

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Happy New Year to you all. I am thankful for the opportunity to write and send out these reports. It is beneficial for me to look back over the past month (or previous months) to see the work that is being done in Boston. It also benefits me to know that so many of you are interested in the Lord's work here and want to be a part of it. Thanks to all of you!

## Christians in Boston

I've mentioned before that we were planning to have a monthly Spanish only worship/study for our Spanish-speaking Christian sisters. To prepare for this worship period, Oscar Rodriguez has been helping the men learn how to read Scripture, pray, and sing hymns in Spanish. In January, we had our first service. It was held at 9 a.m., which is the hour prior to our Bible classes. I was so proud of the men who prepared for the service. I know how much work they had to put into it. Two of our men led prayers in Spanish, three other men led the congregation in singing, and Oscar presented a lesson ("Antes que Abraham fuese, Yo soy" from John 8:58). The entire congregation was invited to join in this worship. We had approximately 30 in attendance, many of whom do not understand the language but participated to their fullest abilities.

As I write this, Dan & Sonia Koen (with their daughter, Eden) are heading to Sierra Leone in West Africa for a two-week trip. The purpose of this trip is to finalize their research in making a decision to move there to help in the gospel efforts in this country. This move is something that they have considered for a long time. Please keep the Koens in your prayers. Pray that they may have safety in their travels, that the Lord will give them wisdom and clarity in their decisions, and that the Lord's will for his kingdom will be done.

## Work of Evangelist

January brought about the beginning of a new 3-year cycle for our Bible classes. In this first quarter, we are studying the book of Genesis and the first half of Exodus. I am blessed to have the opportunity to teach this class. It has been beneficial for me to study deeply through Genesis and see the great themes of the entire Bible that begin in this book. I'm thankful for the Christians here and their eagerness to study and know God's word deeper. They always make the Bible classes better with their great questions and comments.



Our meetup studies on Monday and Thursday are continuing to go well. Dan is leading the Monday study through the gospel of Luke and is doing a terrific job. Our Thursday study is now going through the book of 1 Samuel. We continue to have regular visitors to both of these studies and the occasional new face who joins as well. I'm grateful to the Lord for these opportunities to meet and study with people who have an interest in His word.

## **Personal**

Earlier this month, Hannah and the girls spent a weekend in Brooklyn visiting Marina, one of our former members. They had a fun weekend seeing the sights of Brooklyn and Manhattan and enjoying time together. On Sunday, they had the opportunity to worship with the church in Brooklyn (Prospect Park). Hannah came back so uplifted from the weekend with Marina and the time worshiping

with these brothers and sisters. She was greatly encouraged by the church in Brooklyn - their love for the Lord and their obvious love for one another. I'm grateful they had the opportunity to go and that they came home safely.

This month we added a new member to the Bennett family. His name is Barnabas – our golden retriever puppy. Hannah chose this great name because we were hoping that he would be an encouragement to our family and the Christians here as well. He is adored by his sisters and by all who meet him. And we have already found him to be an encouragement.

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

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