



November/December 2023

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We had a blessed time of celebrating our Savior's birth, and now are looking forward to new ministry opportunities. We have our first annual business meeting this Sunday where we will be planning the year ahead!

### **Christmas Concert**

In late November, we held a Christmas concert in our new building. The concert consisted of a cantata performed by The Baptist College International based in Romania, followed by a brief message. We advertised the event on Facebook, through leafleting, and by word of mouth. We were hoping it would be a good opportunity to allow the community to see our new meeting place and get familiar with our church. We had a smaller than expected turnout with one local, first-time visitor. But it was a blessed evening.

### **New People**

In December, we started having several new and returning visitors to church. Alex's mom, Rachel, who has been on our prayer list for salvation, has been attending every Sunday service for the past few months. Last Sunday, I (Steve) handed out new Bible reading plans for the year. Rachel took one and wants to start reading the Bible! We pray that God will speak to her heart as she reads His Word. Also, my friend Shane has come to church a few times now. Last Sunday, he came to our house for lunch, and I was able to have a long spiritual conversation with him. He feels that he's on a spiritual journey and wants to read the Bible more. When I urged him to read the Gospel of John, he asked if that would help him on his journey. He was raised Catholic and has many questions. He agreed to do The Exchange evangelistic Bible study with me, and

### **Praises**

- *Several new and returning visitors*
- *A new family planning to join our church*
- *Many witnessing opportunities*

### **Prayer Requests**

- *Alex's mom Rachel and family for salvation*
- *Shane M. for salvation*



Kids singing for our Christmas service

he expressed interest in our Wednesday service where we are starting a new study in James. He is leaving to go to Italy for four months but would like to do our study when he returns. Please pray for Shane! He is open and searching. A lady named Jenni and her 11-year-old son Tyler have started attending church. They recently moved from South Africa to Athboy, the town nearest to us. She is asking questions and planning to join the church. We praise the Lord for this growth. So, we have one more boy to add to our boys' group. The Lord has blessed us with a sizeable group of young men. We have a lot of potential and opportunity to raise up a new generation of faithful men and Christian leaders.

Yours in His service,

Steve, Brandie, Gabrielle, Benjamin, Joel, Naomi, Alaina & Emily McKinley



Gabrielle playing accordion with her whistle teacher, Bill (left), and another man on the uilleann pipes at a nursing home for retired priests. Gabrielle has been trying to witness to Bill.



Alaina and Emily turned five



Steve & kids with Shane, Jenni & Tyler playing a game



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