

SUMMER MINISTRY REPORT

August 2023

www.innercityministries.org



“Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

———— Lamentations 3:22

Another summer finishes with great excitement and many new blessings. For many people, summer is the time of flying abroad for a fun vacation, especially in this first summer post COVID restrictions. For ICM it is always the best time to engage all the kids, teens and young adults of our community through various programs. I appreciate each of you and your role in continuing the mission of Inner City Ministries. We all are at our best when we are grounded in the Scriptures, unified in Mission, and constantly spurring each other on.

Acknowledgement

Thank you for contributing to our shared mission with your gifts of God. I am grateful for you and for our partnership in making this happen. Your generosity supports our work of meeting real needs of real people in real places. In the following pages you will read some highlights of ministry impact both individually and socially. Once again thank you so much for your fervent prayer, generous support and love for this ministry.



Summer ministry can be both exciting and challenging. It is always an opportunity to invest in the lives of our next generation in fun and creative ways, but it also comes with challenges like volunteer recruitment, scheduling, and budget. However, by the grace of God this year we are able to host all four of our summer program. And it would have not been possible without the help and support of our volunteer teams, supporters and prayer partners.

Here are some highlights from our Summer Programs:

Vacation Bible School (VBS):



For many years, Inner City Ministries have engaged in the traditional vacation Bible school (VBS), 2 separate weeklong summer ministry outreach program that teaches children about God and is centered on a creative theme. VBS is a wonderful opportunity for kids to learn about God in a fun and relaxed setting.



This year the VBS theme was “Stellar” and was hosted at Inner City Ministries from 7th – 11th Aug for children in K1 to K3 and 14th – 18th Aug for children from P1 to P4. Over 60 kids and 30 volunteers have joined this year. At Stellar, kids discovered how they can shine Jesus’ love and hope in everyday life! Kids participated in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, and collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus’ light all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they’ve learned.

Mini DTS (Mini Discipleship Training School) July 9th – July 15th.



This year we have seven participants from various ethnicities. Three boys were from the drug rehabilitation center. The main theme of this year was 'Wholeness in Christ'. The vast majority of us go to our graves without knowing and understanding who we are. Without being fully aware of our identity, we live someone else's life, or at least someone else's expectations for us. This hurts ourselves, our relationship with God, and others. This year our participants have learned the state of being perfectly well in body, soul (mind, will and emotions) and spirit. This was God's original design for man before the fall and is now attainable through Christ, once we accept Jesus as our Savior. Many have encountered Jesus's love in their life and found the ultimate purpose of being in earth.

I am a new creation

Hi,
My name is Lalit. Currently I am volunteering in Operation Dawn Island (Gospel drug rehabilitation center). Most of my life I spent not knowing Christ and His amazing love. I always thought money and self-gratification are the two essential parts of life but I never felt peace in my life even when I had those. I started hanging out with bad companies and started taking drugs. Under the influence of bad substances, I committed many crimes and I have been in prison multiple times. After many years of drug and crime I came to my right conscience and decided to quit drug. I Joined Gospel rehabilitation center (OPD) where I got this opportunity to reflect myself and God. This is where I came to meet ICM's staff and got the opportunity to join the DTS program.

Although I was serving recovery brothers in OPD, I still had many doubts and questions about God and myself. I struggled to be humble and to discern the will of God in my life. Coming to DTS program was an eye-opening experience. One lesson that impacted me the most was on the father heart of God and the humility of Christ on the cross. Once I was like the prodigal son but I found Christ as a father always there to welcome and accept. I felt a strong sense of belonging and forgiveness while the leaders were washing our feet. I felt that God wants me to be an example of a disciple of Christ for the other brothers with utmost humility in Chris. I thank God for this new life.





KEYS TO POWERFUL PRAYER

For the first-time, Inner-City Ministry was able to host a two-day Women's Conference. Over 30 moms from the community joined the event, to learn about the power of prayer according to the theme "Speak to Your Mountain" (Power of Words/Authority and Identity as Daughters of God). It was very exciting to see our ladies taking part in proclaiming the power of prayer over their kids and coming generation.

Women's conference - July 6th - July 7th



AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

At ICM, We provide after school tutoring program for free with the help of our volunteer teachers and professionals. It was halted for years due to the pandemic. Gradually we are inviting many of our high school students to ICM for help with their homework, especially on math, science, English and Cantonese. It provides us another opportunity to build a trusting relationship with our middle years through the gospel. Currently we have 8 to 10 kids between the ages of 12 and 16 years old.



CANTONESE CLASSES

Language barrier has always been a great challenge for our community members, especially to our moms as they have to deal with all sort of household businesses. We also found many of our moms are free between 10am-12pm after they drop their kids off at school. Therefore we thought it would be very helpful to utilize that time to learn something new. Every year we provide 24 Cantonese classes with the help of volunteer teachers from C&MA Hebron Church. 12 ladies have completed the class this year. It was a great way to share the love of God as we use the word of God to learn some lessons.



GOSPEL OUTREACH

During the time of Good Friday and Easter, ICM invited the community to hear the message of Jesus's death and resurrection through songs, drama and testimonies. Over 60 families joined us. It was held on 7th of April at Community Church Hong Kong.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach programs provide support for struggling individuals and families. It's also a growing area of Inner City Ministries. Community outreach helps bridge the gap by connecting individuals to the help they need while also developing programs to benefit entire communities. Over the past 6 months we have reached hundreds of street cleaners, single moms and unemployed families by providing them, food, medical expenses, rental support and food vouchers.



