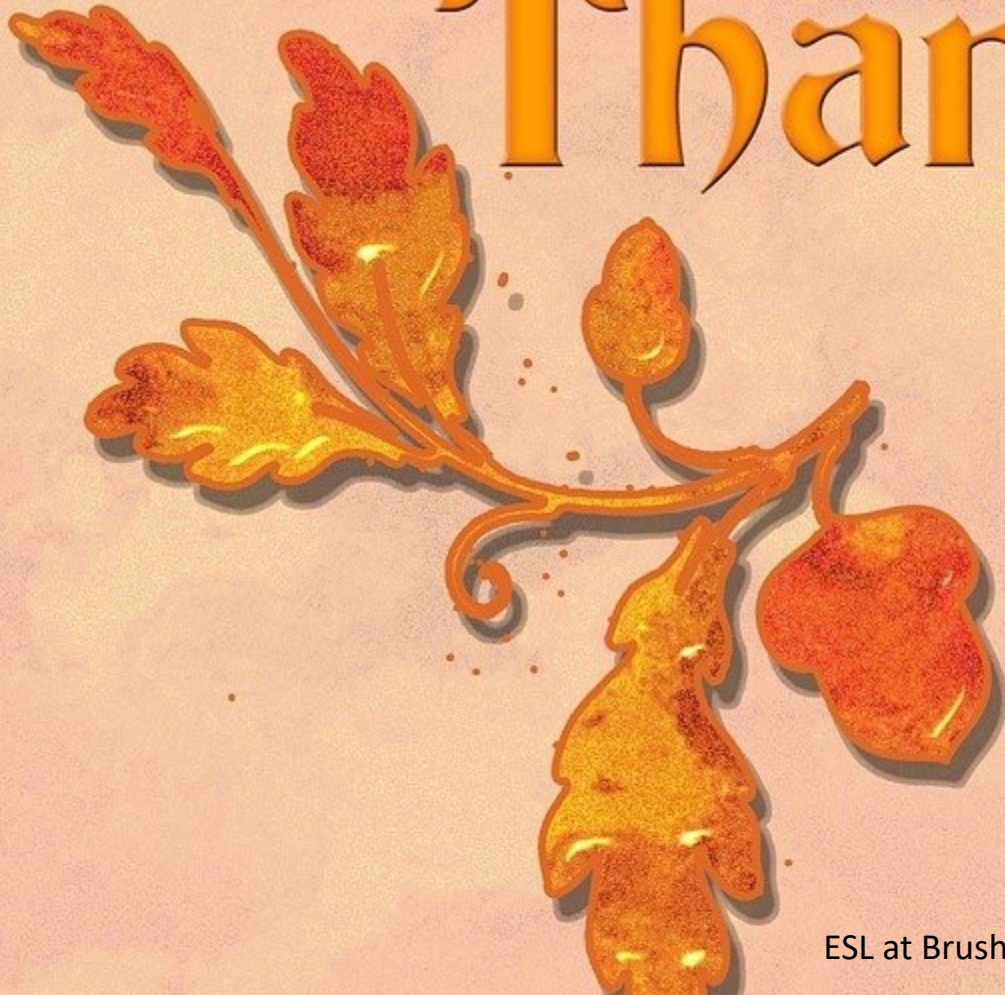


Happy



Thanksgiving



DÍA DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS.

Thanksgiving Food

Pavo – Turkey

Puré de papas (o patatas)- Mashed potatoes

Relleno – Stuffing

Pastel de calabaza – Pumpkin pie

Salsa de arandanos – Cranberry sauce

Verduras (o vegetales) – Vegetables

Salsa para el pavo – Gravy

Pudín – pudding

Giving Thanks in Spanish & English

Gracias por...

Gracias por el regalo.

Gracias por la cena.

Gracias por venir.

Gracias por la invitacion.

Thanks for...

(Thanks for the present)

(Thanks for dinner)

(Thanks for coming)

(Thanks for the invitation)

Estoy agradecido(a) por...

Estoy agradecida por mi familia.

Estoy agradecida por mis amigos.

Estoy agradecida por mi salud.

Estoy agradecida por mi trabajo.

to be thankful for...

(I'm thankful for my family)

(I'm thankful for my friends)

(I'm thankful for my health)

(I'm thankful for my job)



Four Miracles of Thanksgiving



1 Thessalonians 5:18 TLB

**No matter what happens, always be thankful,
for this is God's will for you who belong to
Christ Jesus.**



Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

J. L. Ferris

J. L. FERRIS ©



SINCE 1828

GAMES & QUIZZES

THESAURUS

WORD OF THE DAY

FEATURE

miracle

Dictionary

Thesaurus

Full Definition of *miracle*

- 1 : an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs
// the healing *miracles* described in the Gospels
- 2 : an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment
// The bridge is a *miracle* of engineering.



Miracle # 1 An Unexpected Storm





ROUTES OF THE ARMADA

X Fights in the channel
 ✂ Wrecks



Many ships were wrecked off the rocky coasts of Scotland and Ireland. Of the 150 ships that set out, only 65 returned to Lisbon. The following year, Philip sent another smaller fleet of about 100 ships. This too ran into stormy weather off Cornwall and was blown back to Spain.

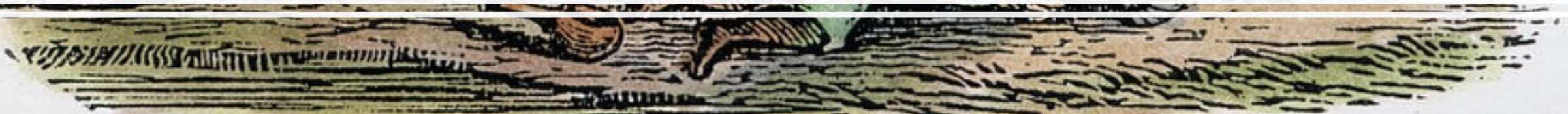


Miracle # 2 A Tumultuous Journey (and answered prayer)





Miracle # 3 A Mysterious Plague





Miracle # 4 The Arrival Squanto and Samoset



James 1:17 TLB

But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow.

