

## **Warm greetings to our dear family and friends:**

As 2019 draws to a close we wanted to take this time to thank you for your faithful friendship and support. We do not take it for granted. As many know we first left for Africa in 1981 (for one year) and ended up being there for 20 out of the next 30 years. Since 2011 we have been involved in teaching others how to build cross cultural community in our part of South Vancouver. This has occurred through making friendships with people from many worldviews and walks of life. It has involved intentional hospitality through banquets, Sunday meals, meeting for coffee and home visitation. This has enriched our lives and lives of many others whom I often take along to learn how to engage across cultures.

We facilitated meals featuring India, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, India, China, Philippines, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Burundi, Congo, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, France, Assorted European countries etc.

In addition, I (Mark) facilitated learning and engagement through Friday classes where people from many backgrounds met and shared knowledge and food together. Here is a sampling of topics from 2019.

**Honor Shame Cultures:** Buddhism, First Nations, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet, China, Middle Eastern Refugees in Berlin, Niger. In each case we had someone from that culture or currently living there share insights with us.

**Assorted Topics:** Storytelling, Leadership, Prayer cast, What about Unanswered Prayers, Stories from the Persecuted Church, Generation Z, The Resurrection. Community Brunch's.

**Public Speaking:** We (or I) were able to share in Campbell River, Courtenay, Parksville, Victoria, Quadra Island and in Vancouver at Faith and Collingwood. I was also able to share about the Christian virtue of Love at a local Sikh Temple.

**Teaching English:** Something which is new for me is assisting International Students with ESL. It has been very rewarding.

**Catherine:** Heavily involved in New Hope Child Care administration, programming, staff relations, liaison with the two churches in our building etc. She also has been a constant support for two of our daughters and their children, (seven grandchildren now!), Jonathan and of course myself.

We hope that this brief update gives you an idea of how your prayers and support have assisted us in our ministry among the nations in Vancouver. Thank you so very much. May you experience great joy as you celebrate Christmas.

Blessings from Mark and Catherine and friends.

