August 2024 Newsletter

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. James 5

I'm thankful for being able to participate in the church VBS with my son this month. A few days before the VBS, my husband Yuan got Covid, but God protected us so we could be in the VBS. I was also pleasantly surprised by a call from Bao whom I met at the mall several months ago, when I've already forgotten about the encounter. I am reminded to sow faithfully, and in His time, God will bring about the increase.

1. **Helen, a recent convert**

I've finished the 8-weeks discipleship course with her. She shared the sad news about her dad's passing in China last week. A few of us from church had urged her to share the gospel with her dad as soon as possible. We even offered to share with her dad through Zoom, but she was wary about opposition from other family members. She got to see her dad through Zoom in his final moments and shared briefly about believing in Jesus and going to heaven. She saw tears flowing from her dad's eyes after she shared. Not long after he passed away peacefully. During the lesson last week, I had shared my testimony and the Gospel with Helen again. I trust that it's God's timing to take her dad. We don't know for sure if her dad has been saved, but we trust in God's goodness and love for Helen and her family.

2. **VBS**

We had about 30 children and 25 youth helpers attend the VBS. I mainly taught Bible stories to the children every day and shared the gospel with them. Three children prayed to receive Christ. One of my ESL student S sent her son to the VBS. He was more engaged this time and had fun. A lady, Bao, whom I met at the mall called me a week before the VBS to ask about children's activities at the church. When I told her about the VBS, she signed her 2 kids up and sent them to our camp. The older child enjoyed the camp. She understood the Bible stories and even answered some questions. Her mom said that she was singing and dancing to the songs she learnt at the camp. Her mom has registered her for the church Chinese school.

3. **Sunharbor Manor Nursing Home**

The weather was beautiful, and we took the residents out into the yard. We spoke to several residents – Mr Hoque, Edward, John, Catherine, Riehl, Martin and Jeanette.

Mr Hoque was upset with the political situation in India. Even though he has Parkinson's, his mind is clear, and he keeps up with the news. We shared that most political leaders are mainly concerned about power and status. We encouraged him to depend on God during these times, as only Jesus can give us hope in this life.

Martin, a 90-year-old Jewish man, visits his wife Jeanette at the nursing home every day. He didn't visit the synagogue much growing up because he was busy helping with his family business. Xing asked if he thinks he can go to heaven and he said that he's a fairly good person and hasn't committed any crime. We shared that all of us fall short of God's standard and need help from God to go to the perfect heaven where He is. We shared the Gospel with him, and he was receptive. We asked if he would like to pray to receive Jesus into his life and he agreed. We prayed with him, and he repeated the words. Afterwards we also prayed for his wife who has dementia and is wheelchair bound. He was grateful and we said that we would give him a Bible next time.

4. **Outreach**

A. Jamaica, Queens

It was a very hot day and not many people were in the park. We talked to a young boy **Juan**. His mom Carmelia was by his side. She doesn't speak much English, so Juan was helping to translate. We asked him about Jesus, and he knows a little. He said that they haven't been attending church regularly since they came to the US. We shared the gospel with him, gave him "Our Daily Bread" and prayed for him.

Tamana, a Bengali Muslim lady, was sitting on the bench by herself. We greeted her and she opened up to us about her difficulties. She said that her relationship with her parents is very bad because her parents think that she hasn't lived up to their expectations. She's also divorced and has nowhere to go. She's currently staying at a shelter in the Bronx and said that the condition there is bad. We encouraged her to check out a different shelter by the Catholic Services. We shared about the human condition of sin that brings about much brokenness in our relationships. We shared that it's only when we have a right relationship with God through Jesus, then things can be fixed. She said that she can't leave her own God. We said that God would show her when it's time and prayed for her. She thanked us for listening and said she felt a connection to us.

We saw a Chinese woman with a child and talked to her. **Yang Juan** came from Xinjiang 3 months ago and is waiting for her husband who was praying at the mosque. She said that there are no Chinese at this mosque, and we told her that there're more Hui Muslims in the Flushing mosque. She said that they visited once and were invited to the House of Muslims. But it's too far for them. Their most immediate need is to learn English and get jobs. I offered to teach her English, but she needs certification because she would like to go to college. We got her contact information.

B. Maharaja

A Bengali man from a Muslim background, **Maibu Hoque**, said that he's open to all religions. He believes that all faiths lead to the one true God. I asked him if he's sure that he's on the right path and he said that a loving God would surely lead us to himself. We gave him some material and encouraged him to continue searching. Another woman **Laura** said that she's very spiritual and also believes that all religions lead to God. She said that she's open to attending our church.

A Muslim man, **Muhammad**, thinks that he qualifies to go to heaven. He said that he's done everything required such as praying 5 times a day, fasting during Ramadan and giving to the poor. He

says that he has never lied before. It was very hard to talk to him as he was self-righteous and refused to listen.

Ajit Singh, a Sikh from India, said that he respects all religions as all faiths lead to the one true God. I shared that we're all made in the image of God, but we all fall short of God's perfect standard. Jesus, the son of God, came to save us. He received a tract and "Our Daily Bread" and said that he would read them. He thinks that our meeting was arranged by God.

Some prayer items:

1. The children who came to Christ during the VBS would continue to grow in the Lord.
2. Planning for the ESL ministry – recruiting teachers, students, curriculum etc.
3. Martin from the Sunharbor Nursing Home would experience the Lord and know Him more.

Thank you for your prayers! Please let me know how I can pray for you and your ministry. If you do not want to receive future communications from me, please let me know and I will take you off my mailing list.