

January 2015

Dear Praying Friends,

Happy Holidays and New Year. Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support. Our continued ministry here in Orange County is only possible because of your love, support, and concern.

Things move forward here at Central Baptist Church of Orange County, California. The church has grown about 40% in the past year. We have seen people saved, baptized, and growing in the Lord. More important than numerical growth I sense a deepening of my own spiritual walk and that of our church collectively. I have more liberty in preaching and the spirit of our assembly seems to sweeten as it seasons.

The Lord has allowed me to continue working a full-time commercial finance job, which pays our family's bills. Please pray for Shannon and the kids as I am gone nearly 12 hours a day for work in addition to the demands of trying to minister to a growing congregation.

#### **OPEN DOOR ...**

As you know finances continue to be one of the unique challenges to church planting in Orange County. Through Mid-2014 our church rental expenses accounted for nearly 120% of our General Fund offerings (you read that correctly). Our lease expired November 1, 2014. In a near-miracle the owner of our building allowed us to extend our lease in 30-day increments at a price that cuts our rental expense by over 20%.

During this time we have negotiated a sublease on a 3,800 square foot, stand-alone building at the intersection of two very busy streets near large residential neighborhoods for about half of the market rate. The owner of the business from which we are subleasing is a professing Christian and has been overly generous at every turn.

#### **AND AN URGENT NEED**

The challenge is that this building has been vacant for a few years and has been profoundly vandalized. Every copper wire in the building has been stolen, the bathrooms destroyed, the drop ceilings ruined, and so forth. Our future landlord has agreed to fund the first \$60,000 in repairs. **This leaves us about \$60,000 from the finish line.**

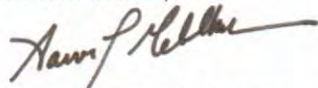
Our church has raised over \$10,000 towards our future move and I am going to challenge our church to double that amount. But that will not get us where we need to be. So, we need your help!

If you are looking for a great eternal investment (Matthew 6:20) and temporal tax-deduction we would be very grateful for any financial offerings.

If you are a plumber, electrician, roofer, HVAC-ninja, or a hammer-swinger and feel the call of God to take a short-term missions trip to Orange County in January/February, this is your chance! Our contractor estimates that if we do the demolition work and have 2-3 plumbers, 2-3 electricians, a roofer, and a few hammer swingers donate a week of labor we can complete the project within our budget. If you want to help, please call me on my cell phone (714-552-5494) or email me directly at preacher@centralbaptistoc.com.

We are thankful for God's grace and your goodness to us as we seek to live lives that count for eternity.

For His Pleasure,



Aaron Gehlken and Family

**PS: PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS – PO BOX 10996, Santa Ana, CA 92711**