

## **Willowdale CRC- Farsi Fellowship Update – Spring 2025**

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We are deeply thankful to God for the continued growth and flourishing of our Farsi Fellowship. Over the past few months, we have witnessed an increasing number of Farsi speakers being drawn to the love, peace, and truth of God, finding a spiritual home within our church community.

By the grace of God, this ministry continues to be a beacon of hope and healing, as hearts are transformed, and lives are touched by the Gospel. We are especially encouraged to see new believers being nurtured through discipleship, prayer, and worship, and walking in deeper relationship with Christ.

We have continued to gather weekly for our Farsi Fellowship Bible studies every Thursday evening, with the faithful support of Pastor Greg and WCRC's Church Council. We recently completed an enriching study of the Belgic Confession, led by Pastor Greg, and begun exploring the Book of James, diving deeper into its practical wisdom for Christian living.

We are also excited to start a new Baptism class cohort for over 40 of our recently joined members. Alongside this, some of our newly arrived and baptized members have joined a foundational Bible study focused on the Gospels. This group is learning about the structure of the Bible, how to navigate its books, and is currently reading through the Gospel of Matthew together.

In addition to our weekly gatherings, several discipleship initiatives are taking shape. We've brought together a small Farsi Fellowship choir, made up of 10 women who have a heart for worship. They have begun practicing together and will be preparing to serve during upcoming events and worship gatherings.

We are also in the process of developing a growing library of Farsi-language readings and audio narrations of Creeds, key theological works and Biblical teachings, with over 12 projects completed to date. Currently, 8 FF ladies are actively participating in this Audio Reading and Narration group as part of our ongoing commitment to discipleship at WCRC. Projects include "The Heidelberg Catechism", "the Athanasian Creed", "Nicene Creed", "Canons of Dort", "Questions and Answers from the Bible," by Dr. Peter Masters "Who Is Jesus?" and "What Is the Bible?" by R.C. Sproul, "What Is Christianity?" by Dr. William Miller, among others.

Our commitment to accessibility and engagement has continued by translating weekly and special services' liturgies, Bible study materials, and other key resources into Farsi. Simultaneous translation of Sunday services and Bible studies has also been ongoing, ensuring that our Farsi-speaking members are fully included in the life of our church. In addition, our Telegram Bible study channels have been updated daily, providing ongoing Scripture reflections, study materials, and encouragement for spiritual growth throughout the week.

This spring, we also had the joy of celebrating Norouz, the Persian New Year, as a community. Over 15 Farsi Fellowship members took part in planning and organizing the event, which was filled with cultural celebration, food, music, and heartfelt fellowship. It was truly a beautiful expression of joy and unity in Christ.

Please continue to pray for this vibrant and growing ministry, that it may remain rooted in the Word, empowered by the Spirit, and guided by God's love as we welcome more Farsi-speaking brothers and sisters into our church family.

With sincere gratitude

In His name!

Respectfully yours

Nasser Zand and Sylvie Charliekaram