




Stuart & Mary Smith - Email: leaders@internationalstudentslondon.org

June 1, 2022

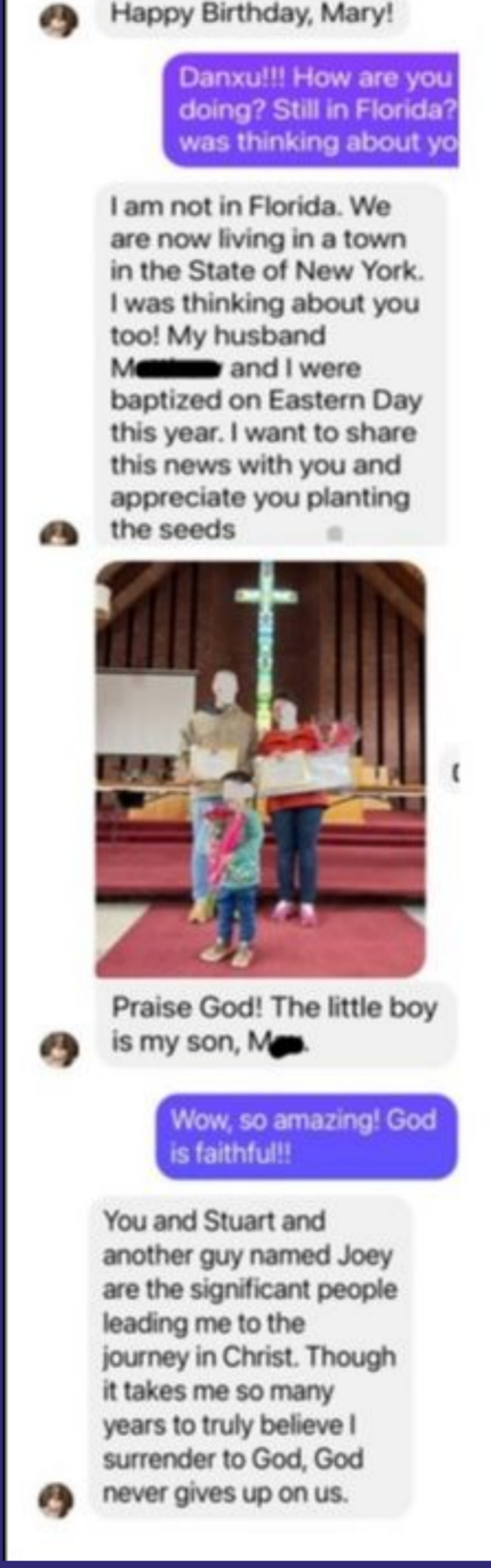
Foreigners Become Citizens Strangers Become Members of God's Household


"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." Eph 2:19 NIV

This is true of some of these stories -- but ALL of these stories are true!



Danxu, a student from China, was with us for some days over Christmas 2015. She participated in FOCUS and other events, and when her parents came for her graduation the next summer, we hosted them for a barbecue. (Her dad felt the leaves on our maple tree and couldn't believe how clean they were!) That summer she moved to Florida to continue her studies and a few years went by since our last communication. Then came this wonderful birthday message!





Allan is a Korean graduate who calls Mary "Mom. He asked for help writing out his statement of faith (testimony) as he applied to work in the Catholic schools. Apparently that didn't work out because on Saturday he told her he has a job as an EA at a Christian school in BC! Allan trusted Jesus while he was at Fanshawe College and has now asked us to arrange for his baptism because, having moved back to London during the pandemic, he's not part of a physical church.




"When I don't see you for awhile, I feel homesick!" a student who just graduated told Stuart on Friday. He is an only child, raised by a single dad in Calcutta, India. When we first met him last June, S told us that he felt like he had met his Canadian family. We have connected numerous times and come to love this young man. He called and sang to both of us on our birthdays saying, "I am your son, too!" Because everyone mispronounces his name (we finally got it right!), his dad told him that he gave him his Indian name, so Stuart & Mary, his Canadian parents, should give him an English name. What an honour! He was more than a little happy when on Victoria Day we presented him with a Certificate of English Name and took him to meet Mary's mom. He doesn't have any grandparents and said later that he really wanted to hug Granny! Maybe next time!

