

December 2017

ALAN HARRIS MINISTRIES

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. - 1 Thessalonians 2:6

Dear Friends,

Bah Humbug!!

Not really! Just trying to get your attention!

While we don't exactly fall into the category of Elf (Will Ferrell) and his over abundant enthusiasm for everything Christmas, we definitely do not identify with Mr. Grinch or Scrooge. Rather than lament the unavoidable commercialization of Christmas, we choose to be grateful for a global holiday that draws attention to

Jesus. Even in countries where the main religions reject Jesus and/or the existence of God, individuals, families, and communities can be found celebrating the birth of Jesus. Christmas is one time of the year when it is easy and natural to talk to friends and family and even strangers about Christ. The current emphasis on diversity can work in our favor as we share our perspective of the reason for our Christmas celebrations. As we rush about putting up trees and lights, buying gifts and planning parties, let's remember to be in constant prayer that God will prepare hearts and bless us with **opportunities to stop and speak a word about our Savior who was born to die that we might live.** Even Dr. Seuss and Charles Dickens ended their stories with a change of heart! Praise God that the power of His word can change hearts for eternity! Who can really be a Scrooge when we have such abundant opportunities to proclaim as John did in 1 John 4:14, "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world?!"



News from our last letter ended toward the middle of November in Harrison, Ohio. Since that time, we have completed a **five week trip through Texas, ministering in Paris, Crane, Arlington, San Antonio, and Dallas.** We are grateful that we were also able to make a trip to Denver, CO to visit our son Anthony and his wife Anna and her family. As I write this letter, we are preparing to travel to Louisiana, and then on to Alabama, where we will be with Alan's parents for the holidays. Since our family is so spread out, we are thankful for the technology that can bring us together, sort of. Last year we enjoyed a Christmas evening video chat with the entire family at the same time, which was a little complicated since we were in three different US time zones as well as PHT, the time zone of the Philippines! Hopefully, we will be able to do the same thing this Christmas.



← We helped Pastor Tim King and his wife Kelsey and their church celebrate the 84th anniversary of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Crane, TX. Over the past few years, we have enjoyed renewing our relationship with this church and building a sweet friendship with Tim and Kelsey. We are encouraged to see continual growth and excitement about reaching more souls in Crane. ← Elyse is a young friend from Crane



whose growth in the Lord we are enjoying witnessing. She always has an encouraging greeting and wants to get a picture with us. This time we were glad to hear that she is excited about beginning to serve the Lord with the praise team! We also had the honor of sitting across →



the table from Pastor Tim's parents, *Lonnie and Jo Ann King, retired missionaries.* They served in the Canary Islands and Spain for almost 50 years and continued to work with Hispanic ministries in the United States. *They are some of our heroes!*

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◀ We ministered in the Young at Heart ministry at the Pleasantview Baptist Church in Arlington. Pastor Jimmy McNeil and his wife Susan are long-time friends. Alan and Jimmy traveled together as members of the Watchmen Quartet while they were students at Arlington Baptist University. Jimmy was present when Alan and Angie first met each other in Marion, Ohio! God is using Jimmy and Susan and their family to have a mighty impact for His kingdom in the Arlington area and around the world.



Congregation Beth Simcha is a Messianic Jewish congregation in San Antonio.

Messianic congregations retain Jewish heritage while recognizing Jesus Christ as Messiah and Savior. ➡ **Elder Russell Cruzan** (standing next to Alan), and his wife **Gwen** are dear friends who along with their church, continue to encourage us and support our efforts to spread the Gospel wherever God gives us opportunity to go. When we minister at Beth Simcha, we enjoy joining them in some of the traditional Jewish customs. Especially meaningful is the weekly **blessing of the children** as they cover them with a prayer shawl and pray for them to follow in the steps of Jesus. ⬆



In closing we want to share an encouraging word we received from a young adult at Marsh Lane Baptist Church in Dallas where we ministered Sunday, November 26.

Hi, I just wanted to thank you so much for coming and speaking/singing to our church. Your message specifically impacted me. You spoke about KNOWing Christ (in Philippians). A friend of mine had told me a couple days before you spoke she believed in Christ, His death and resurrection, yet she felt like she wasn't going to heaven. At that moment, I roughly explained my biblical understanding of the matter but not direct quotation from the Bible. I was trying to figure out exactly what passages to tell her to read over the next couple days. Then Sunday, you gave me the exact passage and an entire explanation to give her. I could tell she was able to understand better after sharing with her what you shared with my church. God is so mysterious in the way He moves and communicates. Sunday, it was you to me, to my friend. I felt an overwhelming sense of God's presence on Sunday. Thank you for being His tool to get to me and to my friend.

What a poignant reminder that we should always be listening for a personal message from God! God knows just what we need when we need it, but if we are not listening, we may miss what He has to say to us. As a result, we will miss opportunities to minister to others. Let's keep listening and sharing throughout this holiday season!

With sincere gratitude,
Alan and Angie Harris



Alex and Ellain Visa Journey Update:

Ellain has been cleared medically! Their new visa interview date is January 23 at 7:10 AM. In US Eastern time, that would be Monday, January 22 at 6:10 PM. This is the first available appointment, although they will be checking regularly for an earlier appointment that may become available. Please pray for the right time and right consular officer that will readily give the final approval!

Some of you following these updates know Alex well and are looking forward to meeting Ellain. Your prayers and concern have meant so much to them. **As Christmas and the New Year approach, it would be a tremendous blessing if you would like to remember them in your Christmas or end of the year giving. Any gift God would lead you to give to them would be a great help** as they now have at least two more months of expenses before they will be able leave the Philippines. Checks can be made to Alan Harris, with "Alex" noted in the memo. *Again, thank you for your prayers and concern.*

DEC	December 3-AM: Southpointe Baptist Church, Arlington, TX	JAN	January 7-AM: Riverview Baptist Church, Troy, AL
2017	December 17-AM: Life's Journey Church, Zachary, LA	2018	January 14-AM: Community Baptist Church, Grady, AL
	December 24-AM: First Baptist Church, Lillian, AL		January 21: Fountain City Baptist Church, Prattville, AL
	December 31-AM: Fellowship Baptist Church, Pace, FL		January 28: Victory Baptist Church, Apopka, FL