J.L. Ferris

J.L. FERRIS ©

Four Miracles of Thanksgiving



Miracle # 1 An Unexpected Storm

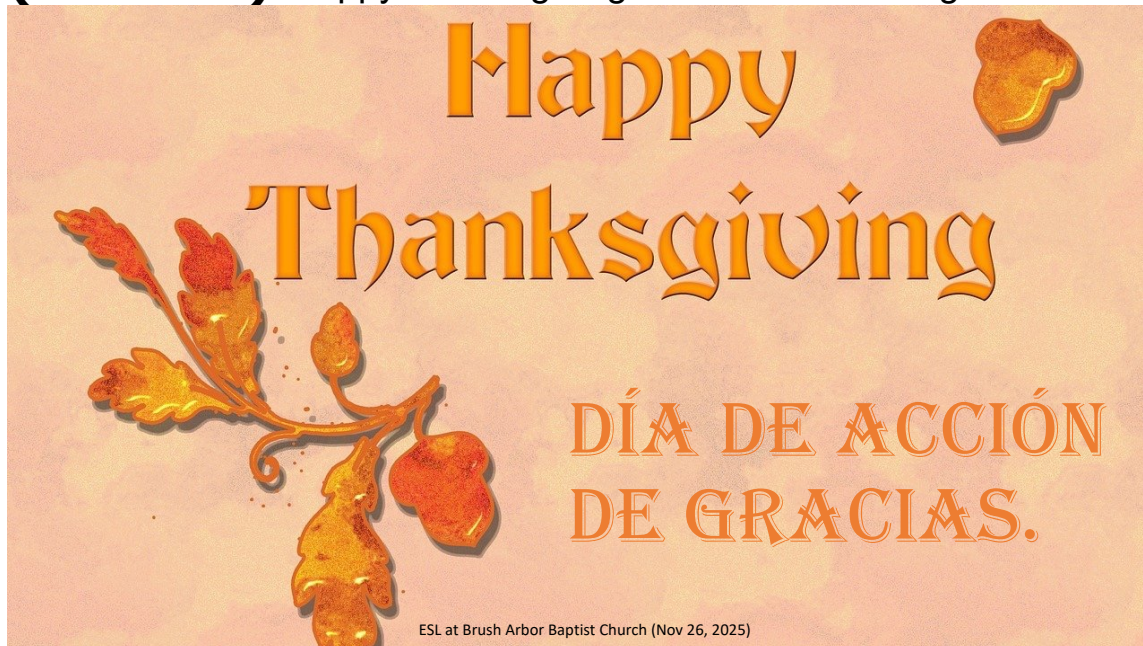
Miracle # 2 A Tumultuous Journey

Miracle # 3 A Mysterious Plague

Miracle # 4 Squanto and Samoset

English as a Second Language (ESL) Thanksgiving Potluck Speech: Given November 26, 2025, by Jeremy Sisk.

(SLIDE 1) Happy Thanksgiving! Día de acción de gracias.



(SLIDE 2)

Thanksgiving Food

Pavo – Turkey

Puré de papas (o patatas)- Mashed potatoes

Relleno – Stuffing

Pastel de calabaza – Pumpkin pie

Salsa de arandanos – Cranberry sauce

Verduras (o vegetales) – Vegetables

Salsa para el pavo – Gravy

Pudín – pudding

(SLIDE 3)

Giving Thanks in Spanish & English

Gracias por...

Gracias por el regalo.

Gracias por la cena.

Gracias por venir.

Gracias por la invitacion.

Thanks for...

(Thanks for the present)

(Thanks for dinner)

(Thanks for coming)

(Thanks for the invitation)

Estoy agradecido(a) por...

Estoy agradecida por mi familia.

Estoy agradecida por mis amigos.

Estoy agradecida por mi salud.

Estoy agradecida por mi trabajo.

to be thankful for...

(I'm thankful for my family)

(I'm thankful for my friends)

(I'm thankful for my health)

(I'm thankful for my job)

(SLIDE 4)



Four Miracles of Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims came to America seeking religious freedom and opportunity in America. They gave thanks to God for helping them find cleared land, no hostile Indians, a new found religious freedom, and an interpreter/guide to help them survive.

The original thanksgiving celebration was held by these Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in November of 1621.

From that time on, this land which we now call America, has celebrated Thanksgiving in one way or another through the giving of thanks to God for His gracious provision.

In 1777 both Congress and General George Washington called for a national day of Thanksgiving.

Again George Washington called for a national Thanksgiving 1789 to acknowledge the goodness of almighty God.

President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."

In 1941, Congress ruled the fourth Thursday of every November be observed as a Thanksgiving Day to be a legal federal holiday.

(SLIDE 5)



God tells us to be thankful in all things.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

(SLIDE 6)




God also tells us that for those who know Christ, God works everything together for good, even events we would not necessarily consider good.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Tonight we are going to be looking at 4 historical events in which I believe God orchestrated for some of those called according to His purpose.

The extraordinary and unusual events in the midst of these Pilgrim's journey to the new world, were 'miracles' I believe, which were performed by God.

(SLIDE 7)

Merriam-Webster

SINCE 1828

GAMES & QUIZZES | THESAURUS | WORD OF THE DAY | FEATURES

miracle

DictionaryThesaurus

Full Definition of *miracle*

- 1 : an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs
// the healing *miracles* described in the Gospels
- 2 : an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment
// The bridge is a *miracle* of engineering.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines ***miracle*** as 1: an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs 2: an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment (This definition fits perfectly in this message).

