December 2021

Dear Friend,

Reflecting back on what God has done this year, I would like to expand on something I told you back in April. Back then I told you about the baptism of Israel, one of our regular Bridges attendees from India. But I think you would be encouraged to learn more about his conversion experience.

Israel had been hanging around Bridges and getting close to us Bridges staff for over a year. One day, one of our team told him directly "There's nothing more I can tell you about Jesus that you don't already know. What will it take for you to trust in Christ?"

"I need a physical sign from God." Israel answered. Then, in August 2020 while on a Bridges outing, he attempted to swim across a small lake and began to drown. At the point of giving up hope his foot felt a rock upon which he was able to stand with his head above water. Upon later reflection he realized that the rock in the middle of the lake was the sign he had asked God for. So he prayed and told God that he was going to follow Him with his whole heart.

Since then, Israel has become a significant part of the Bridges culture at ASU. He has realized that his spiritual gift is service. "I can earn money at my job, but I am happier when I am serving others. This makes me feel closer to Jesus, because I realized that He did not live for Himself but to serve others."

God clearly is using Israel in the lives of students from India. Since the students are very curious about how this young man from a Hindu background could be a Christian he is often asked, and eagerly tells his testimony. Israel is considering joining staff with Bridges, and will be speaking at the Bridges conference (Vision) in December, sharing his story with international students from across the country.

Prayer requests:

- Spiritual growth for the 14 from ASU who are going to the conference. Most are non-Christian.
- Israel's talk at the conference
- Protection for all attendees from the threat of COVID while at the conference, as well as traveling to/from

Joyfully,

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