

Feature Article

Finding My Way

Raymond Lee



Finding our way in this world is not easy. It can be by a lot of trial and error, working our way through other people's obligations on us while trying to discover our own passions and talents. It may be a process of trying to make sense out of all the voices in our heads. These voices may be conflicting too, so we can get confused, bogged down, or even depressed from not making progress in our lives. This is the normal process of maturity, or adulating as some like to call it. It is a process of trying to find oneself, and in doing so, discover one's internal voice in the midst of everyone else's voice.

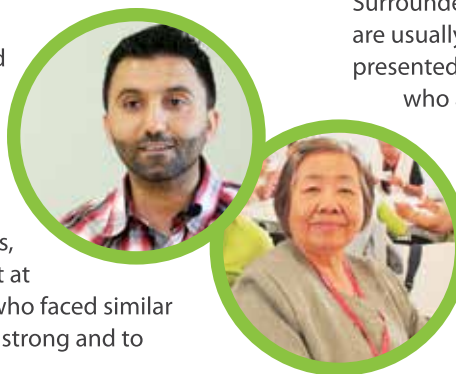
This process of discovery is not an easy task. It often takes years, if not decades. It may be out of our control too. It may require us to uproot what we hold dear or familiar. It may require us to leave our place of comfort, often reluctantly. Or it may have the positive benefit of leading us to a place of relief because we can say finally I know who I am becoming to be.

Celebrating Community

In the past, our community had welcomed many new users into our midst. Each person has a different story. How did they find their community here?

Jack, who uses our Food Bank, also played basketball in our gym where he met new friends. Together, they formed a basketball league and entered into a competition in which they won a prize!

May, who has mobility and eyesight issues, would usually spend her day at home. But at the Centre, she found a group of friends who faced similar problems and they encouraged her to be strong and to



participate more in our older adult programs!

Many Syrian families attended our Arabian Cultural Night. Surrounded by people from a similar background, those who are usually quiet became jubilant and excited! They proudly presented their music, dance and cultural activities with others who are not from that culture.

Regardless of what your circumstances are, we strive to a welcoming community for you, a place where you can experience joy, acceptance, safety and belonging. Visit www.105gibson.com today and see how you can join one of our many programs!

– Written by 105 Gibson Reporter



Our Mission is to serve the locals and those in need, and to share with them the compassion and hope of Jesus.

– Luke 4:18-19, Micah 6:8

MY experience with 105 Gibson

Paying it Forward

Jenny Azad Oghli

Arriving in Canada as a refugee from war-torn Syria four years ago, Jenny was eager for a new adventure here but cultural, financial and linguistic barriers hindered her family to housing, food and education. However her greatest concern was her two young daughters who longed to see their friends in Syria. They could not adjust to school or make new friends in the first few months.

Her husband Aris found out about the 105 Gibson Food Bank and soon after their first visit, Jenny received an email from the Food Bank Manager Lok Ping as she followed up to see if they had other needs to be addressed. This surprised Jenny as other food banks do not take this follow up measure with their clients. She felt appreciative that the 105 Gibson staff and volunteers genuinely cared for them as a friend.

In 2018, Jenny enrolled in the Social Services program at a local college and also started working part-time at 105 Gibson to assist with calling Arabic-speaking clients. Because of her past experience as a refugee, she is sensitive and can personally relate to new comers' needs. Gradually her duties expanded to include translating flyers into Arabic, maintaining weekly visit statistics and assisting Lok Ping during new clients' initial in-take interview. She also attended the Citizenship Preparation class and Friendship Kitchen with the clients so she could gain

some experience teaching as well.

On days when a WoodGreen Community Services settlement worker was here, she would shadow her and learn how to assist clients in coordinating social services. Jenny aspires to becoming a settlement worker and what better way to practice what she learns at the Centre!

Most recently, Jenny led the planning and execution of the Arabian Cultural Night in August which promoted the Arabic culture to the non-Arabic community. She learned to take responsibility and gave her much joy in sharing her culture with others.

Today, Jenny affectionately calls 105 Gibson her second home, where she is warmly welcomed, deeply cared for, and positively contributing towards a friendly environment for other new comers whose past mirrors hers. Most importantly, she is being a strong role model for her daughters to persevere and be strong in a country that means peace, safety and happiness for them all.

