

Dear Friends,



My home from March to July, the vicarage of l'Église St. Sixte, St-Laurent.

Warm greetings from Montreal! I trust you all survived the long, frigid winter we had this year. Several schools were closed here yesterday due to ice, but it's a little warmer today and we are encouraged to see the days getting longer!

God has wonderfully opened doors for me here in Ville St-Laurent, providing a lovely place to stay and a ministry that fits me to a T. I'm living in a local vicarage (just a two-minute drive from work), and meeting all kinds of new people. Thanks for your prayers in this time of transition between Africa and Korea!

In January, I contacted Christian Direction to see if I might be of use to them here in Montreal for these few months before heading off to South Korea to teach English to future missionaries in the fall. CD welcomed me to join an inter-church team ministry they'd organised to reach out to newcomers and refugees.



With volunteers at the Friday food bank.

Based in a Mennonite Brethren church, *l'Église Chrétienne de St-Laurent*, this ministry runs an English class, a French class, a food bank, and an after-school course for teenagers on how to start a micro- project.



Mopping the office at the food bank at the end of the day.

Towards the end of the summer, an annual "Back-to-School" event offers backpacks and school supplies to children; and in December a Christmas dinner is offered to our clients. The Roman Catholic *Église St-Sixte*, in whose vicarage I am boarding, contributes to these two annual events.

On Fridays, I work at the food bank. My main duty there is to welcome and help newcomers coming into the office to register. I give them a form to fill in, photocopy their identity papers and later make up plasticized identity cards for them. About a hundred people are showing up weekly at the food bank. Many are refugees, some have permanent residency and a few are Canadian citizens. Each person or family takes away one or two big IKEA bags (or the equivalent) full of food costing \$5 a bag. It is at the food bank that I meet people and can invite them to my classes.

I also do my best to cheer them up and let them know that they are loved, and my reward comes when I can see them smile or sometimes make them laugh.

I now offer five basic English classes and three basic French classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Classes usually begin with prayer, tea and cookies; and those who have been with us for a while now can put the kettle on to boil, get out the tea, herbal teas, cups, mugs, sugar and honey, and offer tea to the newcomers.

Making and serving tea seems to help everyone relax, laugh and talk. The course we are using is based on the parable of *The Good Samaritan*. It includes the formation of capital & small letters, which is perfect for any Syrians who need to practise writing the Roman alphabet. Most of my students are from Syria, but others have shown up from Taiwan, Tunisia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Brazil, Mexico, Columbia and Mongolia. Today a lady from Gabon came for the first time. At first, she hardly ventured to say a word in English; but by the end of the class, she was at ease, washing teacups and expressing herself freely. There are usually just three or four in a class, but sometimes five or six have come. If only one person turns up, I tutor him or her personally. My students may disappear at any time if accepted into a full-time government French class or if they get a job, but I comfort myself with the knowledge that they all know that I'm there for them when they can make it.

♪ Praise Notes

- ♪ an ideal living situation in St-Laurent with good relations with the pastors, staff and other boarders.
- ♪ a wonderful, enjoyable job which allows me to relate meaningfully to people from many countries.
- ♪ my home church in Montreal, Côte-des-Neiges Presbyterian Church, and the weekly privilege I have been given of visiting sick and shut-ins on behalf of the church.
- ♪ occasional opportunities to share my faith with people. (At Easter, we went over the main events of Passion Week in class, as well as colouring Easter eggs.)
- ♪ a wonderful team standing with me - the family, three churches and others who pray for me and support me.
- ♪ good health overall, though I did fall and hurt my right knee before Christmas and I'm told I have arthritis. ☹
- ♪ a good car that saw me through a severe winter.

♪ Prayer Notes

- ♪ new students to replace those who have been accepted into free full-time French courses and
- ♪ further opportunities before the end of July to share the Word of God with my students and housemates, and to be able to help some come to know the Lord personally and others to grow in the Lord.
- ♪ that God would continue to provide teachers and funding for the teacher training college I taught at in Bunia, the ISP.
- ♪ preparations for my next assignment in the fall, teaching English to future missionaries at the Missionary Training Institute at Yeosu, in South Korea.



These two students were a lawyer and a math professor in Syria.



Reviewing the English alphabet with a Rwandan and two Syrians.

Your friend and sister in Christ,

Rosemary Walker