

THE BRANCHES BULLETIN

ROOTED. ABIDING. BEARING FRUIT.

A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANCHES COMMUNITY CHURCH
A CHURCH PLANT REACHING MONTPELIER, VT



WHAT WE'RE BUILDING TOGETHER



The past month has been quieter on the surface, but full beneath it.

We've begun launch team preparations, replacing chairs with tables so we could sit and have conversations, spending time clarifying not just what we believe, but how those beliefs take shape in everyday life. Each week, I've been teaching through the Baptist Faith & Message 2000,

grounding our team theologically, while our training time has stayed intentionally practical. We're helping people think through how faith shows up in real relationships, real questions, and real moments throughout our community.

In the middle of this season, we also traveled to an Assessment Retreat and were officially endorsed as church planters through the SEND Network. The process included evaluation, coaching, and discernment, and it was a helpful confirmation that we're moving forward with both support and accountability as we continue this work.

This season hasn't been flashy. It's been formative. And it's been encouraging to watch people grow more confident, not louder, but clearer, in how they talk about their faith.

We've also been deeply grateful for the generosity that's come alongside this work. This month, we received \$10,120 in outside donations.

That generosity represents partnership and trust. It's allowing us to prepare carefully, build wisely, and move forward without rushing steps that need time.

Prayer walking through downtown Montpelier as we seek wisdom, clarity, and provision for what God is building here.





LET ME
TELL YOU
MY STORY!

FIFTEEN SECOND TESTIMONY

One of the tools we've been practicing with our launch team is something simple we call the **15-second testimony**.

It's not about having the right words. It's about telling the truth clearly.

The framework is straightforward:

1. **There was a time when I ____**
2. **Then I met Jesus**
3. **Now I ____**

Here's an example we shared recently:

There was a time when I couldn't sleep at night because I was so worried about the future. Then I met Jesus. Now I sleep just fine because I put my trust in Him and know He's in control of what's ahead.

What's been most encouraging to us is how this kind of simplicity changes the way people think about sharing their faith. It shifts the focus from saying something impressive to saying something true. Most people already have a story like this, even if they've never thought of it in these terms.

The question isn't whether the story is big enough, but whether we're willing to name where Jesus has actually met us and what has changed as a result.

This kind of clarity doesn't require a microphone or a perfect moment. It fits into everyday life. And often, it's enough to open the door for a meaningful conversation right where we are.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US



As we look ahead, we're continuing to prepare for the next phase of ministry in Montpelier. Part of that preparation includes prayerfully exploring future gathering options and steadily building the financial foundation needed to sustain long-term ministry.

Our startup fund is currently at **10% of our goal**, and each contribution strengthens our ability to respond wisely when new opportunities open.

Here are two ways you can partner with us right now:

Pray

- For wisdom and discernment as we navigate next steps
- For unity and growth within our launch team
- For steady, faithful gospel conversations throughout our community

Give

- Financial gifts support our startup fund and help establish stable, ongoing ministry capacity
- Your generosity allows us to prepare responsibly rather than reactively

We're grateful for your partnership in this season. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity help make this ministry possible.

Online giving available here through Tithely



visit our website for more information

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