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Announcements

Christmas Dinner

We praise God that over 200 people attended our annual Christmas Dinner this year. Many family members, friends and neighbours came out to see the pageant our children presented, have a great turkey dinner and hear the Gospel. We thank our friends from Binbrook Baptist who came and helped us set up, served the meal and cleaned up to allow us to spend time with our guests.

Jewel and Ivy

Jewel and Ivy are doing exceptionally well. They have been home with us since December 1st. Jewel is now just over 10 lbs and Ivy is just over 8 lbs. The doctors are quite encouraged with their development and growth. Due to their low white blood cell count they are still not allowed in public settings (including church) often. Thank you for your prayers and support. Dwayne and Aimee



Sunday Mornings at Bennetto School

God has been blessing our church with new families and individuals so much so that we are moving our Sunday morning services from our current facility into the school across the street. We are able to hold 160 people in our auditorium with almost 40 in an overflow and we have been packed several weeks so in the next few weeks we will be meeting in the school gym which accommodates 300 people. We will be sending out an advertisement to the community and inviting them and several families we have close contact with to join us for a six week series on Sunday mornings where Pastor Dwayne will look at a few issues which will include the existence of God, the Deity of Christ, why there is suffering and God's love for us. Pray with us that God will use this pivotal time to bring out people we care and love and have shared the gospel with for years (in some cases) and graciously save them.

Muskoka Bible Centre

Pastor Dwayne has the privilege of speaking with Pastor John Mahaffey at MBC in Huntsville this summer from July 31st to August 7th. If you are interested in joining him at MBC please check out their website at www.muskokabiblecentre.com or call them at 1800 551 0168.



WINTER 2010 HUGHSON HAPPENINGS

A NEWSLETTER OF HUGHSON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Kyle is a young, single dad in our neighbourhood who is raising his children. His children access our ministries and at times he joins us as well. He bounced from job to job this past year, willing to work, but unable to find anything stable. Finding himself in difficult financial times he turned to us for some food and clothing for him and his children. The most recent statistics about our community are staggering:

- 41% of our community lives in poverty (the poorest in Hamilton) compared to 18% for the city.
- twice as many families or individuals in our community are on OW (formerly welfare) or ODSP (formerly disability)
- 59% of the single parent families live in poverty in our community compared to 29% in Hamilton
- 55% of children under 6 in our community live in poverty compared to 26% for the city. That's 1190 of the 2163 children living in our area.
- 36% of our seniors live in poverty compared to 16% in the city

This is the neighbourhood God has called us to minister to and care for. Impoverished. Neglected. Abandoned.

The stats are more than numbers to us. They are people God has asked us to love. They are friends and neighbours we share the gospel with. Harry is convinced that everyone has a conspiracy. He calls early in the morning or late at night to let us know who's after him. He shows up with signs reminding us that the end is near. Sometimes Harry thinks we are conspiring against him. He is one of God's children learning to live in the light after years of believing the lies of the darkness. Did you know that:

- 35% of Canada's homeless have a diagnosed psychiatric disorder
- \$624 per month is what a single male in Hamilton is allotted to live off of
- \$496 per month is the average cost of a bachelor apartment in Hamilton
- \$204 per month is what the Nutritious Food Basket says an individual needs for food and hygiene products
- -\$74 per month is what he has left after shelter and food...yes that's -\$74.00
- What about heat, hydro, clothing, transit and phone?

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Giving

Partnering with Hughson Street Baptist

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

I'd like to financially partner with Hughson St. here is my gift of:

\$ _____ for the Benevolent Fund \$ _____ for the General Fund

\$ _____ for the Growth Fund

Please return this slip with your donation - all cheques payable to: Hughson St. Baptist Church.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

What a week! December 14-19 over 75 volunteers from a variety of Partner Churches showed up to help us sort out toys and food, make up boxes, sign cards, lift, haul and finally deliver these Christmas Hampers to 183 families on the Saturday before Christmas. Each hamper had a turkey, 10lbs of potatoes, 3lbs of apples, stuffing, rice, pasta, cereal, and cans of vegetables, soup, pasta sauce, cranberries, apple juice, tuna and topped off with some cereal, cookies, and a cake mix. Enough to make a substantial meal and then some for each family. Then, for each child under 12 there was a toy, and for the 13-18 year olds there was a gift certificate. Of course, there were a lot of other people who shared with us before that week so that the food and toys were available for each box. We cannot express our thanks enough to all who help to make this project possible by their gifts.

