



Spiritual Growth Ministry

Highlights from 2022

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A note from Nasser and Sylvie

We are blessed and humbled by the ways that the Lord has continued to guide and bless us. We stand in awe and wonder as we continue to see His faithfulness and wondrous work through and within us, as His humble servants. Serving His people at WCRC and globally through our ministry and work at Spiritual Growth Ministry has continued to bring joy and blessings to our lives. By shepherding and discipling new Farsi speaking believers and seekers throughout their new faith journeys in Christ, we have continued to learn and grow in our faith everyday.

Praise and Glory be to God!

Jesus tells us: *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.*

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as



the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10: 11 –15

It is with great pleasure and blessing to share this annual report on behalf of Spiritual Growth Ministry.

Our Mission:

The Spiritual Growth of Farsi speaking Christians and seekers through the teachings and commands of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

Farsi speakers grow into an authentic life changing experience with Jesus Christ and His church.

Our core values:

Honoring God: Honoring and worshiping God in all aspects of our lives and existence is our highest priority.

O Lord, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

Isaiah 25:1

Faith: We trust God and have full confidence in Him.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

Gratitude: Gratitude resides in our lives and ministry. It gives us the power to rest in any situation with grace, dignity, and hope.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Love: We share God's love through our relationships and are transformed by it.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

Prayer: Prayer is our great privilege as we seek God while expressing our love to Him.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

James 5:16

Fellowship: Coming together as a Christian Community is where we most deeply experience God's love and grace throughout all stages of life.

Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near

Hebrews 10:25

Our core values (continued):

Spiritual Growth: Spiritual Growth is a life long journey that we encourage and pursue together; becoming like Jesus Christ is our final goal.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3

Service: All People are of tremendous value to God; reaching them with the Gospel and serving them with a servant heart and humility is our distinct responsibility.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

By the grace of God, SGM ministry has continued to grow and encourage, support, train and disciple Farsi-speaking brothers and sisters, preparing them to enter the family of God which is the church. This work is done by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through fellowship, continuous learning, discipleship, servant leadership and spiritual growth. We have reached out and served Farsi-speakers not only in the context of WCRC (our home church), but also around the globe through different Holy Spirit led initiatives during the past year.

Throughout the year, daily communication (both in person and virtual) with Farsi speaking brothers and sisters to support and address their needs has been ongoing. Daily discussions and Q & A on Biblical teachings and scripture readings have been ongoing in group settings and virtual social media channels.

We also continued to work on cultivating new partnerships and building upon existing ones during the past year. A partnership with Working Women Community Centre which the largest Settlement Agency serving new comers and refugees in Ontario and was already informally established, continued to grow and become a formal partnership this year. This partnership has helped us to refer newcomers to also receive settlement services in a meaningful and timely manner.



SGM 2022

Activities

WCRC Farsi Fellowship weekly activities

As part of goals and initiatives at Spiritual Growth Ministry, and our calling as servant leaders for the Farsi Fellowship at WCRC, we have continued our weekly discipleship and Bible learning sessions every Thursday evening at 7 pm.

During the past year we held the following sessions:

- ♦ The Seven Deadly Sins series by Pastor Greg Sinclair
- ♦ The Beatitudes series by Pastor Greg Sinclair
- ♦ Study of the Book of Genesis
- ♦ Settlement Information Session in Farsi by Shahla Zendegani MSW – from Working Women Community Centre
- ♦ Study of the Gospel of Matthew (ongoing)
- ♦ Open discussion and Q & A time

Other activities at WCRC:

