



*I Never Noticed....*

*November 21, 2024*

*The Old Testament ends with Malachi 4:6. "And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and hearts of children to their fathers..." Without that happening "utter destruction" is the result. And with that word Luke 1 (17) begins. Healthy family relationships are at the center of God's heart and plans. They are what he often uses to accomplish his purposes. It is what he wants to use to turn things around. Timothy and Titus talk about leaders having good family relationships and being hospitable. These are values we treasure and although they were things we have thought about often, I never noticed they were God's last words in the Old Testament and his first words introducing the birth of Jesus in Luke.*



*Throughout our years as missionaries we have always hosted meals of many types- a place families can come together to and we can pour out the love we have received from Jesus through warm hospitality. This month through*

*Cafe Iris/lighthouse books we did the pie buffet (15 types of pies -34 whole pies-lots of people and not ONE PIECE of pie left). I love cooking for these events-for me it feels like art and I love the conversations that happen while making, during serving and when people are feeling full and satisfied at the end. It gives a chance to reconnect with people. Even before the events happen we have chances to talk with people while we invite.*

*Saturday we had a thanksgiving dinner, with turkeys and more pies and over 80 people. We had families-fathers and mothers with their children. Not all the people we know can come to everything, every time. We are always amazed that God always*



*directs who comes when and he knows how many chairs and how much food. He is definitely the God who fed the multitudes-the men, women and children who gathered before him. It gives us joy to be on this journey with him and to be able to follow his example in welcoming families with hospitality.*

We have our own family to continually pray for and support in whatever ways we can. Toma (2) comes on Mondays and does life with Grandma and Grandpa. We try to make times to connect with Rei and Lina as well. At any stage, our children and grandchildren need the prayers and support of our generation. May we have always the heart of God for life, for supporting healthy family connections and for treasuring God and people.

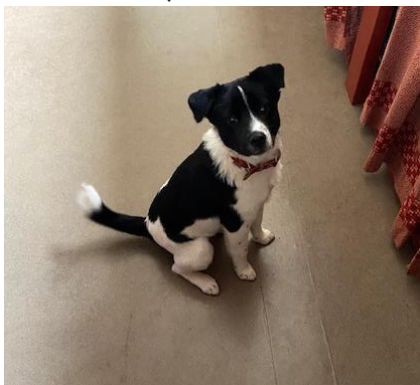
With much Love, Martin and Ruth Mae Ghent

PS Mimi is supporting us in this by welcoming all who come as well as the people she meets on her walks. Today a neighborhood granny stopped to admire her on our walk. She turned to me and said, "you're from the church aren't you... everyone from the church is so nice" She climbed on her bike and road away while Mimi wagged her tail.



#### GIVING THANKS TO GOD:

- 1)for strength to make 34 pies in less than 24 hours and for the great conversations and connecting that took place along the way and for pure joy at the chance to do it.
- 2)for a meaningful thanksgiving meal that was family friendly and for the over 80 people who came-for the message they heard and meaningful connections.
- 3)for the joy our own family brings us and that we can pray for them and have times together
- 4)for Mimi's contributions to warm welcoming and making life ordinary with lots of affection (complete with having to train but she still is always full of love for us and always a model of hopefulness. She is a model of fixing her eyes on the one she hopes in!)



#### ASKING GOD TO:

- 1)particularly protect the hearts of those in individual Bible studies and S san as she plans to be baptized December 22.
- 2)give new ideas for deepening the connections with the new families
- 3)enabled us to prepare well and lead well for upcoming Christmas events (four cooking classes, two wreath making classes, two cafe events, two Christmas Eve type events, Christmas worship service and impromptu mini events that always happen)
- 4)that we will be able to support our children and grand children in meaningful ways that always points them to hope in God.

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