

# NEW YORK CITY

Reaching the nations in our nation



Paul & Julie Kraus Intercultural Ministries - July 2017

## Nōō Yôrġk Sit'eē



I like the challenge of seeing NYC through different eyes. I found this coffee mug in a little shop in Manhattan and gave it to Julie shortly after our arrival in NYC when she had finished her TESOL training (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). Jesus asked His disciples to lift their eyes and look at something they failed to see. Harvest fields require new eyes. With a host of new neighbors, cultures, languages, and religions, NYC measures up to a true and timely cross-cultural mission field.

**The diagnosis** – Earlier this year, I injured my back shoveling snow. After several procedures, including surgery for a fractured spine, brought no relief, our doctor did further tests to find the cause. The diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma cancer came as a shock. Julie and I appreciate your strong prayers and support as we face this health challenge. We are dealing with multiple compression fractures of the spine, several corrective procedures, and chemo and radiation therapies. We are in good spirits with teams of wonderful support, prayer, and practical helpers that have lifted us in God's love and grace. God's word to us: "muster strength for this battle" (Ps 24:5-6). Remission is 80 days away and the prognosis looks encouraging.

We have been blessed by extra family visits. Despite limitations, we press on. This newsletter highlights a new mission synergy targeting unreached peoples on US soil, the annual NYC Intercultural Banquet, our Ministry to Muslim initiatives, and seeing NYC through the eyes of the Sower—"Look at the fields, they are ready for Harvest."

**Mission Synergy** – Missions synergy bridges World Mission resources and strategies with the cross-cultural challenges of unreached people groups on U.S. soil. "Mission on our doorstep"—the new reality of America's drastically changing religious landscape and the church's need for more muscle in its cross-cultural outreach, understanding, and compassion for the



scattered and marginalized. We have enclosed a copy of the Local Church Missions Manual we helped create for the NY Ministry Network. It demonstrates how we are joining all mission forces—World, U.S. and Intercultural—as we recognize God’s redemptive plans to move people out of their countries of origin to live in our neighborhoods. Let’s reach our new neighbors with the Good News!

**Annual NYC Intercultural Banquet – Monday, June 12, 2017**



**Dave Nuzzolo** (US Missions Director) – Served as banquet Emcee



**Chris Delmadge** (Presbyter Ethnic) – Our key note speaker



**Bill Kirk** (Assistant Superintendent) – Closing remarks and prayer



Host Church and Pastor Haniff Bacchus (Metro NY East Presbyter) – Calvary Assembly of God Ozone Park Queens.



Julie shared a testimony and brought greetings from Paul who was unable to attend in person. Pastor Rosemarie Brown led the women in prayer for Julie and I.



**Banquet Purpose:** “We acknowledge that God is behind the global movement of people to our shores for His redemptive purposes; that a new missional paradigm has emerged to minister to persons living outside their place of origin; that each person and culture has honor, value, dignity and beauty; and that we can celebrate greater collaboration and witness for Christ in our diversity.”

## Ministry to Muslims

1. **Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples** - We have a well-established ministry partnership with this AGWM World Missions entity on U.S. soil and with AG U.S. Mission representation. Mark Brink (International Director), Lynda Hausfeld (Muslim Women director) and “Say Hello” project, plus several other team members ministered extensively throughout NY State and NYC. Muslim women must have a targeted gender specific ministry because Islam is a segregated world—men with men, women with women. Christian women interacting with Muslim women are a key to reaching Muslims.
2. **NY-DSOM course “Ministry to Muslims”** - Dr. Fred Farrokh is completing a curriculum content rewrite (study guide questions and final exam) producing an excellent hands on specific tool for NYC.
3. **NYC Muslim Ministry Center** - Development plans are underway. Pastor Pervez Khokhar has agreed to make his church available for this initiative. This Urdu speaking Pakistani church is named Sutun E Haqq AG (Pillar of Truth).
4. **Missions Partnership Survey** – One of our supporting churches sent us an interesting survey. Question: “Are there two experiences in the past year of disciple making that you celebrated? Answer: Yes, we partnered with “Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples” in conducting the **Who’s My Neighbor Seminar** in NYC Oct 2016. Seminar attendees from Van Nest AG in the Bronx have now begun an outreach to a local Mosque by teaching ESL (English as a Second Language). The new Mosque opened recently down the street from them. Several other churches have engaged in strategic prayer initiatives. We also presented a special intercultural seminar in the Brooklyn/Staten Island sectional meeting under the leadership of Presbyterian Cecil Moonsam. They have now named Intercultural Sectional Reps and expressed the desire to train local reps in each church so that they are better able to reach their “unlike” neighbors who come from different religious and language backgrounds.

**Finally, we have two prayer requests.** (1) Please pray for Paul as he undergoes treatment for multiple myeloma and has repeated procedures to repair spine fractures caused by the cancer. Pray for courage, peace, and strength for both Paul and Julie as they face this mountain. Our desire is that God will be glorified through our lives during this trial. (2) Please pray for the All Night International Strategic Prayer Conference April 6, 2018. World Missions, US Missions, and Intercultural Ministries together are planning this night of strategic prayer for the nations and the nations in **our** nation. Missionaries along with Ethnic Fellowship Group leaders will lead the Prayer Conference. Greg Mundis, AGWM Executive Director, will be the keynote speaker for this event. We believe the times of prayer and planning with these different leaders will be as powerfully anointed as the event itself will be.



Thank you for your partnership and faithful support for our ministry and our family as we seek to exalt Jesus among the nations in our nation!

Blessings!

*Paul and Julie*

