



The JOHNSONS

Church Planters in New York City

Maggie & Richard

Greetings in Jesus' Name:

Christmas 2023

As 2023 draws to a close, it's humbling to think of how God continually challenges us to rest in Him. All of us are "called" to surrender our lives to Christ, and then leave the results to Him. This past year has brought some incredible highs and some painful lows, but through it all God has proved again that He is Forever Faithful. One of our lows was losing our pianist, who simply walked away without warning and for no apparent reason. Her husband told us that she no longer believes that Jesus is the only way to Heaven. It was shocking to hear because they were both crucial in helping us keep our doors open during COVID...one of the greatest crises of our ministry. Yet, true to His Word (Rom. 8:28) the vacuum of their departure has allowed others to step up to the plate and grow by leaps and bounds.

One of those who has grown the most is our new song leader Efrem. He used to be a homeless alcoholic, but now cleans the church and leads our worship. Please continue to pray for him. We have gone to pre-recorded hymn selections using a laptop that was miraculously provided by the Lord. Another couple (Jayson and Rose) have stepped up to do the Facebook page and sound board with many great improvements. God will build His Church.

We would like to ask you to pray for our evangelistic endeavor with Dr. Terry King and Ark Baptist Bible College over the week of New Years. He is bringing 15-20 folks for a glorious week of outreach, street preaching and soul winning. Please pray for fruit that remains. One of his staff, Matt Emigh, has surrendered to come to Brooklyn (Coney Island area) and start a church. We have taken Bro. Matt on for monthly support and plan to help him with much soul winning once he finishes deputation. Thank You as well for praying for Jon Canavan (Living Hope Baptist Church in the Bronx) and Kanon Bloom (a Chinese-speaking Church in Queens). Both works seem to be flourishing.

We also would like to ask for prayer for some of our newer folk, that they grow and serve with us:

- **Jennifer** - She has just entered the discipleship ministry and is very faithful to services;
- **Orlando** - going through a marriage crisis; pray he would stabilize by dedicating himself to the Lord;
- **Zack** - a senior in high school who is reluctant to take necessary leadership within the teen group;
- **Daqwon & Michaia** - a new couple that has been visiting and seems to really enjoy it;
- **Joseph** - a local merchant who has burst upon the scene with a big splash, but needs to be discipled;
- **Eleni** - a super-excited new Christian who loves Bible study, but isn't as excited to attend church.

We want to take the opportunity to say *Thank You* for all of your faithfulness in prayers, special gifts, cards and support. Without your love for Christ, our ministry would not be possible. We love you and are humbled by all you do to encourage us in the Lord to keep serving the True and Living God.

Because He Lives,

Richard & Maggie

Sending Church

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