

Nov 2023 Newsletter

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1

Thank God for His encouragement by providing divine appointments when we reach out in faith. Several times in recent months, I've met people whom I encountered before. A lady from a year ago even remembered my name! Another man accepted Christ when we met him a second time. I believe this is God's way to encourage me that sharing the Gospel with strangers is not a vain pursuit and that I should continue with these efforts.

Egyptian ladies

It has been difficult talking to **Nashwa** because she feels strongly that injustice has been committed against the Palestinians. She said that Israel is not a nation and Israelis are invaders. I could feel the hatred she has towards them. I tried explaining that the Israelites were given the land by God, but because of their disobedience they were exiled. But in 1948, the League of Nations allowed them to go back to form the nation of Israel. She also said that the Israelis wanted to take over other land as well, including Sinai. She said that according to the Egyptian records from 7000 years ago Sinai belongs to Egypt. I need wisdom to talk to her and was glad to take break from our meeting over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Afghan D family

The **D family** has to wait to be called to the US Embassy for visa processing. Even though they are considered legal while waiting, their landlord still didn't want to let them stay on. However, after getting many to pray for them, the landlord changed his mind and is allowing the family to stay on. Thank God for opening the way for the family!

Hui Muslim couple

Ma Yong and his wife registered for an Arabic class and said they wouldn't be able to attend the English class for a while. However, after praying for them Ma Yong texted that the Arabic class was too hard for him, and they have decided to resume the English class. Praise God!

M had lived in Saudi Arabia for a year and had spent time visiting Mecca. He said that he felt peace when he was there. He said that the Kaaba was built by Abraham. That day, we studied Genesis 12 about God's call for Abraham to leave Haran to go to Canaan. I showed a map of Abraham's travels and there was no mention that he ever went to Saudi.

When we read the story of Abraham in Genesis 22, I shared that it's a foreshadow of the things to come. God gave the ram to substitute for Abraham's son and possibly on the same hill about two thousand years later, God gave His own son to substitute for us. M said that God is the most loving and merciful and He will forgive our sins when we repent. I shared that God is also just. M agreed but thinks that God's mercy is greater. M also shared how he became a Muslim and said that the Quran is a most beautiful book, and he hopes to memorize it one day. He shared a verse which particularly touched his heart is "Allah said Be and it is". I said that this is similar to the Biblical account of creation when God spoke creation into being. He also shared about the beauty of God's creation and that we can see God from his creation. I shared Romans 1:19-20 with him.

M would sometimes send me the devotionals that he reads from the book “The Power of Prayers” and he would also ask me questions. For example, he asked what Phil 3:7 “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ” means. I shared Saul’s conversion story with him, how he encountered Jesus and his whole life was transformed. Paul considered all things as worthless when he compared them to the grace he received through Christ. M seemed to have understood.

Church ESL

For one class, we watched a clip about God’s creation and the students were very interested. I gave them “Our Daily Bread” to read.

We also celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday together by having a potluck lunch after class. We sang “Amazing Grace” by John Newton, and I shared his life story. We had a wonderful time.

Outreach

Broadway Mall

Asmuk is an Indian Hindu man whom we’ve seen often in the mall. We shared the gospel with him, but it seems like he didn’t understand. We gave him a tract to read.

A Filipino lady, **Esbalda**, said that I have talked to her before. She used to attend church but stopped during the pandemic. I prayed for good health for her.

We saw **Surpe** from Turkey again. She comes every year to visit her sister and sell Christmas ornaments. Her English is limited, and we only shared a little with her. She was also not as friendly as before.

Jose goes to a Catholic church with his family. He agrees that we need God more than ever in these times. I asked him what qualifies us to receive eternal life and he thinks he’s not good enough. I shared that we need to repent and accept the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. Jose took “Our daily bread” devotionals for both him and his wife to read.

A Chinese man, **Mr Huang and his sister-in-law** came from Myanmar to visit his son 3 years ago. He couldn’t go back because of the coup in Myanmar. They were very friendly, and we shared the Gospel with them. The woman was more open, and we invited them to our church and the ESL class.

Tri-County Bazaar

I greeted a lady, **Marilyn**, and she said that she remembered me from a year ago. She said that she was just thinking about me, and she even remembered my name. She used to be a Catholic but felt it was ritualistic. She’s now a born again Christian but hasn’t found a church. I invited her to our church and prayed for her husband **Joe** to be drawn to the Lord.

In the jewelry section, an Iranian Muslim lady, **Salida** said that I look like her coworker from China. I shared about Jesus with her. She listened but didn’t give any comments. She accepted our tract.

Captain Tilly Park

Joe and I met **Autumn**, a young girl from Iowa. She came from a Christian background but has never committed her life to Jesus. Joe shared his testimony about how he was living a life of sin and had wanted to end his life. But in his desperation, he prayed to Jesus and his life started to turn around. In the end, Autumn prayed to receive Jesus and Mursheda invited her to church.

Muhammad Hamza is a young man from Pakistan. He was friendly and I shared the Gospel with him. He thinks that Allah is merciful and can forgive sins if people repent. I asked that in this case if all people can go to heaven. He said that only those who obey Allah, meaning only Muslims can go. I shared that we've all sinned, and we'd have to give an account in front of God one day. Only Jesus could pay for our sins, and we need to receive him as our savior.

We prayed for the son of **Aklima**, a Bengali woman. He's 27 and needs dialysis for both kidneys. M invited her to their Bible study. **Salma**, a Bengali woman, has only been in the US for 6 months. She was open and M shared the Gospel with her.

Some prayer items:

1. Salvation of Nashwa, Ma Yong, Re Ziyang, and other people we met during the outreaches.
2. The Afghan D family could be processed and come to the US soon.
3. More openness and sharing of the Gospel during this season as we remember the birth of Christ.

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.