



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

I feel blessed to share this with all of you, and I am strengthened by the notes and prayers that we receive. Thank you for your interest in the Lord's work in Boston.

Christians in Boston

Early in January one of our older sisters, Jackie, was suffering from a cough. It seemed to linger for a couple weeks, but it wasn't affecting her normal routine. Towards the end of the second week, she was texting with Hannah, saying that she really wasn't feeling well. Hannah went over to check on her and decided that Jackie needed to get to the hospital. At the hospital, Jackie found out that she had COVID, pneumonia, and a blood clot in her lung. It was definitely a scary few days. She was in the hospital for 11 days, but I can joyfully report that she is now back home. While in the hospital, Jackie kept her spirits up and was an encouragement to our congregation by never missing a Bible class or worship service on Zoom. She obviously didn't feel well, but she always participated in Bible class with thoughtful questions and comments. I'm thankful to the Lord for healing Jackie and bringing her back home. Please pray for her as she continues in her recovery.

Regarding Bible class and worship, this month our congregation started a new plan for gathering together. Beginning in December, we had to start meeting on Zoom for Sundays, because the weather was too cold, rainy, and/or snowy to be outside. Unfortunately, we are still not able to find a space large enough to assemble as a whole congregation, and COVID restrictions keep us from meeting together in one house. So we came up with a hybrid solution for Sundays. We broke up our congregation into 10-person "pods" (10 people is the maximum allowed in a house in Massachusetts, at this time). These "pods" meet in different homes, and then we are all connected through Zoom. With this plan,



Zoom Wednesday Bible class (including Jackie at hospital)

we are still able to be together as a congregation for Bible class and worship and also be face-to-face with some brethren. Obviously, this is a poor substitute for our entire congregation meeting in person. However, I'm thankful for the effort that our group puts toward being together. It requires significant effort for this set-up to work for our congregation (from hosting, to driving and picking up multiple members, to travelling over an hour for some).

A few months ago, our congregation was studying Luke 10 in our Bible class. While studying the parable of the good Samaritan, a couple of our brothers were convicted by how much they needed to grow in loving their neighbors. In response to this, they decided to act by gathering supplies to hand out to some of our many homeless people in Boston. This quickly became a congregation-wide effort. Ms. Violet made sandwiches (apparently a big hit!), and others donated food, water, socks, hats, gloves, etc. Then, a group of our members went downtown to meet their neighbors, offer them supplies, and ask for any prayer requests. The outreach has become a monthly effort, which has given our group the opportunity to meet with some of the same people downtown. Seeing them regularly is creating familiarity with some of our neighbors, and it has encouraged a few to open up a little about their struggles. For example, one man who did not offer a prayer request the first time, asked for prayers for a specific need the next time he was met. I am so grateful to these brothers and sisters for their example of living out the teaching of Jesus in their lives.

Work of Evangelist

In December, I began to preach sermons through the letter of 1 Peter. I've been struck by how much I needed these lessons and how pertinent they are for our lives today. It just so happened that the lesson from 1 Peter 2:13-3:7 was three days before the inauguration of our new President (trust me – I am not so good to have planned this ahead of time). One of our brothers described it as a “brutal” lesson, because it showed how we need to “be subject” and “do good” towards everyone in authority, even those we may think are bad leaders. It's even more humbling to meditate on how these practical truths were written by a man who came face-to-face with harsher rulers in his lifetime than I have thus far.

Personal

Our family continues to do well. Hannah and the girls stay very busy with school. We have been blessed with good health and a warm heater.

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

His Servant,

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Winter is Here!