

Feb 2024 Newsletter

⁵ For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. ⁶ Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. *Psalm 135*

It's been a roller-coaster kind of month with things going very well for a while and then crashing down the next. But through it all I'm learning to trust in the Lord that He is sovereign, and He has the best plan. I just need to buckle up and enjoy the ride.

Egyptian ladies

When I told **Nashwa and Noha** about my decision to end our meetings, Nashwa was offended. She explained that they couldn't come because she has been stressed and Noha's dad passed away recently. I felt bad for them and resumed our meeting. However, they always seem to have something going on and would either cancel at the last minute or come very late to the meeting. I'm not sure what God's plan for them is yet, but trust that His will is perfect.

Afghan D family

The **D family** moved to a new place again. It hasn't been easy but they continue to trust in the Lord.

Hui Muslim couple

Ma Yong and his wife were showing such great promise as they're both very receptive to God's Word. Unfortunately, M has a new job and they're no longer able to meet with us. M sends me some devotional articles occasionally and said that he would try to attend the church service.

Zinat (Iranian Muslim from Indian store in Jan)

It was quite a miracle that I managed to meet up with **Zinat**! She went to St. Ignatius Church, across from our church, by mistake and went to their ESL class. When I called Zinat, she told me that she was "in the church", but I couldn't find her. For some reason, I heard her say that she was in St. Ignatius, so I walked over to their parking lot to look for her. Just then, a lady greeted me and said that I must be the person Zinat was asking for. She later told me that she only said "the church" and asked how I knew she was at St. Ignatius. She also told me that this was the second time she received the flyer from me, and she believes it was from God.

We studied a little English and I asked if she had read the Bible. She said that it's the same as the Quran, of which she is a teacher. I opened the Bible online for her and explained to her the structure of the Bible. Then I asked her to read John 1. I asked if she knew who "The Word" was and she said it refers to nature. I explained that the Quran also talks about the Word of God, and it refers to Jesus. I explained the Trinity to her and shared the Gospel. She said she agreed with everything, but she also has some erroneous beliefs. She's touched by the life of Jesus and said that she watches videos about Jesus and other prophets every night. Zinat also shared that Jesus appeared to her sister, and she passed away the next day. We agreed to meet up weekly to study the stories about Jesus. However, she texted later that her relatives are visiting and she's not able to meet with me.

Church ESL

We celebrated Chinese New Year by reading the story of Nian in English and translating it into Chinese. The students were very engaged. I gave out Bible verse scratch cards as gifts. They couldn't see the verses when they chose their cards but had to scratch it off to see. It was amazing

that the card each student picked was appropriate for them, especially for Jiaxin Wang. He was jetlagged and hasn't slept well for the past few days. The card he picked had Matt 11:28 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He was amazed and said, "God has come in search of me". We had a wonderful party after the lesson and some of the students' husbands came too.



Juan's nose is no longer bleeding and he's feeling much better. The biopsy report showed that he doesn't have any cancer cells and doesn't need further treatment. He said that his faith in God has grown stronger during this time. However, he still has headaches and prayers for him are appreciated.

Outreach

Broadway Mall

Abdul is a friendly Muslim man. He said that he tries his best to do good works but isn't sure if God would allow him into heaven. I shared the Gospel, but he didn't understand why Jesus had to die for us. I shared the need of a substitute sacrifice for us because God is both loving and just, which he agreed. On another occasion, we met Abdul again as he comes to the mall often. We talked about Ramadan, which is coming soon, and fasting. We said that it's not easy to fast for such a long time and asked if this would help him get to heaven. He said that he tries but he can't be sure. We shared that we can't save ourselves just as a drowning person can't save oneself. But Jesus came to sacrifice himself for us. Abdul said that Jesus and other prophets did help the people of their time. I shared that all the other prophets have passed, but Jesus is alive and will return soon. Abdul said it's good that Jesus was resurrected and would be coming back.

Mica said that she respects all religions and thinks that every religion worships the same God. We spent some time to explain to her that there's only one true God. We shared the Gospel with her, but she still insists that all religions are the same. However, she was friendly and respectful throughout.

Jamaica Colosseum Mall

Mehra is an Iranian Jew. He was busy, but open and friendly. We asked if he can give us a few minutes and shared the gospel with him by drawing out the story of the 3 circles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W8ynRMr59k&list=WL&index=32&t=1s>. He said that he would like to have eternal life with God, and we prayed for him.

We encouraged **Farzaneh** to connect with God, read the Bible and go to church, if possible, since she has prayed to receive Jesus. She says that she goes to the temple only during the major festivals. We prayed for her, and she loves it.

We shared the gospel with **Jenny**, a staunch Buddhist, and she was more open than before. But she said that all the gods are the same and she believes that she'll be fine. If God were to take her, she's at peace with it. We prayed for her, and she felt our warmth and love.

Queens Library

A large group of Christians went outside the Queens Library, lifting signs for Jesus. We spoke to a **man from Ecuador**. He knew little English, so we use Google Translate to speak with him. He came from a Catholic background. He's disappointed with God because there's so much suffering in the world. We shared that it's because of man's sins and God will judge one day. We prayed for him that God would show him clearly of His love by providing for his needs.

A **Chinese man** has only been here for a month. He claimed to be a Christian but seemed unsure of the Gospel. We shared with him and encouraged him to attend a church in Flushing. He said that his lawyer had asked him to go to church.

Inside the library, 2 women approached Zona Shimu. One of them said that the Trinity didn't make sense at all. The other woman, **Qian Wen**, said that she has read parts of the Bible, but couldn't understand a lot of it. When she asked her pastor, she didn't get good answers. She would like to see Jesus and experience miracles like what others have experienced. She asked to have our phone numbers. Later, Shimu asked me to be careful to discern if they're true seekers or have other motives.

There were so many people in the streets and it's sad that many of them don't know Jesus. From a brother's sharing, several churches there are active in giving out tracts. However, it appears that most Christians just tell people, "Jesus loves you" and don't share the full Gospel.



Some prayer items:

1. Protection and guidance for the D family.
2. God will minister to Ma Yong and his wife, Zinat, and others we've encountered.
3. The churches in Flushing would be beacons of light to their community.

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.