



COMMUNITY
BIBLE STUDY
CANADA

Newsletter

June 2020

Our mission is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study, available to all.

News from the National Servants Team

Dear Members,

What a year so far!! And how long will it continue in this way? That is the question! We use the expression 'take one day at a time'. Have we been doing this? Most of us probably not: we worry or wonder about the future. We are certainly learning now to put one foot in front of the other, to wait on the Lord.

The National Servants Team is praying that you are adhering to the 'new normal' as we learn to adjust to this new life of washing hands constantly, wearing masks, and keeping our distance. We are praying for your families as you are in your bubble, we pray that it will be a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company, to connect in a new way as you eat together as a family, play games in the evening, and establish a new bond without all the activities usually keep us busy. We pray that at this time you may also experience a new sense of being connected with God. Psalm 29:10-11 "The Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace."

May the rest of your summer be peaceful, and may warm relationships grow within your circle of family and friends.

Landmark for Canada

CBS has come to a turning point. CBS has grown around the world to over 800,000 people, so Canada is now part of a truly global ministry. Praise God that He is faithful as we seek to make disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ. As CBS grew there were many decisions to make about the regions each country was paired with. In the past we have been part of CBSI, The Americas with Shirley Adams as our Regional Director.

As of June 1, 2020 Canada officially became a part of the North America Region along with the United States. Joan Del Brock will be serving as the North American Regional Director and will be shepherding Canada. We will still have the Board and the National Servants Team although their duties might change somewhat and with some new titles. The National Servants Team looks forward to this new relationship of being a Region in North America and working in unity within the whole body. This change will not affect the day to day running of our classes, we will still be gathering to study and learn God's word either on Zoom or face to face. We still have our passion to have everyone in the world in the word, to be confident in the word, to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and repent and have everlasting life.



Joan Del Brock

Zoom

We anticipate that in the Fall CBS will still be meeting on Zoom. The NST is watching closely and preparing for the future whatever it will bring. We want to make sure that everything is in place before we go back to a class atmosphere. Of course, some of these issues will be tied to the host church where an individual class is meeting. Please pray that any decisions that we make will be fruitful and everyone will be protected. Your leaders have been learning the ins and outs of the Zoom system so they are completely comfortable meeting on Zoom and using everything it has to offer.

The NST has been working on a new registration form for online use. This will come in handy if we are still quarantined in September. We are also working on new ways you can pay through your class with E transfer and online with Pay Pal. All this will be done soon and hopefully will make your life easier.

ANNOUNCING:

We are ALL studying the Gospel of John this year!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJy0mfnUDjM>



For Your Consideration

The expression 'we are all in this together' has been used about the virus. Yes, it is true we are quarantined, etc. except that we are at different levels: some are really hurting with the virus, some with loss of income, or loss of jobs. We are praying for all the hurt that is out there. The National Servants Team decided that CBS would not do a Spring Appeal this year which covers many of our year end expenses. We decided that we would pay our Nursery people to the end of the year and pay the host churches as well, as we had made a commitment to use their gifts of love to the children and the churches facilities. If God has laid on your heart to give, please send your donation in a cheque to CBS at 205—370 Steeles Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 6X1 or through Pay Pal <https://www.communitybiblestudy.ca/donate-register/> we would greatly appreciate it.

UNITED IN PRAYER

Are we following the disciples' example at Pentecost?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6RZNaEDnQc&feature=youtu.be>



Please
Pray
for...



Class Partners – We need five people called by God to shepherd our Ontario classes as well as one couple for the Co-Ed classes.

Prayer Partners for classes – These people pray every day for their class with the supervision of the Prayer Chair for their class.

Individual Class positions – Ask God to reveal the people He has called for these positions.

National Director in Canada – Pray for wisdom for the Board on appointing a new National Director. Please be in prayer for wisdom and discernment for the Board as they search for the one that God has called to lead us into the future.

Just One Among 772,435 Stories

“Why don’t you try asking ‘Isa’?” This was a question posed by a friend to the father of a young blind Iraqi boy. The boy was born with no optic nerve, and an eye specialist said nothing could be done to help him see.

