

**A New Year Message 2024**

**Small Beginnings  
to a  
Global Vision of Multiplication**



**Larry Neville**

# From Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

## The Evolution of Family Gatherings

As I sat down on Christmas Eve, reminiscing about our family gatherings over the years, it struck me how our family has grown larger, yet our holiday celebrations have become smaller. It's a beautiful evolution worth sharing.

The journey began with just Janet and me, newly married and living in Kansas City. It was a cozy twosome, as we were eagerly awaiting the arrival of our first child, Paul, in January. The following Christmas, we found ourselves in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a family of three.

Time marched on, and our family expanded. Both Paul and Carrie got married, and each of them had three children. We also embraced in-laws and dear friends as part of our extended family. Our Christmas Eve gatherings grew into celebrations filled with laughter and joy. This tradition continued for years until the children grew up.

We cherished those gatherings, and I believe everyone had a wonderful time. But, as the kids matured, some got married and started their own families. Janet and I decided to free them from the obligation of coming to our house for Christmas Eve and encouraged them to celebrate in their own way. Instead, we began visiting their homes for Christmas Eve.

**It's a paradox - our family grew larger while our holiday gatherings became smaller.**

This year, we celebrated Christmas with our son Paul, his wife Shauna, and their family in Tucson, Arizona. It was a much smaller gathering. As I looked at pictures from these recent celebrations and many others from the past, a tinge of nostalgia washed over me. Janet and I cherished those seasons of our life.

**Then I began counting the number of Christmas celebrations this year within our extended family who previously came to our house. There were at least eight separate gatherings.**

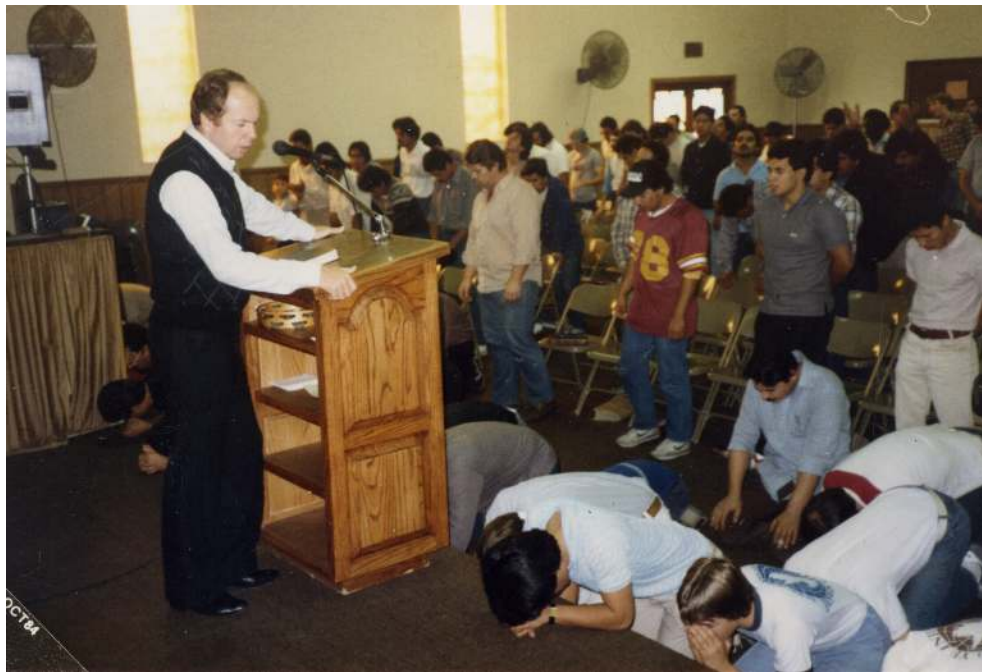
That's how multiplication works in a family. It grows, individuals marry, new families form, and they create their own traditions and memories. Now, in our family, the third generation is having babies, and we proudly bear the title of great-grandparents. As the old song goes, "and the beat goes on."

