

November-December 2024

Dear Friends and Fellow Servants,

Many Independent Baptist pastors have been praying that God would send laborers to Canada, as well as raise up ministers and servants from within our churches. I have heard reports that one in four of our churches needs a pastor. Of those with pastors, one third of these leaders are over sixty-five years of age. This presents another reason for us to pray for an approved visa to keep us up here. Our visas will soon have been expired for six months. After meeting with our local Member of Parliament's office, they got our application moved from a stack into the hands of a supervisor. However, it has stalled there, as well!

In the meantime, we continue to minister to our flock and in the city of Coquitlam. This year has been encouraging overall. We have seen measurable growth in the congregation, both numerically and spiritually. A couple of weeks ago, a woman accepted Christ after a morning service. Our young brother Jonathan, an immigrant from Mexico, has begun the discipleship program. He is asking good questions and is quite engaged. During our Thanksgiving fellowship, Brother Bob was using Mike to translate while he witnessed to an Iranian woman who was a visitor. In conversation, Mike revealed that both the woman and he himself did not yet believe that Jesus is God. Mike has a testimony of conversion and baptism from his time in Texas. However, he seems to have missed this very important detail. I recently had tea at a café with Mike. He told me that he comes to our church, because I teach and preach right from the Bible. The other churches here that he tried did not do that. This Persian friend has heard countless sermons on the diety of Christ and the gospel. Please, pray for his eyes to be opened.

We appreciate your prayer support at all times! We ask that you would continue to pray for our status to be stronger here in Canada. I also ask that you keep Angela in prayer. She has a lot on her plate with homeschooling the boys. She also has been stressed by the fact that Coquitlam has had a bumper crop of mice. Everyone is dealing with this problem. Every house is being overrun. The stores are having sales on traps and are selling out. Ours are too smart! Also, remember to bring up our church's annual Christmas fellowship. It is a great time to get more footing in our community. May God bless you as we serve our Lord together!

Serving the Lord,

Pastor Jonathan Oehlert

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