



September 1, 2023

Dear SBC Family,

### **Sending and Outreach**

Throughout my career, first at Horizon Christian Fellowship, then at SBC in Truckee, reaching out to others and growing the church with new believers has been a strong focus.

- Horizon's mission statement is: Win, Disciple, Send.
- SBC'S is: We desire to follow Jesus and make disciples.  
Or in alternative form: For His Glory, Through His Word, On His Mission.

Note the emphases on mission, making disciples and sending.

### **Supporting Other Churches**

It's been part of our make-up over the last several years to send out members of our pastoral team to help other churches in this area. Here are some examples:

- We supplied preaching for The Chinese Alliance Church in Reno for a year while Pastor Ben Linn finished his seminary degree.
- We sent one of our elders, Ron Falstead, to be an interim pastor at Cornerstone, in Incline, during their search for a new Lead Pastor. He is still there today as an elder helping lead and guide that church. During that year, we again filled the pulpit as needed.
- For several months we provided preaching for the church in Sierraville while they searched for a new pastor.
- Under the umbrella of our elders and leadership, Pastor Wayne filled in for a year for the church in Alta while they also have been in a search for a new lead pastor.
- Currently, our building houses the Hispanic church in Truckee on Sunday nights. We bless them at every opportunity we can get.

### **Supporting Another Local Church**

I was, therefore, quite excited a few weeks ago when two of our elders, John Drollinger and Mike Harrison, came to me to say that they had heard Deerfield Community Church was considering closing its doors. They were highly motivated, indeed, feeling called to go and work with Pastor James Stark and his remaining elder, Richard Ludke, to help breathe new life into the church.

It has taken a few weeks to sort through the questions and different options that the pastors and elders of both churches posed. There has been much prayer and many long conversations in elders' meetings and between individuals, but I think we've come up with a way forward that enables John, Mike, James and Richard to make the timely decisions they feel they need to.

### **Way Forward for Mike Harrison, John Drollinger and Families – A Step of Faith**

It is to explain this way forward that I'm writing to you.

- On September 3<sup>rd</sup> during both gatherings the elder board will be laying hands on, praying for and blessing Mike Harrison, John Drollinger and their families to “send” them to help relaunch Deerfield.
- Our elder board feels this could be an amazing step of fulfilling the Lord's mission, preparing us for one day planting a church in Reno or at the Lake. It's also a step that supports the unity of Christ's kingdom – two churches working to support one another, so that the world may know Jesus was sent by God (John 17:23).
- Obviously, this is a big step of faith for John, Mike and their families, but also for us as we'll lose much of what they've been contributing to SBC in their teaching and fellowship.
- Though we will see less of John and Mike on Sundays, they will still be a part of the SBC family and are still deeply loved and appreciated here.
- Mike will continue to lead our Men's Breakfast on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.
- The board has also asked that Mike and John regularly report back to our team on how things are going. This not only shows accountability, but ensures we stay in community and informs us on how to best pray and support them and Deerfield Church.

Sometimes, most of the time, expanding the Kingdom means we send out some of our best leaders. That's faith. We are eternally grateful for Mike and John's service at SBC and look forward to seeing how God grows them and uses them to expand God's beautiful Church.

**Your Support for John, Mike, and Deerfield Community Church**

Please be in prayer for them, as they will be on the front lines of ministry in a way they have never done before. And if you are interested in supporting them more closely, please talk to them to find out what they'd most appreciate.

For His Glory, through His word, On His Mission,

*Jesse Richardson*

Pastor Jesse Richardson

*sbctruckee*