

REALITIES OF MINISTRY DURING COVID-19



As we seek to be transparent, we want to share the realities of ministry at Flow Without Bounds Ministries during COVID-19. Without a doubt, we have experienced some challenges, such as a decline in the number of attendees at our @Home and @Play ministries. We have ministry leaders, volunteers, and even attendees losing motivation, feeling discouraged, and struggling with mental health. Some are Zoom-ed out from the many hours in front of a screen and long for live human interactions. Even visitations to those we care for are minimized, because most of them are considered vulnerable people.

It is during this time that we must realize our real enemy is not the invisible virus being passed around but the devil, who “prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). As Christians, we ought to remember that our battle is not against flesh and blood; we are fighting a spiritual battle. How do we win this battle? Together, as one body in Christ, united by His Spirit. Ephesians 6:18 says, “Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” We ask that you would pray alongside us for spiritual protection and God’s guidance for our many ministries. American evangelist, author, and Bible teacher Beth Moore once said, “There are parts of our calling, works of the Holy Spirit, and defeats of the darkness that will come no other way than through furious, fervent, faith-filled, unceasing prayer.”



We are made for community, and even the strongest amongst us needs encouragement. During COVID-19, we can still support one another while adhering to our governmental guidelines: pick up the phone and let a friend know we are thinking and praying for them; write a personal card of encouragement and send it through the mail; put a meal together and bring it to a neighbour; paint a picture or write a song with a message of hope that is found in Christ.

The realities of ministry are tough and there are days when it is easier to just give up. That is a lie from Satan when we believe we cannot overcome this. Jesus told us, “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). We can take heart with the struggles we face, because Christ has overcome the world—the battle is already won.

RIGHT WHERE WE ARE

After a life-changing short-term mission trip to East Asia, Eric realized the Lord has called him to be a missionary overseas. When Eric shared this news with his wife, they concluded it was not the right time to go because their kids were



still young. Yet, doing missions does not necessarily need to be overseas, Eric found that he could share the love of Christ right in his local community.

Eric joined Mercy Rain in 2019, a ministry that focuses on tangibly assisting the needs of the neighbours in Kin Village. Eric witnessed what it is like to love God and His people under the leadership of Mercy Rain Volunteer Leader, Chester, who became like a mentor to Eric as they served together. Being an introvert, Eric demonstrates love by doing things, but when it comes to building relationships and getting to know the other person, Eric would say, “Chester, talk” and just listen to the dialogue. However, due to COVID-19, Eric was left on his own and had to break out of his shell.

Eric was able to practice this skill with Wendy*, a neighbour in Kin Village, who is bed ridden

and requires someone to shop and cook her meals. During dinner, Eric intentionally connected with Wendy and was touched by her life story. Eric was encouraged by Wendy’s continued cheerfulness despite going through unimaginable hardships. He learned that everyone has a story and, as a Christian, we should seek to be an encourager and show love. John 13:35 says, “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” From Eric’s story, we do not need to go overseas to love people, we can do it right where we are.



*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individual

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER



Last September, when a new mentee was going to join her Stream Mentoring group, Star* knew it had to be Amanda*. Although the two are a year apart, Star felt like an older sister to Amanda as they walked to school and played in Kin Village together. After one

mentoring session, Star received news that Amanda’s mom would not allow Amanda to continue in the mentoring program, and on top of that, Amanda did not want to be friends with Star anymore.

Going to mentoring alone the week after was rough for Star. Her mentors Lydia and Jess noticed that Star was not her usual self. During the session, Lydia told of a time when she and a friend had an issue that severed the friendship, and how that friendship was eventually restored. Then Jess shared when the same thing happened to her too. Afterwards, Jess asked Star what was something that she and Lydia did when they encountered problems with their friendships. Star immediately answered, “Prayer.”

Lydia and Jess shared with Star the importance of prayer. Even though it may not be immediate, God is the one who can restore friendships. They encouraged Star

to pray for Amanda every time she thinks of her, being patient and trusting in God to answer.

Over the next days, weeks, and months, Star remained steadfast in praying for Amanda. There were talks of replacing Amanda, but the mentoring group believed God would bring Amanda back in His time. Ten months later, Star and Amanda are not only thriving in their friendship, but Amanda got permission to return to mentoring—even in the midst of COVID-19. Star learned that in all things, she could bring her problems to God who cares for her, hears her prayers, and will answer according to His will.



*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individual

MEET OUR HUSBAND & WIFE VOLUNTEER DUO @ FLOW

Couples who serve together, stay together!

May their loving testimony encourage you and your loved ones to serve in ministry together!



Meet
Becky

Meet
Allan

How long have you been married?

41 years this August!

How long have you been serving in Flow?

Since Fall 2018

What area(s) of Flow do you serve in?

Stream Mentoring Coaching

Mercy Rain

What did you learn from serving in Flow?

The ministry in Kin Village is very different. There is a tremendous need out there and we do not need to travel overseas on missions to serve. We can do it every day in our own “backyard.”

How has serving challenged and/or encouraged your marriage?

Although we are part of different ministries in Flow, Allan would attend Stream Mentor Coach meetings, where he contributes with some constructive comments and strategies. Similarly, Becky aided Allan with the logistics for Mercy Rain in getting some of the Christmas hamper’s items. We found that serving together has not challenged our marriage; rather, it has strengthened our marriage as we have a deep understanding of each other by being involved with one another’s ministry.

What encouragement(s) would you give to Christian couples considering to serve together in ministry?

We would encourage Christian couples to do ministry together instead of doing their own thing. Almost like raising a child, it is best to do it together. Not only when you serve together do you share common goals, there is also a level of accountability as we call each other out when one of us is out of line. Even after 40 years, we still enjoy doing things together!

What is a go-to Bible verse for your marriage?

“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
1 Corinthians 13:13

What is a fun fact about you two?

Becky likes to paint and Allan likes to critique her painting, even though Allan does not know how to draw for the life of him. Allan likes to do bonsai and Becky likes to critique his bonsai even though she does not know anything about it.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We are always looking for
VOLUNTEERS
in our many ministries!



Want to find ways you
could serve with Flow?

Send us an email:
flowministries.general@gmail.com



Join our Lighthouse Zoom
Meeting every Sunday
7:30-9:00pm

For Zoom ID login to these meetings, email us:
flowministries.board@gmail.com

Have a prayer request?

Come to our Zoom version
of Prayer Summits:

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Aug 12 | Oct 14 |
| Aug 26 | Oct 28 |
| Sept 9 | Nov 11 |
| Sept 23 | Nov 25 |



Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Pray for the survey that we are planning to conduct to discover the needs of the Kin Village neighbourhood.
- ◆ Pray for how we can grow and develop Mercy Rain as we tangibly care for the residents at Kin Village.
- ◆ Pray that more people at Kin Village can be included in a Lighthouse (house church community) in a safe and healthy way.
- ◆ Pray for mentors to have wisdom as they adhere to government health and safety guidelines when they meet with their mentees.
- ◆ Pray that Currents meetings and Songwriters meetings would be maintained with joy and hope in God's plans.

How to Give:

Thank YOU for contributing to Kingdom work! Whether you support Flow Without Bounds Ministries through praying, giving, or serving, we greatly appreciate YOU!

Send Us a Cheque:

21 Sainsbury Road
Markham ON
L6C 2H9

Give via Interac e-Transfer:

Send your donation to: flow.finances@gmail.com
Email the password and your name and mailing address to: flow.finances@gmail.com
(You only need to send us this information once for our record.)

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