



## "JOHN & YESSICA"

OCT '23-JAN '24

Hello Friends and Faithful Supporters! Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support!

This letter comes during a harder season of our ministry...but God is still good. **IMPORTANT:** In 2024 we are going to start trying to send the majority of our letters by email to save on postage. Please fill out and return the second page of this letter for our records. - Love you all, Jake & Hali Woodfin

### 1/3 of the church moved away

One of the hardest moves to make is to ask your rental space for more chairs...only to have to go back a couple months later and tell them you no longer need them.

Since our last letter 1/3 of our congregation has moved out of SF. The ones that moved were not just fringe people either, they were members that served faithfully. Our volunteers team has gone from 35 ppl to 15. It has also been a hit financially as the people that left were faithful givers.

At the time of our last letter we were really doing great. We were hitting 60 ppl in attendance regularly, had all our volunteers in place, growth was happening, groups were growing...and then the bottom fell out as people had to move away for various reasons. The only redeeming factor being that they were leaving with tears in their eyes, meaning they were sad to go. No one left because they were angry or anything like that.

This has definitely been a hard hit. Sometimes, you feel like looking up at God with hands held high and saying, "Why Me God?...Why do I have to go through these hardships?"

But, in that moment it is also good to look around and see all the good that God is doing...and realize that He is still at work.

Over the past month we have had a record number of first time visitors. With 13 visitors in the last few weeks and most returning. We have seen salvations and people taking their next steps of faith.

When I stop and look around at all God is still doing I can't help but throw my hands up and say, "Why Me God...why do I get to experience all these beautiful blessings?"

Here's just two of those incredible blessings....



### Patty Bouillon

Patty was one of our friends from college. She spent some time in New Zealand doing missions work, but felt the call of

God to move to SF and to help us with the church plant. She has been an AWESOME addition. She has taken charge of different ministries, started to mentor others, and has been a great friend for Hali. We are truly blessed

God sent her.



### John & Yessica

John and Yessica overheard a conversation in their gym about our church...that's how God led them to Branches. God had already been working on John, but he wasn't quite ready to receive Christ. Yessica, had lots of doubts and lots of questions. We prayed for 9 months for these two. They would show up to church, help out with outreaches, and attend every bible study...but they still weren't ready. We had hours and hours of conversations, and many others in our church pointed them toward Jesus as well. Finally, after a message on John 3:16 John was saved..but Yessica still wasn't quite ready to put her full faith in Jesus. But a couple weeks later she put her trust in Jesus and said, "Now when I look back at my life, I see God's hand guiding me the whole time."

This has truly been one of the most incredible Salvation stories thus far at Branches. God brought two people with no church background to himself.

Once again, it's just such an amazing blessing to be part of all the wonderful things God is doing in San Francisco.

scan for Update Video  
or search for Jake Woodfin  
on youtube.

