

FLOW NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

Walking Together

The Ministry of Mentoring

Whom We Serve

What Motivates Me to Get Involved

Prayer Summit

Unique Tastes of the Neighbourhood

FLOW's Photo Gallery

Our Five Areas of Ministry

Christmas Carols & Treats

Financial Update

Walking Together

~ Rev. Peter Ma, Executive Director



Flow Volunteer Retreat, October 2023

This week, I drove people around. On Monday, a neighbour needed a ride to an appointment at the hospital. On Tuesday and Wednesday, another neighbour needed a ride to the courthouse in Oshawa. On Friday, another neighbour needed a ride to a funeral service in Alliston. To be honest, I don't always see the ministry value in these kinds of things. Is this good use of my time? Could I or should I be doing something else? It's possible. But then I am reminded that I am called to live a life of love in the neighbourhood and to inspire others to do the same, in Jesus' name. It is a ministry of presence and a ministry of reconciliation that is not glamorous. But walking with people in their need, leads to conversations in the car, which leads to prayers of hope, which leads to greater faith for all of us.

Henri Nouwen wrote a book called *Gracias!*, a devotional journey of his six-month trip to Bolivia and Peru. Here's a beautiful quote about the ministry of presence: ***"More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their doorsteps, play ball, throw water, and be known as someone who wants to live with them. It is a privilege to have the time and the freedom to practice this simple ministry of presence. Still, it is not as simple as it seems. My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress. But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and to drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them."*** (Nouwen 1983, 147).

On Sunday, after house church, another neighbour asked me to go with her to the hospital when she needed to help an estranged family member. I said, "Yes, I will go with you." I don't know where this will lead but God certainly does!



Crystal and Sophie during mentoring

The Ministry of Mentoring

~ Crystal Pang, Flow Mentor

Sometimes, describing mentoring is a funny thing. “What do you guys do with the kids?” people ask me. It’s hard to give one short answer - we just hang out, do whatever the kids want to do, which can mean eating, going to the mall, or playing at the park.

Regardless of what we do, the “what” is not as important as the “why”. Mentoring is so purposeful for me because of the opportunity to share God’s love with these kids, being able to support the next generation.

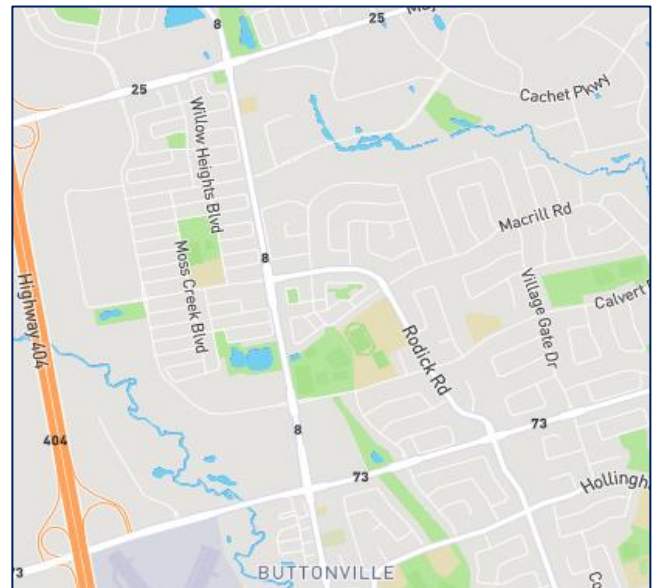
God has shown me a broader understanding of how love manifests in this ministry. Some days have super active, light-hearted conversations, others more somber. Some days where the kids have tons of energy to burn, some where we’re sitting in a car for a while.

Either way, we are there, present and intentional with our mentees, seeing where we can encourage, teach, or simply hear them out. As they grow and we journey with our mentees, we navigate different topics, talking about how to understand the world and tackle its challenges.

I’m lucky to be part of these conversations and participate in their curiosities and excitement in life. Sometimes I forget the funny perspectives and insight kids have! The ability to share about God with them, to love them, and to enjoy experiences together is what keeps me looking forward to each meeting.

Whom We Serve

Kin Village and Trinity Square are two communities located north of 16th between Woodbine Ave. and Rodick Rd. in Markham. The majority of the households are on subsidized housing rent and a substantial number of people are in unique circumstances and challenges.



71%

of people living in Kin Village live in subsidized housing.
[Markham: 6.1%]

42%

of people living in Kin Village are without employment income.
[Markham: 33%]

65%

of families in Kin Village were single parent families.
[Markham: 15%]

39%

of households in Kin Village report less than \$50K of total household income.
[Markham: 20%]

The name “Flow Without Bounds Ministries” derives from Jesus’s encounter with the Samaritan woman and said, **“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14).** Flow wants to flow without bounds to every nook and cranny with living water, reaching all people with the message of the Kingdom.

Source: Statistics Canada 2021, Census Profile: 2021 Census of Population: Profile Table, Modified 2023-02-01. Accessed Mar 7/2023

What Motivates Me to Get Involved

~ Chester Ng, Mercy Rain and Board Member

God planted the root...

Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Growing up in Hong Kong, I had the blessing of volunteering in a ministry called "Breakthrough" even before I fully understood the gospel and became a Christian.

The ministry started modestly with a magazine not labeled as a Christian magazine, yet full of Gospel-centric values in all articles, they also built a lot of activities for the community of readers, bringing them into caring for vulnerable in the society and seeking eternal values, many readers were brought to Christ through the transparent, witnessing lives of the Christian staffs.

The principle of the Breakthrough ministry, "*Life building lives*", has greatly shaped my values and is the reason for my continuous yearning for a hands-on Christian life beyond bible study and worship.



Chester Ng and Crystal Pang helping out in Kin Village

God initiated the encounter...

