

FLOW

NEWSLETTER



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“Why did I join Flow Ministry’s Board of Directors?”

By Crystal Pang



It started out as simply being curious during the 2023 Flow volunteer retreat. It was mentioned that they were looking for a new Board member and that got me wondering about how the Board functioned, what the Board participates in, and the dynamic between the pastor and the Board.

I regularly attend a larger church, and the governance structure looks very different, so I wanted to learn about it. At the time, my intention wasn’t to join, I simply had some burning questions and Peter and Nelson were patient enough to answer them.

Over time, as I was thinking and praying about whether or not to join the Board, I came to see that it is a way for me to support Flow, Peter, and all the ministries that go on. There are so many stories of individual lives and relationships that the people of Flow are involved in, and I love hearing about how these people are the hands and feet of God.



Being motivated by that, I wanted to be able to support these stories, support the people who are actively building relationships and interacting with the Kin Village community. I have much to learn from the other Board members in what exactly this “support” might look like, but I’m happy and excited to participate.

May God continue to work mightily in the neighbourhood, know Him and His rich love.



Some People are Hard to Love

By Rev. Peter Ma, Executive Director

We all have people in our lives who are hard to love. There are people who have hurt us deeply; people who criticize us constantly; people who grate at our personality; and people who act selfishly and use us. I've seen this in the neighbourhood too. At times, life in the neighbourhood can be a series of conflicts with each other. Sometimes people are hard to love.

But instead of our normal reactions of impatience, judgement or criticism, is God calling us to something more? The way of Christ is about loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). The way of Christ is about serving others and even washing their feet (John 13:15).

In John 13, Jesus washed the feet of two very difficult people in his life. He washed the feet of Peter who was demanding. He washed the feet of Judas who was scheming. But there's another difficult person that Jesus would have chosen to wash. He would have chosen to wash...my feet. That thought doesn't fit with my sense of right and wrong. In the world according to my rules, it shouldn't be that way. But it is the way of Jesus. So which way are we going to choose?

We know that our way and our rules lead to death. We know that we cannot love people in our own strength. But we know that Jesus' love leads to life. So, we keep praying to know how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:18-19).



Reflections from Bernice

By Bernice Tang

As I write my final newsletter article as a community worker and summer intern, I'm deeply moved by the profound hunger for God I've witnessed this summer and the power of working together as a community to share the gospel with everyone. My name is Bernice Tang, and this journey has been nothing short of transformative. From organizing barbecues and community research meetings to mentoring, house church, knocking on doors in Christian outreach, visiting people in hospitals and just being present, each moment at Kin has reinforced the truth that the gospel is indeed the bread of life that satisfies every soul.



Beyond Appearances: Learning to See Hearts Hungry for God

At our July barbecue, I met a young girl who loved sloths, Sabrina Carpenter, and obscure soccer players (Hey Google - who's Ronaldo?). Her mother had stopped attending church due to negative experiences, leaving this girl without a chance to explore faith. But the moment she heard about mentoring, her eyes lit up—not because of the prospect of free food and activities (though that probably didn't hurt)—but because of the possibility of learning about God. This reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." It was a humbling reminder that people are often more open to the gospel than we might think, like this young girl's. Her eagerness, despite knowing little about Jesus, mirrored my own journey—having joined a church only recently. Her story also highlighted the importance of community. It wasn't just me who influenced her; it was another mentee's enthusiasm and the collective warmth and kindness of everyone at Flow that encouraged her to take that step of faith.

One of the most profound lessons I've learned this summer is not to judge someone's spiritual openness by outward appearance. During my visits to Kin Village, I was humbled by the depth of faith I encountered. A woman who spends countless hours in prayer to cope with grief and serves as a church volunteer at a homeless shelter, another who eagerly studies the Bible through YouTube, and many others who find deep meaning in house church—these experiences taught me that even those who may not outwardly express their faith often have a rich inner life with God. As expressed in Psalm 42:1, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." In door-to-door outreach, I braced myself for dramatic door slams (like in the movies), only to be pleasantly surprised to meet people who described themselves as "searching" or "looking for peace." One Cantonese mother and daughter, whom I met early in the summer, were intrigued by Christianity and God's love, seeking but failing to find "inner peace" in their lives. Though they didn't immediately start attending church regularly, I realized that the gospel often works slowly (a lesson in patience I'm still working on), transforming hearts over time.

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Witnessing the Power of the Gospel

I witnessed this slow but powerful transformation in several people. One woman who had isolated herself in grief and anger after her husband's death eventually apologized to her neighbors and began attending house church, where she deepened her faith. Another woman, who identifies as Hindu and initially saw Jesus merely as a teacher, refused prayer. Over time, however, the gospel softened her heart, and she began to pray earnestly, smile more, and appreciate her neighbors. These are the kinds of changes that only the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ—can bring about. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" The gospel transforms lives, filling them with new purpose, joy, and love, as people are renewed in Christ.

Embracing Every Opportunity to Share Faith

One memorable encounter happened while sharing a casual food court "meal" with my family. Two women approached us for roast pork belly rice recommendations, and what started as a casual conversation turned into a discussion about faith. They overheard me babbling about the Bible verse of the day (including its fancy cursive font), and to my surprise, one of the women was intrigued (though not by my font commentary, unfortunately). She shared how she had been turned away from church due to an exhaustive list of "to-dos" to earn salvation. Despite my long day (and the temptation to doze off mid-conversation), I recognized this as God's opportunity to share the true gospel. We explained that salvation is a free gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9), much like a father's love for his daughter—freely given, not earned. Her reaction was one of surprise and eagerness to join a theologically sound church, reminding me that my time at Flow had emboldened me to share my faith even in unexpected places. It was also a reminder that God uses even the most ordinary moments to draw people closer to Him.

