



BRANCHES

CHURCH PLANTING IN **SAN FRANCISCO**

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We Cry “Abba, Father”

Eight years ago, I was in the car driving back to the church from spending an evening knocking doors and sharing the gospel with a fellow church member. During this car ride he told me the story of how he and his wife had adopted two young boys from a very hard situation. It was then that God opened my eyes to the need for Christ-followers to open their doors to the orphaned and fatherless through adoption. The chance to literally save a child from the destruction of sin and the curse of not having a loving, Godly family is one that is too big to pass up. I got out of that car and began to weep over this great need and prayed asking the Lord to make me willing to adopt a child in need. This past year I began to pray specifically, “Lord, if you want us to adopt, drop the opportunity in our laps.”

On September 20th, 2018 this long time, God-given dream of mine came true.

It was at the beginning of September that we first met with a family that was looking for someone to adopt their soon to be born baby boy. Through a God-ordained chance meeting, we were put in contact with this family. The birth mother had been using various drugs and it was clear that CPS would take this baby and put him into “the system” if they could not find a family willing to adopt. So as we sat in Applebees listening to the Grandmother, Aunt, and birth-mother explain the situation and ask if we would be willing to adopt the baby, we knew this could not be anything else but the hand of God orchestrating this messy, yet beautiful moment. So, we said yes and 20 days later, on September 20th, God gave us the great gift of our second son!

We have chosen to name him, Judah Ari Woodfin. Judah means praise, and we praise God for allowing us to fulfill James 1:27, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction.” “Ari” is the Hebrew word for Lion. We want to raise Judah to Praise the “Lion of Judah” (Revelation 5:5) which is Jesus Christ, as His Lord and Savior.

How truly great is our God! Our God, that sent His ONLY begotten Son Jesus, to die on our behalf so that God now ADOPTS all those that put their faith and trust in the sacrifice of Jesus, into His family. God’s adoption of us is the only reason we can call Him Abba Father (Romans 8:15). Since God sacrificed so much to adopt us, let us be willing to adopt as well. Prayerfully consider the possibility of adopting a child, you can be influential in saving a child’s life.

We appreciate your prayers as our deputation schedule has remained active as we are in new churches presenting our ministry each week and adding a newborn to the mix doesn’t make it any easier. Yet, God’s grace is all sufficient and he continues to bless and bless and bless.

We are Branches, Bear Fruit!
Jake Woodfin
-John 15-

We would love to hear from you!

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