

The Nissen Family
Seattle. Washington

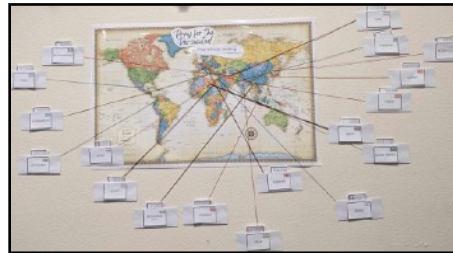
March 2024



“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1). “Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2). “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17). “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). The theme of freedom is perfect for what we have to share in this newsletter!

“WE WILL TELL THE NEXT GENERATION THE PRAISEWORTHY DEEDS OF THE LORD, HIS POWER, AND THE WONDERS HE HAS DONE.” - PSALM 78:4

One youth event we did in February was called “I Love Food Night,” but the focus was on the persecuted church. Four nations were selected: China, India, Albania, and Israel. Students rotated through decorated rooms for food (one leader even brought chicken feet for the kids to try!) and presentations for each nation. Debbie helped in the China room and gave a talk about what Christians face there—they are not free to meet to worship, to purchase Bibles, or to teach young people about Jesus. After the rotations were finished, the whole youth group divided into prayer circles to pray for needs in several different persecuted countries. It was a powerful night, and the youth went away with a new awareness of persecuted Christians around the world and an appreciation for the freedoms we have here in the US.



At the end of February, our church held another Freedom Intensive weekend. Isaac and Gabi attended courses this time around. These weekends always sell out—so many people want to live in freedom and walk in the original design God has for them, and so many others want to help people find freedom through repentance, breaking down demonic strongholds, replacing Satan’s lies with God’s truth, and receiving the Holy Spirit and all that God has for us. It’s wonderful to watch people’s lives change when they get set free!

Classical Conversations (CC) is going great. Gabi is really enjoying her Challenge I class, and Debbie is having fun directing it. This fall, Debbie will be moving up with her class to Challenge II. Two students will be leaving, but two new students will be joining. As we head into the second half of the semester, students are working hard on several projects, including our upcoming debate on whether Daylight Saving Time should be abolished, a Shakespeare presentation, a memory work presentation, a Cost of Living project, a stock market game report, and a science research paper.

That's in addition to all their other work, like translating Latin, conducting science experiments, and writing comparative essays. We stay busy! (The theme for Challenge I is: "Discipline is the cornerstone of freedom." A lot of what we've been studying this year relates to this theme!).

Travis, one of the young men Greg has worked with, used to be a drug addict and spent time in prison. In a past newsletter, we gave you his testimony...he was NOT free in any way! Now, he's living for Jesus, walking in freedom, and currently preaching in the local men's prison—such a wonderful opportunity! And he is simply loving every bit of it! If you remember, Travis was once in prison himself due to criminal activity. He was also on drugs and lived homeless in Seattle, seeking one high after another. But God! Now he is high on living his life to the full for the Lord. Now he brings hope to those he once used to be like. When I think of this, I think of Jesus declaring His mission on the earth, a mission that also declared He was the Messiah, a declaration/mission for all who follow Christ found in Luke 4:18 which states, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Travis has seen a very positive response from his ministry in the prison. And he is now regularly going and sharing what Christ has done in his life since becoming a follower of Christ. Please continue to pray for Travis as he continues to invest time and energy into bringing freedom and healing to those he encounters at the prison. We are really proud of Travis! He continues to make positive steps forward into God's divine design for his life.

One of the guys Greg has discipled, Bob, has gone through two major moves in the last several months. Bob is still going strong for the Lord! Unfortunately, though, Bob has moved further afield. He is now well out of range for him and Greg to meet up on a regular, weekly/monthly basis. In one sense, this is sad. But the encouraging part is that Bob has a real deep and profound love for the Lord. He continues to grow in His love for the Lord. And really, that's what it is all about. Making disciples is more about raising deep devoted followers of Christ. The term disciple literally means "learner." Bob is not a learner of Greg, but a learner of the ways of the Lord. Greg is just the middleman who is helping others to, as Paul put it, "Imitate/follow me, just as I also imitate/follow Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). The goal is always Christ! We will miss hanging with Bob, but we rejoice at all the times we got to spend with him when he lived close by. He has played such a vital part in helping us get settled here the past 5 years and we wish him the best in his new place he calls home.

Until next month,
The Nissen family