United in Spreading the Eternal Bread and Water

This summer has reminded me that we, the Church, are not just a building (or Zoom meeting!) but a body of believers, called to work together to spread the gospel. There were times when I questioned why I should take the initiative if I felt unqualified or if failure seemed inevitable because surely no one would listen. But I've learned that it's not about our strength or abilities; it's about God's power working through us. As Romans 1:16 reminds us, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."

We live in a world where people are deeply hungry for purpose, peace, love, and joy—something only God can truly provide. Jesus said in John 4:13-14, "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." As a community, let's be committed to spreading the gospel together, even to those we might not expect to be interested. Let's ask God to open our eyes to the opportunities around us, and to share His love and truth with everyone we meet.

Thank you, Flow Without Bounds, for the opportunity to serve and grow with you this summer. It has been a transformative experience, one that has deepened my faith and my understanding of the gospel.

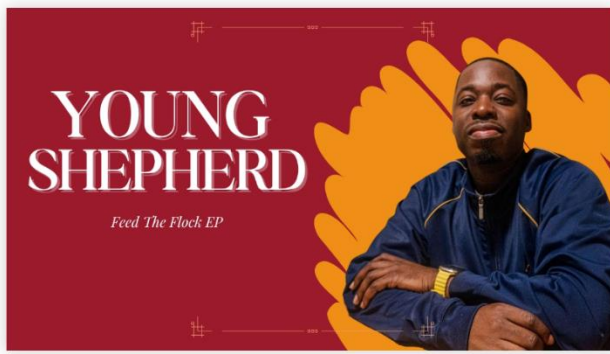
Let's continue to work together, relying on God's strength, to spread the true bread and water that never ends—the gospel of Jesus Christ.





FLOW'S PHOTO GALLERY





Young Shepherd: An Inspirational and Devoted Christian Hip-Hop Artist from Toronto

“Congratulations Young Shepherd on your ‘Feed the Flock’ EP release!”

<https://thisis50.ca/young-shepherd/>

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



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:

November 13th

November 27th

December 11th

January 8th

January 22nd

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

flowministries.general@gmail.com






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).*

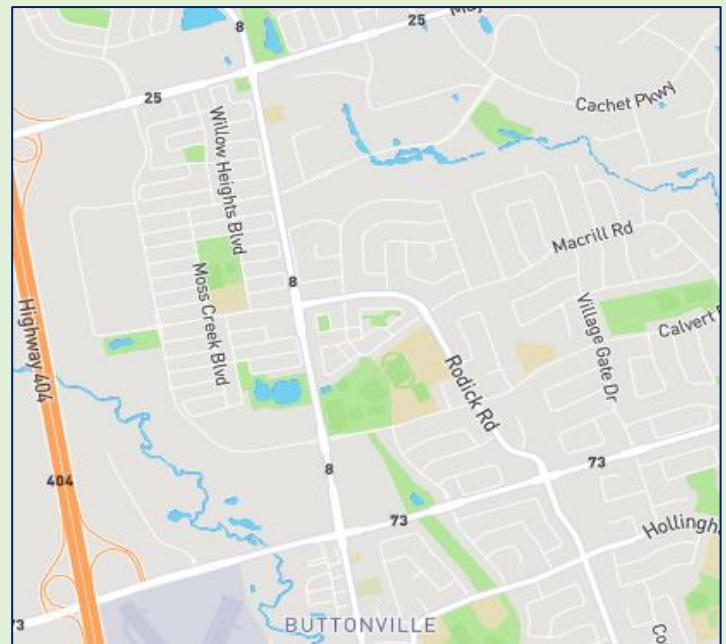
Flow wants to *flow without bounds* to every nook and cranny with living water, reaching all people with the message of the Kingdom.



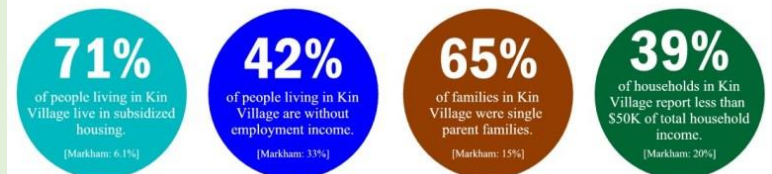
Our Five Areas of Ministry:

-  **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 16th 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

By Nelson Tang

As we celebrated the Thanksgiving season, there is indeed much to be thankful for. In his classic book *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer reminds us to dwell on the significance of Jesus dying on the cross. Most Christians would describe the cross with words like Love, Mercy and Forgiveness. And those are true and wonderful things. But we must never forget the cross also signifies Justice and Wrath. Jesus took the punishment for our sins and God's wrath was satisfied. Brothers and sisters in Christ, dwell on these things often and give thanks for what He hath done!



YTD OFFERINGS \$30,142

YTD INFLOWS all sources \$58,242

YTD EXPENSES \$67,935

***At Flow, we are also thankful for your support in prayers and financial support.
We aim to spread the Good News all over the neighborhood of Kin Village and Trinity Square.
Will you help us achieve this goal?***

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. If you are first time donor, please drop us a note via email: flow.finances@gmail.com