



OCTOBER-DECEMBER REPORT

Travel

We have been traveling, like many of you, some for the holiday season. For Thanksgiving we traveled to Starkville, Mississippi for a few days and visited with Kirby's family there. It was good to see them and spend some time there since we only are able to go over a couple of times a year.

We also traveled to Huntsville, Alabama for the Christmas holiday and spent time visiting my family. It also was enjoyable time to be with family and see people we only have time to visit once or twice a year. We are thankful for the opportunities that the holidays afford us to spend time catching up with our families.

During these travels I was able to speak at the Chapman Acres church (Huntsville, AL) and the Westview church (Hartselle, AL). These two churches have been instrumental in supporting our work in Atlanta from the very beginning and I am so thankful for them and their support.

Intown Atlanta Church

We continue to work with our brothers and sisters downtown in growing in our faith and trust of the Lord. As I mentioned before, "Discipleship" is our theme this year so we have been trying to hit on that consistently in our bible class time and once a month in our preaching. I believe it has been a great theme so far and I am prayerful it has been helpful for our group.

The church here has experienced some pain lately. We've had 3 relatives of members here pass away suddenly and/or tragically in this three month period. While it is never easy for people to lose loved ones, it is even harder to experience loss in a tragic or unexpected way. Thank God that He has taken the sting of death away for His children! Additional thanks to Him for providing us with family (brethren) to support those who are mourning and lift them up in prayer. God is good.

On another disappointing note, **Chi Wai**, who was baptized about four months ago, has not been around for the past two months or so. She continues to text Kirby and myself from time to time, but has yet to meet up with us as we seek to encourage her in the Lord. While we know her story is not over, it has been disappointing to have this happen, especially as she is the first convert from the city that we have had. Please pray that she will not allow Satan to continue to discourage her and that she will repent and return to the Lord and us.



Wednesday night study

Now on the positive side of things, a young man named **David** moved to Atlanta a few months back to be nearer to his then girlfriend and now fiancé **Kelsey**. Kelsey has been worshipping with us for the past couple of years and we are excited that she has found someone who is a disciple of Jesus to spend her life serving with and we are excited to have David be with us in the city. They both are willing and able workers and we are thankful to have them here with us.

The church is planning to host two upcoming events. The first is a women's event that my wife and the other women of our group (**Paulette**, Kelsey, and **Angelia**) have put together. It is taking place on Saturday, January 28. They are making an effort to get the word out to some in the community, and we are all hopeful that some women from the area will attend.

The other event is one we are planning for April 28th with **Carl Ballard**. He recently moved back to Charleston, SC to work with a church there after he and his family had been preaching in Brazil for several years. We are excited that he is coming to lead our next community discussion event. We try to host these 3 times a year and we make a push to get the word to as many as we can. Please say a prayer for both of these events and that we would find those whose hearts are inclined to the Lord and His word.

Studies

The study that we began in September in College Park hasn't gotten much traction. **Stephen**, a man from the immediate area, comes consistently, but we have known him from a prior study. We have been studying through Hebrews.



Thursday night study

Our Tuesday night study in Decatur has slowed down in the last couple of months. For the better part of a year this has been one of our most fruitful endeavors, but over the last few months it seems to have slowed considerably. It is very much the nature of these types of studies (and studies in general) to ebb and flow like this, but it is not what we want.

The Wednesday night study that I lead has been the most fruitful lately in terms of attendance. We continually have 6-12 attending with about 6 or 7 being from our group downtown. We've enjoyed opportunities with **Kristi, Jess,**

Hank, Jennifer, and **Anna**. This study has been an enjoyable one to be a part of with many different viewpoints represented within the group. Unfortunately, Hank just moved to Virginia for a job, so we are praying he would continue to seek God there.

Thursday night we have been studying the book of Philippians. This study has been small, primarily being myself, Kirby and a woman named **Gina. Victor** occasionally joins us when he is own town. His work often has him traveling. A man named **Matt**, who is from Boston, joined us very recently and we are hopeful that he will continue to join us.

I continue to study, as opportunity presents itself, with **Fasika** and **Dickson**. Fasika is from Ethiopia and has been in the states for nearly 30 years and Dickson is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He moved here 5 or 6 years ago for because he was selected in the US visa lottery. Neither of these studies are exactly what I would like to see as far as studies go, but I am thankful for the opportunities with them. I aim hopeful that they will both grow more serious minded and focused in their pursuits of the Lord.

Various

The last few months have seen mostly a steady routine for us. The holiday time period from a week before Thanksgiving to after the New Year is a tough time for consistency and productivity due to

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others' travel and plans, but we have made the most of it and have continued to pursue opportunities. We are looking forward to the new year and the opportunities that it may bring us. May God bless us all in our work for Him!

grace & peace

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