

Gallagher Gazette - 2014 in Review - Wow! What a year!

Spring Break – teams came from Kansas and Houston which caused several new relationships among the Zotung tribe. One week into the VBS my new buddy, Sanay, arrived from the camp in Malaysia. He speaks pretty good English and we connected immediately and he began inviting kids to come to our events. This began a domino effect whereby a strong relationship was built with the Hindu and Muslim apartment managers. (They had previously been suspicious of me.)

Summer – more teams arrived and friendships grew deeper. We discovered a protection racket where gang-bangers arrive at the door and demand money. Sanay's father was beaten badly until he agreed to give the few bucks they had in the house. At the same time we began to be invited to speak at the Zotung church and discovered a people with no pastor. They have been very kind to us and very grateful for anything that is shared. One family surprised us by saying they had been attending our apartment Bible studies among the Zomis and that they felt those times were the best days of their lives. Who knew?

Fall – the guy who died from Ebola lived a few doors down from Sanay. Two of the kids in the actual Ebola apartment itself are on our friend Danny's local soccer teams. Sally (the Hindu apartment manager) spoke to me emotionally expressing that the news made it look as if SHE had intentionally brought Ebola to Dallas and didn't care if it was spread. We were able to get together some translations of an Ebola symptom sheet and provide them for Sally. At that time most people had no idea what was going on since the city of Dallas was only giving info out in English. The Dallas News said that nobody had any idea that there were so many languages among the refugees and that they didn't speak English –unbelievable!!!

I was interviewed on TV but they cut me off when I tried to say anything substantial.

Winter – Visiting Ebola apartments, we asked about Ebola. Sanay said, "We don't think about it. No more Ebola –only Jesus!" I love this kid! Great attitude considering the bad vibes that were going around at school and in local shops towards residents of these apartments. Only last week were taxis willing to come back to da hood.

We had an absolute blast handing out candy canes and little gifts for Christmas. Almost every kid told us they had never received a Christmas present before or seen a Christmas tree. As if God hadn't done enough, he answered a prayer request that we could do something for the Afghan people.

One Sunday an Afghan family showed up at church. They described a journey through Iran, Syria and Turkey until they were able to get asylum status and come to Dallas. There are no words to describe what a blessing and privilege it is to know these people!

We connected them with an excellent pastor but he is 45 min away and they have decided to come to our church –even though they barely understand English. The 12 yr old Daniel speaks broken English and whispers to his dad who then whispers to his wife to translate the Bible message.

Besmelah (the father) has been working since the week he arrived. He lost one job due to poor English but got a job the next week. This is in contrast to some refugees who aren't as diligent.

We could go on telling stories of what these people mean to us. Some who work in this realm find their ego boosted and some aren't aware that they are making the refugees dependent on them. With God as my witness, I can say that all I know is that I have the greatest opportunity for ministry that one could ask for and I consider it an honor to lay down my life for these people.

I'm not saying that to be dramatic but there are moments where you feel God's hand on these things (WHO would ever think that the ENTIRE WORLD would be made aware of these apartments?) and you feel His pleasure over you.

All I know is that nothing compares to being useful to the Lord Jesus. It requires keeping yourself fresh in the Word (read a chapter a day or you also will get stale) since you never know what's coming at you next.

It requires watchfulness since you don't want to do anything to jeopardize this work. Would you pray for us as the hood is getting more dangerous each week? Lots of teams coming which means lots of newbies who come here and need to catch the vision versus giving the refugees a pat on the head and zooming away to Six Flags and calling it a "mission" trip.

Finally, pray for my best translator (Augustine) that his wife Ester and baby would be released from Malaysia to come to Dallas. Augustine thinks I have magical abilities to decipher the paperwork and I have no idea what I'm doing. If it is done wrong the process is set back at least a year and you have to start over. No pressure???

We can feel your prayers and since we are only human we can't do this without backup so don't forget us! Thanks!

Mushy Love from,  
The Jimster!  
Dan. 12:3