June 2024 Newsletter

[1] Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. [2] I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." Psalm 16

This has been a month of unexpected happenings, including being dismissed by the Afghan family, deserted by a student I helped, reprimanded by a stranger in the park, even kids fighting in my Sunday school class! In my newsletter last month, I had prayed to have more compassion on those I serve and maybe these happenings are God's way to shape me towards that goal. God is good and I have no good apart from Him!

Afghan family

Before one of our lessons, the father of the girls told me that the girls are finding the lessons difficult. He said that since I don't speak Farsi, it may be a waste of my time to continue teaching them. I wish that the girls had told me directly so I could make some adjustments. But all along, they had said that they understood whenever I asked them. Over the past 1.5 years that I've taught them, they have made significant progress. I could tell from the way they read, pronounced words, their test results etc. It's certainly disappointing that they didn't want to continue but I can only respect their decision.

ESL student Kusam

Kusam didn't show up for the lesson. I tried to reach her but couldn't. A week later when I texted her, she told me that she had lost her job. She was very desperate to find a new job. She doesn't have her work permit yet, knows little English and doesn't drive. I'm thankful that sister Lynn has the burden to help, and we accompanied her to several stores in the area to ask about job openings. A few people took her number and said that they may call later. At the end, we prayed together that God would provide for her needs and give her peace. A week later, she didn't come for the lesson again. I called and she said that she had found a new job. Thank God for answering our prayers! Since she doesn't seem interested in the lesson, I decided not to continue with her.

Chinese School Parents' Breakfast Club

I was invited to share the Gospel with the parents of our church's Chinese school. It was the last meeting of the year. I used the book "The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe" written by C.S. Lewis as an introduction to talk about the redemptive story of Christ. Most of the parents have heard the gospel before in one form or another. Praying that something in the sharing would make them think more about this most important narrative that supersedes all others.

ESL

During the last class, I shared the story "The Chief and the Thief" with the students: https://hutchcraft.com/a-word-with-you/your-most-important-relationship/the-chief-and-the-thief-9532 It's about a chief who sacrificed himself for the thief because she was his mother. There's great similarity between this story and the redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ. After that we enjoyed a potluck lunch together.

ESL potluck lunch

New convert, Helen

During the last two ESL lessons, Meiyu brought **Helen** who is visiting from China for two months. She prayed to receive the Lord, so I started a one-on-one discipleship class with her. Helen had many great questions, including the origin of sin, the personhood of Jesus, the Trinity, life after death etc. After the second lesson, I prayed for her and her son and she said that she was moved to tears. It's probably a touch by the Holy Spirit.

Outreach

Broadway Mall

We invited some families with young children to our VBS. A Chinese couple, **Mr and Mrs Zhang**, said that they used to live close to our church. They visited on a Monday one time and didn't find anybody there. We invited them to come to our Sun service and they said that they'll try.

Maharaja

A Muslim woman, **Navida**, was very aggressive. She said that she loves to talk about faith. Throughout our conversation, she was attacking the veracity of the Bible, and the sonship and deity of Jesus Christ. She said that Muslims respect Jesus more because they follow His ways by prostrating when they pray and dressing more like him. I shared that when the Samaritan woman asked where she should worship Jesus, He said that one should worship in Spirit and in Truth. Navida asked about the meaning of "begotten" and said that a created being can't be God. I shared that Jesus was not created and He is the Word of God. I also shared about the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus, but she said that one must pay for one's own sins. I asked how we could pay since we're all sinners. I shared that only Jesus who is without sin can pay for us. She was questioning non-stop and hardly listening, but I pray that some words have penetrated her hard core and caused her to rethink honestly.

Cantiague Park

At the playground, we met some parents and grandparents with their children. We invited them to our church VBS and gave some tracts to them. A young girl, **Natalie**, was particularly friendly and interested in the material. A Chinese mom, **Maggie**, said that she would let her friends know about the VBS and other church activities. However, a mom was angry with us for giving tracts to her daughter and threatened to call the police on us. We prayed for her.

Queens Library

It was a very hot day. As we were holding signs, a young man came to talk to us. He claims to know the Bible but had many misconceptions. He was also disgruntled after losing his job at the driving school. He just kept talking on and on and refused to listen. After a while, we felt that we couldn't communicate with him anymore and he left.

Luo Dan, whom I met many weeks ago, texted me the day before and wanted to chat with us. We waited for her for 45 min. As we met up, her friend **Wang Xin** passed by, and she invited her to join us. I shared the Gospel with Wang and she said that she would like to learn more. Diane invited them to her church.

Sunharbor Manor Nursing Home

First, we went to see **Angela**, whom we met during our last visit with the youths. She was very happy to see us. We sang "Jesus loves me" and she teared up. Then we prayed for her. We chatted with a few others, such as **Catherine, Maryanne, Edythe, Edward and Hoque**. Hoque is clearer in his mind than the others even though he has Parkinson's. He came from Bangladesh from a Muslim background but said that he's an atheist. I shared about Jesus with him. He said that I shouldn't try to convert him. I shared that only God can do that, but I just want to share the truth with him. We ended on a friendly note.

Some prayer items:

1. People who received Christ would grow in Him and be good testimonies.
2. The elderly folks in the nursing home would understand the Gospel despite their deteriorating mental abilities.
3. For me to be sensitive and submit to God's leading.

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.