

Rambling Rose - August, 2018



Leaving for Yeosu, South Korea, next week!

Dear praying friends,



**Rokoz (Syrian) and Emmanuel (Rwandan) enjoying a Bible class.**

Hi and warm greetings in Christ from beautiful Muskoka, where I'm enjoying four days before heading down to Toronto, then back to Montreal to catch a plane!

Our English and French classes carried on until the end of July despite some exhausting heat. Many students received tutoring or attended the classes since February, and those who persevered to the end received a certificate of appreciation and a little gift. I also prepared a binder with their course in it for each to take home and be able to go over what they've learned. Several who wished to do so were able to take a Bible home in French, English and/or Arabic, as well a lovely children's Bible story book in French or English if they wished. At least one student, a Roman Catholic from Africa who had never read the Bible before, now has a copy in French and English and finds it very interesting. He was quite hesitant to open the Book first time, but by the end of the class, he said: *"I was walking in darkness, but now I'm beginning to see the light."* Praise God!

Our very basic English and French courses were woven around the parable of the Good Samaritan. Besides learning that beautiful story with the help of pictures, a workbook, and a video, students learned greetings, to say and print the alphabet, numbers, first names, last names, street and e-mail addresses, days and months of the year, maps and directions. We also had four classes on "Great Bible Characters" - God the Creator, Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel & Noah. (I did mention that Cain didn't actually fit the category of great.) They liked the course, and hopefully the practice in printing capital and small letters has helped some of the Arabic speakers improve their writing using the Roman alphabet and practise reading from left to right.



**Maria de la Luz (Columbian) & Abbie (Syrian) work on French.**

Last Tuesday, the last day of July, was our final day of class. Instead of studying, we had a party with lots of friendly conversation around a copious bilingual international buffet - with home-made food from Syria, Lebanon, French, China and Canada. I had wanted to sing, but we ended up singing only the alphabet very heartily in both languages! The students went home with a little gift and a certificate of appreciation signed by my supervisor, Chad (wearing glasses in the picture) and myself. I have also left a binder for "the finishers." In it, there is the student workbook in English or French, as well as notes I added for the ten chapters in the course, in the relevant language for each one.

Please excuse my lack of communicativeness lately. I was taken up by these classes and by visiting sick and shut-ins on behalf of Côte-des-Neiges Presbyterian Church, often on a Sunday afternoon. Since January or February, I've made about 13 such calls, as well as visiting a young Sri Lankan family with their first child, a bouncing baby boy named John and three other senior ladies, perhaps five times each this year. I was sorry to say good-bye to these dear saints.

The Friday food bank downstairs serves many clients from Syria, as well as Lebanese, Nigerians, Haitians, a few Canadians and others. I welcomed new clients and helped them fill in their application form. They were often glad to see a friendly smile at the reception desk and find a listening ear. Sometimes they had questions, and I tried to find answers for them. One client showed me a serious knife wound he'd received in his home from a robber. He could have been killed. Another lady was very concerned for her family back in Syria and I prayed with her for them. A Syrian needs a three-bedroom apartment for his family by August 31<sup>st</sup>, and I was able to put him in touch with a couple of men who said they would try to help him. One lady who hadn't yet received her medicare card asked me discreetly about seeing a gynecologist. We referred her to a clinic that helps such people. Two Arabic-speaking believers I met were open to consider my request that they volunteer at the centre. This would be great, as many of our clients speak Arabic. Yes, they do need help with their food budget, but they also need information, guidance and moral and spiritual support.

#### August Schedule, past, present and future

- 2 Farewell luncheon with twelve lady friends at Casa Grecque, Brossard.
- 3 My colleagues, Christian Direction staff at *Le Centre Accroche* in St-Laurent, took me to a near-by Thai restaurant for supper after the food bank.
- 4 Leonard's wedding to Justine. Leo was on our 2004 team to the DRC, and he is a founding member, treasurer and secretary of the French AIM Quebec committee.
- 5 Farewell presentation at Côte-des-Neiges Presbyterian Church with all the elders coming forward to pray for me.
- 6-13 A week in Ontario, including a swim or two and saying farewell to Dave, Blake, Roxieanne and Knox Presbyterian Church, my home church.
- 14: Return to Montreal to finish packing at the vicarage of *l'Église St-Sixte*, Saint-Laurent.
- 16 West Jet flight #543: Montreal to Vancouver, where I am to stay for a few days with brother Paul & Bernace.
- 24-26 Visiting "long-lost cousins" on Mother's side in Seattle.
- 27: Air Canada flight #63: Vancouver to Seoul, South Korea, to be met the next afternoon by Paul & Jinny Lim (my former Bible students at Knox Church). Supper with the Lims and Rev. and Mrs. Cho, director of AIM Korea.
- 28 Orientation to AIM and Korea with Mr. Cho.
- 29: A 4.5-hour bus ride from Seoul to Yeosu, hopefully to be met by staff of the Missionary Training Institute.
- 31: Orientation to life and ministry at the Missionary Training Institute (MTI). This school prepares future missionaries to function in English and gives other courses, in cross-cultural communications, etc.

Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the first day of a new term at MTI, and my first day on the job. Thanks so much for your love, prayers and financial support!

#### Prayer notes

May my students in St-Laurent continue to read the Bible at home and come to a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus.

May new volunteers come on board to teach English and French at *Le Centre Accroche*.

May I grow in grace and be useful in my new assignment.

May God bless you!

Your sister in Christ,

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**A delicious farewell international dinner on July 31<sup>st</sup>.**