



Keith and Debbie Gandy

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Dear Pastor and friends,

I received the following letter via email from a woman who came to faith at an evangelistic outreach three years ago.

From Mareike:

Der Keith, this world needs you. And the world is not always fair...in times of need we forget to say it. I am glad that you preached directly after getting out of the hospital. Do not get depressed, thank God for every new day. Some people might think, wait, you are speaking to a pastor, don't talk to him like that. I think you are still a person and has emotions and struggles like everyone. I want to encourage you. On your second sermon after your recent hospital stay, we brought a friend with us. He was curious and wanted to see what the buzz was about. Following the service he did not want to speak much about whether he enjoyed it or not. On Friday he wrote me he wanted to attend again and he signed up for the Christmas Party. Last Sunday he came for the third time! Your words moved something in his heart. His parents were strong Catholic and he has always resisted anything about faith, but your words have changed him and his heart is opening to allow God to speak.

Encouraging Community

We celebrated the most recent trimester of small group studies with a church-wide Christmas Party. The desire is to encourage fellowship as part of community life. Church is more than services on Sunday, it is a way of life. Banding these people together is not culturally normal - if people attend church they would certainly not do life together outside of a church experience. We desire to create a new normal.

Over 150 stayed after church and experienced the 4 hours together of food and programming. Even first time guests remained for the duration of the event. We received such positive response from the congregation about being so different than anything they had ever experienced and made new contacts and relationships.

Merry Christmas

Know that we join you in celebrating the first advent of our King - whose imminent return must be around the corner. We have limited time to show ourselves faithful and impact a dark world for his namesake. Debbie and I wish you the merriest Christmas.

Yours, in His service,

Keith and Debbie Gandy