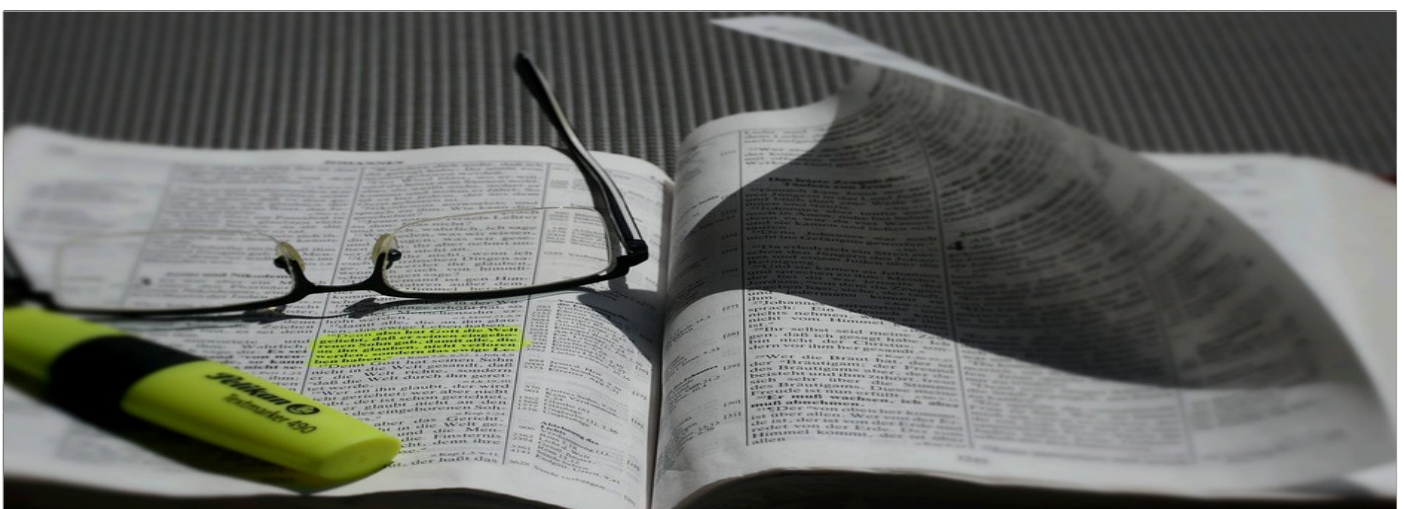
- Simultaneous translation of sermons and the Lord's supper on Sundays (started Oct, 2022)
- Translation and dubbing of sermons by Immanuel Media to be posted on social media.



Bible Study Telegram Channels and Farsi Fellowship Groups at WCRC

As part of our ongoing discipleship training at WCRC and beyond, the following Telegram channels/groups/teams have continued to be active on Telegram for Farsi fellowship members at WCRC, as well as other Farsi-speaking new believers and seekers around the globe.

- ♦ Basic Bible Study (Telegram Channel)
- ♦ Intermediate Bible Study (Telegram Channel)
- ♦ Advanced Bible Study (Telegram Channel)
- ♦ Spiritual Growth Ministry (Telegram Channel)
- ♦ Spiritual Growth Ministry Virtual Library (Telegram Channel)
- ♦ Farsi Fellowship Women's Group
- ♦ Farsi Fellowship Knock Day Team
- ♦ Farsi Fellowship daily scripture reading



Basic Bible Study (Telegram channel)

This channel has been created for new seekers/believers who have a very basic knowledge from the Bible. It shares teachings from the book of Genesis up to the book of Revelation in short videos and articles (Bible Project videos translated and dubbed in Farsi), which include all the Books and characters in the Bible. The latest project shared on this Channel was the New City Catechism **52** question series which have been translated and dubbed in Farsi. This channel has **149** subscribers following through the basic Bible teachings on daily basis.



Intermediate Bible Study (Telegram channel)

This Channel includes teachings about Christian apologetics and different denominations. It also includes an in-depth study about the church and its historical background.

This channel has **152** subscribers following the teachings on daily basis



Advanced Bible study group (Telegram channel)

This channel includes different perspectives and world views from both Farsi and English-speaking Theologians and scholars, presented through short videos and articles.

This channel currently has **135** subscribers following the lessons , videos and articles on daily basis.



Spiritual Growth Ministry (Telegram Channel)

This Channel includes various Theological topics and in-depth discussions. Two other Farsi speaking churches in Toronto, one church in Montreal and one in BC, also ministries in Turkey, Germany, Belarus, Sweden and our friends in the USA are accessing the Channel and using the materials in their Bible Study groups.

In terms of their Theological value and relevancy, the above-mentioned Bible teachings are at a higher level, and in terms of equivalency are at the level of a Theological studies diploma and even bachelor's degree.

This channel has **375** subscribers from all over the world and the numbers keep growing everyday.

The logo for Spiritual Growth Ministries (SGM) is displayed. It consists of the letters 'SGM' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the 'M' is a small, stylized icon of a plant with roots and leaves. To the right of this icon, the words 'SPIRITUAL GROWTH' are written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, and below that, the word 'MINISTRIES' is written in a similar font.

The Spiritual Growth Ministry

Facebook page also has **615** followers and almost **5000** followers on Nasser's Facebook page, and includes daily posts on Biblical teachings, articles, video and audio files of sermons from the WCRC preaching team and other world renowned preachers, in addition to other Christian world views based on the most updated and relevant topics.

