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December 2019 issue

Cooks Chronicles

Family



For my 70th birthday earlier this month, the family called in a photographer. So delightfully, here we all are, our 4 children, 2 in-law spouses, and 3 grand daughters. We are proud and thankful for each one of them.

[Looking Back on this semester](#)

[Airport Welcome](#)

God opened the way again this year in

[My YorkU Anthro class](#)

Thanks to prayer, God opened the way and led in becoming a part time student in Anthropology this past semester at York

late August to welcome new International Students arriving at Pearson Airport. We were there with a group of volunteers. We had wondered how, or if, but amazingly the door opened and we were able to assist them, and make that first contact as they arrived.

Friday Evenings at our house

Most Friday evenings, since September, we have hosted Internationals with a meal, a presentation, and discussion. This time we used Christianity Explored videos and material. As we thus followed the material using the Gospel of Mark, it led to lively discussion, eye openings, and relationship building. Internationals from 3-4 religious worldviews looked together at what Mark says about Jesus, and grappled with what does that mean for us today. What a privilege to see God at work, not only in bringing light, but working through the team who help us each week. There is one from Singapore, one from Malaysia, one from Japan and one from Canada. These 4 people love Internationals, and caringly serve them. We are blessed.

University. I really enjoyed the studies, learned much from the lectures and assignments, and have made some friends among the students. Also, I was able to get an A in the course. This study also allowed me to continue attending the Global Café put on by the university twice a week, and interact with International Students there. A few took up my invitation to attend our Friday evening event at our house. In fact, one from south Asia needed a place to stay, and we connected him to a friend of our's just 3 blocks north of where we live.

Kathy's ESL classes

Kathy is loving the 2 ESL classes she teaches weekly, one at People's Church, and the other at a Community Centre. She has newly arrived Internationals, and others who have been here awhile but want to improve. They love her, and it gives wonderful opportunity to give background and reason for cultural events like Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

We will be attending and participating at **P2C's Student Conference** tomorrow and Tuesday (Dec.30,31). There will be students there from across Canada. We will be helping with mobilization discussions, and in a workshop, "Contextualizing the Gospel in East Asia".

Finally, this holiday time has given us a

chance to have 2 [holiday events](#). There was [ice skating](#) time downtown at Nathan Philips Square, and then [Dec. 24th](#) some joined us at a [Christmas Eve](#) church program. After that here in our home along with our daughter and family we hosted 20 from 11 cultures, for a Christmas meal/potluck. Time after eating we played a group game, then an activity about aspects of Christmas. A Japanese Christian shared her journey to faith as part of that.

Thank you for reading this, and being behind us in this.

May God lead clearly in this New Year as we continue to serve among those He is bringing to Toronto.

Dave and Kathy

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