

ear family in Christ, thank you for helping us spread the Gospel out where the people are! We are currently looking for people to become monthly prayer and financial partners. Please sign up today.

"Are you Jewish?" asked a kind rabbi on the plane as we neared Israel. "That's actually a very interesting question," I said. "As Christians, we believe that we are grafted into the vine by faith in the Messiah. So yes, in that respect I am Jewish."

(I don't think that was quite what the kind Rabbi had in mind.)
I asked if he was from Israel and he said yes, from Jerusalem and was with the Lubavitch sect. I told him I knew of Lubavitch and that I didn't think I would qualify for their Birthright tour, as I was only 1/32nd Jewish on my mother's side. He asked some clarifying questions, wondering if there was a direct line to my great grandmother through the mothers, and encouraged me to find out. "Because if there is, then you are Jewish!" he said.

He asked if I would like to do a mitsva (good deed) and pray with the tefiillin (small black box attached by straps to the arm) with some of the Hasidic Jews in the back of the plane. Though I felt honored that he would reach out to a Gentile and invite me to pray with him, as a Christian I could not participate in the empty ritual.



It really was beautiful seeing them praying first thing in the morning with their decorative prayer shawls, but without the infilling of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) it was all form and no substance. My heart broke for a people who had not yet embraced Yeshua as their Messiah.

"Thank you but no," I replied. "But let me ask you a question. Do you believe God created everything in the world?"

"Of course. He created everything and He holds it all together."
"Do you believe, as the ancient Essenes did, that Hashem (God) would one day incarnate as the Messiah?"

"No. We believe that the Messiah is a man, and that he is with us." He showed me a picture of the leader of their sect and said they believed that the head of the Lubavitches is the Messiah. So sad.

I changed the topic to the Hebrew language and got some input on a small translation project I'm working on. After a few good spelling lessons, I asked if I could stay in touch. He was very gracious and gave me his email address.

I asked if he had ever read any of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He said he had heard of them but had never read them. I encouraged him that the ancient history contained within the Scrolls was fascinating and that he must read them.

Isaiah 29 prophesies the day when Israel is regathered, and the "old ones" begin to speak out of the dust of the ground. I believe this prophecy concerns the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran in 1948. As these "old ones" (ancient biblical prophets) speak, those who listen will discover a very clear picture of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, painted by the ancient prophets.

Please pray for Rabbi Schmuel, and Israel as a whole as they are regathered, that they would embrace Jesus as Messiah and that God would breathe the Breath of life into them!



After sharing the Gospel with this group of young adults at Concord's Midnight Merriment event, one of the girls asked, "Doesn't the Bible say that there's going to be a person who pretends to be Christ? Who do you think that person is?" Good question!

This question came from a group of unbelievers who were genuinely interested in what the Bible had to say and led to a great conversation. I shared that the Bible did indeed warn of a time to come when a world leader would arrive on the scene and deceive almost the entire planet. The Bible says that he would conquer through intrigue, which means that he will be a master of mixing truth and lies to create and control the narrative. He will be so convincing that "if it were possible even the very elect would be deceived." That means that the coming anti-Christ would not come as an overtly evil person, but someone who appeals to those with a sense of justice and morality. He will be a wolf in sheep's clothing, pretending to be a sheep but will speak like a dragon. He will be boastful, concelted, proud, arrogant, and see no need for repentance. He will receive a deadly head wound that will be healed. He will be a deal maker, brokering a peace treaty between Israel and its longtime enemies. He will be a builder like Cyrus, laying plans for and constructing a temple for the Jews, and arrogant like Nebuchadnezzar, proclaiming himself to be "The Anointed One" (the Messiah). I told the group that there is no way of knowing for sure who he is, until he is revealed to the world.

The Bible says we can know the signs of the times though. The apostle John wrote about a time in world history when no one would be able to buy or sell unless they had a certain type of mark. This mark would not only perform financial transactions but would also somehow plug the globe into a system that forces them to worship the image (or avatar) of the beast. Never in world history has this type of technology been available until today.

