



Chai and Chat - a new South Asian community

New semester. New steps of faith.

At the start of the semester, our team set a goal to see 14 students commit to leading small groups, where they seek to share Christ with their friends. By week 3 we had exceeded our goal! This semester we have been encouraged by the believers who have stepped up to lead in various ways. Some are leading a Life Group, where they walk through an overview of the Bible with those who have little to no understanding of Christianity, and other student leaders are facilitating table discussions each week at our Family Dinner with dozens of other internationals.

Most of the international student population on campus is from China or South East Asia. Increasingly, however, students from India are finding their way to Sydney to study. We started a group called Chai and Chat for our South Asian friends, and are seeking to share our lives in an environment that builds friendship and trust. Two christian students from India decided to take ownership of this group by making a plan to invite their friends. Their excitement to see God at work among the Indian community at the University of Sydney has been so encouraging to see.

At our first Chai and Chat gathering, we had around 12 Indian students crowded in a small

apartment eating Indian food, which somehow turned into a small talent show. Before the impromptu singing and dancing, one girl pulled me aside and asked me more questions about Christianity. She shared that she came from a small minority village in India where Buddhism is the primary practiced religion, and that her family's faith in Buddhism is strong. However, two of her aunties became followers of Christ, which has since opened her mind to explore the Bible on her own. Every so often she prays in Jesus' name when she feels sick and each time she's experienced some sort of help and healing, which has led her to be unsure if Buddhism is true, or if Christianity is true. She attends the University of New South Wales, and our ministry doesn't have a presence on her campus yet (see story below for an exciting development). It was amazing to see that through this small group and the initiation of our student leaders such a community could gather and significant conversations naturally arise. Pray for the South Asian community on Sydney's university campuses, as more and more of them are open to exploring Jesus. Pray that through this small group that has formed relationships of trust would lead to curiosity about Jesus.



Naomi and Swapnil are leading Chai and Chat and taking big steps of faith!