Most parents, who have built cherished holiday traditions, share a common wish - to freeze time and keep things as they are. But life and time do not oblige.

## Our Vision for Multiplication at Praise Chapel

**I have always regarded Praise Chapel as a close-knit family.**

Our journey began with a single local church in Maywood, California. As God showered His blessings upon us and a vision to establish new churches took shape, dedicated couples were sent-out, one by one, to lay pioneer new churches. Thus, our Praise Chapel family began to flourish.



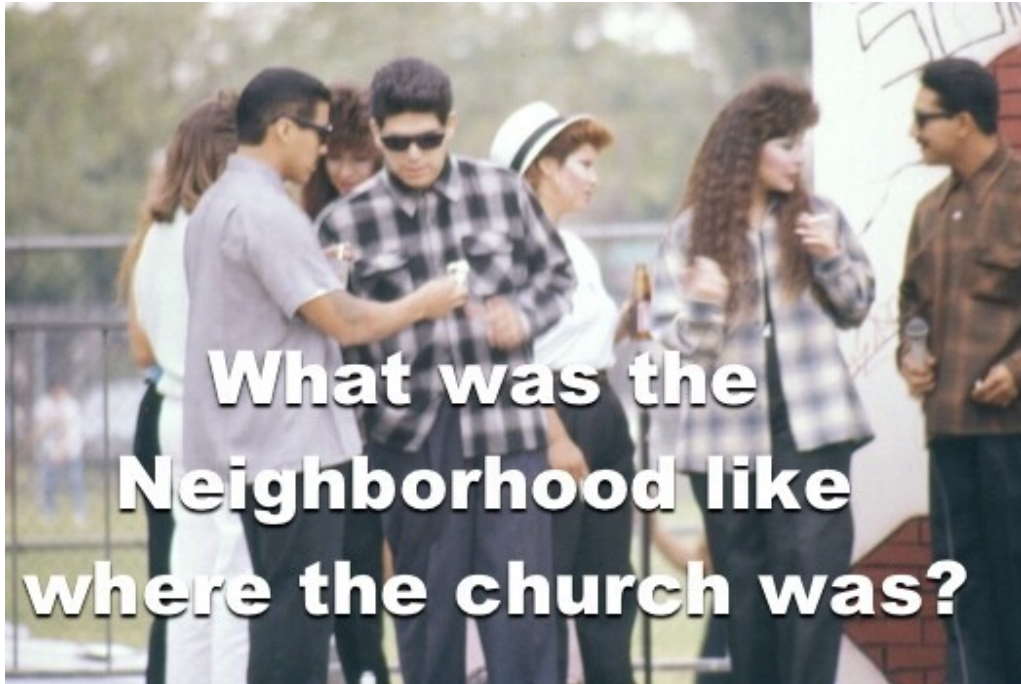
In those early days, when only three or four churches had been planted, our gatherings were relatively modest, hosted within the Maywood church building. But the spirit of multiplication soon took hold.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

As more churches were birthed and their congregations grew, our conferences swelled in size. It wasn't long before we had to seek out convention centers to accommodate the growing numbers. Just like a family, many of the churches we initially planted went on to plant churches of their own. That single church in Maywood became a grandparent and a great-grandparent, with numerous generations of churches now spanning the globe.

**Multiplication is a generational endeavor, and every movement eventually faces a pivotal question: What is our overarching vision? Are we solely focused on expanding the size of our family gatherings, or do we aspire to multiply further? It was during this contemplative phase that we conceived the vision of the "Family of Fellowships."**

What's even more remarkable is that the spark of revival, which was kindled in those early days, has not dimmed; instead, it has multiplied and continues to do so. Today, we stand as a diverse global family, no longer limited to a single church but extending across hundreds of congregations worldwide. We are blessed with elders who have faithfully served Praise Chapel since the early day, and we now witness the emergence of second, third, and even fourth-generation pastors and evangelists.



In the beginning we were a representation of the culture around Maywood, California. The congregation was mostly second generation Latinos, gang members who God touched and saved. Now our strength lies in our diversity – we bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences around the world.