Acts 17:26 - And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.

I first came to know Flow through a call for mentors around 10 years ago. By chance, I heard of Flow starting a mentoring ministry and brought it to my church, in the hope of mobilizing the youths to become mentors. After acquainting with the Flow leaders, I was invited to become a coach for the mentors. As I had never been a Flow mentor before, I doubted how I could become a coach for the mentors, so I asked to be assigned to mentor two young adults who were mentally challenged while I served on the coaching team.

At the time I was already wearing multiple hats in ministries at my church. I have to confess my fear and hesitation toward the commitment to meeting up with the mentees at least twice a week and a commitment of at least 2 years. However, after much prayer, the Spirit moved me to take the challenge.

God's blessings are rich...

Proverbs 11:25 - Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Fast track forward, today I no longer serve in the mentoring ministry but am a member of the Flow board with regular weekly activities at Kin Village.

For many years, I have been serving the Kin Village community by shopping for their groceries, applying for government subsidies, planning for daily care they need, and praying with them when facing stress.

It is such a privilege when others "allow" you into their lives. At Kin Village, I have encountered both Christians and non-Christians, yet I am accepted with openness just the same. Many of them consider me a family member. However, I always feel that I am the most blessed through it all.

Through caring for and loving people at Kin Village, as well as many Christian volunteers serving alongside, I have received much care and prayers in return. Most important of all, through authentic life interactions depending on the Holy Spirit, in good and bad times, Christ has become so much more "in-person" to me.

Prayer Summit

"Let us encourage one another in prayer".

Join us at 7:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th
Wednesdays of the month.

Zoom Details
Meeting ID: 5648589458
Passcode: 2023



Have a prayer request?
Come to our Zoom version of
Prayer Summits:

December 13th

December 27th

January 10th

January 24th

February 7th

February 28th

For specific details about these virtual meetings, please send us an email to:

flowministries.general@gmail.com

Unique
tastes of the neighbourhood

Sunday December 17 after house church
bring a small but unique taste of
your culture or another culture
2 locations - Barb's and Judy's
enjoy a tasting not a dinner

FLOW's Photo Gallery



Wanda and Judy at the Markham Cenotaph



Peter and Adebayo, our newest mentors



Our Five Areas of Ministry:

- ✚ **Stream Mentoring** (*Building relationships through mentoring*)
- ✚ **Mercy Rain** (*Building relationships through practical care*)
- ✚ **Hamper Program** (*Building relationships through practical gifts*)
- ✚ **Community Events** (*Building relationships through practical engagements*)
- ✚ **House Church on Sunday Afternoons** (*Worshipping together*)

**ARE YOU HERE ON
CHRISTMAS DAY?**

drop by and join us for...

**Christmas Carols
and Treats**

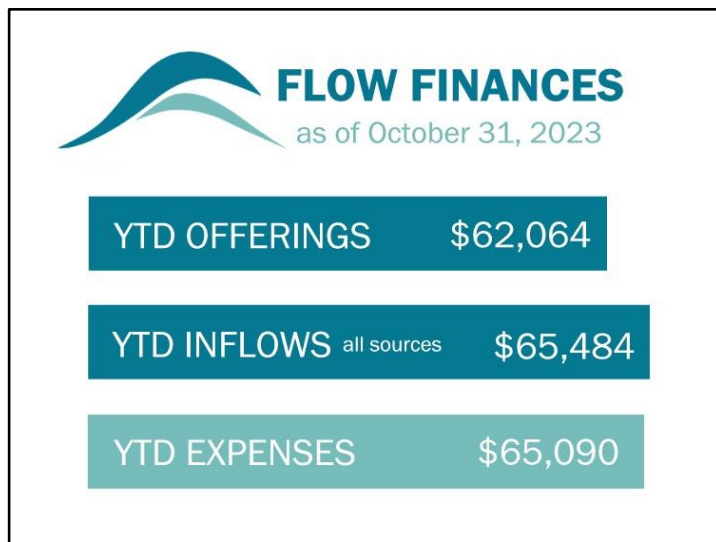
MONDAY DECEMBER 25
2 PM at Barb's (7 Bates Way)
3 PM at Judy's (28 Founders Way)


FLOW MINISTRIES

for more info call Peter 416-459-2207

Financial Update

In the parable Matthew 13:44, a man found a treasure of immense value that he was willing to sell all that he had to obtain it. Do you remember the time when you first accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Do you remember experiencing His grace and forgiveness, and felt overwhelmed with gratitude? I imagine you would be like that man and gladly give up all that you have to obtain the treasure in Him.



At Flow Ministries, we want to see the people we serve live life to the fullest by knowing and following Jesus. We aim to achieve this by building genuine and godly relationships, and live life with them. Will you consider partnering with us (by prayer and financial giving) and be part of helping others so that they can also discover the treasure in Christ?

Matthew 13:44 *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”*

Three Ways to Donate to Flow Without Bounds Ministry:

1) Give via Cheque:

Please make the cheque payable to “Flow Without Bounds Ministries”

Mailing Address:

Flow Without Bounds Ministries
21 Saintsbury Road
Markham, Ontario
L6C 2H9 Canada

2) Give via Interac E-Transfer:

Send your donation to: flow.finances@gmail.com

We have auto-deposit setup but if you are first time donor, please email your name and mailing address to: flow.finances@gmail.com for tax donation receipt purposes.

3) Give via Credit Card/Apple Pay or Be Our Monthly Partner:

We have a profile through CanadaHelps.org at: www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/flow-without-bounds-ministries/

Please note that a fee of 3.5%+ will be charged and tax donation receipts will be issued by CanadaHelps.

We would love to care for YOU our donors and inform you of any future donor appreciation events.
So if you are first time donor, please drop us a note via email: flow.finances@gmail.com