



Weekly Bread: HIMN Newsletter Issue: June 2015

6/6/15 West Park

Today we have Paco, Jesus, Douglas, Bob and me.

We served food and drink first. We had about 20-30 migrant workers coming to get food and drink. At the end of event, there were only about 5 people left. Although two workers were especially interested in the preaching, I was little discouraged. In the past, migrant workers would patiently stay until the preaching was over, but this time most of them left in the middle of preaching.

Is it because two people preach for too long? Or were they uninterested in the topics covered? Or have their hearts hardened even though some of them have expressed desire to come back to God?

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. (1 Corinthians 3:6-8)

It is God nurtures the seeds and makes them grow. While we may see nothing from outside, God may be doing something inside people's hearts that we neither fully know nor see clearly.

6/6/15

West Park

6/13/15

Woodridge and
South Gessner
Apartment

6/20/15

West Bellfort

6/27/15

Bellaire
South Gessner
Apartment
Woodridge

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However, we continue to follow our calling, and one day we will each be rewarded according to our labor.

Before departing, the volunteers had a brief discussion. Paco mentioned again that we need a place to meet for Bible study and fellowship to help the migrant workers mature in spirit. Paco has been involved in this ministry for around 5 years. He has seen that though some workers once excitedly accepted Jesus as their Savior, because there was no follow-up from mature Christian brothers and sisters, their spiritual fervor withered. Like infants thrown into busy intersections, they died instantly.

Where is the extra money to find a meeting place? Where are the extra workers? Can we rise to the occasion? It takes courage and faith to go forward!

May God have mercy on us and help us understand His will and, if we find that this is God's will to do more, help us take steps of faith and do what we are supposed to do.

- Wanchan Ohyan

6/13/15 Woodridge and South Gessner Apartment

We planned to have an event at Woodridge, and it turned out that Paco and his church were planning to go to the same location too. We decided to send our volunteer for the week, Kris Tsao, to work together with them, and the rest of crews would go to the apartment at 9707 S. Gessner.

Pastor Oleg, Bob Brown, Douglas and I cruised around the apartment. Douglas said he used to live here and knew this place very well. There were many drunkards and drug abusers around. Gang activities were a common occurrence, and the gang sign was ominously marked on public laundry rooms. Furthermore, there were serious water leakage problems, an abandoned swimming pool, broken AC, and young children with jobless mothers and absent fathers. Many of the people have never heard the gospel and are poor and without hope. That's why many of men are alcoholic or drug abusers.



Broken, deserted swimming pool, a serious danger to kids



Local gang sign in a laundry room

We met a woman with three young children sitting on the stairs outside. Douglas greeted them, and they briefly chatted. The woman doesn't have a job, and we didn't see the husband around. The three young kids were twelve, seven, and four years old. Another son, who wasn't present, had special needs and had developed depression after losing hope, and the mother had no money to send him to therapy.



Woman with four kids (one child not pictured). Far left: Brother Douglas Cardoza; far right: Brother Bob Brown; and second from right: Wanchan Ohyan



The oldest son, who has special needs and depression

We felt so compelled to share our faith and bring hope to these destitute people. Lives in extreme poverty without hope are like lives in hell. We feel that the people's hearts are broken but ready for us to spread the seeds of the gospel.

May God bring the volunteers and money we need for this ministry.

- Wanchan Ohyan

6/20/15 West Bellfort

Today Douglas, Jesus, Pastor Oleg, Bob, and I were here. A brother, one of Douglas's friends, also came to help at this location for the first time.

I prepared fried rice, and Oleg brought a cooler full of bottled drinks. Before the preaching started, we went to different corners to distribute tracts and to invite migrant workers to join our event.

I came upon a young drunk man named Anthony sitting on the ground.



Anthony in brown shirt sitting on the ground and an empty can of beer is on his right hand side. Jesus in blue shirt is taking picture with him.

Anthony was a 35 year old worker from Guatemala who had stopped work as a painter after falling into a drinking problem. There were at least 5 empty beer cans around him. After we talked to him, he began drinking the Gatorade that we gave him.

After I greeted him and gave him the tracts, my heart was moved by this troubled young man, so I continued the conversation with him. He refused my invitation to the event but welcomed my prayer for his wellbeing. I asked God to bless him and asked Oleg to pray for him. Oleg then shared the Gospel and studied Bible verses with him. Anthony was moved, and Brother Jesus came and prayed for him again. Then the man went across the street to the sharing event, talking with other volunteers and getting more prayers of blessing.

