

*A light
to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory
of thy people Israel.*

– Luke 2:32



The Gibson Family

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light...

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 9:2 & 6)

The Hanukkah candles had long since burned down and the last of the *latkes* were cold, but our Israeli friend still sat at our dining room table. She read prophecy after prophecy of Messiah in her native Hebrew language, but when she came to Isaiah 9:6, she truly “saw a great light.” She threw her hands up and said, “NOW you convince me more than ever! El Gibbor can only be God! The child that is born has to be God, this has to mean Jesus is Messiah!” Long into the night, we discussed the scriptures. She is “convinced”, but is still “thinking about it.” How grateful we are that we can bring her to the Lord in prayer! We are so blessed to be a tiny part of God’s Work, and so blessed to count on faithful supporters and prayer warriors as you.

Everyone knows there is no place like New York for the holidays, and the same could be said for ministry. While we always take time to see the lights and famous Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, the real eye candy for us is to see people eagerly hearing the Good News. Our Hanukkah service was blessed with around 60 in attendance, both Jewish and Gentile, with many wonderful conversations to follow. We look forward to what the Lord will do at our Christmas services December 20th and 24th. The children’s ministry will be presenting “Lost in the Wrapping Paper”, a program about the true message of Christmas. Most of the children are Japanese people who knew nothing about the gospel when they came to us. A number of the children have made professions of faith, and Joy feels that several of the ladies in her ESL Bible study are getting close, or at least are moved by the gospel. These programs are the only time we have with the fathers, so we covet your prayers. Lastly, on Christmas Eve we will worship and celebrate as a church family. Many of our Jewish friends will join us as well, as they always look for something to do on Christmas Eve. The traditional Jewish Christmas Eve celebration is to go out for Chinese and a movie. We love to share that Jesus was Jewish, and came for them too!

Early this year we were blessed to have Joey and Leah Clapp join us at Shalom Baptist Church. They are true servants and jumped right in, teaching, preaching and leading music; helping us get up to date with sound and media, and other less-than-glamorous jobs. Not only have they been a blessing to us in ministry, but personally as well, taking care of our children so that Mom and Dad could have a nice getaway, and more. Please keep them in your prayers in 2016 as they seek inroads with the Russian community.

Our children are growing like weeds and making us very, very grateful to be their parents. Zachary is 13 and inching close to six-foot mark. He is a pied piper with kids, and is all the little boys’ favorite. He also helps with the sound and media at church. Hannah will be 10 a few days after Christmas, and is blossoming into a sweet young lady. She has a servant’s heart, loves to cook and work with children, and has a heart for the Japanese people especially (but Jewish food is still the best!) Valerie is 6, and is very relieved and happy to have her salvation settled this year. She has a vivid imagination and a great sense of humor that keep us laughing. All of the children are homeschooling again this year, and doing well.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support. May the Lord bless you as you worship and serve Him this Christmas and in the New Year.