

# FLOW

# NEWSLETTER



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## Investigative Bible Study

### Five Studies Introducing Christian Faith

~ Rev. Peter Ma

There are many resources to help people explore Christian faith. Alpha Canada has excellent resources and training. Their model of outreach includes relationship building through invitation, hospitality, and prayer. Another resource that I enjoy, is 'Christianity Explored' which communicates the gospel in clear and concise terms. However, I put together a simple resource based on my own experience in meeting with people who wanted to learn more about Christianity. I wonder if it might be helpful.

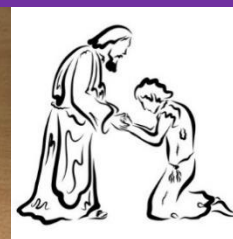
The first session looks at the *Parable of the Prodigal (or Lost) Son* in Luke 15. This is a beautiful story that highlights the depth of God's love. One of the discoveries in this parable is that the younger son and the older son are actually similar. They're relationship with their father is based on entitlement and merit. But God's love is based entirely on grace. This means that we can do nothing to increase or improve God's love for us and for the world. It is a deep and abiding love. Other sessions include scripture passages such as Isaiah 53 and John 1.

Recently, we had the privilege to welcome new Christians into God's family. We studied these passages together and invited them to make a profession of faith. It was all about God's grace in their lives and ours.

If you would like to download a copy of this resource, it's available for free on our website:

[www.flowwithoutbounds.com](http://www.flowwithoutbounds.com)

under the heading of "Resources"



### Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:20-32 ESV

*"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servant, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate*

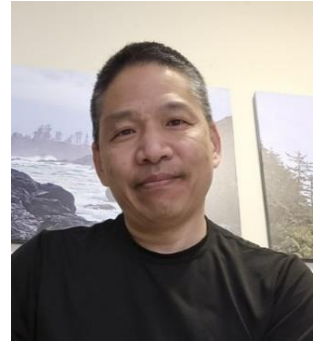
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## Personal Reflections on Ministry in the Neighbourhood

~ Rev. Peter Ma, Executive Director

*“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

*Hebrews 4:16 ESV*



Ministry in the neighbourhood is a challenge. It's a challenge to live by faith every day. It's a challenge to walk with people through their struggles. It's a challenge to be present in the ups and downs of relationships.

Since I started serving with Flow Ministries over a year ago, my constant prayer has been “Lord, have mercy.” When I visit with people in the neighbourhood, “Lord, have mercy.” When I make a phone call reaching out to someone, “Lord, have mercy.” When volunteers and neighbours work together on a program or event, “Lord, have mercy.” When doors are open or doors are closed, “Lord, have mercy.”

I believe that God is truly merciful. I believe that God hears and answers prayer. Over the past few months, we've seen God's mercy at work.

In our youth mentoring, a mentee had stopped coming to our sessions. We had met several times and I felt like we had a good connection. But there was a traumatic event that happened in his family life. As a result, we lost contact with him for a few months. A couple weeks ago, by God's grace, I had a chance to talk with him briefly. I told him that we miss him at mentoring, and we want him to be part of our group again. But I also said that we wouldn't push him because we care for him. I don't know where this will lead, but I trust that God continues to answer prayer.

In our house church, we met an Iranian lady who told us that she wanted to become a Christian. As a result, one of our volunteers and I began meeting with her and her daughter. We went through a series of five Bible passages introducing the Christian faith. At the end of our study, both the mom and daughter professed their faith in Jesus Christ. It was amazing to see them thinking through scripture and coming to a clearer understanding of their faith. It was a blessing. We continue to support both mom and daughter. We don't know where this will lead, but we are praying for more open doors for the gospel.

We recently held a Donor & Volunteer Thank-You Dinner. We reached out to people who had given in many ways over the past year. We invited people in the neighbourhood, some who were donors and volunteers themselves. We had a beautiful evening together to enjoy each other's company, eat together, and offer thanksgiving to God. It is God's mercy that allowed things to work out. But even when things don't go according to our plans, thank God for his mercy!

House Church  
SUNDAYS  
@ 3:00 PM

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**House Church or as we like to call it, "Church Without Bounds" meets on Sundays at 3 pm.**

This allows the Christians in Kin Village and Trinity Square to worship together and to be a Christian presence. We sit together with neighbours in their homes and link other homes by Zoom. Here's a couple of ways to get involved:

1. If you know a neighbour and would like to invite them to house church, you can ask to go to their place and link up by Zoom.
2. Or, you are welcome to worship in one of our existing homes.

Please contact Peter Ma for more details. [flowministries.general@gmail.com](mailto:flowministries.general@gmail.com)

## Donor and Volunteer Thank You Dinner

One Saturday in March, we converged on the basement of Markham Chinese Baptist Church. The church generously let us use space for our Donor and Volunteer Dinner. Those who have given to the work of Flow, those who volunteer, and all of us who appreciate our donors and volunteers were invited. Altogether almost 50 of us sat together, enjoyed each other's company, ate good food, worshipped through music, and listened to a short message of thanks.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18).