(SLIDE 8)

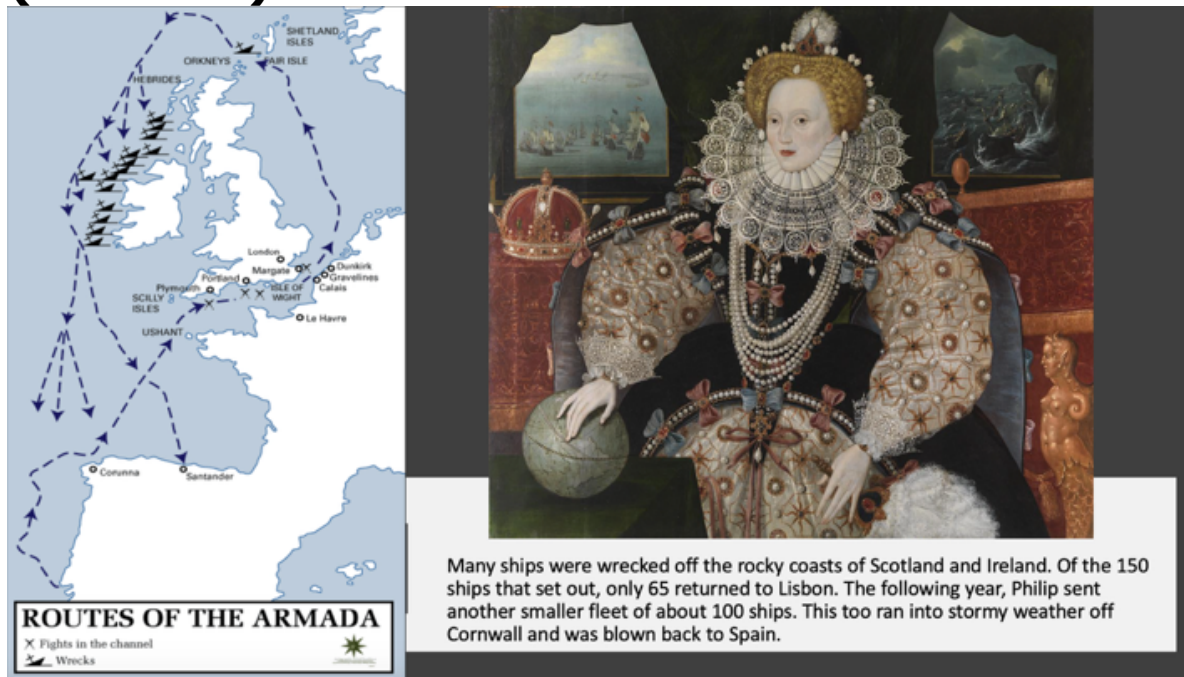


Miracle # 1 A Fluke and Unexpected Storm

Miracle # 1: An Unexpected Storm

This is a painting depicting the Battle of Gravelines which was a turning point battle in the turning over of world powers. This battle was important when we consider the type of faith that founded 'America'.

(SLIDE 9)



This is an illustration by a cadet from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

In 1588, which was 32 years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth, Catholic Spain ruled the Seas and was the world dominant naval power for nearly a 100 years since Columbus discovered the new world in 1492.

The West Indies, Mexico, South America, were all discovered, explored and conquered by Catholic Spain...and by the way, here too in Orlando, Florida. The very land that were in right now belonged to Spain but we aren't Spanish-speaking Catholics.

In 1588 Queen Elizabeth, the Protestant daughter of Henry the VIII ruled England and at that same time Catholic Spain wanted England to be allegiant to the Pope again and to convert it from Protestantism back to Catholicism.

So Spain sent its Armada to invade Great Britain but British Admiral Drake, outmaneuvered Spain in the Battle of Gravelines forcing the Spanish ships to cut anchor.

The Spanish decided to ride the south wind around Scotland and Ireland because the British had blocked the English Channel.

As the Spanish attempted to sail back south around the Scotland and Ireland back home to port in Spain an unexpected storm in the North Atlantic destroyed half the Armada in one event.

In summary a great south wind pushed the Spanish Armada up through the North Sea and when they came back south the North Atlantic storm took out about half of the fleet with the other half heading back to Spain.

32 years later the pilgrims from England (not the Spanish Catholics) would establish the foundation of faith in America.

Daniel said God that sets up Kings and God that removes Kings.

Daniel 2:21 - And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

(SLIDE 10)



Miracle # 2 A Tumultuous Journey (and answered prayer)



Miracle # 2: A Tumultuous Journey

This famous painting is displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda showing a prayer meeting on board the 'Speedwell' led by Pastor Robinson as they were departing.

This separatist congregation originally from Scrooby, England went to Leiden, Netherlands and were there for 12 years.

The pilgrims had received permission from King James for a settlement in Virginia.

King James would expand his business interests in the new world and at the same time, get rid of these separatists.

Now, all of them couldn't go at once because the number of separatists was between four and five hundred, but this first group was prepared to sail, and they were sailing in two ships: **The Speedwell** which they bought and **The Mayflower** which they had leased.

Travelling across the Atlantic was a big risk. A big risk, the kind that you really need to be motivated to take.

Now, they departed England and two weeks into their trip in the Atlantic, the Speedwell began taking on water and it was slowly starting to sink. They had to turn back to England.

So what's the miracle here if they prayed for God's helping hand but their ship began to sink? Where was God? Was He listening?

Yes, God was there, God heard their prayers and God answered their prayers. By the time they were ready to sail it was too late to travel across the Atlantic because it would soon be winter.

But they sailed through the raging storms of the North Atlantic anyways and those storms nearly broke the Mayflower in half.

It should have only taken 33 days for the Pilgrims to get to the Hudson River but instead it took them 66 days given the North Atlantic storms the endured for more than half their voyage. And because of the storms they were blown off course.

And they were hindered from landing at their intended destination which was the Hudson River (the northernmost part of 'Virginia' at that time)...and...they arrived instead to Cape Cod.

