

Detroit Church Plant News & Prayer Letter

Billbranks@gmail.com (312) 550-4737 15187 Cicotte Ave. Allen Park, MI 48101



April 2021

Bill & Tamra Branks ~ CBM Church Planters

Heath Update: We continue to thank the Lord for protecting us during the pandemic. Bill's COPD symptoms have been problematic but, overall, we are feeling great!

Although some continue to stay away due to COVID, we **thank the Lord** that some are returning. We continue to provide an online resource for the homebound. Currently, we have 90+ recorded Common Ground studies available online. Please visit our YouTube channel here: <http://tiny.cc/6788tz> Common Grounds has 422 subscribers which means that the *potential* of God's Word going further each week has increased. Many of our subscribers are from areas where freedom to hear the Word is not readily available.




This is my view (pictured left) into Common Grounds during for each Tuesday night and Sunday morning Bible study. When we asked the Lord for a location, we specifically asked for a place where we could have a coffee shop area upfront and a meeting room in the back and that is exactly what He gave us. It's rare that someone comes into our church for the first time and doesn't comment on how relaxing and inviting the shop/church is. The Lord has provided a comfortable location and all of the technical necessities for providing training for our people, both in person and online.



It really doesn't matter how small a body of believers is, worship is always a good idea and a blessing. It is a particular blessing for us at Common Grounds to have a group of people who love to sing and offer to lead our worship (pictured left) each time we meet. It is a blessing to have my wife's skill on the piano, playing to assist or "worship leaders" as we sing familiar hymns and teach our folks new worship songs. If your weekly in-home Bible studies don't include a song or two and praise to our Lord, I would encourage you to start. Not only is the Lord present "where two or three are gathered" but singing is a real blessing as well.

A few weeks ago, we began setting aside 15 minutes before each meeting for prayer, prayer requests and for anyone to share a burden or testimony. Recently we decided to expand the Sunday morning prayer time to 30 minutes before each service. Pictured right is our first meeting in what we call the "backroom". The giant metal sliding door in the back used to be a loading dock door, but when the building was expanded the back end was closed off. So, we took the back room and some paint, carpeting, new lights and a space heater and turned it into a multi-purpose room! It serves as a church office, prayer room, Sunday school room and food prep room for our fellowship meals.



 **MYANMAR UPDATE** *As you know, I was planning a trip to provide teaching for 60 Burmese pastors, who must serve churches without benefit of proper theological training. The current political unrest in Myanmar has caused us to cancel this trip indefinitely. In lieu of that trip, I have been invited to teach Christian Leadership at two Baptist Pastor's Conferences, back-to-back, in NE India. The dates are August 25-September 13. Please be praying for this trip, the pastors and full financial support.*

- **We are praying** that the Lord will supply a reliable 12 passenger van to pick-up inner-city kids and others who can't drive.
- We still are paying church rent month to month at the same rate. This is an ongoing answer to prayer! **Please pray** that the Lord will allow us to stay at this location!
- The coffee shop reopened this month for a few hours a week, **please pray** for volunteers so we can be open more.
- **Please ask the Lord to** move the following to a full-time commitment to Common Grounds Baptist Church: Some need salvation and a deeper commitment to the Lord! Danny Jr., Danny Sr., Isabella, Chris, Ira Sawn, Larnell, Noreena. **Thank the Lord for** these folks and their continued commitment and involvement: Virgil, Sarah, Gary & Sue, Gloria, Francesca, Therese, Irene, Patsy, Sarah.

Continental Baptist Missions 11650 Northland Dr. Rockford, MI 49341