

Bible Study Photo Essay

Interview with Two Group Members

1. What has been the greatest challenge?

It is always a challenge to get people to come regularly to Home Group. They want to come, but then life gets in the way—work and other responsibilities. We live in an increasingly individualized, compartmentalized society. Some people in our church do not even try to come, or find the time for Home Groups. But for those who do, it can be a very rewarding and enriching experience. It builds connections and community. And it forces individuals to spend some time developing their own spiritual journey. But it also provides opportunities to reach out to others.

2. What has been the biggest opportunity?

The biggest opportunity is that you build closer connections to others and break down barriers. This is harder to accomplish in worship services alone—especially those attended by hundreds of people. In a large church context, the small group experience is very important. In Home Groups, you become aware of people's joys and sorrows. You can walk alongside them as they experience life. You become part of their support network—under the umbrella of faith.

3. What is the most important message that you want to give to Canadians who see the photo essay?

Religious faith matters—that is the message we offer. All over the world people of like beliefs and practices join together in small and large gatherings. Home groups happen—in many different faith traditions. They are an important part of the life of faith. As believers in the Christian message, we want to acknowledge the importance of relationships in the spiritual journey. Our Home Group helps us to learn together and to share our walk of faith with others. We eat, laugh, share and learn. And in so doing build each other up!