

Dec 2023 Newsletter

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Titus 2

This has been a wonderful month of rejoicing, reflecting, and sharing about our Lord's first coming! May we continue to put our hands to the plow to do the good that He has prepared for us to do, living with great anticipation of His return.

Egyptian ladies

Both **Noha** and **Nashwa** are back. Noha's husband has returned to the US and Noha would like to visit next year. We came to an unspoken agreement not to talk about the Israeli-Palestinian war. I am praying for God's guidance about what to talk about in the new year that would be meaningful.

Afghan D family

The Pakistani police visited the **D family** one day and threatened to deport them. The police didn't accept the legal documents from the US government. D gave them \$200, and they left. But they said that they would come back again.

Hui Muslim couple

Ma Yong and his wife have been attending consistently. M asked me to share about my faith journey, so I shared about growing up in a Buddhist family, not knowing the meaning of life and being depressed. But God sent Christian friends into my life who brought me to church, shared about Jesus with me and eventually I received Jesus into my life. I talked about the peace and hope that I have now as a believer.

We also talked about the meaning of Christmas during one of the lessons. M was touched that Jesus would come into this world for the sake of saving people. M even traveled 2 hours by public transport to attend our ESL Christmas party. His wife, however, had to work and couldn't come.

Church ESL

The highlight of this month is the Christmas party. Even though only some of the students came, it was a blessed time as we sang Christmas songs, shared a Christmas video, a short message and food.



We also had the chance to visit a family who attend our class. Their daughter is disabled, and wheelchair bound, while the father **Juan** recently was diagnosed with a brain tumor. They came from a Roman Catholic background, but Juan is interested in Fengshui, and they have several statues of Buddha and a dragon in their home. We shared that God wants us to worship Him alone and He abhors idols. Juan's wife said she has felt someone pressing down on her when she sleeps, and their daughter has seizures sometimes. We advised them to take down the statues and immediately they did and put them in a box. We plan to visit again and ask them to destroy the idols. After the visit, I experienced some spiritual battles. One morning, I had wanted to take Juan to the doctor but found that my car had a flat tire. I got it fixed but the next day, the same tire had another nail, and the battery was dead!

Outreach

Jamaica Colosseum Mall

Farzana said that she has relatives in Israel and hopes that the war would end. I said that many Christians are praying for the peace of Jerusalem. God will fight for them and bring them to repentance.

Annie told us her experience of going to a Catholic church when she first came to the US. She described the priest sprinkling holy water, observing communion and other rituals. She didn't know what was going on and no one explained to her. But she has attended a few baptismal services of her relatives. She said that she'll go to church when she retires. We advised her that we can't be sure about tomorrow and should seize the opportunity to know Jesus.

Jenny seemed to be losing her voice. She had lung cancer many years ago and thinks that it may be a relapse. Two of her siblings passed away due to lung cancer. She said that she has peace if Buddha is to take her life soon. We prayed for her that God may bless her with eternal life. She accepted a Christian magazine from us.

Broadway Mall

Steve is Jewish and is a holiday vendor. We bought some things from him. We tried to share Jesus with him, but he said that he's Jewish and Christmas is a time to make money. He accepted a tract from us.

Pam is a vendor as well. We thought that she looked familiar and she turned out to be the twin sister of Paula whom we met before. They're both Catholics and go to church. We shared the Gospel with her, and she understood.

Mamada is a fragrance store owner whom we've spoken with before. We wanted to share the Gospel with her, but she said that she already knows it and she's busy with her business.

Mohammad from India is a Muslim. He has visited a church before because he was curious. I asked what the main message of Islam is, and he said that it's respect for all people and religions. I shared the Gospel with him, and he listened.

Captain Tilly Park

Hannah is a Muslim from Pakistan. We asked if she's sure she can go to be with God after this life. She said that if she follows the teachings of prophet Muhammad, then she can go. She said that he's the last prophet and he has been mentioned in the Quran, the Bible and even the Hindu scriptures. I

shared that his name is not in the Bible. I asked if she has read the Bible and she said that she has heard teachings about it from the Muslim scholar Zakir Naik. I said that's not the same as reading the Bible herself. She said that Zakir Naik quotes verses from the Bible, but I said that we can't just pick certain verses, but we need to read them in its context. Diane shared that her name Hannah is from the Bible. It piqued her interest, and we told her the story of how Hannah prayed to have a baby, and when she gave birth to Samuel, she dedicated him to God.

Dar Al Taqwa Islamic Center

We haven't been here in a few years. Most of the Muslims here are from Afghanistan. Across from the mosque is congresswoman Grace Meng's office. We saw a few people with the Palestine flag outside the office. We asked what they were doing, and they said that they were protesting the "genocide" in Palestine. They wanted the congresswoman to stop the war in Palestine. After the prayers ended, more Muslims joined the protest. There were many police there to make sure things didn't get out of hand. They've had several such protests before, but they said that the congresswoman hasn't spoken to them.

I spoke to **Shah**, also from Afghanistan, and shared Jesus with him. He has been here for 35 years, and he came mainly for his children's future. I asked if he knows whether he can go to heaven and he's not sure. I shared with him the way of salvation and he accepted my tract in Pashto. I also shared with another Afghan man, **Sari**.

We met a Korean sister who wanted to give us tracts and we encouraged one another to keep doing God's work.



Some prayer items:

1. Juan would be willing to destroy the idols in his home and be fully committed to Jesus. Healing for Juan and his daughter Gabriella.
2. ESL teachers to have health, wisdom, and love to minister to our students.
3. God's guidance about where to evangelize during these colder months.

Thank you for your prayers! Please let me know how I can pray for you and your ministry. If you do not want to receive future communications from me, please let me know and I will take you off my mailing list.