

## Jan 2024 Newsletter

*<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Gal 6*

It is a brand-new year – another opportunity to start anew and do better! This verse reminds me to use my time and energy wisely to sow in areas which will reap spiritual eternal benefits. It's a day by day, moment by moment decision to be focused and not be enticed by things which satisfy the flesh temporarily.

### Egyptian ladies

**Noha** has stopped coming to the meeting altogether since her husband's visit. **Nashwa**, on the other hand, often tells me that she'd come but cancels at the last minute. I have shared with them the stories of several prophets, the need for a savior and the gospel of Jesus Christ over a more than 2-year period. I think it may be time to let them go. May God continue to work in their lives and send other believers to share with them.

### Afghan D family

The **D family** moved to a new place, hoping that the Pakistani police wouldn't find them. Unfortunately, the police visited them, threatened to deport them, and left after taking money from them.

### Hui Muslim couple

**Ma Yong and his wife** attend the class regularly. During one lesson, we read Exodus 12 about the last plague. I shared about the significance of Passover that Jesus is the perfect lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. When we have his blood to cover us, we can pass through death to life.

Another day, we talked about Eschatology. M has a similar view as us that in the last days many calamities would happen and then the final judgement would come. But he seems to think that if one worships God, no matter which God, then they 'd be fine. M thinks that God is infinitely more merciful than He is just, and He would always forgive.

Other than our ESL class, they're both also attending the ESL classes at the YMCA twice a week for 3 hours each time. They know that it's a Christian organization and they're grateful to the church for helping them since they arrived in the US.

### Church ESL

Some students are irregular, and some stopped coming. But we gained a few new students and have started recruiting again. A few of the teachers also attended the online training by the Missions to North America (MNA) and we benefited greatly. MNA has recently started a monthly ESL directors' meeting and it was a great chance to get to know others in the same ministry. It appears that student retention is a challenge for most ministries. The trainers will address this issue in a future seminar.

We visited **Juan's** family again. We were relieved to know that he had thrown out the idols that we advised him to remove during our last visit. However, we found an amulet hanging over the door and a big Buddha outside their door. They were gifts from their friends, and they agreed to remove those

too. The day before his surgery, Juan came to the class and several brothers and sisters, including our church leaders, prayed for him. At the time of writing this, he had finished his surgery which lasted for many hours. He had a hemorrhage after surgery, but his condition has stabilized. Please pray for his full recovery.



## Outreach

### Captain Tilly Park

I asked a young Bengali man, **R**, if he could go to heaven after this life and he wasn't sure. I shared the gospel with him, and he listened carefully. He accepted our tracts and book. We saw **Rafiqui Islam** who had prayed to receive Christ from before. His English wasn't good so we only exchanged a few words, but we could see that he was full of joy.

### Broadway Mall

**Baohua** is a Chinese lady from Hong Kong. She came just 4 years ago and feels lonely. She was in a Christian middle school, and she says that she still prays every day. She was very interested when I shared about our Sun service, kids' ministry and the ESL class. We connected on Whatsapp.

A young Muslim man, **Muhammad**, and I shared about the differences between our faiths. He asked me to read the Quran because he says it has everything. I asked which came first and he said the Quran. I shared that the Old Testament is from the Jews, then comes the New Testament and prophet Muhammad came about 600 years after Jesus. He seemed a little taken aback. I asked if he had read the Bible. He hasn't but refused to accept a copy of the Gospel.

### Indian stores near my church

I scouted out the different Indian stores near my church.

The business at Bad Shah wasn't too good. I only spoke to an Indian girl and left.

Most people at Patel Brothers said that their English is good and don't need ESL lessons. A Nepali worker at the store needs to learn English because he's a new immigrant. But the timing of the classes is not good for him. Hopefully, we can have a weekday night class in the future.

At Maharaja, I met **Zinat**, an Iranian Muslim. She said that she loves Musa and Isa. She said that Muhammad is not good because he killed many people, but Isa never killed anybody. I shared that Isa loves us, he has great powers and he's able to heal. Zinat has diabetes and is allergic to the

medicine which gives her rashes all over. She's a retired teacher and would like to teach Farsi. I offered to teach her English and she would teach me Farsi. We arranged to meet in church.

**Youfamia** is a Filipino Catholic. We chatted for a while. She needs spine surgery soon. She said that she prays, and I shared that Jesus could answer prayers. She agrees that it's in his hands if he would heal. She's moving from Bayshore to Hicksville soon and I invited her to visit our church.

### **Tricounty Bazaar**

Since it was the Holocaust Memorial Day, we prayed that God would open the door for us to share with some Jewish people.

**Marilyn**, a Jewish lady, visits the mall every day and we see her every time we visit. We shared about Jesus, but she said that she's Jewish and didn't want to talk more.

In the jewelry section, we spoke to **Eliot**, an Iranian Jew. He said that he read my tract from before about Daniel's three friends in the fire. He didn't agree with something but couldn't remember what it was. I gave him another tract to read and said that we can talk about it next time. He was open to chat until we shared that Jesus is the Messiah. Then he said that he was busy and had to go.

**Shazad** is an Iranian Muslim. She was very friendly and said that I looked familiar. I said we've spoken before, and she said that I looked like one of her coworkers. We shared the gospel with her, and she listened quietly. She accepted our tract.

**Nancy**, an Iranian Jewess, greeted us. We shared that we're grateful for the Jews because Jesus is Jewish. We shared that we're praying for the Jewish people, and she said that she prays for all people. She said it doesn't matter who they are because they're all created by God.

### **Some prayer items:**

1. Protection and guidance for the D family.
2. Healing for Juan and his daughter Gabriella.
3. The Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of all the people we encountered.

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.