



Weekly Updates for Prayer

Saturday, March 30, 2024

A Blessed Grand Opening

Praise the Lord! We had 140 people at our Grand Opening this last Sunday! Some found us online by searching for a church with “expository preaching;” others came because they received a door hanger.



Many others came through a personal invitation. It was wonderful getting to know so many, and it seems to me that most said that they would return. Thank You, Lord!



The worship

service was awesome! The singing was loud and joyful, and the



teaching went well; I preached on Isaiah 53:1-9: *Look at the Suffering Christ. Singing Hallelujah, What a Savior!* after the sermon was glorious!

Many stayed for the barbecue afterward, and we were able to fellowship with other members as well as welcome all the visitors who stayed for the meal.



It was delicious! What a blessing the time was.

Easter Sunday

We have been preparing for Easter tomorrow (breakfast at 9am and worship at 10:30am). Our decorators, Allison and Danelle, have been

continuing to furnish the rooms and have added a couch along with some plants, a lamp, and other things. We have also gotten fresh



flowers and have some of our ladies preparing dishes for the breakfast before the service (Panera will also provide some of the food for the meal). Tables will be set up in the foyer annex and the surrounding classrooms for the meal. We look forward to being together and welcoming visitors! We praise God that He is allowing us to be hospitable in different ways to draw in newcomers for the glory of the gospel!

Further, I will be preaching on The Success of the Suffering Servant, Isaiah 52:13-15 and Isaiah 53:10-12. May Yahweh be glorified in the proclamation of His Son's victory!!

Update on Jim Johnson

Another reason to praise God: In answer to so many earnest prayers, Jim & Kathy were with us at our Grand Opening! And more, Jim was able to make it to the elders' meeting this past Wednesday! Tyler and I have greatly missed him. We were able to get him up to speed on many fronts, and it was wonderful to get his wisdom. What a gift Jim is to our church family! Praise God!



Pursuing More Space

You'll remember that we are running short on space because of God's blessing of numerical growth. We've been praying about a possible church swap. Well, we heard from leaders of another church a couple of miles away that they are interested in talking about swapping buildings. Praise God! The next step is to set up a time for them to take a look at our building.

We estimate their building to be more than 35,000 square feet,

which obviously would provide plenty of room for Sunday school space, for the teens to have their own room, a library, bookstore, counseling rooms, fellowship hall, a large kitchen, a good-sized foyer, ample parking, and much room to grow!

It seemed almost laughable to ask the Lord for a free building months ago (which we now enjoy), and it seems even more ridiculous now to ask for a building 8 times the size of this one! But we know that our God is gracious and loves to bless His children! We also know that He is powerful to provide and possesses the ability to do anything that He desires. Please continue in prayer with us for God's provision, even for this church swap to happen—yet not what we want, but the Lord's will be done! We trust the Lord, no matter what He chooses to give us!

Request From the Lord...

- Praise God for allowing us to receive so many people, many visitors, this past Sunday! Pray that many of the visitors would return and continue to hear and accept the gospel, for the glory of God alone.
- Pray for joyful fellowship and fruitful conversations with visitors at tomorrow's breakfast and worship.
- Pray for the preaching tomorrow, that the Lord would bless me with wisdom and clarity as I study His word, and that I would be able to interpret and explain it clearly to the congregation. Pray that the gospel would be lifted high and that all hearing it taught would receive it with conviction, hope, and joy.
- Praise the Lord for healing Jim and for giving him the strength to begin resuming work at GHC. Please pray for him to regain full strength.
- Praise God for the opportunities for new space and for working in the hearts of the church leaders nearby. Pray for their wisdom, along with the wisdom of the elders of Gospel Hope. Pray that the Lord would ultimately bless us with their building as He blesses them with our current one, and that their space would hold us well. We know that Yahweh can do whatever He wills and delights in answering the prayers of His children, so pray!!

- Praise God for the effectiveness of our canvassing.
- Pray for the fruitfulness of the evangelistic Bible studies beginning soon! Pray that the Lord would cause many to be a part of these studies and that those involved would be taught and disciplined well. Pray that the Lord would save unbelievers through this. All glory be to Christ!

Yahweh, be glorified in Gospel Hope Church!

All glory be to Christ! He builds His church!