuing to partner with us for the harvest in Desert Hills!

Praise Reports

1. Great spirit and attendance in services to begin year
2. Launch of Kids Program and new workers involved!

Prayer Requests

1. To continue seeing souls saved and visitors from outreach
2. For the salvation of Michael
3. For fruit from VBS in June

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:

3717 W. Cielo Grande, Glendale, AZ 85310

Contact Info:

Email: pastor.crittenden@gmail.com
Phone: 602-350-0968