

**A REPORT FROM LEE AND MARCIE TOSTI
GREATER PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
OCTOBER 15, 2022**

One year. Our family has been in Rhode Island for one year (October 1). They haven't kicked us out yet, which is a testament to their long-suffering. We pray that our impact brings glory to God.

Greg Whipple. What does Greg, who lives in Florida, have to do with this report? Greg delivered (to the church here) the best series on internal evidences I myself ever heard (not that that is worth much). Like you, I've heard a lot of great, and needed, presentations about faults of "science" and the theory of evolution, and evidences in nature for an intelligent creator; Greg presented only one of those lessons, and the rest were straight from the Bible—"internal" evidences that undeniably point to its one author, and this sole-authorship, in turn, implies that God is. A simple approach, but profound. (Isn't that the way God works so often!) And the advantage of this specific approach is: While not everyone has opportunity to examine and understand the intricacies of nature or test the faults of "science," God's Word is available to everyone everywhere. And any student of the Bible can present these internal evidences anytime, anywhere, to anybody. (Though maybe not as well as Greg did!)

Pat Donahue. What does Pat, who lives in north Alabama, have to do with this report? Pat made first contact with Suzana, who lives in Fall River, MA: Pat has a call-in radio program on SiriusXM radio* and Suzana's friend Meg had been listening to it and then Meg encouraged Suzana to listen to it and then one of them reached out to Pat for a Bible study and then Pat studied with them over the phone and then Pat let me know and then Pat and I studied with them over the phone and then Suzana visited our congregation once and then Marcie and I studied with Suzana at our home Tuesday. More about her in a moment.

Mountain Home, Arkansas. What does Mountain Home have to do with this report? Well, while someone from this area (Suzana) contacted someone in Alabama (Pat) for Bible study, someone in Arkansas (Kris) contacted us requesting to study through the mail. "The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His" (2 Chronicles 16.9, NASB), and to watch how His providential support seemingly unfolds...fascinating.**

Suzana. ""Whoa! This is God!" I said to myself when I read about God striking Uzzah dead for touching the ark." That's one thing Suzana recounted to Marcie and me, with humility and reverence, from her personal reading. Suzana is in her fifties, and a year or two ago she decided to change her life, including including Jesus in it. Since then, she's *consumed* the Word. And it shows in her discussions. And, apparently, it shows in her life: "You've changed so much. I've noticed. You don't swear any more. You don't say the Hail Mary any more," her niece told her recently. Suzana has also gone through her house—her closets, her DVD collection, her CD collection, her Wiccan emblems, everything—clearing out what she understands is sinful or unprofitable for faith and holiness. At Suzana's request, Marcie and I studied God's laws: God's law to everyone in the beginning (Genesis 1–Exodus 20, cf. Romans 2, etc.); God's laws for the Jews later (Exodus 20–Acts 2); and God's laws for everyone now (Acts 2–Revelation 22). Afterward, Suzana emphatically expressed her gratitude for finally understanding how these laws relate to each other and that we follow the New Testament, etc. What a great start. We plan to study again next week.

Joe. Despite planning to study with Joe every Friday, we have not studied any of the last four Fridays, once because I was out of town and the other times because something came up for Joe.

The church grows, both in faith and in number. To increase our faith together, we continue marching through regimented Bible studies (surveys) of both the Old and New Testaments, as well as the other assemblies for edification. Of course, what everyone does individually also impacts the group. About increasing in number, three Christians joined us over the summer and one more plans to return later this month, each of them proving to be diligent workers. Sadly, in November we'll lose one family that is moving away.

More personally: I recently converted the upstairs of our garage into a study; 98 people attended our Labor Day weekend gathering where three men made excellent presentations on faith; I was privileged to participate in the 40-something-th (apparently they've lost count) Bangor lectures, where Vance Trefethen (Charlotte, NC) spoke about Mount Sinai, Skip Paquette (Milbridge, ME), spoke about Mount Olivet, and I spoke about Mount Zion. Finally, by His grace, God nourishes our family both spiritually and physically.

By the way, Joe came to the gathering at our house, and later he said three things about it: "I need more male friends"; "There was an obvious absence of nose rings, tattoos, and bad attitudes"; "Everyone was conservatively dressed." Our neighbor also came for lunch, which we hope is another step....

We are indebted to you for your support. We pray that we are and worthy as we can be of this attention. We strive to be more faithful.

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*"Bible Crossfire" Sunday nights at 8:04 central on SiriusXM radio Family Talk 131

**We have not heard back from our friend in Mountain Home. Yet. And I did mention to them that I could put them in touch with some saints there.

And I enjoyed writing "including including," but it's not as fun as writing four *hads* in a row was.