



My Sunday School kiddos decorating cookies. The baby doll sitting on the yellow stool was a Kings Day present. (she named the babydoll "Karen.") Ugh, you have to love kids. :-)

GREETINGS TO YOU,

I hope you have been well since my last email. This past week was a time of slowly getting back into regular rhythms and routines. The highlight of the week was delivering Kings Day gifts to Yuliia's son Vova. Yuliia is the dear lady from church who passed away recently from breast cancer. Vova had shared with me and my friend Abraham that he was really hoping the Kings would bring him a Nintendo Switch and the game Mario Kart for Kings Day. Unfortunately, these items were too expensive for the Kings (aka his grandparents) to purchase for him. We shared this situation with some others, and we decided that together we would buy him these items. The day after Kings Day, my friend went to buy the Nintendo Switch, but you guessed it, the stores were all sold out. However, even though the store's computer system said there were no Nintendo Switches left, the store worker found one last Nintendo Switch on the back shelf that was not registered in the system. We were able to buy it for Vova on the very day his mother passed away. I felt the Lord say in my heart, "Just like I have provided this game for this child, so too will I provide the love, joy, peace, and hope that he needs. I have not abandoned him." Isn't God incredible? A couple days later, we delivered the gifts to Vova's house and to say that he was excited would be an extreme understatement. He could not contain his joy! It was precious to be able to share those moments and hold his grandmother's hand as her eyes filled with tears - both of sadness for her daughter and joy for her grandson. Please continue to lift this dear family up in prayer.



A turtle tower



The flower bouquet that I took to Vova's grandmother,



PRaise AND PRAYER ITEMS:

- * Thank you for praying for my team as we considered our vision and strategy for 2023. We have had some fruitful meetings and feel the Lord has given us clear guidance in regards to goals for this upcoming year. May He receive honor and glory in and through each of us this year!
- * Praise God that we had a great meeting on Tuesday with some folks from Perspectives. Things seem to be on track and moving forward with the class beginning in February. Praise God! Please continue praying for this.
- * Please pray for wisdom and the Lord's provision for Tharsis Betel as they will soon open additional centers to serve even more refugees and potentially victims of human trafficking.
- * Pray for the Lord's blessing as I gather with others from church on Thursday to pray specifically for the Saharawi. Pray the Lord would burden other hearts for these dear people. Pray for the Lord to go before us in plans that we have to continue engaging and building relationships in an intentional way, so the Saharawi people might hear what Jesus has done on their behalf.