



THE TANIS FAMILY

to Malta and beyond

SPRING 2024



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!"

God is good and we are so grateful for all the good gifts He gives to us to enjoy (including juicy strawberries). The past few months have been the season of strong winds, dusty air, and blood rain (rain full of the Sarah dust). None of that stopped Malta from celebrating their locally grown strawberries. This year we decided to join the crowds of fruit lovers. Theo has been interested in art, and his painting was chosen to be displayed at the Frawli Festa (strawberry festival). Theo turned 6 in January and had his first birthday party with friends from school. We are continually thankful for an apartment to be able to host. **Theo's best friend from school is a Chinese-Maltese boy in his class, whose mom has been asking many questions about God.** Living in a heavily Catholic island means people are constantly shocked to meet a pastor/"priest" who is married with kids! Pray for these friends and their families, that the light of the Gospel would shine clear. Layla participated in her first wedding in March. She absolutely loved dressing up like a princess, to be one of twelve flower girls. It was a joy to see God bring two church members (from Cameroon and The Republic of Congo) together in marriage.



Church Life

Christ said in Matthew, **"I will build my church."** This past week, for the first time, the church voted on three deacons. These are three of the men who have been participating in the men's mentorship group the past two years. What a blessing to be a part of what God is doing in raising up leaders! April concluded the first year of an official church budget, which is another key step in the church becoming fully established. We have hosted two young adult BBQs this spring, and this Sunday we're having one for the whole church family. An added blessing was seeing some of the new believers, who Luke baptized in January, jumping in to help grill food. We love seeing conversations and moments of encouragement and edification between people of completely different personalities, cultures and stages of life. **The church is truly a supernatural community of believers!** The Marriage Seminar this spring included over 40 people with multiple unbelievers in attendance, some at church for their first time.



Growing Faith

Luke has been meeting with an Egyptian man, who is a connection from the University Bible Group. He is eagerly soaking up the Bible and is constantly amazed at the truths revealed in Scripture. The most faithful attendee of the University Bible Group is an outspoken Atheist. The seeds of the Word have been planted and, as we told him recently, it's not our job to convert anyone. **We present and teach the Bible; God will do the rest.** An ongoing part of being a missionary is all the paperwork! As we went to renew our work and family Visas, an additional requirement had been suddenly added, which required several steps, and could have easily delayed our upcoming furlough. God saw fit to grow our faith as we prayed and worked to complete the needed documents and appointments one at a time. The picture shows faces of joy as we were standing in line for our final approval! We know God was in it all, especially since Malta already changed some of the extra requirements!



Please be praying for us as we leave next week for our first furlough. Although it won't be long enough to visit everyone, Theo and Layla are beyond excited to see their cousins again. Our families (and friends) can't wait to meet Arlo. Please pray for safe travels and wisdom as our family navigates the emotions of life between two worlds. We are thankful for how God has given us a church family in Malta and we'll be eager to return "home" in September.

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



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