

# Nobleford Christian Reformed Church

## newsletter ~ October 19, 2024

**Note: For the safety and peace of mind of our friends, please do not forward this outside your church circles, post it on websites, or otherwise put it in public forums. Please do distribute this to your congregations, pass on to your church prayer chains, mission committees, and others who will pray for our friends and our work. Please call us if you have any questions. .**

Pressing on in Semi? Retirement

October 2024

As of July 1, we officially joined the ranks of the retired. So far, that's meant spending less time on paperwork, a bit more time with the kids and with each other, and continuing on with bikes, ESL, and coffee shop visits. We're still involved with English teaching to adults two days a week, encouraging our friends, Christian and otherwise, and wrapping up the bike ministry for the season. **Pray** for the coffee shop visits as it seems lately that hearts are harder and ears are deaf than before to the Good News of Jesus. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will wing our words, soften hearts and open ears.

We're grateful for all the bikes donated this year, and for the team of loyal friends and students who refurbished them. Local refugees and other families needing them have been delighted to receive them. For some it's their only transportation. It's been a real blessing to see kids learn to ride and become mobile. One of the challenges this year was that word of mouth advertising had us fielding requests from all across the city. We had way more requests than we had bikes. But for all the people we were able to bless with bikes, we are grateful. Many came back repeatedly, connections were made, friendships built, and stories shared, including one man with whom Steve shared his story and the story of the Prodigal Son. Please **pray** that this man will seek the Father and Son himself.

We, and our bike seeking friends, were blessed with some very capable summer student help during June and July, but they had to return to university in early August. I told them that if they had been Marines I would have involuntarily extended their terms of service by a year or two, but they didn't bite at that notion. We've also had great support from our neighboring church and a couple of other friends for much of the summer. And some fruitful conversations eventuated over bicycles. We get a lot of praise from our neighbours for what we do, which gives us opportunities to deflect the praise to Jesus, and then to share our journey with Jesus that's transformed us. The bike program is formally over for this year but we'll still probably be fixing a few bikes until the snow flies.

Our sharing shack on the front lawn gets lots of traction. Bibles in various languages, tracts, Christian books, toys, games, and puzzles have been very popular with neighbourhood kids and adults. Thank you for your support in providing many of the resources available there. **Pray** for hearts to be opened and changed through the Christian literature and follow up conversations.

Our very fruitful garden and the neighbour's pear trees have been another way to bless our community this year. We were able to share 7 crates of fruit and vegetables with our friends, and along with the gifts to share the reason for the hope we have.

**Pray** for the Christians among our favorite people group. **Pray** for one man in particular whose alcohol use has nearly destroyed his family. **Pray** for God to give him the strength to go down the path of righteousness, and for God to defeat his ongoing drinking. Please **pray** for several of our friends who struggle with mental illness and depression. **Pray** for several broken families. One's daughter has turned to Islam and been ostracized by her family. Please **pray** for her return to Jesus and her family. Another struggling family has bitter rivalry going on. In other words – our friends are human like the rest of humanity, needing **prayer** and encouragement regularly.

A couple of months ago, fatwas (threats) naming one of our friends and their family, and another naming Steve were published on TikTok, calling them enemies of Islam. The publisher named our address as well. One of those friends has stopped coming to our neighbourhood, to attend church with us because of threats spoken against their family. Please **pray** that the man posting the threats will be thwarted, and repent.

The vast majority of our contacts here are friendly and cordial. We are still warmly welcomed and asked to fix bikes, and tutor, etc. Please **pray** for us, in the face of opposition, and (at times) overwhelming requests, to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, bold and gentle, discrete, but not discouraged.

As to the future, please **pray** for God's leading re timing and destination if and where we should move. Whether we continue ministry here or move, our prayer is that God will lead some others to love the Somali people here on a full time basis. Until God clearly directs us otherwise, we are content to stay here being salt and light to our neighbours.

God has provided richly through your participation with us in the Gospel here. Aad baad u mahadsan tihiiin. (You are very worthy of thanks)  
In Christ,

Steve and Sandy

Africa Inland Mission is able to provide us with a retiree allowance as long as funds come in . Contributions are tax deductible .

#### Contact Information

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