



Cross-Cultural Ministries, Inc.

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“I will remember the deeds of the Lord, yes, I will remember Your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all Your works and consider all Your mighty deeds.” Psalm 77:11-12

Psalm 77 is one of the historical psalms that invite us to relive the history of the Israelites, to remember what our loving, faithful, and merciful God has done. When we reflect upon the works and deeds of God, we are moved to give Him thanks and to worship Him.

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true, it satisfies my longings, as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.

At CCM, we love to tell the story about Jesus. We also have many stories about the people whose lives are being transformed by the love, mercy and grace of God. These are people being touched because of your prayers and financial support. This first story is of a family with whom Gladys and I are working.

Having received a U.S. permanent-resident visa 3 years ago, Cam* and his family left their war-torn country, relatives, and a business to provide better opportunities for their children one day. Because of his extremely limited English ability and understanding, Cam and his family suffered many problems, including unemployment. Because of his inability to understand English, he works very long and physically hard hours for low pay.

When Cam and his family began coming to our classes, he understood “hello,” but he looked to his wife and daughter for interpretation beyond that. Cam's son (5 years old) also could not understand English, because English was never spoken at home. When Cam's son joined our English class, he was scared to leave his parents. He had problems sitting still and being a part of the class. Would Cam and his son stay and learn English?

Our English classes consist of small groups that need basic, survival English. They focus on hearing and speaking English. The English classes include acculturation. During the last 6 months, acculturation has been through:

- sharing Thanksgiving dinner in an American home;
- shopping at Kroger for food and items, such as dog food, garlic, bacon, frozen chicken nuggets, etc;
- a trip to Zoo Atlanta
- dyeing eggs for an Easter egg hunt
- playing board games and working puzzles
- reading Dr. Seuss' books
- hearing about American holidays: their history and why observed, and how they are celebrated

*Cam is not his real name but it is used for the purpose of sharing his story.

Jesus Christ is introduced and shared in various ways, especially as we tell about the American holidays. Field trips are part of the acculturation process and provide motivation for learning more English words. Our next field trip will be the library and obtaining a library card.

Part of our reading comprehension course includes playing board games. They must read the instructions and tell the others in English what is to be done. This activity creates family fun memories for the children and parents who would never know how to play with their children since they themselves have never had the experience. Also, the activity trains the parents to value their children as children and to participate in things their children like to do.

After 6 months of working with him and his family, Cam now is asking questions in English and trying to communicate in English. Praise the Lord! Cam's son runs into our classroom and talks in English, a lot! Both still need much work, but their progress is amazing! Last summer, Cam was so discouraged and unhappy that he wanted to return to his home country, but now he wants to stay in the U.S.

The children are asking for Bibles. We have received money to purchase Bibles for them! The parents are now talking about going to church. We have invited them to go with us to an ethnic church where they can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their native language. Pray that they will go. May the Word of God already shared take root in their hearts and bear fruit in their lives.

Thank you for being a part of transforming the lives of Cam and his family! Your prayers and support are enabling us to equip them and others to become productive and responsible citizens of the U.S., while witnessing the love of Christ Jesus.

Ministry Update

Sandee Sledd has been assisting another ministry with a children's Bible study and been a substitute teacher at 2 elementary schools, which gives her numerous opportunities to minister to children as well as to the teachers. Next month, Sandee will share one of her stories.

Gladys Seaman teaches our English classes and is in the process of preparing training material to mentor others. Gladys is a certified ESL teacher, children's librarian, gifted storyteller, and founder of the Literacy Program in Lowndes County. She taught migrant workers and their children to read and speak English prior to joining CCM. Beginning June 3rd, Gladys begins teaching another English class and mentoring at least one new teacher.

Virginia Cosgrove maintains the ministry to the elderly Cambodian women and their families. She weekly gives the elderly social outings or takes them to the doctors. She assists the families in understanding what the doctors are saying. Virginia assists Gladys in the English classes and is learning the "how to" conduct a class. At the same time, she has various responsibilities in the building upon the foundation of CCM, networking with churches and organizations, and pastoring the elderly and the poor.

Please keep us in your prayers as we respond to the requests coming from other ministries for assistance and training. We want to mentor others so that there is multiplication of reaching out into the community among internationals for acculturations and sharing Christ Jesus.

Thank you,
Virginia Cosgrove
Director

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

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