If the 'Speedwell' didn't have a leak then the trip would not have been delayed and if not for this hindrance, the Pilgrims would have been on course to be massacred by the Indians.

After arriving in Cape Cod, they attempted to sail south to their intended destination but there were '*contrary winds*' and finally determined that this was God's will to settle in that Cape.

Cape Cod was also occupied by hostile Indians, but about 18 months before the pilgrims arrived guess what happened?
A miracle!

(SLIDE 11) Miracle # 3 A Mysterious Plague



Miracle # 3 A Mysterious Plague

A mysterious plague wiped out those inhabitants and the pilgrims landed in an area that was uninhabited and owned by no one and claimed by no one because the other Indian tribes thought this was a cursed land. The last tribe all died.

So they landed in a perfect harbor, with land already cleared and cultivated next to freshwater springs but the pilgrims began to run out of food and in the first winter half the pilgrims died.

The Mayflower's shipmaster felt so sorry for them, he offered to take them back to England.

William Bradford wrote of the pilgrims saying: "A great hope and inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for the propagating and advancing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work."

So these pilgrims were starving, diseased and they needed help but guess what happened next? Another miracle!

(SLIDE 12)



Miracle # 4 The Arrival Squanto and Samoset



Miracle # 4: Samoset and Squanto

A bold Indian named Samoset walked into their camp who just happened to speak English. Samoset had a friend as well that also spoke English named Squanto.

Squanto was educated in England as a young man in 1605 and he just returned a year earlier and 1619 missing the plague that wiped out his tribe.

After the first winter half the pilgrims were dead, the Mayflower had left for England and they have very little seed for planting. Squanto taught the pilgrims how to fish and plant corn, showed them how to fish and pick berries and where to find nuts and what kind to eat, showed them how to hunt deer and turkeys and he introduced the pilgrims to surrounding tribes to make peace.

Squanto saved their lives. What a miraculous journey these pilgrims had and with all these miracles, no one had it easy.

But despite the loss and struggle those pilgrims soon celebrated their first Thanksgiving in the New World. They were grateful for their lives, grateful for Squanto, grateful for God's provision.

And we like the Pilgrims have a choice no matter what the circumstances are. We can be grateful or ungrateful. The Pilgrims decided to be thankful and celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

There will always be things to complain about. The Pilgrims had lost many loved ones and faced hardships that's hard to imagine but they knew there was so much to be thankful for.

May God find us to be His grateful children for all He gives us.

(SLIDE 13)

The First Thanksgiving:



The following November (1621) only 53 Pilgrims were left with a harvest of abundance and the Pilgrims were thankful to God as they celebrated their first Thanksgiving.

However the example they showed in thanking God in their time 'without' and when all the cards were stacked against them is what really stands out as an example to mimic.

(SLIDE 14)

Four Miracles of Thanksgiving



ENDNOTES

Slide 1 Endnotes:

Thanksgiving image by Sue Junky from Pixabay.
<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/thanksgiving-happy-thanksgiving-1058682/> (Accessed Nov 26, 2025).

Slide 2 Endnotes:

Common Thanksgiving food items from mafeteachesyouspanish.com.
<https://mafeteachesyouspanish.com/giving-thanks-in-spanish-special-edition-thanksgiving-day/> (Accessed Nov. 21, 2025).

Slide 3 Endnotes

"Gracias por... *Thanks for...* / Estoy agradecido por... *to be thankful for...*" vocabulary words taken from mafeteachesyouspanish.com.
<https://mafeteachesyouspanish.com/giving-thanks-in-spanish-special-edition-thanksgiving-day/> (Accessed Nov. 21, 2025).

Slide 4 Endnotes

Slide image of painting *Thanksgiving at Plymouth, 1925* by Jennie Augusta Brownscombe: Digital image named: Thanksgiving at Plymouth, 1925, Brownscombe.jpg
Created: 1925 - <https://nmwa.org/works/thanksgiving-plymouth> - National Museum of Women in the Arts, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=75070640>

Slide 5 Endnotes

Slide image of *The First Thanksgiving, 1621* by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris. This work is in the public domain because it was published in the United States between 1930 and 1963, and although there may or may not have been a copyright notice, the copyright was not renewed. Public domain.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_First_Thanksgiving_cph.3g04961FXD.jpg (Accessed Nov 26, 2025).

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Slide 6 Endnotes

Slide image by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris: *The First Thanksgiving, 1621*. See Slide 5 Endnotes for full attribution.

Romans 8:28 King James Version (KJV). Public Domain.

Slide 7 Endnotes

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/miracle> (accessed Nov. 26, 2025) Use of content allows for the display, reproduce, print or download content, including images, from the Services only for personal, non-commercial use. A teacher, scholar or student, may copy reasonable portions of the content, including images, for lesson plans, interactive whiteboards, reports, dissertations, presentations, school newspapers and for similar nonprofit educational purposes to the extent permitted by applicable law. In each case, however, one may not remove or alter any copyright, trademark, service mark or other proprietary notices or legends. See merriam-webster.com's terms of use at <https://www.merriam-webster.com/i/terms-of-use>.

Slide 8 Endnotes

Painting of *Battle of Gravelines* is by an unknown author - National Geographic, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=88989671>.

The Battle of Gravelines was a turning point given the "defeat of the Armada was one of England's greatest victories and one of the world's decisive battles; it was the "beginning of the end" of Spain as the dominant nation in Europe, and the beginning of English ascendancy."
Taken from <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sir-francis-drake/articles-and-essays/drake-biography/armada/> (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

Slide 9 Endnotes

Slide 9 (left) image is of *Routes of the Armada* by Frank Martini. Cartographer, History Department. US Military Academy. Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=520417> (Accessed 11/21/2025).

