

# BOSTON



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We are wrapping up our ninth month of the Lord's work in Boston. Thank you for coming along side us and helping us on our journey. We thank God for all of you.



## **Work of Evangelist**

A couple weeks ago while walking into the train station, I was handed a pamphlet entitled "The Greatest News!" which claimed "how to know for 100% certain how you can go to Heaven when you die." The man who handed the leaflet to me was named Mark, a missionary who focuses his efforts in Boston and New Hampshire. I approached him, asking if we could study the Bible together sometime. Instead of scheduling something for later, we stood right there in the station – in spite of the trains flying by every 15 minutes. We had a long discussion about what the Bible has to say regarding salvation (Mark does not believe that baptism is essential – only belief in Jesus). I emailed Mark the next day because I wanted to share some additional concerns I had about

his use of the Scriptures. We have exchanged a couple emails back and forth. I am appreciative of Mark's willingness to speak to others about God and His word. However, I am concerned with the gospel that he is spreading. My prayer is that Mark – and myself – will seek the truths found in the Bible and not just what we have been taught.

Another interesting aspect of my discussion with Mark was his asking if I was connected with the Boston Church of Christ. He associated my belief in baptism for the forgiveness of sins with this group. I told him that I was NOT affiliated with this denomination in any way. Some of you may be aware that the Boston Church of Christ is a part of the International Church of Christ (ICOC). This cult-like religious group has caused controversy throughout the world with their teachings. Their influence and history is well-known around Boston. Sadly, this can be a deterrent for the spread of the gospel in this region. We have met several people who had bad experiences with the Boston Church of Christ, which makes them shy away from studying the Bible.

Dan and I have always met regularly on a weekly basis to discuss our work together and for me to gain some insight and wisdom from him. We were usually trying to fit that time between studies, which meant we would have to cut our time short, or completely, if other things came up. This past month we decided to place more priority on our meetings and move them to Monday mornings, which would allow us opportunity to study and pray together. I have really enjoyed this time, being sharpened by Dan. I appreciate his heart for the Lord and the work that he has been doing in Boston for several years now.

### **Christians in Boston**

We had several members and regular visitors who have been going through various trials recently. I spent a good amount of time meeting with them individually to encourage each of them and study with them this month.

One thing that seems to be a constant for the church in Boston is change. Because our congregation leans toward the younger end of the spectrum, a lot of people move in and out for college and jobs. This month was no different. Christina Samuel, who placed membership with us a few months ago, decided to move to the Washington D.C. area for a better job. We were saddened by this news, as Christina's sweet and fun spirit was loved much by our 4 girls, but we are excited for her in this new opportunity. At about the same time, Crystal Tiffany moved from NYC to Boston for a new job and has placed membership with us. We have already gotten to spend some time with Crystal and are enjoying getting to know her. She is quickly becoming an asset by pitching in to help where she can and even invited everyone over to her place for fellowship on New Year's.

### **Personal**

Although it has been a busy month, this past week slowed down quite a bit for the holidays. On Christmas Eve, the Hudgins invited everyone who was still in town to their home for dinner and games. Our family was able to have a quiet Christmas day together – which was a joy! I am blessed with an amazing wife and daughters.

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

His Servant,

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