

## Martin Transcript

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My name is Martin and I am a graduate student at the University of Ottawa. I have sort of lived all over the place during my life. I was born in Saskatchewan Canada, lived for a few years in Minnesota, lived for almost a year in France and then I came out here just about a year and a half ago now. I have kind of gotten a lot of different experiences from around the world.

I was sort of raised -I guess you would call it- in a liberal home, where I was exposed to a lot of different religions, cultures, people.

I have taken into my personal ideas to study a little of everything. So I have taken religion courses during my University and so on, so I studied Christianity, Islam, Judaism and now starting a year ago when met some Baha'is around Ottawa, I started learning a lot about the Baha'i religion.

A Little under a year ago several Baha'is who live in the same building as me, they were sort of going around doing an outreach thing to start some book one classes. So I figured, why not, it was a good idea. They gave me a brief description of it, like teaching basic teachings of morality and stuff like that. It's always a good thing no matter even what it's about. So I went and participated in the book one group they had going and it was really interesting and we all became pretty good friends.

Sometime later, this is now about two months ago she mentioned that she was starting up a children's class in the building as part of a book 3 and just asked if I wanted to help out. Other people are doing most of the organizing but you always need more people to help like run all the activities and so on. I figured I would probably do that a little bit. I have worked with kids in the past at language camps. I have always liked working with kids, it's always fun.

So there are a few groups going now, there is a few junior youths and a few more people doing the book one's. I am working with the little kids ages 5 through 10 roughly.

Probably the biggest impact on our direct community here talking about the apartment building is... it's actually creating a community because as I mentioned earlier normally it's filled with people in their own little apartments you never see anyone else, you never speak to anybody. Now we have gone through the entire building knocking on doors meeting people even if in the end they didn't decide to take part in the class now we

know them you see them in the halls now you say hello and the people who have actually have started participating you actually start to know them, to become friends. That's how you start to create a better community in the building.

You know it's really improving the interaction they have with other people so ultimately through that they do create a better community.