Journey to Freedom Kingdom warriors



Taking 13 Teens to the “Journey to Freedom (main theme of Kingdom Warriors)” was not an easy task as they have to come out from their comfort zone to learn important life skills through various bible teaching, work duties and discipline. Although it was a challenging week for them away from their homes, they have learned many good things and moreover they have encountered the real hero of their life, which is Jesus.

Hello, my name is Arina, I'm 13 years old. I felt very happy that I came to Kingdom Warriors this year. I used to think that Kingdom Warriors was going to be very boring because I thought it would be lessons after lessons, but after a week, it made me think differently. It was a very fun, exciting & emotional week. There was a lot of lessons that were taught during the week but my favourite lesson that touched my heart was called "Spiritual Warfare", because during the end of the lesson we all had one of the teachers come pray for us, and one of the ICM staff came to pray for me. During the prayer, I felt the love of God because it was a very new experience for someone to pray for me. I saw new changes in my life, before I had never read the Bible, however after Kingdom Warriors I really enjoy reading the Bible that helps me to know God better. Sometimes I ask ICM staff about the word of God which I don't understand. I never thought that going to Kingdom Warriors would change my life. I also went to volunteer for VBS to help kids to understand more about God through songs, dances, bible stories, arts & crafts. I feel very blessed to be a part of ICM family & I hope I can help my friends & family to know about God in the future.



High School Outreach Program



This year we held three gospel outreach program to our high school students in Bethel High School, Concordia Lutheran high school and Kwai Wah Shan College. Over 600 students have heard the gospel and many of them are attending our Friday young adult's fellowship. One Punjabi guy joined our Mini DTS program this summer as well.

Brothers in arms



It's a program to provide fellowship, counselling and encouragement to our ex-brothers, those who have recently finished their rehabilitation program. We found many of the ex-drug users struggle with their daily life temptation that cause them to relapse and follow the old pattern of life. And sometimes they find it very hard to transition back to life in the community life. This is our small effort to gather all those brothers with similar background to provide a safe place where they can share their struggles, feelings and challenges. We do this through the power of Gospel and prayer. We have currently 8-10 brothers meeting twice a month in Inner City Ministry on Mondays.



OUTREACH TO OUR BROTHERS IN OPERATION DAWN ISLAND (DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER)

"The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to counsel." Proverbs 12:15

Hi! My name is Deepak, I truly resonate with this Bible verse. Sometimes we have a tendency to listen to our own thoughts and act upon our own instinct without thinking through all the pros and cons of the issues at hand, and we tend to fail regrettably. I am a husband, a father, a junior counselor by profession therefore advising and decision making are part of my life. So to better myself I enthusiastically accepted the chance to be counseled by Mr. Emanuel, our counseling session was pleasant and very fruitful, it has helped me to understand myself better and has equipped me with what I need to be a good counselor myself. The sessions has help me understand relationship with my family better, especially with my children with whom my interactions weren't that great in the past, most of all, the counseling has sharpened me more and has equipped me better to serve my OPD ministry, my Church and my family.

Twice a month we go to visit our brothers in an Island called Operation Dawn (Gospel rehabilitation center) to provide fellowship, encouragement and one-on-one counselling. This is also a part of our outreach ministry to "downtown" (area under flyovers in the area). In the past six months our main focus has been family reunion and reconciliation for brothers and their damaged relationships because of poor choices.



This summer we have 12 participants graduate from beginner and advance level. 15 new ladies have signed up for our upcoming session that will start from the second week of September. Sewing ministry has always been a great opportunity to reach out to our ladies from the community to engage them, equip them and bring life transformation through Gospel.

Updates on Bimal's health



Bimal is one of our staff looking after Youth and Men's ministry. He has a big heart for the Mission, always efficient to provide help and support to our community members and a humble servant of our Lord Jesus. In March 2023 he was diagnosed with kidney failure in both kidneys and required regular dialysis and a huge financial burden fell on his shoulder. With the help of our supporters and prayer partners we raised HKD 237,000 to support his medical expenses. Later, his family decided to take him to Nepal for the kidney transplant due to the long waiting time in Hong Kong. On May 12th they flew to Kathmandu and admitted in Grande International hospital. On 18th May he had his hernia operation before all the legal procedure. And on 28th of July he had his kidney transplant surgery. His mom donated her kidney for Bimal. Now he is going through recovery and body adjustment process. Pray that everything will go well during this time of transition. Thank you all who supported and prayed for Bimal. Without your prayer and support he would have not be able to have this new life.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- VOLUNTEERS FOR KID'S CLUB
- VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN TUTOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EVERY WEDNESDAY 6-8 PM.
- VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM EVERY MONTH TO STREET CLEANERS AND DRUG ADDICTS.
- VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT AT TEEN'S MINISTRY EVERY SATURDAY 6-8 PM.
- VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUR DAY CARE MINISTRY DURING SEWING CLASSES.
- VENUE FOR OUTDOOR/INDOOR EVENTS, SPORTS AND GAMES.
- MEDICAL FACILITIES, HEALTH CARE WORKSHOP.
- PARENTING CLASSES.