

The Gibsons

Church Planting in NYC with

International Board of Jewish Missions

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Shalom Baptist Church

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He added to church! Blizzard of 2016



Tea Time!



Unexpected blessing: the gift of a second vehicle is making ministry more effective



Rachel lighting Shabbat candles

MARCH 2016

Shalom Haverim!

Although the blizzard of 2016 hit us hard, overall this has been a mild winter. Praise the Lord! The first signs of spring are popping up, and we look forward to more chances to reach both Jew and Gentile with the gospel.

MINISTRY UPDATE

Many of you have been praying with us about a new location for Shalom Baptist Church. We found nothing better and had peace about staying where we were and signed another three-year lease. Not long ago an Israeli lady in our building came over for "Shabbat dinner." She said, "I think GOD led you to Parker Towers! If you didn't come here, I would never have heard that Jesus is the Messiah." Amen. Well worth being banished to the basement for another three years! The Lord is really working on her heart, too. Please pray for her salvation.

Both before and after our historic blizzard, the weather was unseasonably warm. This made possible many opportunities to share Messiah on the streets. Although I miss having the book tables, many stopped to talk about the gospel. One Wednesday afternoon I spoke with three young Bhukarian teenagers. They listened as I shared about their Messiah. When I asked if they had read *Isaiah 53* their faces went blank. I asked them to read the literature I gave them and they agreed.

Joy's ESL/Bible study group has reached a new level of understanding and interest in the gospel. We covet your prayers for their salvation. One Japanese lady who is a baby Christian (saved last year before moving to NYC) is being discipled. Her husband forbids her from attending Church services, but she is able to attend during the week. In February, the girls and moms enjoyed "High Tea" and a Bible lesson for little ladies. Since Valentine's Day fell on Sunday, we celebrated as a church family with "dinner and a movie"—an Italian meal and the movie "War Room." Married or single, young or old, we all need to "fight right."

On March 20 we will be celebrating **Purim**. It is always a great time to share Messiah with the Jewish community. The following week (March 27) we celebrate again with **Resurrection Sunday** and the **Sixth Anniversary** of the church!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pray for our close walk with the Lord.

Pray for the lost attending services to be saved.

Pray for children's ministry-Art/Bible and Ladies ESL.

Pray for a Japanese believer to be able to attend church, & husband's salvation.

Pray for the weekly discipleship class on Sunday afternoon and Nursing Home.

Pray for the Clapps' Russian ministry as they help us church plant.

Pray for Purim and Resurrection evangelistic services, March 20 and 27.

Pray for weekly street and subway tract outreach and missions group March 16.

Shalom in Messiah

John & Joy Gibson, Zach, Hannah and Valerie

JEWISH TRIVIA

Did you know? During **Purim** the book of Esther is read aloud as a congregation. Every time the name "*Haman*" is spoken, the synagogue erupts with noise to drown out the evil man's name. Noise makers called "*gragers*" are rattled, and everyone boos and stomps their feet. The name of *Mordecai* has the opposite effect. Joyful shouts of "Blessed be Mordecai" "Hurrah" can be heard. As believers, we should make some noise about our awesome Messiah who has come to save us from an even greater enemy than Haman-Satan! *Happy Purim.*