

Snippets From KeyCom

December 2024

Peace For The Prince?

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Someone told me that a couple of months ago the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman, paid an unannounced visit to the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt. The story goes he slipped into a pew without any fanfare during the regular Sunday service. Afterwards, when asked the reason for his visit he said that he was looking for peace of heart. He also said that he was doing a comparative study of religions and he accepted the gift of a Bible presented to him by one of the girls at the service.

I have not been able to corroborate this story from any other source so do not know whether it actually happened or is merely an urban legend. There is no question that the Prince visited the cathedral back in 2018 and met with Pope Tawadros II, but I cannot find any mention of this incident which supposedly took place this year. However, if true, it is of major significance. Even a rumor that the “Guardian” of Mecca and Medina, the two most holy places in Islam, is looking for internal peace is enough to send shock-waves of doubt through the Muslim world. If even he is still searching for spiritual fulfillment, where does it leave everyone else?

I have no idea what might have started the Prince on his spiritual quest (if, indeed he is on one). But, thinking about the Prince called another incident to mind. Many years ago I was there when my father presented a copy of the Bible to a princess of the royal house of Afghanistan. She was effusive in her thanks. She kissed the Book, then placed it on a high shelf near the front door of her dwelling, right next to her Quran. It so happens her husband was a member of the royal family of Saudi Arabia. Is there any connection between the gift of that Bible and the Prince’s spiritual awakening? Nah, probably not – but it’s fun to let the imagination run wild! I do know that God works in totally unexpected ways and we cannot know what the ultimate impact will be when we share God’s Word with someone.

In one of His parables about the Kingdom of God, Jesus used the illustration of seed, “...A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.” (Mark 4:26-27 NIV) That element of mystery is one of the things which motivates me to keep broadcasting God’s word. Though it’s wonderful to see visible results, there are times when the unseen growth and progress is even more exciting. The kingdom suddenly breaks out from a totally unexpected direction or in a way we had not anticipated. The other side of the coin is, what would have happened if we had stopped proclaiming the Word because we became discouraged at the lack of immediate, visible results?

As we end this year, I want to thank all of you who have continued to support and encourage us during the times when the ways the Kingdom has been advancing through our ministry have not always been evident. For most of 2024 we were operating at a deficit. By the end of November

we were over \$35,000 behind. But then, your generous and sacrificial gifts in December not only filled in the hole, they put us into the black. It's a tremendous encouragement and blessing to know that in the coming year we'll be able to continue to tell people like the Prince that they can receive peace in Christ.

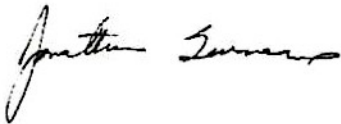
In other news:

For the last few years I've been plagued with recurring urinary tract infections. Several of them have been severe enough to put me in the hospital. I'm scheduled for prostate reduction surgery on January 7th which, I am told, should resolve the underlying problem. Please pray that this will be so and I will have a swift recovery.

The Northwest College of the Bible has asked me to teach a 16 week course on the history of early Israel (based on the books of Joshua through 2 Samuel). The class will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 Pacific Time, beginning on January 30th. I will use my book, *Lessons From The Old Testament Books Of History – Volume 1*, as the textbook (it's available on Amazon). I'll be teaching the class via the Zoom app, which means that you can participate even if you don't live close by. The cost is only \$15 plus the cost of the textbook. You can audit the course for free. If you're interested, you can register at: <https://northwestcollegeofthebible.org/>

Here at Key Communications we begin 2025 with a renewed commitment to spread the Gospel to those who understand the Urdu language and to help build Christ's church in the country of Pakistan. May all of you enjoy God's blessings in the new year as you continue to grow in your knowledge of Christ and as you serve Him!

Yours in the Name of the Prince of Peace,



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