

Report for December

Germantown, MD | January 1, 2022 | John Pollard

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this report finds you all doing well physically and spiritually. My wife and I express our gratitude to you for your prayers, love and support of our work in MD. We appreciate it greatly. If you have questions about the information in this report, please feel free to get in touch with me.

It is our prayer that God's richest blessings be upon you all the work you do in His kingdom. May this new year produce much good for His glory as we all strive to honor Him according to the best of our abilities. I want to begin by thanking you for your prayers for Ken Salaets and our efforts with him. I've mentioned Ken in several past reports. We see eye to eye on many things but we also don't agree on several things.

While we haven't been able to get passed issues like why there is no authority for musical instruments in worship, Ken and I have a very good relationship and we keep in touch on a regular basis. That said, we met on two occasions in early December. On the first, we just really talked and took the time to get caught up with one another. He's been having some health issues as of late which has forced him into many doctor's offices but he's in good spirits. On the second occasion, we spent about two hours talking about the overview of the book of Revelation and some aspects tied to premillennialism.

Ken believes, though he admitted to not doing in depth study, that Jesus will return and rule from a physical location in Jerusalem. He believes that a temple will be built there and the sacrificial system will return. After he mentioned this, we spent the remainder of our time discussing what the temple means in the Bible especially in relation to the church. I told him that the temple signifies God's dwelling or God's presence among His people who He makes a covenant with. We talked about how this was fulfilled in the church and that it will be consummated in Heaven.

I could tell he had never really heard this or studied this before. This was a really good sign and he told me that it made sense but he would need to study it some more. We have not talked since then but I'm sure we'll get together at some point soon to keep discussing these and some other spiritual things. Thank you for praying for Ken and keep praying for him and his family that they would be open to the biblical truth. I am hoping that in the long run, Ken will come to appreciate old fashioned dedicated Bible study as opposed to just listening to popular preachers which he has a custom of doing.

I am excited to share with you that we have a new member in our group. This has been the highlight of our month. Wilmore Gregorio, originally from the Philippines, lives very near our meeting place. He was baptized for the forgiveness of his sins when he was younger but he left the Lord not too long after. Wilmore, 40, recently realized that the world does not offer what he is looking for. He started to search online for the answers to his questions and came across a "church of Christ" on YouTube that was saying things "that juts really resonated with me."

Following this, he decided to see if one of these groups were near him and he found out about us and came to our Sunday services three weeks ago. He told us some of these details and I had the opportunity to speak to him for a while after which I learned that he was baptized for the right reasons all those years ago but he fell away. He has since been restored to the faith and has decided to become a member of our group citing that “he has found his home with us.” He is such a humble man and he wants to learn so much because he has realized that the world just isn’t it.

We have all been so encouraged by him already and we are so delighted to keep adding to our small group in this area. I will be stating a personal study with him soon and I ask for your prayers for Wilmore as he walks the narrow road having returned from the Lord and that he will keep increasing in his faith. He is in the U.S. on a work visa while his wife and two kids still remain in the Philippines. He is trying to get them over here with him but COVID has made that intention difficult. I can’t imagine what it is like to be apart from family but he is praying and forging on.

On a positive note, we have been able to connect him and his family with some brethren who live near them in the Philippines. His family are not Christians. They remain in Catholicism. He is actively trying to get them to study the Bible and come to the faith. He is hoping to set up a study for his family with some of the brethren over there. Please pray for his family that they would come to the faith and that these efforts would prove fruitful.

The brethren at Northwest are all doing well. We keep growing closer to each other and closer to our God and we are excited to see what this new year has to offer. Please continue to pray for our sister Tiffany Wade. She continues her battle with MS and she has lost a lot of weight recently. She struggles with walking and doing some daily activities but she is keeping the faith and being very optimistic.

God is good and we thank you once more for your willingness to support us in these endeavors. The brethren here greet all of you and we pray for the work and the brethren in your respective locations.

Thank you for reading this report and may God bless you.