-- *Written by 105 Gibson Reporter*



A Taste of God's Love

Life Transformation Group
Richmond Hill Christian Community Church

Richard and Sylvia began leading a small group three years ago. Together with the group members, they hoped to put biblical teachings into action by serving the community on a long-term basis. But it was not easy to find such opportunities. They heard about the need for volunteer cooks at 105 Gibson

Centre Youth Services' A Meal Together and they are now in their third year serving once a month with about seven group members.

With a tight budget, the biggest challenge was to prepare a dinner that could satisfy the appetite of 70 meat-loving youths. Fortunately, the team members are



bargain mavens, who managed to find ingredients at discounted prices to prepare three dishes within budget every single time. The team experienced the providence of God like in the miracle of five loaves of bread and two fishes. As the team members are housewives with their own cooking habits, there were worries about handling differences of opinion. But in fact, all things worked together in the beauty of serving.

Last year, they were invited to attend A Meal Together's Christmas celebration. Some youths shared that they had no clear goals in life, but through A Meal Together, they found life's purpose through faith. Some of the youths began to realize their ability to give, taking initiative to help out in the kitchen and coming back to volunteer in their university years. Youths now know they are loved and their lives are valuable and purposeful. Richard and the team witnessed the transformation of their lives, and affirm that this is worth their efforts. They hope the youths will not merely enjoy the delicious dinner, but also have a taste of God's love! -- *Written by 105 Gibson Reporter*



105 Gibson in Action

105 Gibson partnered with WoodGreen Community Services for the first time to offer **Citizenship Preparation classes**.



105 Gibson Cultural Cafe held a **Pottery Night** in July and August where participants created their own pottery cup.



Grace Melodia organized a benefit concert called **"The Best is Yet to Come"** with ZION NOiZ performing. Concert raised about \$20,000 for the Centre.



During our first **Arabian Cultural Night**, Arabic-speaking users shared their culture with others through Middle Eastern cuisine, music and dancing.



Bake and Take with Stone Yu from Lucullus Bakery who showed participants how to bake pineapple buns and coconut buns.



Doors Open Markham on September 7. Visitors toured the Centre and learned about our mission in blessing the community.



Our neighbours received free clothing and other items in our **Clothing Giveaway** event in August.



Upcoming Events

105 Gibson Cultural Cafe Arts and Crafts Night

Friday October 11, 25, November 8 and 22 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Follow simple instructions to paint an art piece or create greeting cards. \$35 for one night or \$120 for four nights. Materials included.

Let's Talk Careers

Thursday October 24 from 4 – 9 pm

Learn to prepare for college or university application and explore different career opportunities with employees from various professions. Free dinner at 7 pm. Register with Julie Zhang (416.567.4026) before Oct 17.

Abundant Life Institute Wellness Consultation Day

Saturday October 26 from 10 am – 4 pm

Activities include Traditional Chinese Medicine consultation, massage, medicine consultation, health talks, blood sugar and blood pressure test, praise dance. Free admission. All are welcome to attend. Free admission.

Thrift Store Sidewalk Sales on Christmas items

Saturday October 26 from 9:30 am – 4 pm

50% discount on everything except marked items. Regular opening hours are Wednesdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 pm.

Abundant Life Institute Talk

Thursday November 23 from 2 – 4 pm

Topic is "How to Improve your Health and Shape". Learn about the importance of having a healthy body structure and how to improve health and shape. All are welcome to attend. Free admission.

Abundant Life Institute Christmas Lunch

Thursday December 5 from 12:15 – 2:30 pm

Theme is "Christmas is the Time to Love". Program includes lunch, singing, message, drama, games music presentation, special testimony and prize draws. All are welcomed to attend. Tickets are \$12 each and available at the Centre before December 1.

Community Christmas Celebration

Saturday December 14 from 5 – 9:15 pm

Tickets: \$14 for adults; \$7 for children 3-12, free for children 3 and under. Buy your ticket at Centre reception before December 7.

A Meal Together Christmas Celebration

Thursday December 19 from 3:30 – 9 pm

Youth aged 14-22 are invited to join. Sport games begin at 3:30 pm. There will be games, music, karaoke and dinner at 6:45 pm. Free admission.

For inquiries or registration, please visit Centre reception, call 905.946.8787 or email info@105gibson.com

Supporting 105 Gibson

We welcome you to join our efforts in blessing the community through partnership, donations, and volunteering. Visit our website for more information.