**As we look ahead to 2024, we are resolutely committed to nurturing this flame.**

With the vision of Upgrade 2.0, the PC Global Network has identified even more opportunities for ministry across the globe. We firmly believe that we are strategically positioning this revival for the benefit of future generations, ensuring that we continue to reach the lost, disciple individuals, and plant churches.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

I have a cousin who recently received a call from a fifty-year-old woman. When he answered the phone, she introduced herself and said, “I think you are my dad.” She had conducted DNA research, and his sister showed up as her aunt. So, she reached out and connected with him, eventually discovering that he was indeed her father. She expressed, “I have been searching for you all my life.” Her mother had never revealed who her father was, and my cousin had no knowledge of the existence of his daughter.

Although this father and daughter had been oblivious to each other's presence, their DNA conclusively established their familial connection. Technology sifted through possibly millions of people's DNA to bring them together. They were family, and it was evident. Undoubtedly, when they finally met in person, they would recognize many similarities.

## **This scenario mirrors the PC Global Network.**

We now have a family all over the world. Most of them we will never meet in person or even know anything about them. They are in churches that we have planted or that have been birthed through them. They might be in a village in Ghana, Africa, or in Hong Kong, Mexico, Central America, or the greater Los Angeles area.

## The Impact of Ministry: A Legacy Beyond Borders

**In 1996, my brother passed away at the age of 49.**

During that time, Praise Chapel was experiencing an incredible outpouring of God's grace. It felt like his untimely departure deprived him of witnessing the remarkable growth and expansion of the Fellowship. He never had the chance to see the fruits of his labor. However, the truth remains that every soul saved as a result of his efforts and every church planted worldwide through this movement carries his spiritual DNA.

God had chosen Mike and Donna Neville to initiate this movement. The spiritual DNA, woven through generations, connects the souls my brother never had the opportunity to know. In my mind's eye, I can see God saying to Mike, "Another one has been born again. Yes, there's one in Ghana, Africa. Look, another one in Mexico, Mike, and there's yet another one in Kurdistan."





### In 2023, we mourned the loss of a lifelong friend and ministry partner, Sammy Mores.

The news of Pastor Sammy's passing came as a shock. It was unexpected, as he had only been in the hospital for a few days. Without delay, Janet and I traveled to the Philippines to stand by the side of our dear friends.



Thousands of people from all over the Philippines gathered to express their love and respect for Sammy and his family. I can't think of anyone more fruitful in ministry than Sammy. Our journey together began in 1982 when the ministry in the Philippines started in a small church where Sammy and I labored side by side. We had the privilege of sharing the vision of Win, Build, and Send.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

It was Sammy's faithfulness and leadership that propelled the ministry into a dynamic church multiplication Fellowship. He left behind a legacy of outstanding leaders who continue to advance together. The Fellowship is thriving, multiplying, and reaping generational blessings.

Much like my brother, Sammy invested his life in people, making disciples and planting churches. Someday, he will be introduced to sons and daughters he never had the chance to meet in this life. But the DNA of his ministry lives on within them, and God keeps impeccable records.

Recently, we attended a wedding where people had come together from Singapore, Hong Kong, and America. The bride was the daughter of our pastor from Calvary Church in Hong Kong, who first came to Praise Chapel when he was just a teenager, when we were pioneering in Singapore. The groom was the son of a woman who embraced Christ during an outreach we conducted in Manila when she was only ten years old. Years later, there we were in Rancho Cucamonga, California, uniting these two young people from different countries because their families were an integral part of the extended church family of Praise Chapel.



## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

I was recently at a one-year-old's birthday party, and as I looked around at the attendees, it struck me that all of them were there because of the revival we've been a part of. A great-grandfather and great-grandmother were saved in the very first church that went-out from the Maywood congregation. One uncle was the child of a couple who joined a church Janet and I planted in 1982. His wife, the baby's aunt, was also part of the revival, her parents are pastors in Africa. **The baby was our great-granddaughter.**

These and many more children may never come to know that Mike and Donna Neville, along with a small congregation in Maywood, California, were instrumental in a move of God that reached even them. But God knows, and His divine plan transcends generations.