There is a lot of fun involved in just getting these hampers together, but there is a deeper joy in seeing the long term results that the Lord is able accomplish through these gifts. We are praying that each hamper will open someone's eyes to the grace of God.

For this reason we invited our church family to add a personal touch to the giving out of the Hampers this year.



We asked people to take 2 or 3 families and "adopt" them. First they were asked to start praying for their families, asking God to bless them in the Christmas season.

Then, they were asked to connect with their families once before the delivery date, inviting them to come to our Toy Shop, where parents could pick out a toy for their children. This took place on the Monday night and it was great to see people sitting around our Auditorium waiting their turn to shop, having a coffee, and talking to someone who had invited them to come. Then came the delivery day when the hamper was delivered, but also an invitation to join us Christmas Eve or at our other ministries. We were blessed to have many new visitors at this service. The next step is to go back to these families and invite them to join us for a special course where they will be able to explore the Christian Faith for five weeks in February and March. We are trusting God to draw people into his kingdom through the simple act of giving a Christmas Hamper.

Thank you again for helping us to make this a possibility and pray with us for God's greater gift of the gift of salvation in people's lives.

Pastor Paul

Pastoral Perspective - continued from page 1

Jaleel understood little English when he arrived. He was forced to flee from his country. He had never been on a city bus, never been on an elevator and had never seen a multiple story building. Now he was living on the 12th floor of an apartment building and needing to navigate a bus route after only being in Canada for a few days. God is bringing the world to our country.

- Over 250,000 immigrants and refugees a year arrive in Canada
- 40% of all of Hamilton's Immigrants live in Riverdale (where our church plant Lightway is located)
- 34% of all of Hamilton's Immigrants live in our community

Numbers of families who received a Christmas hamper from us or participate in our ministries are new to our country. They are finding refuge here.

Thank you. Thank you for believing in what God is doing here. Thank you for partnering with us so we can continue to care for some of the most marginalized people in our city and country. Thank you for praying with us. We can't do this without you.

Pastor Dwayne

YOUTH

Youth very often get portrayed negatively in the media. I recall reading an article in the not so distant past about how respect for others is declining, especially in tweens and teens. On top of that is added the stories about drugs and gangs and violence and this generation of youth suddenly seems to be against anything that could be remotely connected to Christ, such as serving others before yourself. Thankfully, I know that's not the case, and I was able to witness firsthand numerous examples over the Christmas season of youth from our church and the community giving their time and energy to serve others.

Each year our church hosts a community Christmas dinner in which people from the church invite friends and neighbours to come and share a meal and hear the gospel presented. This year some of the youth volunteered to help make the food, set up the evening, serve the meal, and even clean up. One of the adult volunteers commented on the joy she saw in one of the youth serving saying, "The way she works and her attitude just makes me want to work and do more!" When I told the girl afterward she shyly smiled and said she was just having fun and doing her best.

Other youth helped with a door-to-door food drive through the North End, walking through a cold, rainy evening not once, but twice, and helped to collect over 12 boxes worth of food for our emergency food cupboard at the church that helps out 10-20 families each week. Still other youth helped out with sorting for the Christmas food hampers, setting up for various ministries, and making over 60lbs of mashed potatoes for two Christmas dinners!

There were a few reasons why the youth said they helped out; it was fun, they got to hang out with friends, it felt good to help others.



But the reason that came out the strongest was that it seemed to be the right thing to do. For some this is a huge step forward to understanding who Christ is and what He has called us to be and to do. For others, it is a way to live out their faith in Christ and put into practice what they've been taught. For me, it shows that we're moving in the right direction and despite what the media is saying there is reason to be hopeful. There is always reason to be hopeful when Christ is at the centre.

Please be in continued prayer for the youth of Hughson and the North End. And pray for the leaders of the various ministries that make opportunities such as the ones mentioned above possible.

Blessings,
Mike



Thank you for supporting
Hughson Street Baptist Church