We wanted a name that started with the same sound as his Indian name and had a special meaning. Meet Shawn which means "God is gracious" or "Gift from God". When he shared this with his dad in India, Shawn said he had tears in his eyes. Please pray for Shawn:

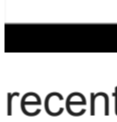
- that an interview this week leads to a job
- for success on his upcoming G2 driver's test
- that God will continue to draw his heart to faith in Jesus




Please pray with us for God's wisdom and direction, and for fruitfulness in the following opportunities:

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June 1st - Mary is having lunch with N, a lady in her early 50's from Japan who is moving to Halifax on Saturday. She has participated in Bible studies with a teammate, lived with a Christian friend and gone to church, but pray that N will deeply understand the Gospel and begin her new life in the Maritimes with Jesus!




██████ We have connected a lot recently with S, a young man from Yemen who grew up in the United Arab Emirates. He even came to church with us recently. He's looking for a Canadian family to live with where his English can become fluent. We're praying for that, but also that God will provide a home where S will hear and experience the love of Jesus!

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June 4th - A new cultural experience! Mary is invited to an all-lady engagement party for a Syrian couple. H is a student at Western. We met her when she came along with 4 Syrian refugee families to a barbecue we hosted several years ago. She participated in FOCUS and other events, and we were pleased to be her references when she applied for a job. Now she is engaged to Mohammad whom Mary met in the English conversation circles at Fanshawe ... and apparently she also introduced them at FOCUS!


June 12th - Stuart is speaking at Naim Mennonite Church where he grew up. He has pretty much been speaking monthly since last fall.

June 18th - 26th - We'll be staying in residence at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for ISMC's national conference (22nd-26th) and enjoying a few days of vacation prior to that.



We're very much looking forward to seeing some international friends including Maryam from Iran, whom we knew in London a few years back.

July 1st - Canada Day celebration and Heritage Festival in St. Marys. We hope to host a bunch of international students for a barbecue or wiener roast ... these events now always include halal and vegetarian options, even for s'mores! Did you know that you can get halal marshmallows?



We would so love to include our Ukrainian friends for Canada Day but, alas, fireworks are simply too scary for anyone who has fled from a war. It was our huge privilege and blessing on April 22nd to meet Natalie and her 4 yr old daughter at Pearson Airport. You can read some of their story here: <https://london.ctvnews.ca/ukrainian-mother-and-child-flee-to-london-ont-as-husband-fights-on-1.5879769>. Please pray for them and other Ukrainian and Russian students who, for no fault of their own, find themselves now having to fully support their tuition and living expenses here. Natalie had never dreamed she would have to come with her daughter when she applied to Fanshawe! This leaves her in a huge predicament as international fees are 4-5 times what domestic students pay and while she's studying for the summer semester, her daughter will be off school!

Unfortunately we found it necessary to cancel the Good Friday FOCUS dinner due to a major surge in Covid. With it being during exams, it just seemed the wise and loving thing to do. Our speaker was sick and it seemed that every day just in our normal conversations with people we knew, we heard of 3 or 4 more households that were sick. As it turned out, some volunteers who would have participated in FOCUS also tested positive on the weekend. God willing we can have a picnic on the August long weekend and resume FOCUS in September as classes are scheduled to be back in person in September.

Thanks for partnering with us. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few! Ask the Lord for more workers to send out to his harvest field." (Lk 10:2NLT) Will you join us in that prayer? If you live reasonably close to London and would like to invite some students to join you for a barbecue, beach day, hike, picnic, etc., we would be more than happy to connect you! God bless you as you invest your summer in seeing His Kingdom come!

If God is leading you to invest financially in this ministry, you can mail a cheque to ISMC, Box 1205, Three Hills, AB T0M 2A0 or donate by Interac to finance@ismc.ca Please be sure to indicate that it is for the support of Stuart & Mary Smith.

Other online gifts are subject to 3 1/2 - 4% transaction fees.

