

# BOSTON



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Your encouragement, prayers, and support lift me up in this work. Thank you for your love for me, my family, and for the Lord.

## **Christians in Boston**

There were two very special days for the congregation this month. The first was a completely bilingual worship service. Typically, our worship services are spoken in English and translated by one of our brothers, Melvin, through headphones to our Spanish sisters. This particular Sunday, Bill Sanchez, an evangelist from Atlanta, was visiting Boston and asked if he could help us out. He offered to preach both in English and Spanish – translating himself. This gave us the idea to make the entire worship service bilingual. Melvin stood with the men who were leading prayers and the communion talk, translating phrase by phrase out loud to the group. The song service consisted of hymns that were both in English and Spanish. It was an incredibly uplifting worship for our group, and I am thankful that we had the opportunity to do it.

The second special day for our congregation was having the Koen family return to visit us from Sierra Leone for a week. Dan and I were fellow evangelists in Boston together until a year ago, when Dan and Sonia (with their daughter, Eden) moved from Boston to teach and preach the gospel in Sierra Leone, West Africa. The Koens returned a family of four (their daughter, Epaphra, was born in Sierra Leone this past May). On Sunday, Dan spoke for us and “declared all that God had done with them” (Acts 14:27). He expressed how their own faith has grown in numerous ways over this past year – including facing a life-threatening illness and the challenges of communicating (both through the language and the learning styles of the people). He shared the grace of God in describing the faith of the local Christians, which was evident in their willingness to give up some of their plans to build a permanent structure for worship and instead support one of the local men to work full-time as an evangelist. He gave examples of the many people who have been learning and obeying the gospel. After worship, our congregation gathered at a member’s home for



*Dan teaching in a familiar setting*

lunch and fellowship with Dan & Sonia. During the week, I was able to meet up with Dan at our familiar place, Panera, to discuss further the past year.

It was a blessing to see Dan & Sonia again. My family and this congregation miss them terribly, but we are so thankful they are doing the Lord's work in West Africa and that He is giving them open doors. If you are interested in following more closely the kingdom work in Sierra Leone, I suggest that you follow Dan's YouTube channel – Mindful Missionary w/ Dan Koen. His videos are powerful and give a flavor of their life and their work. Also, please continue to pray for Dan & Sonia, the Christians, and the progress of the gospel in Sierra Leone.

### **Work of Evangelist**

This quarter, our Bible classes have been focused on the Minor Prophets, and I had the opportunity to teach through Hosea. It was a powerful study of the ugliness of Israel's adultery against the Lord. They had broken his covenant over and over through their idolatry, constant sinfulness, and rejecting his word. Yet, the Lord constantly speaks tenderly to Israel to call her back to him – to have a relationship with him again. Our congregation benefited from this beautiful story of God's love.

I mentioned last month about Sabrina being baptized. Weekly, we have dinner with Sabrina, her 2-year old son – Elijah, and her mom. After dinner, we will study the Bible with Sabrina and her mom, while the girls play with Elijah. We are studying through the book of Matthew. Studying with Sabrina lifts my spirit. She is extremely zealous for the Lord and his word. Before our first study, I had given her some "homework" of trying to notice some things from the genealogy in Matthew 1. She was so excited to dig into it and came prepared the following week. I wasn't anticipating that she would continue to ask for homework each week. Sabrina also prepares for our congregation's Bible classes and gives thoughtful comments and questions in class. The change in Sabrina (the light) is becoming noticeable to her mom and her ex-husband. Sabrina has regular spiritual conversations with both of them – which has led them both to join us for worship. Please continue to keep Sabrina and her family in your prayers.

### **Personal**

This month brought the end of a busy summer and the beginning of a busy school year. We are blessed that Hannah is able to continue homeschooling the girls. We were able to join a homeschooling co-op this year, which gives the girls an opportunity to meet more children their age. Also, I can't believe that one of our daughters is closer to graduation than she is from having begun school.

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

His Servant,

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