

Joe Scruggs

From: Bill Clark <bclark@cc-ob.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2012 9:13 AM
To: Joe Scruggs
Subject: Greetings

Dear Joe,

You and the beloved people of Redeemer are certainly on my mind this week as you near the church's 25th anniversary. I'm sorry I'm not able to be with you. Hopefully soon Laurie and I will be back to visit and to see our dearest friends.

When a small group of us began the church some time ago (I think I was only 19 when it started), none of us fully knew what God was up to. My own vision was for the Tulsa area to have a church affiliated with a healthy, growing denomination, rooted in the evangelical essentials and ministering with a deep commitment to grace. I think that's what happened and it is a source of joy to me that you and many others have continued and grown the efforts we began.

For a guy who really never wanted to leave Tulsa, it's still seems odd to me that we have lived in California and now Chicago. I used to plead with God to never move me to Chicago. Shows you God's good sense of humor and the power of his call. We are enjoying our new church – lot's of characteristics similar to Redeemer. Now if we can just get through winter.

My own experiences over the past few years have confirmed my concern for the future of the Church in America. In most places, we are losing ground, especially among people under 30. I pray that this trend can be reversed by churches that focus on the goodness of the Gospel, the power of the Cross, and the need for God's people to engage the world in service and ministry. Redeemer is one of the places where that is happening, and for that I am very grateful.

May you have a joyful time of worship today, and a deep confidence in what God will do in years to come.

Ever in Christ, Bill

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