SGM Virtual library (Telegram Channel)

Over 4,000 books (translated in Farsi) are available on this Channel. It is one of the best virtual Farsi Christian libraries, the books are carefully gathered and posted on this virtual platform on ongoing basis.



WCRC Farsi Fellowship ladies' Group

The Farsi Fellowship Women's Group is a Telegram group created for the Farsi Fellowship ladies to engage and communicate with each other on daily basis. Ongoing activities such as ladies only Picnics and Coffee hours are organized on ongoing basis. The group has over **75** members and the ladies stay in touch by sharing daily greetings, devotionals, worship songs, slides, videos, Bible verses, and other relevant topics.

Other Biblical teachings especially designed for Women are also shared through video and audio files on this group on daily and weekly basis.



Farsi Fellowship daily scripture reading group

This small group started in June 2021, with the goal of reading the Bible in one year. It has continued to run for the past two years with daily Bible readings posted everyday at 9 am. This year the Bible readings are based on WCRC's congregational scripture reading plan for the year.



WCRC Farsi Fellowship

Knock Day



The Knock day Team continued their activities this year by holding special Easter and Christmas day events. Inspired by *Revelation 3:20* the initial idea which was originally and humbly proposed and initiated by Nasser during COVID times in 2020. The idea was to knock at the doors of our beloved congregation members and share our love and care by presenting a small gift, and a card as a token of love and appreciation, as most people felt more isolated and lonely at that time. With all the positive feedback and blessings we received, this initiative continued this year by putting together Easter baskets, Christmas cards and small gifts for children.



Golrizan

This online auction new initiative started this year based on an ancient Iranian tradition as an act of love and compassion to fundraise, support and bless the broader community. Golrizan literally means pouring out of flowers or pouring out love for your community. It is a fundraising activity to bless community members in need. It is considered to be a tradition inspired by the Whitsunday celebration which is a special day celebrated to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples and the celebration at Pentecost.

Spring Activities and Gatherings

Nowruz celebration and lunch – March 2022

Baptisms at WCRC – April 2022

Commissioning and sending service as international missionaries (Resonate Global Mission) held by WCRC – April, 10, 2022

First Session of Discussion and Q & A time at WCRC

with Pastors Greg Sinclair and Syd Hielema , May 2022



Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

Questions & Answers
&
Discussion time

پرسش و پاسخ
و گفتگو

Our Pastors
Pastor Syd Hielema, Pastor Greg Sinclair,
Pastors Lesli and Tom Van Milligen

سید هیلما- گرگ سینکلر- لزی و تام ون میلی گن

Saturdays: May 14, Sep 10, Nov 12, 2022
7 to 9 pm

شنبه ها ۱۴ می، ۱۰ سپتامبر و ۱۲ نوامبر ۲۰۲۲
۷ الی ۹ شب

Address: 70 Hilda Ave, Willowdale, ON, M2M1V5



Summer Picnics and Gatherings

African Lion Safari day trip – May 14, 2022

St. Jacobs day trip – June 18, 2022

Joint Prayer & Worship/Picnic with Mohabat Church at
Kawartha Lakes- July 16, 2022

Mary Lake Picnic- July, 2022

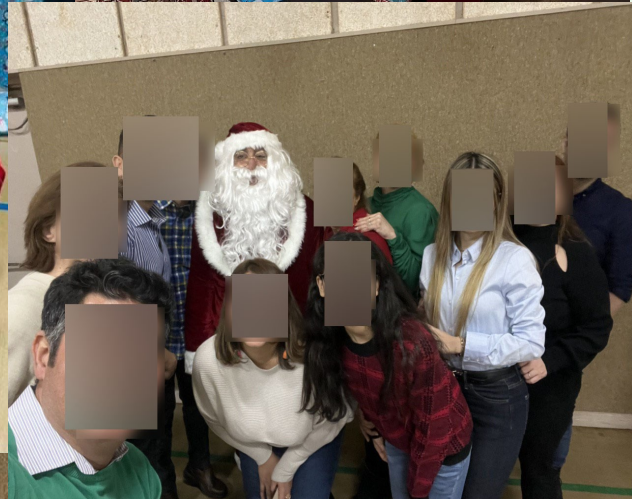
Men's group fishing trips & Women's group Picnics–July/August
Port Perry Picnic August 20, 2022



Fall SGM/WCRC Fundraising Dinner and Arts and Crafts Sale (held in partnership with WCRC Farsi Fellowship- October 29, 2022



Christmas Day Celebration (held at Willowdale Christian school in partnership with WCRC Farsi Fellowship – December 25, 2022





More on SGM 2022 Activities....