Slide 9 (right) image of painting *The Armada Portrait of Elizabeth I* by anonymous author but formerly attributed to George Gower - <http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/elizarmada.jpg>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=28313> (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

According to [britainexpress.com](https://www.britainexpress.com), "On Monday, July 29, the two fleets met in battle off Gravelines. The English emerged victorious, although the Spanish losses were not great; only three ships were reported sunk, one captured, and four more ran aground. Nevertheless, the Duke of Medina Sedonia determined that the Armada must return to Spain. The English blocked the Channel, so the only route open was north around the tip of Scotland, and down the coast of Ireland. It was then that the unpredictable English weather took a hand in the proceedings. A succession of storms scattered the Spanish ships, resulting in heavy losses. By the time the tattered Armada regained Spain, it had lost half its ships and three-quarters of its men. In England, the victory was greeted as a sign of divine approval for the Protestant cause. The storms that scattered the Armada were seen as intervention by God. Services of thanks were held throughout the country, and a commemorative medal struck, with the words, "God blew and they were scattered" inscribed on it." <https://www.britainexpress.com/History/tudor/armada.htm> (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

Slide 10 Endnotes

Slide 10 image is of the painting *The Embarkation of the Pilgrims, 1843*, hanging at the US Capitol Rotunda in Washington D.C.. The name of the ship, Speedwell, and 1620 are written in the foreground of the painting. Protestant pilgrims are shown on the deck of the ship Speedwell before their departure for the New World from Delfshaven, Holland, on July 22, 1620. William Brewster, holding the Bible, and pastor John Robinson leading Governor Carver, William Bradford, Miles Standish, and their families in prayer. By Robert W. Weir (photograph courtesy Architect of the Capitol) - Architect of the Capitol, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1381170> (Accessed November 21, 2025).

"The Mayflower was a wine ship that only traveled the English Channel. But they hired out the Mayflower for the trip, and the Pilgrims bought a ship called the Speedwell. The plan was for the Speedwell and the Mayflower to go. The Speedwell was then supposed to stay with the Pilgrims while the Mayflower returned. The Pilgrims set out on the Speedwell from Leiden. They were meeting up with the Mayflower in England, and when they set sail for the New World, they found out that the Speedwell was leaky, so they pulled into port and had the ship repaired. They set out again, and it began to leak again, and they pulled into port. The third time they decided to abandon the ship. They ended up leaving in September, which is late for anyone to sail the north seas because it's a stormy season. About 50 from the Scrooby congregation and about 50 who were called "strangers" set sail from Plymouth, England. The journey should have taken about 33 days. It took them 66 days because they encountered storms more than half the time." <https://www.dayspringchristian.com/blog/americas-sacred-story-the-true-story-of-the-pilgrims/> (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

'Contrary winds' - "In 1620, "Virginia" extended far beyond its current boundaries and the *Mayflower* was originally meant to land at its "northern Parts," specifically the Hudson River. When the *Mayflower* attempted to sail around Cape Cod to reach the Hudson, contrary winds and dangerous shoals forced the ship to turn around and instead anchor in modern day Provincetown Harbor on November 11, 1620." Taken from <https://themayflowersociety.org/history/the-mayflower-compact/> (Accessed Nov 29, 2025).

According to Bradford, "after long beating at sea (of the *Mayflower*), on November 9th they fell in with a part of the land called Cape Cod, at which they were not a little joyful. After some deliberation among themselves and with the captain, they tacked about and resolved to stand for the southward, the wind and weather being fair, to find some place near Hudson's River for their habitation. But after they had kept that course about half a day, they met with dangerous shoals and roaring breakers, and as they conceived themselves in great danger, — the wind falling, — they

resolved to bear up again for the Cape and thought themselves happy to get out of danger before night overtook them, as by God's providence they did. Next day they got into the bay, where they rode in safety." Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation* (p. 74). Portcullis Books. Kindle Edition.

"Pilgrims permission from King James" - "The first patent obtained for the Pilgrim voyage to America was a patent from the Virginia Company of London for a particular plantation to be settled under the jurisdiction of Jamestown...The next patent obtained for the Pilgrim voyage to America was a patent for a particular plantation, granted by the Virginia Company of London to John Peirce on February 2, 1620. This is the "First Peirce Patent" and the text does not survive. We assume, however, that it followed the pattern set down by other patents for particular plantations, which gave permission to attempt a settlement within the jurisdiction of Jamestown. The Pilgrims sailed, landed outside of the jurisdiction of Jamestown and the Virginia Company of London (being north of northern New Jersey). They landed instead in the territory newly under the jurisdiction of the Council for New England. Since they had no legal "paper" giving them permission to settle where they had landed or to construct a government, the Pilgrims drew up the Mayflower Compact as a personal, interim agreement. It governed the conduct of the settlers and was to remain an embodiment of the guiding principles for Plymouth Colony but had no force in law as recognized by any outside authority." Taken from Peggy M. Baker, *"The Plymouth Colony Patent: setting the stage"* (Plymouth, MA: Pilgrim Society & Pilgrim Hall Museum, 2007).

https://www.pilgrimhall.org/pdf/The_Plymouth_Colony_Patent.pdf (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

Slide 11 Endnotes

Slide 11 image entitled, *NATIVE AMERICANS: SMALLPOX, 1853: Native American victims of a smallpox epidemic spread by white settlers in America*. American engraving attributed to John Warner Barber, 1853. Taken from (no. 0038531) with permission for academic use.

<https://www.grangeracademic.com/results.asp?image=0038531&itemw=4&itemf=0001&itemstep=1&itemx=1> (Accessed Nov 26, 2025).

