

## Family Update

We are very pleased and blessed to announce the arrival of **Fiona Eleni Joy** on March 20th (Eleni is pronounced “ah-len-ee” and means “light”). This little bundle of pink was gifted to us after another painful but un-complicated c-section and we are doing well. She was 7 lbs and 2 oz of healthy and sweet girl, with blue eyes and fair hair. She is a delight to dress up and a calm presence in our home. Somehow she manages to sleep most of the day through the drum beating, running, ball throwing and yelling that only two boys can fill a home with. Silas loves holding and touching Fiona and Toby calls her “my baby.”



Thankfully, Jason is taking 4 weeks at home to help with the kids while I recover and while we adapt. So far the days blend into the nights but we are enjoying the blossoming of spring and spending hours outside playing with the boys. We have really enjoyed all the visits from friends and family and have been blessed with lots of food and girlie outfits! We look forward to a visit with Jason’s parents and hope I’ll be recovered enough to go on some local adventures with them.

Please pray for sleep for all of us and that the boys will continue to adapt well. Toby especially has had a harder time with Fiona’s arrival and we hope he won’t feel like the neglected middle child!

Silas will be starting soccer and swimming soon and still enjoys preschool two days a week. Toby, our growing concern on wheels, might give strider bike 2 year old BMX races a try and loves to play hockey outside. Toby keeps us laughing with his goofy ways and large vocabulary. Silas keeps us on our toes with his bright insights, questions and quick-witted negotiations! We love our family and are happily embracing the mini-van life of a family of five!



## Prayer Requests

- For energy, patience, and lots of joy as we adapt to our new normal being a family of five. You can especially pray for the boys to adapt well, and not feel neglected especially when Jason goes back to work in a few weeks.
- For the ministry of WHEN (see next page), and especially the women who were impacted by the recent out reach event

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# Introduction to WHEN

Last month, I heard about an outreach event put on by the Women's Heart Engaging Network (WHEN). Formerly known as the Intercultural Network, WHEN is one of the 12 ministries of Power to Change I get to support through my role in Information Technology. I'm not as familiar with it, though, so I thought I would sit down with Florence, who is on staff with Power to Change and has worked with WHEN for a number of years, to find out more about this ministry. Here is some of our conversation.

**Jason:** *How did WHEN get started?*

**Florence:** A couple of Christian business women in Vancouver, originally from China, worked with lots of Cantonese women, and saw that many of them had a fair bit of free time, but not a lot of connections. So, they started setting up events where they could hang out together, with the hope of bringing in a spiritual component. A few years ago, these women got connected with Power to Change, and some staff with the ministry jumped in to help her and the volunteers she was starting to collect. They helped the team develop strategy, plan events, and do follow-up. There are now Cantonese, African, and Spanish WHEN groups in Vancouver, plus Filipino WHEN in Edmonton.

**Jason:** *What did your outreach event last month look like?*

**Florence:** The speaker for the event last month was Kamal Dhillon, a woman from India who recently wrote a book ("Black and Blue Sari") about the abuse she suffered at the hands of her husband. Her topic was "Forgiveness: Is it fair? Is it possible?". 165 people attended, and the women seemed to really get involved in discussing the topic.

**Jason:** *You had a non-Christian friend who came and*



*was impacted at this event—can you share a bit about that?*

**Florence:** Yes, my friend has lots of pain in her past, as she is a survivor of the Rwanda genocide and is also separated from her husband. She has come to some of the Rwanda genocide memorial events that I have organized [Florence is originally from Rwanda], but was never interested in the prayer or spiritual components. So, I was quite surprised to see her show up at the WHEN event last month and to come sit at my table. I could see that she was really engaged in the talk and the topic of forgiveness, which I knew was an important message for her given her background. At the end, she gave her life to Christ, and said she wanted to join a discovery group!

**Jason:** *Wow, that's awesome! What happens at these discovery groups after an outreach event like this?*

**Florence:** Discovery groups are the way WHEN does follow-up for women who let us know they want to grow in their walk with God. They are run by volunteers who are trained by Power to Change staff. They are currently using the Alpha materials to introduce women to the basics of the Christian faith and give them a chance to talk through their questions. At the WHEN event last month, 33 people indicated decisions to start or develop a relationship with Christ, and 27 people indicated that they were interested in Discovery groups! Please pray for these women who are getting to know God, and also for the volunteers who are leading the discovery groups.

**Jason:** *Thanks Florence, for sharing the story of your friend and helping me get to know the WHEN ministry a little better. It's exciting to hear about how God is working!*

Yours in Christ,

*Jason, Shannon, Silas, Toby and Fiona*