



BURRILLS

Serving in MALTA



November 2024

For He who is mighty has done great things for (us), and holy is His name. - Luke 1:49

What wonderful love the Father has displayed in sending His Son to be the Saviour of the world! We continue to have a life-changing message to proclaim as we serve Christ together with you at the close of another year. Thank you for extending your ministries to support God's work on the Maltese islands (and beyond). The harvest fields continue to be white and Christ continues to build His church.

The autumn months quickly passed by and the Maltese streets are beginning to be lit up with Christmas lights. Many of the roundabouts contain manger scenes and every community puts together an impressive show of lighting. Christmas music plays over speakers on the busy pedestrian street in the heart of the capital and special events are beginning to fill the calendar. We have everything but a dusting of snow.

As we look back over the previous months, we again thank you for praying for us and the work here. Everything we do is dependent on the Lord's grace in order for it to be effective. The month of October began with a missions emphasis weekend. We were privileged to have our field administrator, Steve Gault, and BMM missionaries in the Netherlands, Daniel and Heather Boyd, with us for our mid-week service and Friday night activity, followed by a Saturday men's breakfast, and our Sunday service. We all appreciated the spiritual input of our guests and the opportunity to have a group of people from our church read aloud rich Scripture gospel texts in their native languages.



Spiritually and physically full men after our breakfast and challenge from Steve Gault during our missions emphasis weekend.

Erica began the ladies Bible study in October and moved it to Saturday mornings for the first time. This time-slot has worked well for many ladies and she has had around 20 ladies each time they have met. This year the ladies are studying through Philippians. Some of our Chinese ladies have been inviting their friends, several of whom have never seen a Bible or heard the gospel before. Not all of them speak or understand English well, so after one study, one of the ladies asked if she could take 20 minutes and rehearse the lesson in Mandarin to make sure there was clear understanding. We thank God for this truth-sharing time together!

All of these activities, while providing opportunities to teach the Bible, also help connect our people to each other, enhancing our Sunday and mid-week gatherings. Occasionally we will plan a church picnic so we can eat, visit, and play with one another in a local park. This year we met on the first Saturday in November and had close to 60 people attend. Every gathering is an international feast and time of fellowship.



The ladies Bible study meets in the balcony/library above the church auditorium.



Later in November, Kian and I travelled together to Istanbul to visit those involved in the church ministry and to preach at the church. For Kian, this was his first time visiting Turkey since we moved from there nine years ago. We were able to visit places he remembered from childhood and explored some new places together. The church continues on, holding steady as a bright witness for Christ in a dark country. Part of our visit was to talk over upcoming changes in the ministry that will take place in the new year. Some of you will remember that Pastor Antuan's wife was marked as a threat to the state a few years ago, with a code being put on her file. Her residence permit was not renewed at the time (she is from the Philippines). After making appeals in court, they were able to gain the residence permit again, but the code remains. This situation has happened to many Christian foreigners across the country who are known to be involved in Christian leadership.

The Gurun family has continued to faithfully serve the Lord through an increasing number of avenues, but the stress of the situation has been difficult on the family. Citadel could still have her permit denied immediately or be deported to the Philippines. The family has decided to pursue an opportunity to move out of Turkey to a nearby country and join a ministry team there, while Antuan would make regular trips back to Turkey to oversee the Christian camping ministry and various other outreaches across the country. The details are not ironed out yet, but they hope to have more clarity in the coming months. A small team of young families with another organization has been involved in helping Antuan with the church the last couple years and I was able to talk through some of the transition plans with their team leader, as they will now need to assume more leadership responsibility.

Some of you have been faithfully contributing to our Project World Walk fund at BMM, which has largely helped cover the rent and many operating costs of the church for the last years. With the situation changing, my administration of those funds will likely change and I have spoken to the on-the-ground team there about needing to increase support from

their own network to help shoulder the financial needs of the church. I am not making any immediate changes, but shared that I will most likely slowly reallocate BMM funds to assist Antuan on more of a project basis for his anticipated trips back to Turkey. Those of you churches who have been giving to Project World Walk for the ministry in Turkey, please get in touch with me if you have any questions.

(photos below: Josh preaching through Antuan's translation and enjoying Krispy Kreme donuts with Antuan, Citadel, David, and Paul)



Each week we continue to teach, preach, disciple people, and administrate the ministry alongside our teammates the Mifsuds and Tanises. It is a joy to see the Lord working in and through the people associated with Bible Baptist Church. Trials hit us here the same as they do where you are, and it is encouraging to see our people pray together, and to see expressions of love being shown between people of the congregation. We will add a few new members to the church in the next couple weeks and there is a good spirit each time we gather. Our men's mentorship group is always encouraging, and we have been discussing plans of how to make financial steps so the church can support a pastor in the coming years. The teens continue to meet regularly with various men taking turns teaching them, and we have seen a handful of people return to us in the last month that we have not seen for a long time. Visitors also continue to join us every service.

Our family is doing well. Kian, Selah, and Naya are having good school years, and Rowan is working full-time in Saint John, New Brunswick. Thank you for your faithful support and for the extra expressions of love many of you send us this time of year. You are a blessing!

In Christ,
The Burrills

Prayer Points:

- Pray for fruit from gospel conversations that happen weekly as people from our church engage people with the life-giving truth.
- Pray for those attending our church who have not yet trusted in Christ for salvation
- Pray for increased and deeper unity which glorifies the Lord as a diverse group of people displays the love of Christ for each other.
- Pray for the Lord to call men to pastoral ministry
- Pray for God's work in Turkey and for God's grace in upcoming transitions
- Pray for our health