"The introduction of smallpox to the eastern coast of North America followed explorations by French, Dutch, or English explorers. The first recorded epidemic appeared between 1617 and 1619 along the Massachusetts coast. The death rate among the Narragansett tribe alone probably exceeded 90 percent." Richard Adler, *Native American Smallpox Epidemics in the 17th Century* 2022 <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/consumer-health/native-american-smallpox-epidemics-17th-century> (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

Plague of the Indians - Marco Margaritoff states, "While exact figures remain debated, historians estimate that 18 million Indigenous people inhabited the North American continent before the 16th century. But within years of European settlers arriving, these populations would be decimated by up to 90 percent, killed by diseases that colonists brought with them to the New World. And when the Mayflower arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620, the 102 Pilgrims aboard found nothing but empty villages. Tools were left behind in unoccupied houses, and skeletal remains littered the landscape. The reason was a glaring pestilence, which the Pilgrims deemed an act of God preparing the land for their arrival. "Within these late years, there hath, by God's visitation, reigned a wonderful plague, the utter destruction, devastation, and depopulation of that whole territory, so as there is not left any that do claim or challenge any kind of interest therein," decreed the 1620 Charter of New England by King James I. Margaritoff, Marco. "The Devastating History Of Diseases That The Pilgrims Brought To America" 2021. See AllThatsInteresting.com, <https://allthatsinteresting.com/pilgrim-plagues> (Accessed November 21, 2025).

Slide 12 Endnotes

Slide 12 image is an image of Samoset. Images, Internet Archive Book. "Samoset." *World History Encyclopedia*. Last modified November 23, 2020. Public Domain. <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/13157/samoset/> (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

"A bold naked Indian" - William Bryant writes "New events came with the spring to the colony at Plymouth, as well as health and hope. In March, a naked Indian stalked boldly in among them, and greeted them in a few English words, which he had learned from the fishermen and other voyagers on the coast of Maine, his home being on the Pemaquid." Taken from William C. Bryant and Sydney H. Gay, *A Popular History of the United States: From the first Discovery of the Western Hemisphere by*

the Northmen, to the End of the First Century of the Union of the States. Preceded by a Sketch of the Prehistoric Period and the Age of the Mound Builders. Volume 1: Fully Illustrated (New York: Scribner, Armstrong and Company, 1876), 400-401.

<https://archive.org/details/popularhistoryof00brya/page/n10/mode/1up?q=squanto> (Accessed Nov 21, 2025). Public domain.

Bradford on meeting Samoset and Squanto says, "About the 16th of March a certain Indian came boldly among them, and spoke to them in broken English, which they could well understand, but were astonished at it...He became useful to them in acquainting them with many things concerning the state of the country...His name was Samoset; he told them also of another Indian, whose name was Squanto, a native of this part, who had been in England and could speak English better than himself. After some time of entertainment, being dismissed with gifts. In a little while he returned with five more, and they brought back all the tools that had been stolen, and made way for the coming of their great Sachem, called Massasoit, who about four or five days after, came with the chief of his friends and other attendants, and with Squanto. With him, after friendly entertainment and some gifts, they made a peace which has now continued for twenty-four years." Taken from Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation* (pp. 86-87). Portcullis Books. Kindle Edition.

William Bradford's appreciation of Squanto is written in *On Plymouth Plantation*, and he says: "Squanto stayed with them, and was their interpreter, and became a special instrument sent of God for their good, beyond their expectation." Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation* (p. 87). Portcullis Books. Kindle Edition.

"And it is to be noted as a special providence of God, and a great mercy to this poor people, that they thus got seed to plant corn the next year, or they might have starved; for they had none, nor any likelihood of getting any, till too late for the planting season. Nor is it likely that they would have got it if this first voyage had not been made, for the ground was soon all covered with snow and frozen hard. But the Lord is never wanting unto His in their great need; let His holy name have all the praise." See Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation* (p. 78). Portcullis Books. Kindle Edition.

The first Thanksgiving was a three day feast according to one of two (and only two) primary sources and witness, Edward Winslow who wrote, "our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer...And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty." Taken from Edward Winslow's writing, *A relation or journall of the beginning & proceedings of the English plantation settled at Plimoth in New England* (or "*Mourt's Relation*") (London: Edward Winslow, 1622). https://www.pilgrimhall.org/pdf/TG_What_Happened_in_1621.pdf (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

Slide 13 Endnotes

Slide 13 image by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris: *The First Thanksgiving, 1621*. See Slide 5 Endnotes for full attribution.

"53 pilgrims left at the first Thanksgiving". According to Bradford's account in *Of Plymouth Plantation*, the passengers of the Mayflower are listed along with those who died during the first winter of 1620/1621 and spring of 1621. Given no ships arrived in Plymouth until after the "First Thanksgiving" those in attendance would be the remaining Mayflower 53 surviving pilgrims. See article: *53 Pilgrims at the First Thanksgiving* by pilgrimhall.org. https://www.pilgrimhall.org/pdf/TG_What_Happened_in_1621.pdf (Accessed Nov 21, 2025).

Slide 14 Endnotes

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The photo above is me teaching at the 2025 ESL Thanksgiving Potluck Presentation.



The ESL Banner is hung up for ESL classes at Brush Arbor Baptist School.

Spiritual Reflection -- ESL Thanksgiving Presentation

By John MacDonald, Spanish and ESL Ministry Pastor
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Jeremy's presentation, "The Four Miracles of Thanksgiving" was given to the ESL classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The ESL class actually consisted of four separate classes of varying skill level, from absolute beginner to novice speaker. We met in the church cafeteria as a group the night before Thanksgiving. The presentation was professional in appearance and we were able to use a large smart screen so that our entire cafeteria room could see the slides.

Jeremy used simple English and a slower than normal cadence to give the English students a better chance at understanding the material, which in some cases can be technical, dealing with nautical concepts and historical topics. Even though I knew the English being presented was above a number of my own students, they were very attentive to Jeremy and his presentation of the material. The importance of the material and Jeremy's interest in it, combined with the spiritual and miraculous aspects were clearly having an impact on the students. Several students use a "live" translator application on their phones, which is really quite remarkable to see it working.

