CR Baptist Church

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Good Growth!

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bridges INTERNATIONAL™



Faster and Bigger, but praying for Better!

This past summer we had a long break. Mike had a two month sabbatical followed by vacation time. A lot of it was spent with family, some travel and gardening.
However, as a result the new semester came fast upon us. God prepared some fresh surprises and developments for our team and ministry this fall.





Bigger Team: New Interns!

King Ying on the left, of the left most picture is helping with making moon cakes at one of our meals this fall. She was an international student at UBC, and now, in her 2nd year of internship, has joined us in Saskatoon. She is a great addition to our team and is enthusiastic and excited to jump in and help. Pray

for her to feel at home here and to thrive in ministry.

On the right, Josh Edbert, was an international student from Indonesia. He did his Masters in computer science at the U of S and was part of our Bridges GSA student Executive but now is an intern our P2C students operations team four days a week. He hoped to spend one day a week on campus with us, but not all of his support has come in. If it does then he can join us for one day a week in ministry on campus.

It is challenging for international students to jump into ministry in Canada. Getting a visa as a religious worker tends to be a temporary pathway and leaves international students who have graduated without a clear path forward to life in Canada. In Bridges we truly hope to see international students return to their home country equipped for ministry, but many also want to stay in Canada. Pray for discernment and a pathway for King Ying and Josh as they seek to follow God's plan in their lives.



Thanksgiving saw about 200 people come to the meal, held at Forest Grove Church

Another change has come with a new connection to the university's International Student and Study Abroad Center (ISSAC). They had been unwilling to promote activities by Christian/religious groups in the past, however, in August as I was walking through the campus I thought I would drop in to ask some questions about student numbers. When I introduced myself as being with Bridges they were quite enthusiastic and supportive and knew about our meals and activities. They invited us to promote our activities through their emails sent to all international students and also asked us to set up a table to meet new students and to collaborate on Thanksgiving. Although we have prayed for this in the past, it was astonishing to me to see this door actually open! All glory to God.

We did collaborate on Thanksgiving and nearly 200 students came out to the event where a retired Christian professor shared about his family tradition, the importance of his faith and of recognizing and thanking God.

ISSAC is willing to collaborate as well on Christmas. I was clear that because we are a Christian group we would share about the meaning of Christmas being centered around Jesus and what that means to us. They said they understood that and were fine with that. It remains to be seen if they will collaborate, but whether they do or not, they will still promote it.



Our first regular weekly supper in September

The first two weeks of September I became ill and lost my voice. As a result I couldn't be present for most of our student welcome opportunities and I had to support my team from the background, but they did a great job and we have seen a great response by the students.

During the summer a student from Iran has become more involved in Bible study and her boyfriend also. Please pray for Y and J that barriers to belief will come down for them.

One girl from Brazil upon receiving a Bible from us was very moved and thankful, that it was the best gift she ever received and has made her feel loved and is so glad to have met us.

At this point we have about 20 Christian students involved in 3 Bible studies. Pray that Christian students will make themselves available to prioritize their walk with God, that Christian students will meet to grow in trusting God, joining in community to worship and pray, and to step out to help others know Jesus.



Arton and Lorisa, in the front, hosting students in their home for Thanksgiving Friends for Dinner. John from Ghana, on the left behind Arton is part of their Bible Study. Pray for them, especially their kids as they acclimate to Saskatoon.

Bible Study

I'm leading a Friday Bible study with Marcelo, Gabriel, Nathan, Titus and Vrinda and we are going through 2 Corinthians. We just looked at chapter 4:1-12, and it begins, 'Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.'

This is a reminder that we are established, not on the basis of our desires or competency, but God's mercy. It's a reminder to remember where we have been taken from, that we aren't doing a work that we have striven for, but that God has given us. We do not lose heart because God has shown us mercy, not giving us what we deserve, but through his grace, giving us the immense good and provision that Christ has earned for us. It is because of God's mercy that we can come to him, look on him without fear of destruction, as opposed to the condemnation under the law. The veil is taken away and we are not destroyed, but welcomed and accepted.

Please pray for the students to not just look at the difficulties of their studies, but at God's mercy on them. Also pray for my staff team: Lori, Serena, King Ying, Arton and Lorisa, that they don't lose heart, that we don't just work and grow weary, but are renewed in heart and perspective daily, living in the grace of the gospel that we have in Jesus as we hold out the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Moving towards the Gospel

Pray for us to go deeper in our relationships with students who don't know Jesus and that we can have deep meaningful conversations where they hear the good news of Jesus and we see lives changed.

We are moving towards the Christmas season where we will share the gospel at a banquet, in homes as people host students and at our Great Canadian Adventure.

We have one event before these, a 'leadership for success' event on November 14th. Pray that we have 30-40 students register, right now there are just 14. Three business leaders with Global Leadership Partners (GLP) are coming from Ohio to share about 'the character of a leader',' the behaviors of a leader' and 'inspiring leadership'.



On our visit to Campbell River

Please pray for our family as well. Please pray for the healthy hearts and minds as we all grow in Christ.

And for healthy bodies. We have had multiple illnesses through the summer and fall. Today, Karen is taking 3 kids into the walk-in clinic for various things. We'd appreciate your prayer for health and protection.

We also have a son who will likely have a driver's license coming down the pike very soon. What a blessing for him, but we'd love your prayer coverage over him and his friends who are also getting their licenses one by one. How we love those boys.

Thank you so much for your prayer, love, friendship, support and cheerleading on our behalf.

We are ever so thankful for you. Please feel free to drop us a line of how you are doing (no pressure) and if you have any prayer requests, we'd love to lift them up.

In Christ,
Mike, Karen and the boys

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