



Hey friends,

Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. There is a lot to share with you, as this is my third prayer update of the year.

**Summer update:** It is hard to believe that it is August 13, which means school starts in a few short weeks. Last week I met with a neighboring PCA pastor who simply pointed out that people, especially in the Main Line area of Philadelphia, really want to live to the fullest. It is normal for people to regularly travel for personal vacation, take time at the shore or beach, weddings, work trips, and

more.

That is certainly true of our summer life.

Earlier this summer I traveled to both Atlanta and Dallas for denominational business. Later, flying from Dallas, I traveled to meet Jennifer and Liam in Hilton Head, South Carolina, to vacation with Jennifer's family. Even now, as I write this email, I am sitting at a coffee shop in Pittsburgh. I'm thankful for the opportunity to visit family this week. But I am looking forward to the regularity of the school year in September.

***Family Update:*** Jennifer and I are expecting a new addition to the family, and Liam gets to have a little brother. Jennifer is doing well and is now in her third trimester. Thankfully we will have another family getaway to Diggerland in New Jersey. (Liam LOVES cars and diggers.) Jennifer and I will have a quieter getaway for just two of us, just later in the fall.



***Church Update:*** The summer season has been particularly challenging for our young church. The summer slump is real. One visiting family shared that they are only home for three weekends during the entire summer. Another young couple, who are members, are traveling to 7 weddings. Yet, there are many encouraging stories to share with you.... Community Outreach, Membership, Weddings, Facility Updates, and more.



For the first time ever we had a Community Outreach Booth at the YMCA family health day (at the Y's invitation) and then at the Borough's Summer Fun Thursday.



On June 15th we received new members into part of our church body. Almost everyone in this picture have joined the church since we started public worship services 20 months ago.



Over a week ago I had the joy of officiating Andrew and Lindsay Mudalel's wedding. This couple brings me a lot of joy, not only have they quickly become some of the church's biggest cheerleaders but they are helping me start a new community group this fall.

Lastly, we renovated our balcony in our worship space and replaced one air conditioning unit. Altogether, we've put \$15,000 of improvements into our space to ensure that we are welcoming people well. The balcony project added an additional 40 seats to our sanctuary, ceiling fans, and new carpet. This alleviates some pressure to renovate our currently unusable basement. If all goes well, the same contractor will lead our basement renovation.



So let me share some prayer requests, in addition to Jennifer's health and pregnancy:

1. **West Chester University** -- we enjoy a warm relationship with Cru. 6 Cru staff call Iron Works their church home. Please pray for students as the year kicks off, and that we will welcome students well. We saw several college seniors graduate, find jobs nearby to enable them to remain at Iron Works.
2. **Community Groups** -- Our community groups take a break for the summer, allowing leaders and hosts to recommit for the upcoming year. Most of them have signed back on for leadership. We're relaunching our groups, multiplying 3 to 4. I personally am leading the West Chester group, and the three other groups have very strong leadership at the helm. Please praise God for these men and women who are taking an active role in shaping our discipleship.
3. Our **Discipleship Cohorts**, groups of 3-5 men or women, kick-off in September. These groups take place within community groups, and are

the primary place for bible study, where they discover, nurture, and act upon truth together in their everyday lives.

4. More and more, I am spending time in **strategic planning** as I map out our capital campaign so that we can tackle our basement renovations next summer. Please pray for God's guidance and wisdom, as this campaign will launch in the new year.

I recently followed through and created a facebook group for more regular prayer updates and encouragements. I'll be much more regular in posting there than sending prayer updates. Please let me know if you would like to be added.

Thankful for you,

grace and peace

- Robbie

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You are receiving this email because either: (a) Robbie loves you, or, (b) you love him, or even better, (c) you love Jennifer.

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