Throughout Jeremy's presentation, I helped explain some of the points to some of the other students. Some of the ESL assistants also chipped in to help those that were struggling with comprehending the narrative. The points of the four miracles that Jeremy presented were punctuated with pertinent Bible verses and it was clear during the presentation that the timing and combination of facts regarding the Pilgrim's voyage clearly were facilitated by the Hand of God. The common themes of God's sovereignty and the theme of Romans 8:28 came through in the presentation.

The students are not aware of the experience that Jeremy has when things in this life get extremely challenging but it was evident in his face and speech even if the exact translation was not there. I remember a specific point in the presentation where Jeremy was talking about being steadfast when things appear to be going badly or things don't make sense to us. It was a very poignant moment and the room became very quiet. The students could sense that something more than a story about Pilgrims was being shared with them, and I could feel it as well. I later asked my own students how they received the presentation with understanding and all were very positive about the experience.

MY REFLECTION ON JEREMY'S INTERACTION WITH BRUSH ARBOR'S ESL MINISTRY

I have been asked to write a reflection on the impact of Jeremy's work within the Brush Arbor's Baptist Church ESL (English as a Second Language) Ministry.

I couldn't help myself to think back on when The Lord Jesus brought us to start this new Ministry at Brush Arbor. With my latin background, I could understand why He had touched me to go forward with it. It is a very small Ministry and we all struggle with the challenges that a Ministry of The Lord Jesus brings and the responsibility to serve Him through teaching a new language with the ultimate goal of showing Jesus' saving power for God's Glory.

It did not take me by surprise when I saw Jeremy helping us out since almost day one. I remember him coming into the room asking: how can I help? And I remember him sitting with a student and a placement test in front of him; I can remember when I saw him inside a classroom assisting another teacher, but none of that took me by surprise as I perceive him always trying to find ways to serve Our Lord.

However, it took me by surprise when I saw him entering our Thanksgiving gathering almost at the end of our semester to deliver what I thought was being delivered by one of the teachers or even by the leader of the Ministry.

There is a misconception that an active engagement to an ESL program is to master or even to have a basic knowledge of the student's native language; I even think that Jeremy, as so many others have. As a bilingual myself, I know that to serve in an ESL Ministry you should only need to speak English; after all the requirement to teach English is to know English! The mastery of the student's native language can only hinder the student's own interest in learning the new language, as they are eager to listen to a native american speaker! Translation or translating is never an option; or I should say that it should only be used as a last resource to teach a second language.

Therefore, when I saw Jeremy coming in with his laptop and setting up the stage to deliver the ESL Thanksgiving message, I couldn't help to begin Praising Our Lord for what was about to happen.

I could catch the students with their eyes fixed on him, with a mix of anxiety and expectation (I might say, good expectation), waiting for what was about to happen. And then it happened.

A welcoming smile, a brief and simple, but beautiful, prayer in English. A game of word guessing, throwing little tokens out in the air to the raised hands throughout the cafeteria, the sound of giggles, the smiles in their lips when the words were coming out of his lips in a tentative Spanish.

I immediately knew The Lord was working into the hearts of the students to let them know they were loved, how they were not alone in their pursuit of learning a new language, and how knowledgeable He was at that moment of the state of their hearts. I am sure Romans 8:28 was being translated in the hearts there: His purpose, His work, His will, His Glory.

The content of the message - the pilgrims, their challenge, God's hand and their thanksgiving was clearly delivered by Jeremy. Thanksgiving history and the connection with God's providence became clear to us all: English and non-English speakers. God's hands to deliver His will were seen throughout the cafeteria on the screen of a smart TV while slides kept passing by.

I cannot know what was in Jeremy's heart, mind or soul when he responded to The Lord, "Here I am Lord" (Isa 6:8) , when he decided to be the one delivering the Thanksgiving message. It is not for me to know. I cannot know what was in each of the student's hearts, minds or souls during that time. It is not for me to know. What I know is that Psalm 107 was all over the place.

I pray Jeremy continues to let the work of the Spirit in him guide him to serve Him; that God can continue to be glorified and that He will continue to save souls in this Ministry through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Our Lord.

May this reflection bring Glory to God, I pray in the precious name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Jeremy Sisk's Reflection on ESL Ministry Thanksgiving Potluck

On the day before Thanksgiving (Nov. 26, 2025), the English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry of the Brush Arbor Baptist Church / Spanish Ministry held a 'Thanksgiving Potluck' in the Brush Arbor Cafeteria. The ESL students primarily are Spanish speakers and have varying levels of English language proficiency. Before the students ate the Pastor of the ESL Ministry John MacDonald prayed for the Thanksgiving meal. After prayer I began teaching the ESL (Spanish/English) vocabulary lesson which composed of two slides that reflected common things one would talk about during Thanksgiving.

The first slide showed common Thanksgiving foods such as turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, etc. The next slide and second part of the lesson which composed of vocabulary and grammar usage in sentences about how to give thanks in English such as, "Thanks for the present, Thanks for the dinner, Thanks for coming, Thanks for the invitation etc.. Throughout both slides of the lesson we said the English vocabulary words and grammar in English in unison. I asked the students questions to see if they were comprehending, and close to all the students showed they understood the lesson through their feedback. To encourage student participation I gave students prizes such as socks, keychains, honey, candles, etc. when they answered correctly which worked well given there was a lot of responses.

The next portion of the lesson went through the history of Thanksgiving in America however, the goal of the lesson was to give God the glory for His provision since that's what the first Thanksgiving was about and that's what our church held Thanksgiving. The core of the lesson was brought back to Scripture for example after giving a history of American Thanksgiving, the message was made clear that all Christians were to be thankful. This was made clear throughout the lesson such as on slide five, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thess 5:18)". Given the audience needed an easier version, for this verse I put The Living Translation bible verse which though it is a paraphrase of the text, it allows the reader to understand better the meaning. My pedagogical understanding of communicating anything to anyone assumes that it is not what I say but what is received by the recipient which is learned. This is important because it would be senseless for me to make things more difficult for the student when already I am at a disadvantage in not being able to speak fluently in Spanish. Another slide displayed Romans 8:28 which emphasized that through the Pilgrims struggle, trials and tribulations, God was working things together for good to those who has called according to God's purpose. Romans 8:28 was one of the main essences of this Thanksgiving speech because what at first appeared to be bad or unnoticed was used for the good of bringing the foundations of a protestant faith to the United States of America.