Douglas was our preacher this morning. Although no one seemed interested in approaching the preacher to hear the message, there were approximately 20 men who were close enough to hear everything said over the microphone.

Douglas's message this morning compared the actions of Satan to the actions of God. It was a message of warning and a message of God's love. We pray that those who heard will have time to consider the message. Jesus then followed Douglas to take prayer requests.

See the following link to **YouTube** video on our prayer for this young man.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLc1LSiXt18&feature=youtu.be>

Douglas later came and talked to another guy sitting beside Anthony and then to another man who woke up after a nap.



The man, named Abraham, was eating from the plate filled with fried rice and bread we prepared for the event. A third man was sleeping beside him. These two men also came from Guatemala. Other than that, we do not know the circumstances surrounding them, such as why this man sleeping beside Abraham was sleeping in the street in the early morning.

Later, Jesus told us that last time an angry man hit him twice when he tried to invite him to join our event. Douglas also shared that another man once "demanded" that he give him beer to drink. Usually such strong demands come from gang members. He said that we need to pray and be very careful before coming to sharing events because some of the workers have very troubled lives and may do something to hurt us. By God's mercy, grace, and protection, we have yet to encounter this kind of problems. However, we still need continuous prayer for more protection.

- Wanchan Ohyan

6/27/15

Home Depot on Bellaire 8:30-10:00am

We spent some time moving food, drink, table, and tracts to the park. Fortunately, the security guard was absent today. Bob and Douglas set up the table at the usual spot, and when I arrived, I set out to distribute the tracts to the migrant workers. When I came back, Bob and Douglas had finished distributing most of food and drink. There weren't as many migrant workers today, and only about five were listening. There were other bigger groups of migrant workers at other spots, so in the future, I think we should adjust our location accordingly and go to the place where more fish gather. We don't need to stick to one fixed spot.

9707 South Gessner Apartment Mission 11:00am-4:00pm

This event was organized by Pastor Oleg and Pastor Douglas, who prepared for the event. Some of their preparations included distributing flyers, contacting clowns, setting up a moonwalk, preparing hot dogs and drinks, asking youth to help out the kids' Bible club, and bringing name tags and markers for volunteers. Christopher Lopez also brought a lot of drinks. Because the weather was hot, he went to buy a tent for HIMN. He also brought traffic cones to block the traffic. Later, Kris Tsao also showed up, helping pack up the tent and moonwalk and clean up. I really appreciate all the help we receive.



The moonwalk we set up



The new tent

By this time, it was almost 2:00pm, yet no kids showed up. We separated into several small groups to invite kids to come. Bob and I went paired up to knock on doors. We knocked on many doors to no avail, but Bob didn't seem to be bothered and continued going door to door. Luckily for me, Bob was fluent in Spanish, which was the only language most people there could speak.

After a while, Bob and I returned to our gathering spot. There were only 5 kids on the moonwalk, a stark contrast to the 30 kids Pastor Oleg and Pastor Douglas had predicted. Naturally, we were disappointed, but we all understood that today was our first try, and we couldn't expect great results immediately. Everybody was putting in their best efforts and being positive.

We also invited a clown. Some children hesitantly stopped by, but because of their anxiety, only seven to eight kids joined. However, they had a good time. After the clown finished performing and left, the moonwalk activity resumed, and the number of kids increased to about 20. Interestingly, almost all the kids in the moonwalk were boys. Imagine the futures these young boys have as God's children. They will follow a path very different from their fathers' or grandfathers'. What an exciting and meaningful ministry for these kids! Early intervention with the Gospel will help save these young boys' lives and prevent them from going astray.



The clown performing in front of the tent



The clown posing with the kids

After today's event, Pastor Douglas will come back to the apartment on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to do half-hour bible studies. We need volunteers to help him out. May God bless him!

Woodridge

Two weeks ago, Paco's church went to Woodridge to hold a sharing event. Paco has a passion for migrant workers as well. In fact, he was HIMN's director for almost 3 years. While he has since stepped down, he continues going to Woodridge with his church.

Today, Pastor Raul Hidalgo and his team went to Woodridge. We are thrilled that local churches are beginning to take responsibility and help migrant workers in the church neighborhood. HIMN has paved the way for local churches to reach out to migrant workers. May God bless the works of their hands.

- Wanchan Ohyan