Resonate Global Mission initiatives

As part of the 2022 innovation experiment leaders for our last innovation project we attended the in person gathering in St. Charles, Illinois at the Q Center (near Chicago) from June 22 to 25, 2023. We are blessed to be amongst the successful ministry recipients of a new grant for yet another innovative experiment for this year as well.

In September 2022, we also attended the first annual Diaspora Leaders' Retreat at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre which was held as a joint partnership organized by Classis Toronto of the Christian Reformed Church, and Resonate Global Mission.

We had a blessed and encouraging time of worship, discipleship fellowship, mutual support and sharing of successes and burdens.



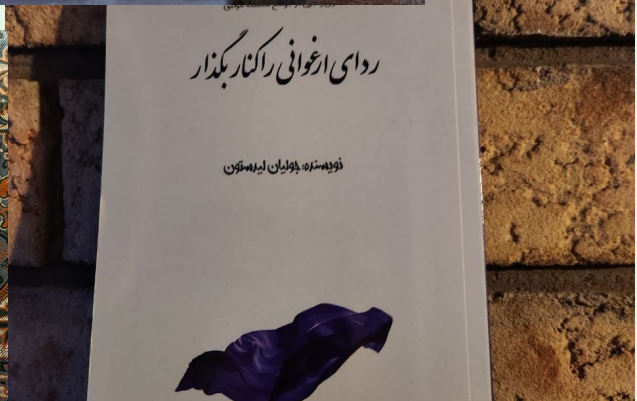
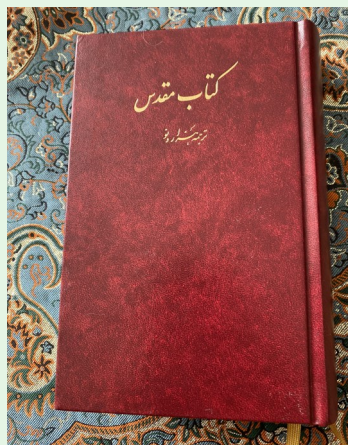
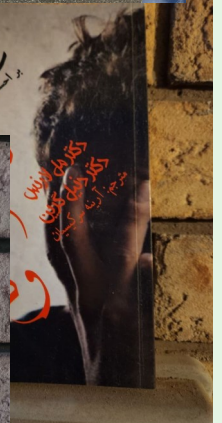
Farsi Bibles Distribution

By God's grace and provision, we also received a large number of Farsi Bibles from a Global ministry through our networks and distributed many of them among our Farsi speaking members and newcomers, as well as other Farsi, and CRC churches and ministries in the GTA and even nation wide in Canada.

These Farsi Bibles were also added to the pews at WCRC for everyone to have access to them. As part of our ongoing discipleship and teaching, scripture reading slides are translated every Sunday with the exact passage and page numbers for Farsi members to use the Bibles and follow the readings at the worship service on Sundays. This has been a blessing for us and our Farsi brothers and sisters at WCRC.

Christian literature Book distributions:

We also received a large number of Christian literature booked translated in Farsi through our connection with "Jesus Network" in Toronto and distributed them among Iranian ministries and individuals across the GTA and beyond.



Prayer Notes

Our family — Pray for our family . Our two sons, Daniel and David, and our extended family who are scattered all over the world!

Health— Pray for our health, especially as we are grateful to God for Nasser's health and thankful for his continuous recovery from his recent surgeries, and some of his ongoing physical needs.

Iran— Pray for an end to the hostilities in Iran. For freedom for the people of Iran and God's protection and grace over them.

Expansion of the Farsi ministry and God's Kingdom to other CRC ministries

Pray that the Holy Spirit leads us in our visioning and mission, as we continue to discern and strategically work with other CRC ministries in the GTA to expand His Kingdom among Iranians and other Farsi speaking communities including newcomers and refugees.

Refugees— Pray for all refugees around the world, including Iranian refugees who are stuck in Turkey and other countries. For God's provision in finding the resources to support them with their specific needs.

Translation work — Pray for God's provision in order to be able to have more resources translated and dubbed in Farsi.

Funding— Pray for God's providence in securing funding and other resources to expand our ministry, as we also explore multiple fundraising avenues to continuously support our projects and activities in reaching out and discipling new believers and seekers, especially newcomers and refugees.

Our Contact Information



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