We may not know who the antichrist is or if he is around yet, but we can know the real Christ personally. Only if we submit ourselves to the One true God will we be able to resist the forces of evil that are increasing in our day. I encouraged this group of young adults to repent of their sin and follow Jesus Christ on the narrow path. It will not be an easy path to walk, but for the Bible-believing Jesus-following Christian, it will lead to eternal life.

"The one who stands firm till the end shall be saved." Matthew 24:13

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Revelation 12:11



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Whether you think you are a good person or not doesn't determine whether you make it into Heaven," said Tina, a Buddhist from China. I thought that was very perceptive of her. She didn't seem very Buddhist...so I dug a little deeper.

"That is very true. So have you done enough good things to make it into Heaven?" Lasked.

"This also cannot earn Heaven. We cannot do enough good things to purchase our own entry," she replied.

"Now wait a minute," I said. "You said you were a Buddhist, but you seem to have a good grasp of some Biblical concepts. Most people don't understand these things. I can tell you've been thinking deeply about them."

"Yes. And I've also been studying the Bible with a friend of mine every week." Aha! How cool is that! God has been drawing Tina to Himself for the past year in weekly Bible studies. Then she just "happens" to bump into us on the street that day. I love it!

"I don't think this is a coincidence," I told her. "I think God set this up." Tina agreed. We had a long and great conversation that centered around the Gospel, confirming what her friend had already shared with her. I asked how often she read the Bible, and she said only Sundays with her friend and that she should be more diligent about it. I gave Tina a copy of the Gospel of John and encouraged her to read a little every day. Please pray that she encounters the love of Jesus as she studies His word. Pray that God leads her to repent and fully trust in Christ.



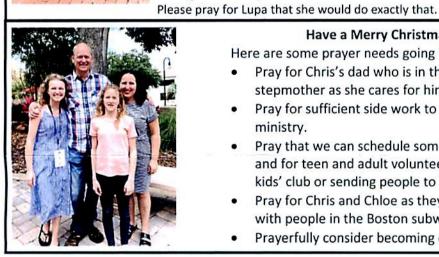
Chloe and her friends did an amazing job sharing the Gospel at the Newburyport Fall Harvest Festival! I'm proud of them for letting love overcome fear. Such boldness! We had many great conversations and gave out plenty of Gospel tracts. Their unashamed witness for the Gospel was a sweet-smelling fragrance to the Lord. Pray that the seeds sown in people's lives would bring forth the fruit of repentance and salvation.

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tiding of good things!" Romans 10:14-15

Merry Christmas! "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6



Lupa is from Tamil Nadu, India, where I did some missions work many years ago. She is Hindu and doesn't believe in idols, which is interesting. She saw so many people investing lots of money in idols and temples in her country and thinks it is a waste. I encouraged her that the Bible agrees and talks about idols with eyes that can't see and ears that can't hear. What a waste! She said, "You probably saw this in India?" I said yes and that it broke my heart. I asked if she has ever read the teachings of Jesus and she hadn't. I shared about our human tendency to try and make up for our sins with good deeds, but how that is completely illogical. It doesn't work in the real world, like in a court of law but every religion teaches it. Why? Jesus differs with every other religious leader, because He teaches that there are no truly good people. No one is good but God. Our own works are as filthy rags, so we can never purchase our salvation. You can't do enough good works to save yourself. You need a lifeguard. Humanity is drowning in sin, and we can't do enough good to make up for it. We need a Savior. Jesus is the Savior. "Wow. I've never heard it explained that way before," replied Lupa. His blood is the only thing powerful enough to wash us clean of all our sins. What we need to do is repent and believe the Gospel. Simple concept, but not easy to do. "But as many as received him, to



Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:2.

Here are some prayer needs going into the new year:

- Pray for Chris's dad who is in the late stages of Alzheimer's and for his stepmother as she cares for him.
- Pray for sufficient side work to come in while we take steps towards full time ministry.
- Pray that we can schedule some kids' clubs with area churches this summer and for teen and adult volunteers to help. (If your church is interested in a kids' club or sending people to help, give me a call.)
- Pray for Chris and Chloe as they preach God's Word and minister one on one with people in the Boston subways, college campuses and Hampton Beach.
- Prayerfully consider becoming one of our monthly financial partners.

We go out to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to where the people are because people matter to God! With love in Christ, Chris, Bonnie, Chloe & Bella



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