Desperate, Jamal and his wife, Aisha (pseudonyms), went to all the Imams and spiritual doctors in their community to see if they would pray for their son, asking Allah to heal him. They did, but nothing happened. There appeared to be no hope.

But one of Jamal’s friends who had left Iraq to live in Greece became a follower of Jesus there. He told Jamal a Bible story about “Isa” (the Arabic name for Jesus) healing the blind. So Jamal went home and told Aisha. Out of desperation they both prayed to this “Isa” to heal their son. **To their astonishment, the next morning they discovered their son could now see!**

This miraculous healing led Jamal and Aisha into a search for their spiritual healing and salvation. However, many of their questions remained unanswered.

For ten months afterwards they cautiously tried to find people who could tell them more about “Isa.” They felt drawn to faith in Jesus, but still didn’t know much about Him.

Jamal and Aisha also started to tell their families what had happened. Their families worried about how the people of their strict Muslim community would react. The concerned relatives urged Jamal and Aisha to take their children and quietly leave the country —and gave them no choice of where to go. They sent Jamal’s family to Iran, believing that by living in such a strong Muslim country they would forget about “Isa,” recant and return to Islam.

But when Jamal and his family arrived in Iran quite the opposite happened. They began sharing their miraculous healing story. Two other families responded with curiosity—they wanted to know more about this “Isa.” Jamal and Aisha shared what they knew, but that was very little.

Searching for answers, Jamal looked on Facebook to try to find somebody to talk to about this “Isa” who restored his son’s sight. **Providentially, Jamal came across a CBS Facebook page, which had a picture of a cross embedded.**

He first reached out through the page seeking friendship. The Facebook page creator did not respond for over a month as he did not recognize Jamal’s name or know about his intentions. But eventually, he decided to respond.

When they connected just a couple of months ago, Jamal asked the CBS person whether he was a follower of Jesus. The man affirmed that he is. So, Jamal and Aisha told their story and asked the man to help them understand who “Isa” is.

The CBS man answered their questions clearly. And before the meeting had ended, both Jamal and Aisha had given their lives to Christ!

Since then, the couple has been studying God’s Word in a CBS class with other families formerly from the same Muslim background. While it could cost him his life, Jamal has proclaimed with conviction, **“I have started this journey, and I will never go back, no matter what.”**

Jamal's story is reminiscent of others in Scripture who were desperate for the healing touch of the Savior: the woman with a blood disorder for a dozen years (Matthew 9); the royal official's son who was on the brink of death (John 4); the man who was blind from birth (John 9). They received physical healing as well as salvation.

It's a remarkable story of people in apparently hopeless situations finding THE Hope of all men and women. Jamal's story is 1 of 772,434 other stories that could be told by CBSI participants, both young and old.

No, that's not a typo! **The global family of CBS outside the USA now numbers 772,435 when the reports from our International Regional Directors on the number of participants in their regions are added up.**

Would Lee and Corky Campbell have ever imagined that from their modest family garage in Bethesda, Maryland, a global Bible study movement would be birthed? Not likely.

Barring setbacks from the Coronavirus, it is highly likely that next year at this time we will be marveling at how many more people are engaging with God and His Word in CBSI!

Much of this growth reflected in the chart is occurring within the Children & Youth ministry in the Middle East/North Africa Region—from which we received the story of Jamal and Aisha —as well as the Sub-Saharan Africa Region.

Your prayers, your financial gifts, and your advocacy for CBSI are helping to make this amazing growth possible.

While the season our world is going through with COVID-19 may be brutal here in the USA and even more so abroad, have faith and hope that God is going to continue to use Community Bible Study participants to lead others to the One who can miraculously heal bodies, hearts, minds and souls by prompting them to pose the question, **"Why don't you try asking Jesus?"**

Please continue to pray and give as God prompts you. You are needed and appreciated!

With Grace To It,

Keith Sparzak, International Director

