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The mission field is here; the time is now!

December 2017 NEWSLETTER

## Speaking the Truth with Love

Two weeks ago, I ran into a situation that put me on the spot: to speak to two different people from two different backgrounds. Last Saturday, I went with Mustafa to my Saturday evening worship service. On that day there were three baptisms. Mustafa had many questions while watching the baptisms (which was a very new thing to him). While I could not answer him during the worship service, we agreed to discuss his questions during the coffee hour after the worship service as we always do.

As we were talking, a person approached us, trying to figure out which language we were speaking. Before long he realized that we spoke Arabic. This gentleman was a 72-year-old American, who described himself as "half atheist and half agnostic." The three of us began a big discussion about God, Christianity, the legitimacy and accuracy of the Bible, Christ, and His crucifixion. I had to speak the truth with love, while translating some of our conversation back and forth.

Mustafa and I had already had open conversations about all of these topics, but now I had another person on the scene with different viewpoints. The American man was a strongly opinionated and confident person. I found it interesting that Mustafa was defending Christianity and preaching to this man. I'm not sure if it was out of friendship that he wanted to defend me, disregarding his own beliefs, or that he believed in what he was saying. Maybe he was defending his own beliefs about the existence of God and using the Bible and the topic to prove his point. Who knows? Time will reveal many things. I encouraged Mustafa and the American man to continue to read the Bible and put aside everything that can stop them from knowing the truth.

At the end of our conversation, the man wished to have a God that can take the burden off his shoulders. He wished to sleep during the night with peace without thinking about tomorrow, as tomorrow for him is a scary thought. In addition, he said he wants to have this assurance of what will happen to him after death. Overall, it was a very good time to talk to both of them about the assurance of salvation from the scripture.

***Please, pray for these two gentlemen, that as they read the Bible, God will reveal Himself to them, and they know the truth, and the truth will set them free.***

- John Gayed

*Merry Christmas*

## Christmas Party Recap

POBLO's Annual Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 2, at Trinity Lutheran Church. A great time was had by all: approximately 75 guests and 25 volunteers. We decorated Christmas cookies, introduced the birth of Jesus and the customs of Christmas, made snowflake bead ornaments, and sang Christmas carols. Each guest received a gift bag with a Children's Bible, Jesus Film, Advent Calendar, some candy, and other goodies. A Chinese girl asked me, "Isn't Christmas Santa's Birthday?" Several students came up and told me they had never heard anything about Jesus' birth, only about Santa in China. Thanks to Trinity for hosting us and baking dozens of cookies! Thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible! Thanks also to LCEF, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, for the grant money.



## Things We Are In Need Of

- Volunteers to teach English
- Volunteer receptionists
- Money to purchase English language curriculum
- Donations for bilingual Bibles in various languages
- Kids' picture and early chapter books
- Family friendly DVDs
- Baby clothes and items in good condition
- Winter clothing
- K-cups for a Keurig coffee maker
- Gift cards to Walmart/Target, office supply stores, gas stations
- Prayer