With the Afar tribe in Ethiopia

## Measuring the Impact of a Movement

We often live our lives guided by quantifiable factors: calculations, results, and tangible numbers. We gauge our efforts by the hours invested and the returns received. If we base our Christian life and ministry solely on what we can see, we might hesitate unless we witness quick returns. However, it's crucial to recognize that eternity cannot be measured or valued using temporary equations.

In today's world, we find ourselves captivated by all things "mega." Mega-retailers, mega-malls, mega-entertainment centers, mega-stars, and mega-churches dominate our attention. We are drawn to mega-success stories, like Mark Zuckerberg becoming a billionaire in just eight years, which we celebrate as an example of success.

A few years ago, Americans reveled in what appeared to be a burgeoning economy. People bought houses they couldn't afford, and loans were extended to individuals who shouldn't have qualified. The idea of a growing mega-credit economy seemed unstoppable. But then, the bubble burst.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

Followers of Jesus Christ must recognize that the path Jesus walked and the concept of "mega" are not synonymous. Jesus prioritized community and relationships, emphasizing that *"where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20, NKJV). This principle isn't just a phrase to utter when only a few gather in church. Jesus dignified the significance of small gatherings in His name, whether three, twelve, or one hundred and twenty.

### He is present when two or three gather in His name.

How does this resonate with us today? Jesus built His ministry on a few dedicated individuals. He invested time in a select few. Toward the end of His earthly ministry, He referred to them as *"You are my friends"* (John 15:14). The Word of God reveals that success is not solely defined by large numbers, substantial wealth, or massive buildings.

Paul clarified the concept: *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor"* (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

Here, Paul emphasizes that rewards come from our labor, not from the quantity of the harvest. Jesus also mentioned, *"I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors"* (John 4:38).

**The gospel's call is to win lost souls, make disciples, and spread the message of Jesus to the world.**

This doesn't happen merely by programs or gathering large numbers of people. Often, with larger numbers come more spectators who do little more than observe. God's work has consistently thrived through the faithfulness of a few dedicated disciples.

When I began my ministry travels, I met a man in one of the first churches where I preached. He was retired and had dedicated himself to God's work. He meticulously mapped out his city and, every day, like clockwork, went door to door, sharing his faith. His goal was to witness to every home in his city, no small feat. He always had a story about someone he had prayed for and led to the Lord that day. I've thought of him often over the years – a hidden hero. A humble man who shied away from the limelight, never yearned to stand at the pulpit or be interviewed on television. He faithfully labored in obscurity until he was called home by the Lord.

**So, how does God measure?** Eternity serves as the measuring rod for every life.

Our lives cannot be evaluated in the span of a week or a month. The true measure of our lives is found in the context of eternity. For our church to be effective, it must be infused with an eternal perspective. We must seek to engage with eternity.

### In this life, we connect with two eternal components:

1. **The Word of God:** *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever"* (Isaiah 40:8). *"But the word of the Lord endures forever"* (1 Peter 1:25).

2. **The souls of people:** *"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost"* (Luke 19:10).

Praise Chapel's focus is on people and sowing seeds throughout the world. While we may not witness the results in the natural, one day God will bring together fathers and daughters who never knew each other on Earth.

The mega-measurements of today cannot capture the true essence of God's work. God's work defies simple calculations, and its progress isn't always immediately visible. It is divine life, working supernaturally beyond the scenes. The Kingdom of God transcends natural human abilities. The Church makes an error when it evaluates everything based on the world's perspective.

One day, my brother Mike will stand alongside many of us and generations of souls reached because we have invested in men and women who carried the gospel worldwide. Time alone can reveal the profound impact of this Kingdom principle.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

While I encourage church growth and celebrate more people coming to church, I also acknowledge that bigger is not always better. *"When your ancestors went down into Egypt, there were only seventy of them. But now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky!"* (Deuteronomy 10:22).

