

BOSTON



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I want to begin by thanking all of you for your love, support, and prayers for us in Boston. I have had many of you reach out to us and check on my family and our congregation, and it is greatly appreciated. You are in our prayers as well, for steadfastness of faith and to glorify our God in all things.

Wow, what a month! It was really hard to put my thoughts together with everything that has happened over the past 31 days. Here is my attempt to fill you in on some of the details here in Boston.



Gathering before COVID-19

First Half of Month

March began with Dan & Sonia Koen announcing their plans to move to Sierra Leone, West Africa by the end of summer for the purpose of evangelistic work. This is something that Dan & Sonia have been thinking about, planning, and praying about for several years. In fact, I knew of the possibility of this before we even moved to Boston in 2018. It goes without saying that this is a bold step for the Lord's kingdom. This announcement brings a huge flood of emotions for me. I am extremely proud of this couple and happy for them in their decision. I am excited for what the Lord will do in his use of them in his kingdom. However, I am also saddened to be losing this incredible worker and partner here in Boston. If you will, please keep the Koen family in your prayers as they prepare for their move.

The picture above was the Second Sunday gathering at our house for March. Looking at the picture, it seems like so long ago. As is typical for our Second Sundays, we enjoyed eating together and visiting with each other. Then, we all wrote down prayer requests, and the men led us in prayer for those requests. I'm thankful we had this time of fellowship together shortly before things changed.

Second Half of Month

A little later in the month, we were planning to host our annual lecture series. This is an event that we use as a tool to reach out to the community and spread the gospel.

We were beginning our efforts to advertise for the upcoming event, but the winds of change were starting to blow. As news of the virus was beginning to spread, it became obvious that we needed to cancel the lecture series.

As the virus spread and the restrictions began to grow, we then decided to move our Sunday and Wednesday Bible classes to a virtual setting, using Zoom. This medium has been incredibly uplifting. It is so great to see and talk to all of the people we love, even though we have to miss the physical closeness. Obviously, it is a poor substitute for the real thing, but I am extremely grateful for it nevertheless. Our continued Bible classes have kept a sense of normalcy for our group.

Obviously, our meetup studies also had to be cancelled. However, the Lord is continuing to open doors to share the gospel. One open door is with Liz, who was a regular to our Thursday studies. I had tried to have a personal study with Liz before, but she would generally avoid it. But since we had to cancel our meetup study, I invited Liz to have a personal study using FaceTime. She was willing to do that, and we have been able to have 3 studies together so far. We are studying through the book of Colossians – which is a book that she wanted to study. I'm extremely thankful to the Lord for this opportunity. I have also been able to keep up with my other regular studies either over the phone or video chat.

Through this time of social distancing, Dan and I decided to create a new virtual Bible study for the Boston community. We advertised it on Facebook and hosted the study on Zoom. Each of the studies have been joined by at least 5 visitors from our community, which is more than we regularly have to our physical meetup studies. We are excited to continue to read and study the Bible with the community and are hopeful that we will be able to use this tool to contact more seekers living nearby.

Overall, our church family is doing well through the pandemic. None of our members are sick or showing symptoms right now. All of our students have obviously been affected - several of them have already gone home. A few of our members have had their jobs affected, however. Generally, they seem to be in pretty good spirits about it. Everyone is working diligently to keep up with each other and take care of everyone's needs.

To God be the glory in all that He has done!

His Servant,

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