

## Power to Change January 2021 Update

### Merry Christmas!

This week Isaiah passed his written test and got his learner's driver's licence. Mark is enjoying playing in the snow now that it is here to stay. Ezra is learning how electric circuits work in his spare time. The boys are helping Adelle bake and try new recipes. And I am doing a home workout that is quite challenging while I wait for the gyms to reopen in Winnipeg. We are thankful that the Lord has kept us healthy and strong in 2020.

This year we have enjoyed helping students take their next step towards Jesus. Below is Anton's story. He is a 2nd-year Computer Science student at the University of Manitoba.

### Anton's Story

I was walking through University Centre at the University of Manitoba on a cold Friday in February when I saw a poster that said, "Hey Christian! You Are Not Alone! Join us and do something adventurous with your faith."

I went to the Power to Change meeting the next week looking for community and hoping to learn more about faith and God. They talked about Jesus and how to talk about Jesus with friends. At the end of the meeting, I signed up for a Bible study.

The year before, I had been skeptical and cynical about faith and Christianity. Then I decided to read the Bible for myself. I read the Bible on the way home to Ukraine in the summer of 2019. When I read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, I found myself drawn to Jesus; this wasn't the Jesus that I had heard about from television or my family. I wanted to know more about Him.

Then I met a Christian missionary in Ukraine. He was probably the first Christian that I started to get to know and trust. When I got back to Canada, I tried to find more Christians to talk to, but I did not find any. So, I just kept reading the Bible. By this point, I believed that Jesus is God. I wanted to make changes in my life to line up with what Jesus taught. Drinking, drugs and lust had been a big part of my life. I began asking myself, "Do I want to live this way for the rest of my life?" There was no one in my life at the time that shared the same curiosity about Jesus. Soon after that, I saw the poster on campus. It was like God was helping me take steps to get closer to Him.

As I walked to the Bible study a couple of weeks later, I was unsure if the group would like me or accept me. But I wanted to learn more about Jesus and the Bible, so I went anyway.

After the Bible study, I stuck around to talk to Kevin. We talked for a while. Then he asked if he could show me a booklet that talked about how to begin a relationship with God. It was simple. It all made sense. I decided to bow my head and say a prayer. My faith was real. I meant each word that I prayed. In essence, I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour. I asked Jesus to take control of my life and make me the kind of person he wants me to be.

That was the first of many conversations. I keep going to the Bible studies and weekly meetings. I pray and read the Bible and am growing in my relationship with God. I tell my friends and family about Jesus.

As a group, we all challenge each other to take the next step towards Jesus. A few weeks ago, I shared during our Alpha group that one day I dream of going back to Ukraine and taking the Gospel to the people of that struggling nation. I am thankful for Power to Change. I have found a community that I love, and this continues to be a great adventure of faith.



Thanks to your partnership in the Gospel, we were there to help Anton take his next step towards Jesus. You have been so gracious over the years, and for that, we are grateful. Anton is one of about 30 students we are working with this fall. More students are asking questions, taking the next step towards Jesus and growing in their faith. Please pray for them.

In 2021 we want to reach even more students like Anton by growing our online community and hope that we can meet in person. As we end this year, we trust the Lord to provide an extra \$5,000. This will help us start 2021 in a strong position and grow the Gospel presence at the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg and Red River College.