

**A REPORT FROM LEE AND MARCIE TOSTI
GREATER PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
DECEMBER 15, 2023**

"I was about to do something when I thought, "No, this is not a *sensible* thing to do."" (I had just preached on Titus 2.2: "Older men are to be temperate, dignified, *sensible*, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance" [NASB].) "I think this congregation used to do a better job of intervening when friends and family begin faltering and falling away. I think we've become lax. I think we need teaching on this." (So I did; it was well-received.) "I handed our church's letter of withdrawal to my son." "What are we doing with our Gospel meetings? It seems that, if we call them "Gospel" meetings, then some of them ought to be about preaching the Gospel to the lost." "I've been working on talking to other people about faith." "I'm enjoying teaching children's class." "I noticed, over in Isaiah...."

These are just a few of the good things some of the good members here have said recently. Good thoughts are happening. Good things are happening. Hard things are happening.

Oh, the man who read from Isaiah, he's been a Christian for less than a year and is already, on his own, in his personal reading and study, dipping his toes into Isaiah! Good stuff.

The woman who said she's enjoying teaching children's class, it's the first time she's ever taught such a class. And to her credit and as an example, she's...not so young. Also, a man who just retired also stepped up and began teaching a class. More good stuff.

For extra good and extra fun, Simon and Teresa Harris (Albany, NY) came and worked with our congregation for four days. Simon presented a series of sermons to the whole congregation; Teresa led the ladies in Bible study. Simon's sermons were about being better servants. His approach is always simply straight from the text: Here is the text; here is the very relevant application; chew on it; sorry not sorry for stepping on your toes. You can find recordings of these lessons on SoundCloud: Search for "Christians in Lincoln, Rhode Island," then look in our "Gospel Meetings" album.

Speaking of extra good and extra fun, we have Joe Works (Elmira, NY) and Don Bunting (somewhere, NJ) scheduled to come work with us next year. With Joe's spring meeting, we plan to focus on the local community. With Don's fall meeting, we'll invite all, but we plan to have him focus on building up existing Christians. I'm already excited.

"Dad, why does he dress like a girl?" One of our children asked this last night on the ride home from church. A man in his early thirties has visited our assembly three Thursdays in a row. He's been hurt. He's confused about his gender role. He began going to church (somewhere else) fifteen weeks ago, and has gone every week since. Now he's come to our mid-week Bible study. This seems to be an opportune time. I pray that we do not get in the way of the Gospel; I pray that he softens his heart and receives the truth.

By the way, the woman who *said* she's working on talking to other people about faith, she's *actually* been working on it: This man is one of the people she talked to! Good, good stuff.

On the home front, our family has been hosting "Simple Studies for Teens and Tweens." Our theme is faith: What faith is and does (November); faith's friends—hope, love, obedience, etc. (tonight); faith's

source, and increasing faith (January); faith's power (February); faith's result (March). So far, only people from our congregation have come; but, part of the purpose is to cross-pollinate with teens and tweens from Tyngsboro, MA, and Boston, MA. Here's hoping.

Finally, and call this self-promotion, an attempt to be encouraging, or whatever you will, but I wrote a book. (I never wrote a book before, and I'm not very smart, but why let those things stop me!) Actually, I published it this year in July, but I wrote it while our family was evangelizing in Ithaca in 2020-2021. It is a humble attempt to discuss accurately using the Word to be better servants of the Word. It is about using the Bible to receive the gift of salvation. It is about using the Bible in the most efficient way for improving our character and conforming to the image of Christ. It is about following the religious traditions God gave to His disciples and congregations, which are given not only to worship Him the right way, but also to build up faith. It is about using the Bible to establish and maintain unity—scriptural, Word-based unity—with other believing disciples. It is about knowing God's revealed will for what to do and what not to do. It is about accuracy. It is about consistency. It is about patience. It is about living and speaking the truth in love. It is about grace. It is available on Amazon (enter my name in the search bar). I hope it brings glory to God. I hope it is helpful to some. And the real reason I am including this in my report is: For those of you who supported us while we were in Ithaca, this is another tangible fruit born at that time. So, thank you.

Marcie and I are ever grateful for your interest, prayers, and support for the work we do. Please feel free to reach out to us. 2023 is over and the Lord is returning even sooner now! That's the *good* stuff.

Lee and Marcie Tosti
4A Boswell Trail
Foster, RI 02825
Lee: (607) 280-0800; xntoc@usa.net
Marcie: (315) 608-1118; marcie-tosti@usa.net