The lesson brought four historical events to light which the average person (whether or American or foreign) may not know, however are important to know when looking through the eyes of a biblical worldview. This message not only communicated historical facts but synthesized a particular orchestration of events which I believe God orchestrated using these pilgrims for the purpose of his glory and for the good of the pilgrims to escape the clutches of a corrupt theocratical state (Great Britain) and a state which was not dictatorial but was on the

other end of the spectrum which was being so far liberal in its thinking that God wasn't even included in the first place. It was noted from a puritanical pilgrim and first hand source, William Bradford who stated in a book he wrote called, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, that one of the reasons the pilgrims came to North America was not only to escape a corrupt government and an apathetic worldly government but because the pilgrims had, a zeal to "advance...the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in the remote parts of the world, even though they should be but stepping stones to others in the performance of so great a work." ¹

This lesson was crafted by presenting four selected historical events in chronological order preceding the first thanksgiving in the fall of 1621 in what is now the state of Massachusetts involving the white puritans and the Indians (aka Native Americans). Throughout the history lesson, key points of Scripture were referred to in order to show that God is in charge of all things, He uses providential events to orchestrate a given outcome, which both gives Him glory and does good for His children. This lesson aimed to show that. The key scripture that were used in this lesson were 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Romans 8:28, Daniel 2:21, and James 1:17.

Given the verses I employed were not cited within a verse by verse reading of Scripture to explain a passage in the common exegetical manner, the meaning of each verse are universal. To those critical of the way this presentation was given who may have the idea that the verses used were done so in error (through eisegesis) my rebuttal would be to say that I did not impose my opinion on the verse, I showed that Scripture was true and still endures given the assumption that you believe Scripture was just as true when it was written as it is now. If this is a primary concern, it should be noted to the critic that the apostle Peter rightly stated that, "the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." (1 Peter 1:25). Now does that mean that Scripture is twisted that people put their own manmade opinions into scripture to make God's word mean what they want it to? Of course, but this is not the way Scripture was used. In proper context these verses support their context in the same way that supports the context of an all-powerful, all-knowing God who acts currently in His creation. He sets up Kings and removes them, He controls the wind, He is total control as He is sovereign over all. In reflecting deeper into this thought I am resolved to understand that God is not a God who created and then set everything into motion leaving it be and then taking His hands away. Rather God the Son is currently and actively involved with His creation given that the enduring Word of God tells us that Jesus holds all things together being the active cohesive force of the Universe which He has made (Col 1:15-17).

With that said looking back on the presentation I have found that I can improve my communication and cultural engagement through learning more Spanish. Also I could probably do better with learning specifically the Spanish translated portion of lessons which may be complex to the Spanish speaker who is learning English as a second language. I also could have done better with emphasizing the Protestant way of thinking that God saves sinners by grace (an undeserved gift) through faith (trust, belief) in Jesus (Son of God, Messiah, the Christ, the Lamb)

¹ William Bradford. *Of Plymouth Plantation* (p. 35). Portcullis Books. Kindle Edition.

and not through the boldness of these brave pilgrims. It should be stated that many of the Spanish speakers given their lineage and heritage come from a Spanish Catholic way of thinking suggesting that the Catholic church and the Pope is the vicar of Christ suggesting that He is a type of bridge to God and the Holy Roman Catholic Church is the one true church of God. In the future I will try to incorporate a better way of speaking in terms of how the pilgrims became brave and were given strength to make their tumultuous and dangerous journey in the first place. There are three verses that come to my mind when I further think about the courage these pilgrims displayed by getting on the Mayflower and setting course to the New World in the stormy North Atlantic Ocean who despite their circumstances decided anyway to make this journey: 1 John 4:18, 2 Timothy 1:7, and Philippians 4:13. 1 John 4:18 - "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 2 Timothy 1:7 - "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

I'm not going to try to make a lesson out of this or assume this but I will ponder it and maybe pose the question to the next group of students: Did God give these Pilgrims a spirit of fearlessness and love with hope as Paul hoped that they can truly do anything through Christ who gives them the strength to do it. If the Pilgrims on the Mayflower had a zeal to propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the remotest parts of the world and did so because of the strength God gave them as children of God, having the witness of the Holy Spirit, and also a sound mind, could one truly assert that these pilgrims took this voyage out of stupidity, ignorance, or an overwhelming greediness for the opportunities of fortune? It appears to me that Bradley's remark on the pilgrims spirit was one that obeyed Christ's command, trusted Him throughout the journey and resolved to stay despite their rigorous circumstances. This story makes me reflect on my own life. Should I be content as the world is or should my zeal increase. I believe these puritans were resolved when they faithfully decided to follow God's plan and by this resolve received the power to do it based on their agenda to follow God's agenda. When did they get that fearlessness to go to a place they had never seen before while knowing the grave perils ahead? I believe it is when God entered their lives and brought them together as a team for His purpose. I believe that they believed to their core that Jesus' words to His disciples in Acts 1:8 were the same commands ordered to them as Jesus commands, which was that they would "receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NASB) They obeyed Christ out of faith which was an assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things they had not seen (Heb 11:1 NASB 1995 paraphrased).

It is my hope that though I may not have been understood well by some students because of the language barrier, that the use of technology incorporated into the lesson assisted with the learning process to include the large screen TV, PowerPoint presentation and laptop. It is my hope that the Word of God pierced one of these student's heart to the point that they might trust Jesus as their only hope and only savior to believe on Him for salvation (Acts 16:31).