



the Pannell Family

Missionaries to the Upper Midwest

January 2024

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Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Minnesota
Iowa
Nebraska
Wyoming

Happy New year from South Dakota. 2023 flew by, and I am excited to head into the new year with lots of plans for ministry. But before we look ahead to 2024, I'm taking the time to reflect on the previous year and all that the Lord has done here in South Dakota.

Over the course of 2023, I completed a discipleship class with the men, and Kim completed a discipleship class with the ladies. We each had 10-12 attendees each week, and we saw a lot of growth through the classes. Since the class finished, we have continued with some one-on-one personal discipleship as well.

Towards the beginning of the year, we saw several saved and baptized. Many of our attendees have gotten plugged in and are excited to learn and grow. There are still many that are lost, but they are faithfully attending service-please pray that the Lord will continue to work in their hearts and convict them. We hope to see many more saved in the coming year. We have several more that have been saved over the winter, and we are anxiously awaiting spring time so the ice thaws, and we can have a baptism service!

By the end of the year, our regular Sunday service was running 50 or more people on a regular basis. Our current church building only fits about 50 people in the sanctuary; so it has been a tight squeeze and an exciting time to see the church so full. Too many people is a great problem to have for a church planter! We have alleviated some of the crowding by starting a kids Sunday School class, a Children's church class and occasionally a midweek Bible Club class so that the children can go to the classroom and free up some seats in the sanctuary.

We have been consistently looking for a new church property, considering the possibilities for the current property, and praying about where the Lord would have us go next. We have outgrown our little building here on Main Ave., but the rent is such a great deal, and it is in a prime location for our area; so we are hesitant to give it up. So far we haven't been able to find another commercial building to lease that fits into our budget and needs. Another option was to add an addition to the current building, but for the cost, we wouldn't gain a significant amount of sanctuary space. Please help us pray about our building situation in the coming months and that the Lord would direct us every step of the way.

The congregation here at Cornerstone has hit some milestones this year that were incredibly exciting and encouraging to this preacher. We had our first Sunday School teacher (that wasn't me) begin teaching regularly; we had several ladies take over church cleaning; we had two men step up to be treasurers and relieve some of the burden from me; Kim has been hosting a ladies Bible study at the house with a rotation of 5 ladies and sometimes more than 12 kids in the house. It is noisy but joyful!

We are seeing so much growth: people desiring to serve the Lord and the Lord working amongst our church. Pray with us that 2024 will be more of the same!

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