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The mission field is here; the time is now!

February 2018 NEWSLETTER

Faith Story: An Interview with Sunny

Sunny, a doctor from China who is spending a year in Rochester doing research at the Mayo Clinic, began to study Conversational English and Medical English at POBLO International Friendship Center in Rochester in March 2017. She joined the Bible Reading Class, started attending church with a volunteer, and was baptized on August 27, 2017.

"It's a happiness for me to share my faith story..."

On China: *I love my country, so I wish Americans would learn more about modern China. I love my hometown Shanghai.*

On POBLO: *When I arrived here, I saw the sign outside of POBLO and saw that English studies were available. Since childhood in China we study English, but that's not enough. We can read and write but not speak. POBLO really helps us improve our English and helps us learn local customs. At POBLO I've been invited to join in things like picking apples, planting flowers, and going to church. What a wonderful place for us!*

The reason I was impressed by the people here is your kindness. In China we struggle to live a better life. It's not easy, so people need to make an effort to get a good job and salary. So when we see people here trying to help each other for no personal gain, it's quite impressive to us. I think it's because all the people here are Christians. Seeing this, I thought if Christians teach you to be kind, and that everyone is sisters and brothers, I want to be a member of the Christians. I hope in the future that all people will believe in God. So I wish the Chinese people will become part of the big family of God.

On Chinese Beliefs: *In my generation in China, most people don't believe in any religion. They choose to believe in science; as the government asks us to do. Many older Chinese people believe in Buddhism. Buddhist followers don't meet every week, but only go to the temple for important days. They light a candle, burn incense, pray, ask for something, and give thanks. At the temples, people pray to different gods. Guanyin, the Buddhist goddess, may let your wish come true.*

On Becoming a Christian:

When I was growing up, not many people around me believed in Jesus. The first time I went to church in China, a university classmate shared several stories with me about Christmas, and told me how she came to believe in Christ. When I went to church with her, I was told there's only one God. Chinese have many questions because we do not understand the exact beliefs of Christians.

The first time I went to church in America was Easter day,

when my teacher invited me. This service gave me encouragement to attend church regularly. Reading the Bible in Chinese, I thought it would be difficult to understand church in English. Surprisingly, I found I could understand the pastor's words. He always speaks clearly and has a story to catch my attention. One day while sitting in church, I asked Sandy, "Can I be baptized here?" Sandy arranged a meeting with the pastor, and he got to know me more. I was told I didn't have to know everything to be baptized, as soon as I believed in God I could be baptized.

*I don't know the whole Bible yet, but I'd like to share God's love with my friends. One of my neighbors came to my baptism, and she wanted to know why Christians do good things for people. When I first told a friend from China that I would be baptized, he said some unpleasant words to me. He said that if I want to get a promotion when I return to China, I shouldn't become a Christian. I didn't want to quarrel with him, so I just invited him. When he came to the Bible Reading class, he said he had misunderstood the church and wanted to know more. **You don't need to convince somebody who doesn't believe, you just need to share your story and happiness, and maybe someday they will believe.** Thanks, POBLO! Our English may not be enough to express how thankful we are for this place and the volunteers!*

Prayers:

Please pray for Sunny as she returns to China in February. "Family is more important than my career. Please ask God to help me with my relationship with my husband, and that my family would be full of love." Pray that Sunny will find Christian friends and fellowship back in China and that she will continue to grow in God's love!

Things We Are In Need Of

- Volunteer receptionists and teachers
- Money to purchase English language curriculum
- Donations for bilingual Bibles
- Kids' picture and early chapter books; DVDs
- Baby clothes and items in good condition
- Winter clothing
- K-cups for a Keurig coffee maker
- Gift cards to Walmart/Target, office supply stores, gas stations
- Prayer