We are encouraged to cast our bread upon the waters, for we will find it after many days. *"Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for we do not know what evil will befall the earth"* (Ecclesiastes 11:1).

This requires faith in God's work, even when we cannot calculate or measure it. We may not always see it unfolding, but *"you do not know the works of God who makes everything"* (Ecclesiastes 11:5, 6). With faith, appearances don't matter because we know that God is at work, and our prayers are being heard and answered.

*"Jesus asked, 'How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed. Though this is one of the smallest of seeds, it grows to become one of the largest of plants, with long branches where birds can come and find shelter'"* (Mark 4:30-32 NLT).

The Kingdom of God, at work in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ, has the potential to create an impact greater than anything our programs can produce.



## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

*"And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness--secret riches. I will do this so you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name"(Isaiah 45:3, NLT).*



From the small church in Maywood, California churches have been planted in hundreds of cities, towns and villages. Praise Chapel has become a house of Brands. Churches and Fellowships with different names and brands. No matter where they are, what they are named, even if we don't get to meet them.

**They all carry our DNA.**

## The Journey to Ministry in Iraq

**Twenty years ago, we embarked on a remarkable journey of faith.**

During that time, Iraq was engulfed in war. Jack Harris' son served as a soldier there, and he had developed a meaningful connection with a Kurdish interpreter named Muhammad. Peter, Jack's son, often shared stories about his father's ministry in various countries and the incredible miracles performed by God. Muhammad earnestly implored Peter to ask his dad to come and assist the Kurdish people.

When Peter reached out to Jack with this seemingly impossible idea—going to Iraq during a major war—Jack saw it as an extraordinary opportunity. So, during our Praise Chapel Conference, we made the announcement that Jack would be going to Iraq. At that point, we weren't entirely sure what could be achieved in the midst of a war, but we believed that God was leading us.

**Jack's journey took him across the border from Turkey into Iraq.**

With limited access and no available flights into the country, Jack placed his trust in the hope that Muhammad would be there to meet him on the other side. Thankfully, Muhammad was indeed there. Over the next three years, Jack and Muhammad worked closely together within Muslim communities. It turned out that Muhammad had extensive connections and was highly regarded in the Kurdish region.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

Jack began identifying areas of need that he believed we could address. It all began with providing heating for widows' houses, and from there, we extended their assistance to the children and even undertook house construction, initiated a water project, and built a road to a village.

Jack's actions were driven by the needs he witnessed around him. Importantly, his efforts were directed toward Muslim communities; for a long time, Jack did not encounter any Believers, and his presence was primarily to serve the local population.

Around the same time Jack arrived in Iraq, Pastor Layth Ibrahim had to flee Baghdad for his life due to threats from radicals against his family and church. He found refuge in the Kurdish region. Layth had established a house church, and when he and Jack crossed paths, they recognized it as a divine connection. This marked the beginning of their collaboration.

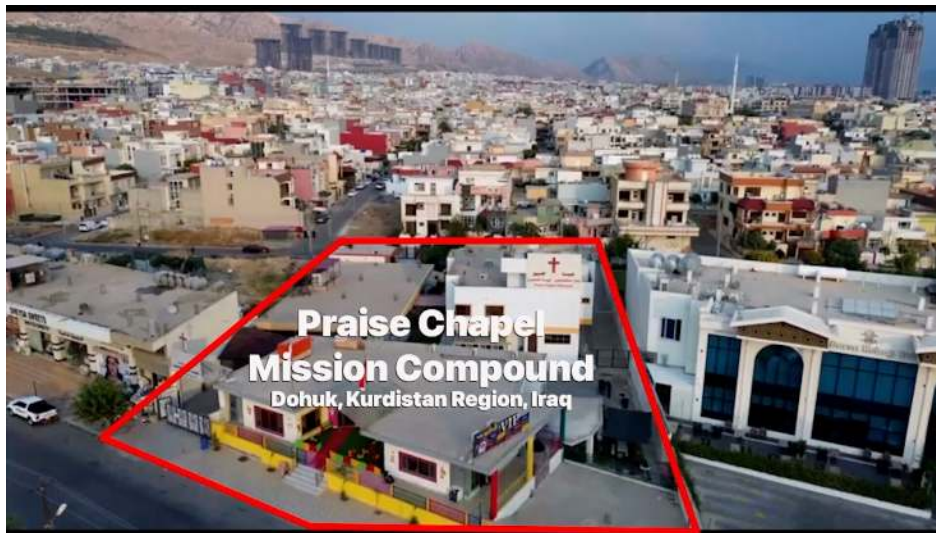
**In 2023, we celebrated 20 years of ministry in Iraq. (click to watch the video)**

