

April 2017 Report

Report for Dan Koen in Boston, Massachusetts

"they began to report all things God had done with them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" Acts 14:27

Dear Brethren,

This month has been full of answered prayers. This, of course, is true of every month, but the Lord's hand has been especially visible this month in response to our petitions. I'd like to highlight a few of those answered prayers and I hope it will give you reason to thank God and be more persistent and devoted in prayer to our heavenly Father.

"From the ranks of the youthful and inexperienced, grant that men from our group would step up into the void left by those departing."

This has been my constant prayer since I first learned of the intention of several of our group to leave Boston. Although our group has been persistently praying that the Lord would send workers into this community from elsewhere, that was not our first prayer and response. Our first reaction to hearing of the major departure of many from Boston, was to acknowledge that this change would require those from our own number to step up and increase in maturity and initiative. We feel amply blessed and equipped to handle the challenge of those leaving. And this past month has given me and others from the church here great confidence that God is answering our prayers. Examples of this are demonstrated by two young men; Winston and Jesus. Winston, a christian of two years, has volunteered to step outside his comfort zone and teach the 3rd quarter of our adult class curriculum. This will be a stretching experience for him. He will be teaching 26 classes covering the United Kingdom over 13 weeks, which would be a challenge even for an experienced teacher. I'm thankful for the dedication he has already demonstrated toward this responsibility as he prepares. Jesus, a man that travels over an hour and a half to services with his wife at least twice a week for Bible studies and our assemblies, recently organized our regular prayer service. This was his first time organizing something of this nature. His nervousness was apparent, but he did fantastic. The Christians here are so blessed to witness brothers like these two who push themselves beyond what they are comfortable doing or familiar with; it convicts all of us to do the same.



"I'm struggling in my efforts to reach the lost. Please, Lord, send me a searching soul to teach Your gospel."



It's a daily tradition that Sonia and I have to begin each day in prayer together. And every Monday we typically pray concerning the upcoming week; the opportunities, challenges, and needs we anticipate. Those that are heavily involved in evangelism would confirm that there are months where there are an abundance of studies and others months that are surprisingly empty of studies with the lost. And the past month or two have been more of the latter. I almost always acknowledge this to be a result of my own lack of boldness or awareness of opportunities (for which I ask for God's forgiveness and grace to help me). But this particular morning, Sonia and I were praying regarding my need to increase my efforts and awareness and that the Lord would send me a searching soul that week to teach. Within 2 days of that prayer I received a phone call from Elizette, a lady that had seen and saved my phone number over a year ago after seeing it on a Bible study advertisement. She expressed her desire to study the Bible and we scheduled a time to meet. Sonia was nearby as I received the phone call and we both looked at each other with an expression of

awe because of how quickly and easily the Lord had answered our prayer. We've studied twice with Elizette since then and have been extremely encouraged by her sincere heart to know the word of God. She's originally from Brazil and hasn't been very active in seeking God since moving to America 15 years ago, but has recently been convicted of her need to grow closer to the Lord. I look forward to watching her growth as she begins to accept and apply the truths we have begun studying together.

"Through the generosity of your people, provide the additional support required for housing in Boston."

In my previous report, I mentioned our need for additional support primarily for a slightly larger apartment. Since moving to Boston and through getting married I/we have lived in a 300 Sq. ft. studio apartment. After much prayer and conversation, Sonia and I are confident of the blessings that would result from us moving to a slightly larger apartment that would be able to facilitate our goal of opening our home more frequently to Christians in the area. The Lord has abundantly answered our prayers for additional support and has blessed us with an apartment that we'll be moving into in August. The apartment is far from spacious (just 500 sq. ft.) but it will be such an improvement from our current space and the location is ideal; I can't imagine being in a more accessible location for hospitality. It's always so humbling to receive financial support from God's people as they seek to contribute to the work here. Thanks be to God and thanks be to those who have considered the work being done in Boston worthy of a financial contribution.



Forever His,

Daniel Koen