



Autumn 2025

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:1-3)

After the school holidays we started looking at Genesis on Sunday afternoons. The idea of rest – satisfaction, enjoying the very good world that God made and enjoying God himself – was something that struck many of us last Sunday. Islam does have a creation narrative, but it does not have this concept of rest. The 1-2 atheists among us have nothing (literally) as an alternative to this rest. We found that most people listening had a yearning for this rest and the wonderful world of Genesis 1-2. Give thanks that God’s word is working in people’s hearts, and please pray that they would find their rest in Jesus, not least as we get into the darker Genesis passages on sin from the end of October and into November. Give thanks too that we seem to have a few more people coming to us on Sundays than before the summer. We even had a Sunday in which Sylheti men outnumbered Sylheti women!

We have a standalone Genesis in English and in Sylheti which we use on Sundays. This also means that people can more easily take it away with them to read during the week. Please pray that these would be read, and that we would continue to adapt well to the different desires for particular words to be used or not used in up-front teaching. Our friends in Wycliffe are aiming to publish the whole of the Pentateuch/Taurat in Sylheti soon (although it’s already online here [Tourat 1: Foyda Nama 1 | syLL Bible | YouVersion](#) and here [Sylheti Kitab](#), which also has audio, video and information about an app for it all). They are working on publishing Psalms/Zabur and Proverbs too. Some time ago, with 10ofthose.com, we produced a standalone copy of Proverbs in English (entitled “Words of Wisdom” and with a short introduction) and have often given these away. So, to have a Sylheti version will be very helpful as well. Please pray that the many and various obstacles, frustrations and difficulties which can slow down these publications will be overcome.

Before we started Genesis, we had a summer series on Jesus’ “I am’s”. Jesus’ uniqueness came across very clearly and deeply, encouraging believers and challenging unbelievers alike. One lady, in particular, could really see what Jesus was saying, but she is struggling to trust Jesus over and against everything she has been brought up to believe in Islam.

The beach trip for ESOL families on the last Saturday in August wasn’t as hot and sunny as we might have liked, but we had a good time in Shoeburyness watching the kite surfers (with few of us willing to brave the sea ourselves). On the train there, we each were given Bible verses to talk about with our neighbour. This provoked some good conversations, as well as some grunting and pulling hoodies down further among the youth.

The ESOL term has re-started, and our ladies' classes on Wednesdays are full. Please give thanks for this and for the teachers and volunteers we have from other churches. Pray too for wisdom as to whether we can and should start more classes for people on our waiting list. After the lesson and culture slot, the ladies who stay will be looking at Matthew's Gospel together. Frustratingly, most of the men who were regular before the summer seem to have disappeared. Please pray that they or other men come back, or that we find other ways to meet with men. Some of the ladies from ESOL and its waiting list come to an Arts & Crafts drop in on Mondays. Alongside sewing they are going through the Genesis verses from the previous Sunday.

The Friday lunchtime book table has led to some good conversations recently. We have been helped by some bold London City Mission-ers who don't take "no" for an answer and have a great gift at keeping conversations going. A whiteboard with a question on it like "how will you get to paradise?", with options such as "my good works", "God's mercy" and "paradise doesn't exist" has often helped start conversations. Passing teenagers seem to have a common desire to tick an option which even makes them stop. Please give thanks for seeds sown in conversations and in literature distributed.

We moved our bookshop and library Shantir Boi from near Brick Lane into Husk in Limehouse around 18 months ago. Part of the push factors from Brick Lane were decreasing footfall in the area, the cost of rent, and it felt like we had exhausted all our contacts after 12 years there. Whilst there are people coming into Husk throughout the week, we think that we can be a bit more attractive and welcoming by offering coffee and Bangla tea on tap (which is a bit like chai, but much, much nicer in my opinion). We don't want to be a formal café as that comes with a lot of other issues. Please pray for wisdom in how to do this well, for boldness in door-knocking in the local area to let people know, and for good health to enable Team members to staff it (we've already been affected by seasonal coughs and colds, along with more serious health issues hindering ministry.)

Our virtual outreach on Facebook has had a bit of a pause, but we will be sending out audio of a Sylheti Team member's testimony alongside video footage of Whitechapel street scenes. Please pray for the swift editing of all this, that people will see/listen to it and realise that they can be Sylheti and follow Jesus, and that some people will contact us.

As mentioned previously, we are very grateful that we have been able to employ an intern this academic year and to have a placement student from Oak Hill join us. The Lord has raised up more people for his harvest field here! Please pray that they will settle-in well, not least when things can seem small and slow, and they would be faithful harvesters with us.

With these two joining us, plus the intern's husband, we now have two home groups. We'd love more from Sunday to join us too, not least as we now have space for that to happen. This term we're looking at Ephesians together. Please pray that the eyes of our hearts will be enlightened, so that we will know God's power in us, not least when the people around us and what they follow seems more powerful and successful (Ephesians 1:18-19).

Many thanks for your support and prayer,
Robert, on behalf of Asha.