



# The Delhotals to Santa Barbara

February 3, 2024

Greetings Praying friends,

December went by far to fast! December 3 we had the joy of presenting at River City Baptist in Sacramento before spending the week moving a truck-load of stuff from our container in the Oceanside area to our new townhouse in Santa Barbara. The following Sunday, we had the joy of presenting at Lompoc Valley Baptist in Lompoc before I flew out to Illinois to pick up Abigail from college and load a smaller truck with all the things we had stored at my Mom's house. This trip also afforded us the opportunity to preach at Heritage Baptist in Princeton, IL and to present the need of Santa Barbara to Harvest Baptist in Ottawa, IL. Then we began the long drive back to Cali. God allowed us to participate in a program to help pay for the truck by pulling a trailer with someone else's belongings back with us. "Unfortunately" the truck broke down before we reached Kansas City and cost us several good hours of driving. The good news was that U-haul paid for our hotel and paid me to move our load onto another truck. God had a plan. After arriving in Santa Barbara, we began the long, and still technically unfinished, process of unpacking. We thoroughly enjoyed spending time together with all four kids for the Christmas and New Year holidays and had the privilege of preaching at Calvary Baptist in Simi Valley both Sundays and enjoying the special services at our sending church in the evenings, as well as making a visit to Pastor Scheidbach's church in Santa Maria for a midweek service.

January saw us back on the deputation trail as a trio. The two older boys are staying in Santa Barbara and starting jobs so that they can reduce the amount of support we will need and begin to be a witness in the area. During this time they will be attending Lighthouse Baptist in Santa Maria (1hr and 15 min. away). On January 3, however, the entire family (including Abigail) traveled to Pacific Baptist in Monterey Park, CA to present our work before Abby flew back to college and LeeAnne, Azariah and I set out eastward. We enjoyed a great missions conference at East Mesa Baptist in Mesa, AZ and presented at Landmark Baptist in Carlsbad, NM on our way to Heartland Baptist Bible College for their annual Church-Planting conference. God blessed and we were allowed to present at the conference, resulting in some new support and funds set aside toward start-up costs. After the conference and with hopes of better weather, we set out for Florida, where we have presented at Faith Bible Baptist in Century, Central Baptist in Panama City, Trinity Baptist in Milton and Smyrna Baptist in Tampa.

We are happy to report that we have over **70% of our support goal** (not yet including any contribution from our boys). Since our last letter, **eight new churches** have taken us on for support: Pastor Bundy and Horizon Baptist in Camarillo, CA; Pastor Wood and High Plains Baptist in Clovis, NM; Pastor Wartner and Metropolitan Baptist in Bloomington, MN; Pastor McDonald and Landmark Baptist, Carlsbad, NM; Pastor Davenport and Unionville Baptist, Unionville, IA; Pastor Ables and Berean Baptist in Springfield, MO; Pastor Breeden and Northside Baptist in North Windham, ME; and Pastor Peslak and Fairfield Baptist in Fairfield, CT. **We praise God for these pastors and churches partnering with us!**

We are also happy to report that **we now have an official timeline**. We plan to be done traveling out East by May. We will then focus our attention on evangelism and discipleship while taking shorter trips to present in California and neighboring states. We will gather a group for Bible study as soon as it is practical, but **our "official" launch will be September 15**. Though we had originally hoped to start in the Spring, wise advice urged us not to rush and the experience of others pointed to September as a more ideal starting time. Finally, **please pray for four men that we have begun to make contact with in Santa Barbara**. One is recently saved from a Jehovah's Witness background, two are not yet saved, and we have had difficulty establishing contact with the fourth. Please pray that God will make them all lively stones to fit in to the new church plant!

For His Glory,  
Chad Delhotal

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