

Dear Church Family,

As most of you have heard, and for those who have not, Bro. Ellis has resigned his position of Associate Pastor of Families to take a position at his home church in Georgia. And while we are saddened by this news, we pray God would use Ellis in a great way as he takes this next step in his life's journey. We are thankful for the time Ellis has served our church family and for the contribution that he has made in the work that God has entrusted to our care in this portion of the harvest field.

Unexpected news always requires time to process. Questions arise in our hearts about God's work in our church and what He desires to do through us in the days ahead. And though questions about our next step have not yet been answered, I believe that if we commit together to seek the Lord's direction, He will direct us step by step. As we learned last week in our study of 1 Kings 17, God doesn't reveal the next 10 steps ... He calls us to trust Him as he directs us step by step. And though we have taken an unexpected step with Ellis' decision, we are not out of the loving sight of God and I firmly believe that He will make it abundantly clear what our next step will be.

So how should we respond as a church family? First, we must embrace the truth of God's nature and character: He is sovereign over all things ... He was not unaware of this decision ... and He is faithful and desires to use this church as we humbly yield to Him. Second, we must look forward in faith. God is still at work all around us, and He desires to use those who are soft clay in The Potter's hands. Which leads us to the ultimate question: Will we as a church trust God with the next step ... and then the next ... and then the next? In scripture we are called to "walk by faith and not by sight" - the ultimate description of a moment by moment walk with our Heavenly Father.

Would you join me in praying for God's leadership thorough this this transition period. Pray for Ellis and Elliott as they move to their new field of ministry. Pray for wisdom and discernment for our church as we look forward in faith.

May we glorify God through this transition period.

Simply a Jar of Clay,

Bro. Eric



We walk by *Faith,*
not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

"Being a Conduit of Grace to the Hurting"

1 Kings 17:17-24

Critical Concept: Christians are called to be conduits of God's graciousness to those who are hurting, expressing through their compassion God's gracious nature through which God reveals Himself.

I. Life is Hard & People are Hurting.

A. A drought and now a death!

B. The unique responses to pain.

II. Embracing God's Call to Serve Others.

A. Enter into their pain.

B. Become a channel of blessing to the hurting.

III. Watch God Work Through the Pain.

What is God Saying to Me? (Personal Application)