

Missional Possibilities with Steve and Sandy and Friends in Etobicoke

Our friends come from the Horn of Africa, and the majority are Muslim. Our friends are among the most hospitable, and generous people on the planet. The primary danger to your person from this mission will be to your circumference, due to the generous amounts of sugar-laden shaah and meals of goat and rice you will likely be served.

Here are a few opportunities for engaging this community.

1. ESL Teaching/Conversation. We participate in an ESL class at the local public school, run by volunteers, for women from the neighborhood. Our 50-60 students on any given day come from everywhere from Chile to Afghanistan to Somalia. We could use a couple more teachers on Monday through Thursday, from 9-11 am.

By far the greater opportunity is for women to engage women in their homes for English conversation. Some want to learn about Canada for citizenship purposes, others want to learn nursing or pursue a career, and others simply just enjoy a cup of tea and learning basic English.

2. Homework help and tutoring: We have lots of opportunities to help kids with homework, ranging from kindergarten students struggling to learn ABC's and phonics to high school and university students needing help with math and physics. There are two primary ways to participate.

If you're more comfortable in a group setting, we meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30 at the Broadview Education Center in the Kingsview Free Methodist Church Basement, at 15 Kingsview Blvd. (1.5km south of 401, just a block west of Islington. If you enjoy hospitality and meeting new people, we'll be glad to introduce you into homes where the children have needs appropriate to your gifts and abilities. This is also a great opportunity for husband and wife teams, or parent and high school student teams to work together. You must have and show us a current vulnerable sector police check for working with children under the age of 18. (If you're over 18 years of age). We will conduct an orientation session, and introduce you to our friends' homes.

3. Mosque Visits. I would be happy to take men interested in opening a dialogue with Muslims, and having an opportunity to share their faith in that setting, to one of the local mosques, or coffee shops as interest and opportunity arise.

4. Bicycle repairs. We have a lot of kids who'd like a bike and can't afford one, and a whole bunch more kids who have bikes and regularly need them repaired. So, we could use:

- a. People on Wednesday afternoons to help fix bikes (until the weather becomes too cold)
- b. An occasional bike marathon - we're thinking early April late March for a bike rodeo, contest, bbq, etc., down at Dixon to open the season.
- c. One big fix-it day at the end of the winter, to repair all the bikes we'll hopefully collect between now and spring.

d. We could use one person from each church to be the bike collector, either storing them until there's a van full in your neighbourhood and we pick them up, or transporting them to Dixon for storage and repair.

e. We could also use a lot of helmets. Very few of the kids in Dixon have them.

5. Occasionally we have opportunities for group projects, like painting etc. Right now there's one elderly lady who needs her old funky carpet torn up and linoleum laid down, and paint applied due to her asthma problems. She has the resources to cover the materials.

6. If God is showing you other ideas and opportunities, please let me know.

7. You can get hold of me as follows:

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8. Thank you very much for al your support and prayers.

Rabbiga Ciise Masiix ha idiin barakeyo aad iyo aad.

Steve Nuur Frieswick