

THE BALINGIT FAMILY

Serving in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Greetings to our supporting churches and praying friends! We hope you all had a great holiday season with friends and family. Although we had a great Christmas and New Year with our family, we have faced some highs and lows in our ministry over the last couple months.

During the month of November, we were able to continue our campus ministry here and make connections with a handful of more students. We continue to be amazed at the curiosity, questions, and overall confusion that many of these young adults have regarding the Bible. Many of the students we have conversations with experienced complicated religious backgrounds coupled with the fact that they attend a predominantly Catholic school. This has led to a lot of confusion with common questions regarding the deity of God, salvation by faith, and how God could allow pain and suffering. We have had many fruitful conversations, and are praying that God would continue to keep that door open despite it being several weeks again until we can be on campus once more.

December turned out to be a challenging month as we had high expectations for our planned outreaches and special services. God clearly had better plans for us because for both our special Christmas service and our Christmas Eve service, two large snow storms hit the city on those days. We were able to carry on with our Christmas outreach service but had several regulars and guests who had committed to coming not show up due to the unsafe roads. Then about a week later, we had a candlelight Christmas Eve service planned but had to cancel that due to the roads and parking lot not being cleared and therefore we had no access to the building. On top of that, on Christmas Day I received a message from an older couple who had been attending our church regularly that they would no longer be coming to our church, as the husband had wanted to get more involved in ministries that we were not offering at the moment — due to this, they decided to go elsewhere. This was a tough month for us but we know that God's ways are beyond ours and we can trust that He is working in ways we don't see right away.

Looking forward into the New Year, we are approaching this new chapter with much excitement. We know that although we had many struggles in 2024, we cannot ignore the goodness of God so clearly seen in many ways both in our church and in our family. We have seen our two boys grow in the Lord and learn more about Him through church and in our own family studies, we have a great core of people in the church who have been a blessing to us, we have been able to begin a campus ministry that had never been done before, and lastly, we have seen God answer many prayers in our marriage, family, and church. We are excited for the future and know that while much has been done, there is still much to do.

Please continue praying for our church building as I believe that if God were to grant us a more permanent meeting space, it would allow our church to grow much more! We are praying that God would provide us the funds and the right building which seems impossible, but I know that nothing is too hard for Him. Thank you for your continued support and prayers, and especially for the Christmas gifts our family received from many of you. Praying for you all and have a great start to 2025!

