

Dear Bow Lake Free Will Baptist Church family,

Friends, let me start by communicating my gratitude for how you all have supported me through this year. Because of your permission, I have been able to get out to Montana 3 times to be present with my parents. Your graciousness has allowed me to be there as my father finished his cancer treatments, it has allowed my family to be there for what ended up being my mother's last Christmas, and it allowed me to be by her side as she entered into eternity. Not only am I grateful, but both of my parents have been grateful as well.

In last year's report, I thanked you for "allowing me to bang the drum about becoming a church that is focused on bringing Kingdom of God change to our congregation and our community." I think that we have continued to move in that direction as we try and engage our community in ways that bless them. The shoe voucher event in particular stands out as an outreach that was completely focused on what our community needed rather than trying to increase attendance. As the saying goes, "People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." Thank you for caring for our community.

As I reflect on the past year, however, I do see room for us to grow closer to each other and to our heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit has really been laying on my heart the need for us to move past our past. As we try and move forward, the enemy tries to pull us back into our past. I know there is pain and broken trust in our past...some of it goes back many years. But until we are able to heal through peace-making, confession, and forgiveness, we will not be able to fully participate in Kingdom work. My prayer is that we would truly commit to the Holy Spirit's transformative work in us, both individually and corporately.

I continue to believe God has been doing a work in our church. Thank you for the ways you have followed my leadership and also for the way you have challenged me to be a better leader. Please know that I appreciate your encouragements, whether positive or corrective, because I know that God is using you for my sanctification. As the author of Hebrews encourages us, "*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.*"

For His Glory!

Pastor Robin