The church and the facilities stands as a testament to God's miraculous provision. The land was granted to Praise Chapel during the war when its value was minimal. Today, that church has become the largest Evangelical church in Kurdistan. It's a beautiful testament to God's faithfulness when we are willing to step out in faith and take risks for global evangelism. They have school facilities, safe houses for persecuted Believers, and much more.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

Pastors Jack and Layth expanded their vision beyond Iraq. Their ministry has extended into Upper Egypt, where they are witnessing unparalleled fruitfulness and revival. More Middle East nations are on their radar for future church planting.

As Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 reminds us: *"He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know what is the way of the wind or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning, sow your seed, and in the evening, do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good."*



This bountiful harvest of souls will be a legacy we all share for eternity. Together, as co-laborers, we can fulfill the profound task that God has entrusted to each of us.

# Multiplication through Generations: A Testament to Praise Chapel's Faithfulness

## The Evolution of Family Gatherings

As our family grows, our family gatherings seem to get smaller. This perception holds true when we compare them to the larger gatherings of the past. Hosting this expanding family during the holidays in our home has been a wonderful experience. However, it became evident that as the kids grew up, got married, and developed their own traditions, they would want their own gatherings. Therefore, we had to adapt to accommodate the significant increase in our family and holiday events.

Our family has expanded considerably, to the point where we can now call it "families." Some of our grandchildren have even started their own families. The family tree is multiplying, and as a result, we now have the privilege of attending numerous family gatherings. Janet and I take joy in observing how they host the holidays in their own unique way, creating their own traditions with their families.

## Small Beginnings to a Global Vision of Multiplication

In the same way, I have had the privilege of traveling and visiting Praise Chapel churches in various nations around the world. I speak at their conferences and events, and I have had the pleasure of meeting wonderful individuals who have come to know Jesus Christ through these ministries.

After Pastor Sammy's passing, I spent approximately six weeks in the Philippines. During this time, I visited churches in various provinces and islands and was genuinely thrilled by what I witnessed. Beautiful church buildings have been constructed, and conferences reminiscent of our original ones are taking place. Evangelism efforts are active throughout the country. I was thrilled to see the third and fourth generations pioneering and leading new churches.

**Ghana, Africa**, holds a special place in my heart as one of my favorite destinations to visit. Praise Chapel planted its first church there over thirty years ago, and today, there is a thriving fellowship of churches with numerous outstanding pastors and leaders led by Pastor Eric and Joyce Daafour.

I have always watched one pastor who was just a teenager in the first church, and now he leads a remarkable congregation. Bruno and his wife Patience travel by car, motorcycle, and even on foot to villages, preaching the gospel and establishing new churches. The impact this dedicated couple has had on souls is immeasurable, and only eternity will truly reveal the extent of their reach. They are only one couple of many laboring for God.

## This movement is build to withstand the test of time.

If you are an original Praise Chapel member, you have witnessed the progression of this movement. It may appear that as we multiply, our conferences and events become smaller, much like our family gatherings. However, in reality, we are expanding beyond anything we could have imagined. This movement is built to withstand the test of time.

“God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!”

(Ephesians 2:20-21 MSG)

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# The Gospel to Everyone, Everywhere, by Anyone.

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Janet and I wish you a Very Blessed and Prosperous 2024. We look forward to another year of "Laboring together with Christ Jesus."

WIN-BUILD- SEND



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