





# DAVIS UPDATE

Each year, it's both a joy and a humbling privilege to write this newsletter to you. Unlike a traditional paycheck tied to specific tasks, our ministry is sustained through your generosity—often given before we've done anything to "earn" it. That kind of support is a powerful reflection of God's grace: freely given, not earned, and foundational to everything that follows. Your willingness to partner with me and New City Church speaks volumes— THANK YOU!

# This year had BIG changes

—many of which we didn't go looking for, but seemed to be placed right in our path. One of those was moving into a home that's been in my family for 50 years. In our last newsletter, we shared how deeply grateful we were for our New City family—not just for cheering us on, but for showing up with their hands and feet to help us rebuild the foundations of a house that was less a "fixer-upper" and more of a "tear-down-and-rebuild." The house sits in Oak Park, an urban neighborhood with a rough reputation but one we've come to love. Originally a dairy farm in the 1920s, the property still features its original



forty-foot tin barn. We've now been living here for almost a year. Once the house is fully done, we're excited to restore the barn. We see so much potential for ministry in that space!

One of the biggest changes this year was saying goodbye to our co-pastor and dear friend, Kenny Liles, as he and his wife Hannah returned to Arkansas due to ongoing health challenges in his family. Kenny and I have shared a deep bond—from roommates to ministry partners, and even standing together in grief after the loss of our daughter. Doing ministry without him feels foreign, but God's presence remains strong in our New City family. Heidi and I now lead our small group without

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Kenny and Hannah, but we do so with deep gratitude for the foundation they helped build. The Liles are more than colaborers—they're family. Please keep them, and New City, in your prayers as we all continue to step into this new season without them.

When rent increased significantly at our Sunday location in Normal Heights, we began searching and praying for a new space. After months of looking, a pastor friend told us about a beautiful military chapel in Tierrasanta that was seeking a church to love and serve local military families. I thought—what an honor. My grandfather served in the military, and many families who already attend New City are either active duty or veterans. It felt like more than a good fit; it felt like a calling. Even more amazing: the chapel offered us the space rent-free, just as our tithing finances were dipping. Isn't God amazing in the way He provides?! Since moving into the new building, we've seen several new people from the neighborhood come to New City. It's been a clear reminder that when one door closes, God is already preparing the next one to open.

This year has been full of changes and sweet blessings that we never anticipated—more than I can capture in one letter. While I've highlighted a few in depth, here's a snapshot of other ways God has been at work:

# More Highlights!

- Our core group of leaders is building up and stepping in during our great loss of Kenny and Hannah.
- On November 24th, myself & my friend Stephen Yip officially became Elders. It was an emotional service as both Kenny and Vince spoke and prayed over us. <u>Watch Special Service Here</u>
- We witnessed 10 baptisms & 2 more are scheduled Aug 31!
- During Lent, we shared in a big "C" church event for Ash Wednesday alongside other San Diego churches.
- Our annual Mexico church trip to Tijuana, Mexico happened in May to build a home for a family through Amor Ministries to help keep families together who couldn't afford basic needs.











- Heidi took on a part time financial role for New City where she supports the church board and yearly budgeting.
- Our yearly rhythms as a church have strengthened and are happening all throughout the year: City Groups (our small groups), Summer Meetups, Better Together Women's Ministry, Stay Classy Men's Ministry, Family Sundays (youth involved), Preaching Club & Seeing Jesus Together Bible Reading.
- A group of New City members including Pastor Vince have started Modern Monk Coffee. Modern Monk reclaims the monastic way of work as worship and crafts coffee that glorifies God, cultivates beauty, and calls people into deeper presence. Check them out & even buy a bag of coffee from them! ModernMonkCoffee.com
- We honored Stand Sunday alongside Foster the City in May as we cultivate support and care for families involved by hearing from those who have fostered or are fostering.
- Heidi hosted and co-led Story of God for our Youth where
   20 kids came together to learn how it all points to Jesus!
- Anja (almost turning the BIG 10!) and Hendrix (Age 6)
  finished their first year at Foothills Christian school & Heidi
  dove into the new world of homeschooling successfully;)
- Trevor building relationships within the music scene in San Diego and thankful for all the connections being made.













### **OUR BIG PRAYER REQUEST**

What does it look like to be His hands and feet to the military families that surround us? One tangible way we decided to connect with the neighborhood was having park hangs after the services at a nearby park. We met a mom who has 4 kids and holds the fort down while her husband is deployed. We were thrilled to fold her into our church family. Since meeting her, we have enjoyed their presence at our Sunday gatherings, assisted her in moving houses, camped together at the CityKids family camping trip and assisted her & others during a tragic plane crash that occurred in the

neighborhood just blocks from the chapel building. With a YMCA next door we are excited to partner with them on their Monthly Clothing Drive and Trunk-or-Treat event during Halloween. There are many opportunities for our church family to jump in and serve. Please pray as we seek to be God's family in the Tierrasanta neighborhood and seek to find persons within New City to lead our efforts.

#### HEIDI'S PRAISE STORY

One evening at the beach, we were watching the sunset with a friend when Anja was pierced by a large stick on the bottom of her foot. She clung to me as I prayed in her ear and Trevor carefully pulled it out. Thankfully, a nearby lifeguard helped clean & bandage it—it wasn't as bad as we feared! On the ride home, we were all talking when Hendrix suddenly said, very



seriously, "Can I tell Anja something?!" We all went quiet. He turned to her with such sincerity and said, "Anja, you can remember Jesus was pierced too—just like you." I looked at Anja through tears, and she was crying too. His words moved us all, reminding us of what Jesus endured out of love for us. From the heart of our child, we were moved to remember such a great truth. Weeks later, as we prepared for our Good Friday service, I read "The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross" children's book to the kids and Anja asked lots of questions. One thing she was amazed at was the curtain falling when Jesus died. When we finished reading, she shared she wanted to be baptized. As Trevor and I talked with Anja, one thing that struck my heart was her saying, "Yeah, I don't need to worship the things of this world—I worship God." That night, we took communion with Anja for the first time. And on Easter Sunday, she was baptized! I kept thinking of the verse my mom shared with me after she heard about Hendrix's words to Anja when she got pierced in the foot: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." What a joy it is to witness the faith journey of our kids—and walk it with them.







Sunday Setup Team Morning



CityKids Family Camping Trip

#### OTHER WAYS TO BE PRAYING

- Pray we continue to be a GOOD NEWS family on God's mission in our every day lives together.
- Pray for our Sunday gatherings where Heidi and I co-lead and co-labor together with our teams.
- Pray for our City Groups launching this Fall and for more leaders to step into leading those.
- Pray for our next generation! Pray for our growing children & youth ministry.
- Pray for our pastors, elders and deacons as they continue to lead and shepherd our church.
- Pray for our marriage as we maneuver through ministry, family and everything in between.
- Pray for Trevor as he continues to seek what it looks like to be a missional musician in San Diego.

Thank you for remembering what God has done with us and reading this far!
Thank you for holding us in your prayers and for all the ways you are giving to New City Church. We are forever grateful for your generous hearts.

With sincere hope! Trevor, Heidi, Anja & Hendrix

- PRAY Pray over our prayer requests.
- CONNECT Your support & wisdom in our lives is a key component of encouragement & discernment to us. Feel free to reach out anytime by email at <a href="mailto:trevor@newcitysd.com">trevor@newcitysd.com</a> and <a href="mailto:heidi@newcitysd.com">heidi@newcitysd.com</a>
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