

Merry Christmas From Ani

**Now the Lord is the Spirit and where
the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. 2 Cor 3:17**

I would like to briefly tell my story of coming to Canada. I grew up in Damascus and for 25 years I managed the Bible Society Store in the heart of the Muslim district. This is where I learned to love Muslims. In 2014 ISIS was threatening our country, and I had a chance to go to Canada. I was unsure of leaving as I loved my country and my job but as I was praying God told me to go to Canada. He called me to work among the many Middle Eastern people living in Toronto.

The ministry I am involved with:

- Muslim women with the Friendship Kitchen at the Gibson Centre, Markham, ON
- Middle Eastern women's Bible Study at the Gibson Centre
- Prayer Room where people come for personal, individual prayer at the Gibson Centre
- Follow-up ministry with visits and phone calls to individual Muslim women
- Partnering with Chapel Place, Markham, to welcome Middle Eastern newcomers with a dinner and church service
- Discipling new believers, one on one weekly
- Ministry to 30 families in Syria
- Family outreach outings with Friendship Kitchen families four times a year: winter, spring, summer and fall.



Friendship Kitchen and Fall Outing



Prayer Room Ministry



Arabic Christmas Party Gibson Centre

Twenty-eight bustling children from 11 different Middle Eastern families gathered to celebrate Christmas. Yes, many have never experienced celebrating Christmas with Christians.

- Gifts were given to each child
- The gospel was told of how the angels came to the shepherds to proclaim the Good News of Peace on Earth through Jesus.
- One lady who attended said she had never heard the Good News story before, and was very touched by the message and the whole evening of celebration.
- Many of the guests were softened by the evening of music, food, gifts and the Message.

Chapel Place Church Markham

It is a delight to partner with my church, Chapel Place in Markham. There are English and Arabic speaking services and now a service added for newcomers from Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon.

- Two weeks ago we had an outreach ministry with a famous Middle Eastern musician with 300 Arabic people in attendance.
- We are now following up with 40 people.
- I know they were greatly touched by the ministry of the music as they video recorded the songs and posted them on their social media, which is a big step in their circles.



Syria Trip June-July 2024

My heart was so so broken as I went back to Syria for the first time in 7 years. The people are much poorer compared to the time I left in 2017. I was able to work with my church who provided funding to meet the special needs of many people.

- I was able to help 30 families, and I continue to be in constant contact with them from Canada.
- A Christian NGO in Syria can meet the needs of these 30 families. So I am pleased the Lord has placed me in this situation where I can partner with this NGO to provide physical and emotional support for these people.



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Prayer Ministry at the Gibson Centre

God brought a young couple (early thirties) to the Gibson Centre who had arrived in Canada six months ago from Jordan on a study visa. This young couple were both devout Muslims in Jordan and through amazing circumstances after a long journey of seeking had recently become Christians.

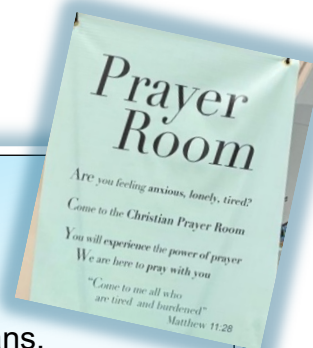
We had a chance to hear their testimony and because they were such young believers they had many questions about Christianity and specifically about the Trinity.

We had a wonderful time of sharing together and explaining who the Holy Spirit is and why Jesus had to die on the cross and send the Holy Spirit to earth to help us. They had both accepted Christ as their savior in Jordan and wanted to get baptized, but they never understood the role of the Holy Spirit

The scripture from Act 8:14-17

"When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John laid hands upon these new believers, and they received the Holy Spirit."

Amy, Tina and I were present, and we prayed for this couple to receive the Holy Spirit. They each had a beautiful sense of the presence of Holy Spirit as we prayed. They felt the love of God and his Glory as we prayed for them. I continue to mentor them in their Christian walk, and they are attending my church on Sunday evenings. 🙏



If you would like to support this ministry, please call MSC directly.
Thank You So Much
Ani Hjr

Serving

Toronto & Middle East

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Arabic Weekly Bible Study Group