

the pope family

Zach, Amber and Taylor



Church Planters to the Los Angeles, California Area

June/July 2014

Dear Pastor and praying friends,

What a privilege to serve Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords! I was recently studying my Bible in Matthew 28 where Jesus was giving His last commission to His disciples. We are all quite familiar with verses 19-20, which give the infamous 'Go, Win, Baptize, Teach' model for evangelism, but the verse that caught my attention was actually verse 18, which says, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." This verse actually gives proper context to Jesus' final commission, because verse 19 begins with the phrase 'Go ye therefore'. Jesus was reminding His disciples that because He had all power, they could go forth with boldness and confidence preaching the gospel 'to every creature'. What a great encouragement, to be reminded that the reason we can continue to move forward for the cause of Jesus Christ in 2014 is because He has ALL POWER! Bless His Holy Name!

Things have changed quite a bit since the last time we have written to you. During the first part of the month of June, we found out that the job opportunity in Los Angeles that had originally been offered to me was no longer a viable possibility. We initially thought that this was a huge setback, only to be reminded later that God is in control! It was only a week or so later that we found out that my wife is expecting our second child! What a Blessing! We are excited about the opportunity to raise another child in the 'nurture and admonition of the Lord' in Los Angeles, CA.

During the month of June, we had the opportunity to visit LA for the third time. It was a joy to be able to take some of the people from our home church along with us to show them the area that God has burdened our hearts for. We were once again reminded of the imperative need to get there as soon as possible and begin a work for Jesus Christ. As we drove up and down the streets of *Northridge*, my heart was burning with passion and desire. To consider the fact that there is a community of 65,000+ that do not have a gospel preaching, Baptist Church is convicting to me. We must reach the lost while there is still time! Jude 22-23 reminds us of the desperate need of 2014, a passionate desire to win the lost: "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

I am happy to report to you that we have had the opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with many people over the past couple of months. One of the young men that I witnessed to was Corey. I am glad to tell you that he was saved that night! Not only did he put his faith in Christ for salvation, but Corey was also baptized and now he and his family have joined our home church! Hallelujah! In closing, let me say that we are so thankful for the 11 supporting churches that God has blessed us with. Your support will be essential in the coming months as we have made the decision to go full time into deputation. This is a huge step of faith that, I believe, God wants us to take. I am committed to getting to *Northridge*, Los Angeles and planting a local, New Testament, Gospel-preaching church. Thank you for your continued prayer and support! May God richly bless you as you serve Him with your life!

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Current Supporting Churches:

1. Calvary Baptist Church(Union Grove, NC)
2. Lancaster Baptist Church(Lancaster, CA)
3. Trinity Baptist Church(Mocksville, NC)
4. Cherry Grove Baptist Church(Moravian Falls, NC)
5. New Manna Baptist Church(Marion, NC)
6. Northwood Baptist Church(Yadkinville, NC)
7. Emerald Coast Baptist Church(Destin, FL)
8. Charity Hill Baptist Church(Thurmond, NC)
9. Bailey's Grove Baptist Church(Asheboro, NC)
10. Marler Road Baptist Church(Hamptonville, NC)
11. Cochran Street Baptist Church(Statesville, NC)

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