



Les and Pat Porter

A NOTE FROM LES PORTER

Pat and I were married by Virgil Jackson, the evangelist at the Central church of Christ in Seattle at that time. Pat was raised in the Lord's church and we agreed to attend the Lord's church wherever we lived. Before we were married, my mother worshipped at whichever denomination that was within walking distance with all six children in my family. I felt I was in a saved condition until in 1976 when we began studying to work with an evangelistic tool similar to "The Big Picture" called "A Few Minutes With Someone Who Loves You." At that point I questioned my baptism as a 12 year old in a Baptist church. After much study and prayer I was immersed for the forgiveness of my sins. Within the next year we started attending the Bellevue church of Christ.

We have three grown children for which I had the pleasure of baptizing when they were teens. We attended Bellevue until 1992 when we left to attend a very small struggling congregation in the south Renton area. In 1996, due to Pat's parents declining health and needing some assistance we moved our membership to the Federal Way congregation where they attended. We cared for them by taking them grocery shopping, doctor appointments and to church on Sundays while we lived on Mercer Island. In 2002 her parents moved out of the area so we started worshipping at Bellevue again until 2013 when we came to Kirkland.

We have always had a passion for local evangelism and hospitality wherever we attended. We love sharing our home with church family and friends and have always said our home is God's to use in any way He wants. In 1978 Bellevue hired an evangelism minister. In 1980 we spent two weeks door-knocking in the South Bellevue and North Renton areas – setting up one-on-one Bible studies using Ivan Stewart's "Open Bible Study" material. In 2004 I was asked to serve as a shepherd at Bellevue and in 2006 and 2008 Pat and I went on two 2-week foreign mission trips to Argentina and Honduras, respectively. At Kirkland we love studying with new Christians – teaching foundational lessons after their baptisms. We spent three years looking for a new home near Kirkland because we have come to love this church family and enjoy working beside others concerned about spreading the gospel.

Finally, why would I desire to serve as a shepherd again? Early in my Christian walk I spent a lot of time with a church shepherd and his family and knew that at some point in my life I would want to serve my church family as a shepherd. The first six years of my service at Bellevue were very rewarding. Pat and I visited sick and hospitalized members and got to know every family member in the congregation. In 2013 we decided to leave Bellevue and chose to worship with Kirkland because of strong shepherds, great preaching and singing, excellent Bible classes and members with hearts for evangelism. We love all of you very much. I feel it's time for me to once again serve, if it be the Lord's will.