Jan 2025 Newsletter

[22] The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end ;[23] they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3

What a blessing it is to be a child of God! He gives us new mercies every day. No matter how far we have fallen off the wagon, we can always change our course and come back to Him. We don't have to wait for the new year to make resolutions.

Church ESL class

Recently, I put up "Free ESL" posters to recruit more students for the Sunday classes. Immediately people started calling and were interested. One Afghan Muslim family of 8 started coming. The daughter was even interested in our Chinese school, and we encouraged her to apply in the fall.

Some of our students are worried about the new immigration policies implemented by the new Trump administration. The fear of deportation has made a student so anxious that she hasn't been sleeping well. I encouraged her with scripture and prayers.

We celebrated Chinese New Year together and had a wonderful time. I shared the legend of the Chinese New Year about the beast called "Nian" which was defeated using red-colored decorations and loud noises from firecrackers. I also shared the parallel between "passing Nian" (过年) and the Passover, how putting red couplets and blood on the doors respectively saved the people from death. Then I shared the gospel with the students. One Chinese student D said that she hasn't heard the legend of Nian before. May the story and the gospel make an impact on them.

Online ESL class

The students shared their stories of how they came to the US. They went through months of travelling and are here by the grace of God. For one of the brothers, his wife and children are still in China, and he needs prayers for God to open the way for them to come.

Sunharbor Manor Nursing Home

Annie Taylor is a Jehovah witness who had wanted to give me literature to read during a previous visit. She keeps up with the news and we talked about the different things going on, including the California fires, shootings and so on. She said that the end of time is near. I shared about eternal life through Jesus Christ, and she asked where in the Bible it says that. I shared John 3:16 and Romans 10:9. She asked if I attend Bible study and if I witness to others. She offered to connect me with her group, which I politely declined.

We sang “Amazing Grace” in the common room and an Indian father who was taking care of his disabled son heard us. His son’s name is GP and he’s only in his 30s. The father received our tract. I asked Haque if he had received grace from God, and he answered in the negative. He asked why he and others who are innocent must suffer in this life. I shared about free will, our sins, and God’s plan of salvation, but he wasn’t satisfied with the answers. He implied that I’ve been blinded by religion. I shared that I was indeed blind before Christ found me, but now I’m seeing clearer than ever.

Outreach

A. **Broadway mall**

Asmook is an Indian Hindu man who comes often to the mall to exercise. He said that good health comes mostly from man’s effort and partially from God. He said that he knows how to tell fortune by reading the palm. He’s 69 years old but believes that he can live to be 96. I shared that no matter how long our lives on earth are, we would face death one day. The only way to have eternal life is by faith in Jesus. He didn’t seem to understand or to be interested. I gave him “Our Daily Bread” and shared that spiritual health is also important.

Zaman, a young Bengali Muslim man, was waiting for his boss at Teri Yummy to open the store. He’s been in this country for about 2 years. I asked if he’ll be able to enter Janna after this life. He said that he’s a practicing Muslim and prays 5 times a day. I shared that no matter how hard we try we often fall short, and he agreed that no one can be 100% perfect. He said that he has studied the different religions and the main difference between Islam and Christianity is in how we view Jesus. He said that Jesus is only a prophet and never died but was brought to heaven by God. I asked him what “Isa Al Masiah” means. He said that they call Jesus Isa. I shared that “Al Masiah” means that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one and the savior. He said that Jesus will come and save us from Satan. We shared that Jesus has already come and will return to judge the world. He accepted our tract and left for work.

Ishmael, from El Salvador, is a Jehovah Witness. I asked him what he believes will happen after this life. He said that there’s heaven but it’s not for us. He asked where in the Bible hell is mentioned. I said that the Bible says that Satan will be thrown in the lake of fire which is hell (Rev 20:10). He asked what will happen to this earth as we see it. I said that it’d be no more, and God will create new heavens and a new earth. He asked for scripture references, so I showed him 2 Peter 3. He didn’t seem convinced but said that it’s good that we’re studying scripture. He took our tract, and we left on friendly terms.

Richard said that he was born as a Roman Catholic but has become a follower of Jesus Christ in the last 7 years. He shared that he has seen visions of Jesus and was even brought up to the third, fourth and fifth heavens. I commented that the Bible only mentions that Paul went to the third heaven but

didn't mention anything beyond that. We asked about his church life, and he said that he has been to many churches, but none was to his liking or was teaching the right doctrine. We encouraged him to continue to seek Christian fellowship and invited him to come to our church.

Mr Lee came from Buffalo to visit family for the Chinese New Year. We wished him "Happy New Year" and gave him a tract. He said that his friends had brought him to church before, but he found it hard to sit and listen. We shared that this life is short and unpredictable and encouraged him to continue to go to church and seek the truth.

I met my neighbor **Jasmine** with her 2 daughters. I haven't seen them in a while and her daughters have grown so much. We chatted a little, and I gave her "Our Daily Bread". Cheryl met her friend **Rachel**. We chatted for a while and gave her a tract.

B. Tri County Bazaar

Maria from El Salvador is a Christian. She shared that she lives life to the fullest because we don't know how many days God has ordained for us on earth. She said that the fear of the Lord is most important in her life.

MJ, a young Muslim lady from India, is here for an exchange program. She said that she wished to visit the church at least once in her life. We invited her to come and told her about our ESL class.

C. Flushing

Philip and his young daughter were sitting on the steps. We asked him if he knows Jesus and he said that he used to go to church but has stopped going. We gave him a tract and encouraged him to go. We asked how we could pray for him, and he said that his daughter has the flu, and we prayed for their family.

Amy has family members who are Christians and has been to church before. Currently, she only listens to sermons online. We encouraged her to continue going, to read the Bible and continue to trust in the Lord.

We met **Youmei** with whom we had shared the gospel last summer and she accepted the Lord into her life. She said that she continues to go to church whenever she's not working on Sundays.

Some prayer items:

1. More people from the community to join our ESL class and get to know and experience God's love.
2. Teachers have wisdom and love to bring comfort and encouragement to ESL students facing difficult situations.

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.