# Donor & Volunteer

## THANK YOU DINNER

SATURDAY MARCH NINTH  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR

- **Thank you to the neighbours** for the way that they reach out and care for others. Thank you to the volunteers for bridging barriers and giving of their time.
- **Thank you to the donors** for being an integral part of our ministry including financial resources, wisdom, and experience.
- **Thank you to God**, most of all. It is only by God's grace that we can do anything and all things.



### Flow's Photo Gallery Sat. March 9, 2024

(Photos courtesy of Sherman Sung and Sophie Yung)



## Prayer Summit

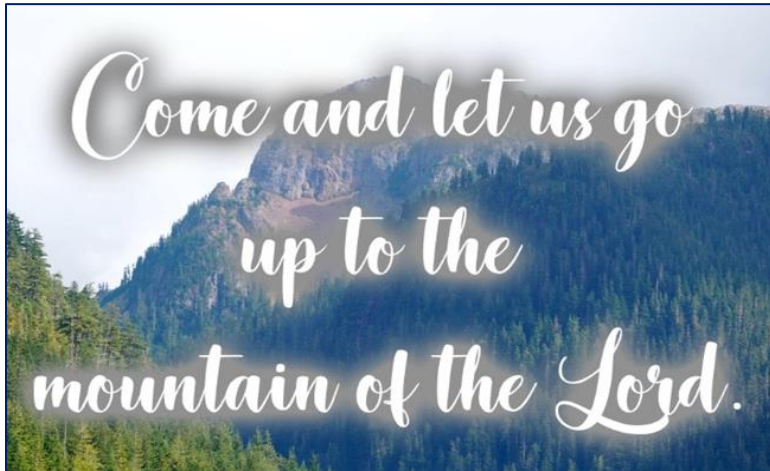
*"Let us encourage one another in prayer".*

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

Zoom Details

Meeting ID: 5648589458

Passcode: 2023



Have a prayer request?

Come to our Zoom version of  
Prayer Summits:

April 24th

May 8th

May 22nd

June 12th

June 26th

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

**[flowministries.general@gmail.com](mailto:flowministries.general@gmail.com)**

## Chili & Chips & Dogs Event

We're planning a series of three Chili and Chips and Dogs events this Summer. They will be held on the **second Saturdays of June, July and August from 1 to 3 pm.**

We wanted to enhance and improve the events that were held in the previous year. First, we will have a healthier food choice of chili. The chili will be combined with toasted bread or could be put on the hotdog to make a chili dog. It's a small addition that we hope will be good for all of us. Second, we will have more games for kids.

Last year, it was fun with bubbles, sidewalk chalk and the playground. With partnership with a church or two, we hope to offer even more. Stay tuned and join in!



## Whom We Serve

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).

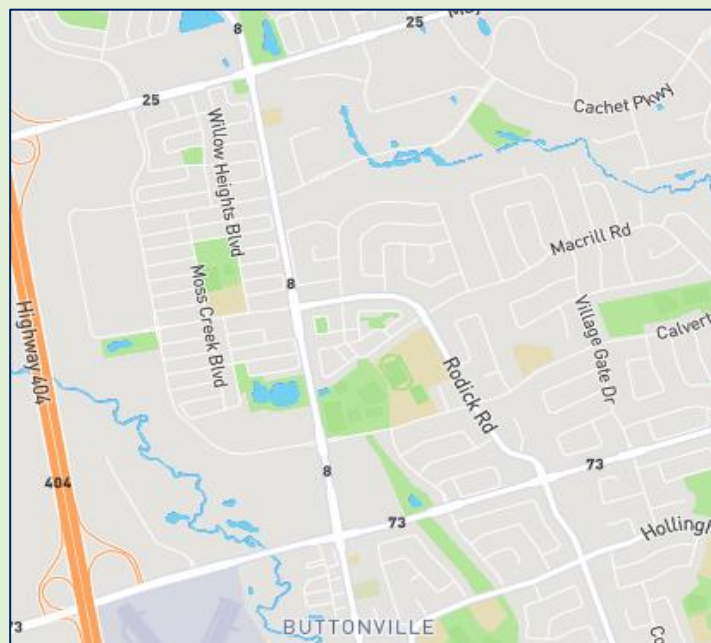
Flow wants to *flow without bounds* to every nook and cranny with living water, reaching all people with the message of the Kingdom.



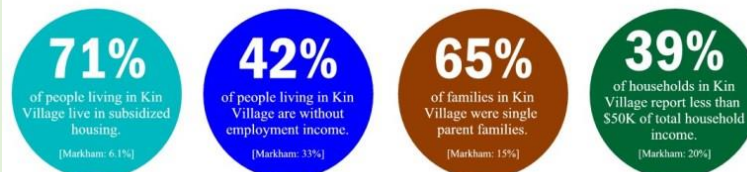
### Our Five Areas of Ministry:

-  **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*)

**Kin Village and Trinity Square** are two communities located north of 16<sup>th</sup> between Woodbine Ave. and Rodick Rd. in Markham.



*Most of the households are on subsidized housing rent and a substantial number of people are in unique circumstances and challenges.*



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



# 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.



YTD OFFERINGS \$10,300

YTD INFLOWS all sources \$11,000

YTD EXPENSES \$15,172

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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://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.  
If you are first time donor, please drop us a note via email: [flow.finances@gmail.com](mailto:flow.finances@gmail.com)