September 2024 Newsletter

[10] "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. [11] If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? [12] And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? Luke 16

I am reminded by these verses to be faithful in what God has entrusted to me, no matter how small it may be. Instead of longing for a clearer picture of the future path, may God help us to be content with following Him one step at a time.

Helen, a recent convert

After finishing our discipleship material, we're now reading the Gospel of John together. When we talked about Jesus being incarnated, I was surprised to hear Helen say that Buddha is similar to Jesus in that he attained nirvana and then came back to save others. I shared that Jesus is God who became a man to save us, and He is the only way for salvation. I explained that man can never become God, and that man has no power to save others. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to illuminate her and help her to understand the truth. A sister from church kindly gave a study Bible for her to bring back, but she was worried about going through customs with it. I'm praying that she'll be able to find a good church and obtain a good study Bible when she goes back to China soon.

Aziza, a former ESL student

I met **Aziza** outside an Indian store about two years ago and I've brought her to our ESL class a few times. She would call me sometimes to chat. Recently, I visited Aziza in her home. She was very hospitable and even made me food. She shared with me about her health issues and that she hasn't gone out of the house for several months. I encouraged her to go out to exercise, but she said that it's hot out and her back would hurt after a little walking. Surprisingly after talking for a while, she suggested going to a park nearby that I mentioned to her before.

The park was beautiful, and we had a good time. As we walked, we talked about our spiritual life, and she shared that she prays several times a day. I shared that I pray and read the Bible in the morning, and it gives me strength and guidance for the day. I asked what she knows about Jesus, and she has a favorable view of Him but thinks that He's not God. I shared that Jesus never sinned and He came into this world to save us from our sins. I gave her "Our Daily Bread" to read and prayed for her health issues.

Aziza at Geiger Park

Sunharbor Manor Nursing Home

Martin and his wife, Jeanette, were already outside when we arrived. We chatted with them for a while. Jeanette came down with dementia about two years ago and Martin visits her every day for about two hours. They had a daughter who had cancer and died at 66 years old. Jeanette would sometimes yell loudly, “Hold my hand”, “Where am I going?”, or “What am I going to eat?”. She alternates between these 3 sentences. Martin allowed us to pray for her. I brought a Hebrew/English Bible for Martin, but he said that he doesn’t understand Hebrew. Xing brought a large print Bible, but didn’t have a chance to give it to him yet.

Mr Haque likes to talk about politics and different cultures. We tried sharing the gospel with him, but he still has many questions. He asked for our telephone numbers and whether he could contact us.

Edward told us that they have a mass in the center every other Wed and about 50 people attend. A pastor would come and give them a sermon. I encouraged Martin and Mr. Haque to try attending it.

Outreach

A. Muslim Center of NY

While waiting for the Muslim prayers to end at the mosque, we spoke to some people at the senior center nearby. **Mr Zhou** shared that his wife and some other family members are Christians, and he knows some Bible stories. He said that he has a friend who claims to be a Christian but doesn’t live like one. He knows that he’s a sinner and he’s not good enough yet, so he’d rather not be a Christian in case he brings shame to God’s name. We shared that we can never be good enough by our own efforts and we need Jesus’s help. We encouraged him to trust in Jesus and receive His help and blessings.

Outside the mosque, many Muslims received our tracts. I shared the gospel with **Ahmed**. He was open and friendly and listened attentively. He said that the Bible has been changed. I shared that the Quran mentioned several times that God gave His Word and He will guard it. Therefore, man doesn’t have the power to change God’s Word. There are different translations of the Bible, but the meaning is preserved. Ahmed said that there’re contradictions between the Bible and the Quran, so they can’t be both correct. I encouraged him to search for himself which one is true, and he agreed.

Two Muslim ladies, **Sarah and Lara**, came from London to visit New York. I shared the gospel with them and gave them tracts. I also shared the gospel with an African Muslim man **Muhammad**. He said that no one can be sure about their salvation, but tries his best. I shared about the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus through the story of Abraham. He agreed that Jesus will come back to judge the world. I shared that Jesus is the Messiah and we need to trust in Him.

B. Broadway mall

We met **Jada** who recently came to our church. I knew her through the VBS because she sent her girls there. We chatted for a while and encouraged her to come to our church regularly. Her sisters are Christians and she’s very open to our faith. She was busy chasing after her 2-year-old daughter, so we didn’t have a chance to share the gospel with her. But she took a gospel tract.

Sichu, a Nepalese girl, works at a toy store. She is a Hindu and doesn’t know much about Christ. We shared a little with her and she took a tract.

Steven, is a Jewish store owner. We've met him at the Christmas fair last year and bought something from him. Today, Xing bought a gift for her coworker from him. It was a set of decorations that said "Hope, Love, Faith". We shared that everything in this world will pass away, but only these three are eternal. He agreed and said that this is interesting. I gave him a gospel tract "Where to find hope" and he said that he would read it carefully.

C. Cantiague Park

Mian is a Muslim from Pakistan. He has business operations in China and was very friendly. We shared about Jesus with him, and he said that he would read our tract carefully.

Ling Liu said that she had passed by our church before but never stepped inside. We invited her to come. She passed the information about our ESL class to her friends, and she said some may be interested.

Angie was very friendly and when she saw the name of our church, she said that she had volunteered there before. She knows Chaplain Gary and has been a friend of his daughter since high school. We invited her to the church picnic and anniversary, and she was interested.

D. Tanger Outlet

We gave out tracts. I shared the gospel with a Hispanic young man, **A**. He goes to church but isn't clear about his salvation. I shared the gospel with him. **Bernice** is a Hispanic lady who also goes to church but also isn't sure about her salvation. I shared the gospel with her.

Phuntsok, a young Buddhist man from Tibet, was very friendly. He believes in reincarnation and that even animals have souls. I shared that only humans are made in God's image and desire to worship God. I shared about Jesus with him and gave him a tract "The ultimate purpose, value, and meaning of life" written by a friend. He said that he would read it carefully.

Some prayer items:

1. Helen will read the Bible regularly and grow in Christ and find Christian fellowship when she returns to China.
2. Martin will have a desire for God's Word and his wife would be saved too.
3. Thank God for providing all the teachers for the ESL classes. Please pray that we can do a good job and show God's love to our students.

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.