



THE TANIS FAMILY

to Malta and beyond

WINTER 2024



Family Time

Greetings from sunny, yet "cold" Malta. (Cold at least for this part of the world. The weather gets all the way "down" to 45°F.) We are so thankful to have completed our second full year in Malta. **We praise God for what He is doing in and through us.** With a summer full of ministry, we were finally able to take a family break during Theo's fall school break. Travel within Europe can be very cheap and this allowed our family to take a short trip up to Northern Italy. It was refreshing to spend time around trees, mountains and other parts of creation that we don't have in Malta. We enjoyed making memories as a family while getting some rest as well. In the midst of ministry, we are continually learning the importance of rest and we want to learn from the example of Jesus himself. In December, we enjoyed a visit from Anna's parents. On their way out of Malta we got to spend a few days exploring Rome with them.

Some plant, Some water, God gives the increase

We've seen God's plan for growth manifested in a variety of ways recently. Luke received a phone call requesting someone to do a Bible study, which turned into a 2 hour coffee shop conversation with many seeds planted. A salesman knocked on our door and the conversation ended in him asking for Bible resources and Luke's phone number, once he found out Luke is a Pastor. Other opportunities included countless hours discipling new believers. Luke has poured into several who have just recently put their faith in Christ alone for salvation, and now are navigating telling their Catholic families and friends. People are searching for truth and it is a great joy to be able to point them to the ultimate source of Truth. Sometimes ministry can seem slow and others times it feels like opportunities are being thrown at you. **God calls us to be faithful no matter what season we are in.** Be praying for a Nigerian man who is in Malta for a year to study. Although he was raised Catholic, he began attending Bible Baptist Church because it was an English-speaking place of faith. He had no idea that there was a difference between Catholic faith and the true faith of the Bible. Listening to testimonies of others his age turning to Christ alone gospel seeds to be planted and he has been very receptive to the gospel and to the preaching of the word on Sundays.



Discipleship in Action

We recently helped turn an unfinished work room at church into a large fellowship space for the teens. We've increased the Bible teaching time for the teens to also include Thursday nights during the adult Bible study. Please pray that they grow in their love for God and His Word. Anna has begun teaching a young kids' Junior Church for 3-5 year olds. Some weeks, it's two kids, sometimes she has up to seven! Pray for consistency, dedication and love for Christ to fuel parents into coming regularly. One challenge of discipleship is getting believers to spend time with other believers outside of Sunday worship. Our church is very multicultural, so this creates a natural barrier. In December there were many opportunities to



edify and encourage one other, and each event was attended by unbelievers. The children's Christmas Program in December also provided an opportunity for unbelieving family members to come to church for the first time. One particular family is from southeast Asia and lives in our same village. The wife is a Christian, but her husband is not. This mirrors several families in our church: one parent committed to Jesus Christ, one far from Christ. Please pray for their spouses' salvation and for their children to know the Gospel. We look forward to what God will do in 2024 and are grateful to partner together in the Gospel.

For His Glory,
Luke, Anna, Theo, Layla & Arlo



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