

Camp Creek Baptist

From: Joel Porcher <joelanddeanna@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2018 5:49 PM
To: Joel Porcher
Subject: Update from the Porchers

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that we have been back in the states for a full quarter already. Thank you so much for keeping our family in prayer during this time of transition. The time has flown by so quickly, so let us take a few moments to get you up to speed.

First, we are so thankful to see how the Lord has been working over this past quarter on both sides of the Atlantic. About a month after our first Sunday at Anchor, we were privileged to have a special Ghana report Sunday, which was a wonderful time for the church family to see what is going on in the Cape Coast ministry. In God's providence, Brother Eric Awortwe was with us for the Sunday. The time was so encouraging for him, our family, and both churches. The Cape Coast church continues to grow, and is preparing to appoint their first deacon in the coming weeks. What a wonderful blessing to see them continuing to grow without us as an independent work and under national leadership.

We have also seen the Lord's hand at work in wonderful ways at the church here in Maryland. God has taken tremendous uncertainty and vulnerability in our church family and used it as a sanctifying tool in the lives of His people. Since our time in the states we have witnessed so many examples of God's kind providence. To give a little perspective, one of our last Sundays we had around 140 people in attendance. Our first service at Anchor was a Wednesday evening with around 20 in attendance. The church nearly canceled vacation Bible School this summer due to the many uncertainties, but by the end of our VBS week, we had over 60 visiting children from the community, with the handful of our own church children in attendance. In addition to these very visible reminders of God's work, are the things that are less apparent to the average church member, the behind the scenes things. It has been wonderful to see folks who have not been involved in the past taking up responsibilities to minister to the sick, shut-ins, and the endless physical tasks that are essential to keeping the church facilities neat and orderly. The fellowshiping and desire to sit under the ministry of the word has been very refreshing as well. We have had our share of challenges, but God has provided many sweet blessings alongside the challenges. Please continue to pray for our family, especially the kids as we continue to adjust to life in the states and are far more susceptible to sickness than we were in Ghana.

Let me add a few items that you can remember in prayer as well. In September, we will be starting Monday night intensive Bible studies through Romans being hosted in people's homes half the month and marriage and family discipleship studies the other half of the Mondays. Please pray that these studies will provide excellent opportunities to reach into the lives of our church members and their neighbors. In October, we are planning an intensive Friday, Saturday, Sunday mission's conference, which is a bit of a change from the past few years. We are excited about what God is doing, and look forward to how He will continue to work in these churches and in our own lives in the coming months. Thank you so much for your friendship and continued prayers. We look forward to corresponding with many of you in the coming days.

In Christ,
Joel, Deanna, and the kids