



The Gospel and Chicken Curry

It was 8:00 p.m. on a Sunday when I sent a text to Raj, inviting him to our weekly Bible story group for South Asians called Dinner and a Story. What I thought would be a quick message would turn into three hours of conversation in his apartment.

“What are you up to?” I asked.
“We’re making chicken curry. Can you come over?” Raj replied.

In that moment, I hesitated. Should I go? I was tired after a full day with the kids, and honestly, 8:00 p.m. already felt late. If I said yes, I knew it would mean a long night. Sitting next to Emily on the couch, we talked about the significance of this invitation. We both knew that when students invite us into their homes—even when it’s inconvenient—it often leads to deeper friendships and opportunities to share Jesus.

“I’m coming,” I finally replied, reluctantly but with growing anticipation about what the Lord might do. Three hours later, my heart and my stomach were full. I had the chance to get to know Raj and his two roommates more deeply and to share a story about Jesus as it came up naturally in conversation.

Later that night, Raj texted me:

“Blake, I really appreciate your presence and your inspiring talk. It was wonderful and a pleasure meeting you. We loved sharing stories and culture together. We hope to host you again soon.”

The following week, I was back in their apartment—but this time to celebrate a significant decision Raj had made. Earlier that day, Raj and I met at a

café. As we talked, I silently asked God for an opportunity to make the gospel clear to him. God answered that prayer.

I learned that God has been pursuing him since childhood. Though he grew up in a Buddhist family, they were surrounded by Christian neighbors, and he often went to church with his friends. He had heard about Jesus but never fully understood the meaning of His death and resurrection—until that night.

As we talked, Raj expressed his desire to trust in Jesus and follow Him. That evening turned into another late night in his apartment, filled with celebration, incredible Indian food, and deep gratitude.

Praise God for drawing Raj to Himself—and for using something as simple as chicken curry to open the door to the gospel.



Top left: a) Raj and his roommates b) Above: “Dinner and a Story” an investigative Bible study for South Asians.

Speaking English at UNSW

If you walk through the University of New South Wales, it can sometimes feel like you’ve been transported to China. For many Chinese international students, this creates a unique challenge—they can go through an entire day without needing to speak English.

That’s one reason we’ve seen growing interest in our English Corner this term. For many students, it’s one of the few opportunities they have to practice English in a friendly, supportive environment. But even more exciting, God is using this space to stir spiritual curiosity. We’re seeing more students express interest in learning about Jesus!

English Corner is a volunteer-led initiative supported by several local churches. It's been deeply encouraging to watch God raise up more laborers for the harvest. Before English Corner starts, students have the opportunity to join a Discovery Bible Study to explore who Jesus is. Afterward, we continue conversations at a nearby café—one of my favorite times of the week.

Our team is now exploring how we can become an official student club on campus while continuing to strengthen this church-based international student ministry. God is clearly at work at UNSW, building community and drawing students to Himself—one conversation at a time.

Family Update

Thank you for praying for our family! It's spring here in Sydney—a bit strange for us as we head into the holiday season with warmer weather. While we're eager to spend more time outdoors, Emily continues to navigate health challenges. She was recently diagnosed with vestibular migraines which impact her throughout the day. Although it can be challenging, we're thankful for a great care team with both a neurologist and vestibular physical therapist and anticipate she'll feel better soon.

Nathaniel is back at school after a two-week school holiday break. He currently only attends half days due to ongoing learning and behavioral challenges, but we're encouraged by glimmers of progress and hope he can increase his hours at school before year's end. Elijah just turned five and is already excited to start "big school" next year. Addie loves playing with her big brothers and is learning new words every day.



Above: a) Volunteers leading our UNSW English Group b)
Below: We celebrated our 10 year anniversary in September!



We're so grateful for your faithful prayers and support as we serve here in Sydney, helping make Christ known among the nations. You are a huge blessing to us!

Blake & Emily Ackerson

Prayer Requests

- **Praise God for His work in Raj's life.** Raj has begun following Jesus! Pray for protection and wisdom as he grows in faith and faces challenges in discipleship. Praise God that I was able to find a Bible in his heart language, Marathi—the only copy left at the Christian bookstore.
- **Praise God for *Dinner and a Story*.** We continue to see the Lord use this gathering to draw Hindu students who are curious about Jesus. One student who regularly attends recently asked me for a copy of the Bible and expressed interest in learning about Christianity.
- **Pray for the ministry at UNSW.** Pray for continued growth among our students and volunteers, and for God's direction as we take steps toward becoming an officially recognized student club on campus.
- **Pray for our family** - for Emily that the Lord would bring healing and for Nathaniel to know he is safe and loved at school.