

## Summer 2021 Update

## "It's time to move from Acts 1 to Acts 2"

Praise God that we have seen Him moving despite over a year and a half of uncertainty. We are praising God that he is still awakening hearts to serve Him on His mission. We have 6 church planters we are currently assessing,



Church planter Jordan Wilcox (Emmanuel North Barrie)

and we have a couple of Greenhouse training weeks planned for August and September. We are looking forward to continuing our Round Tables in the fall and attending the Church Planting Canada Congress in Calgary together in October. One of our church planters, Graeme Melvin, from The Meadows Church in Mississauga wrote this in his update... It's time to move from Acts 1 to Acts 2. He's right! It's been a long time of isolation and waiting for restrictions to lift so we can meet again in person and have more opportunity to spread the Word. It's time to get out there and back into the community, in the power of the Holy Spirit, boldly sharing the gospel message. Most of our church plants are meeting outside this summer... Pray for good weather and the spread of the gospel!

## Highlights

From Church Planter Ben Mills, Fellowship Baptist Church, Port Hope Site

On our first Sunday back meeting in the soccer field, we saw how God works in the midst of circumstances we wouldn't choose. During our prayer time, we prayed for a family in our church whose friend and neighbour had just passed away. Little did we know that the neighbour's son and family were playing at the nearby playground and heard us pray for his mom. They listened to the rest of our service, and afterwards they asked to talk with me and shared who they were and that the service meant a lot to them. They hadn't been to church in years and said it had been a long time since they felt God in their lives. I asked if I could connect them with a pastor friend who is a church planter in Petawawa, and they said yes. Without a doubt God orchestrated us to be at that soccer field that morning so we could minister to that family.

#### From Church Planting Apprentice Nathan Kapteyn, Liberty Grace Church, Toronto

At the start of April, Elaine and I had the privilege of moving into the community of Liberty Village. We have loved being a part of this community and getting to know more about the city that we are serving. Please be praying for us as we continue to learn more about Toronto, and get to know the people of our church, and our community even better. As restrictions have lightened, we have been blessed to gather together as a church in person. We've been meeting outdoors in a public park, which has allowed us to have a very unique impact on our community. As people walk by, they often stop for a few minutes to watch and listen to what is happening at the church out of curiosity. Please pray that our community impact would continue to increase through these opportunities.

#### From Arabic Church Planter Nadalla Al Rajo, Grandview Arabic Site, Kitchener

Testimony from a Syrian living in Toronto: For years I have been searching for freedom. I came to Canada as an immigrant and thought that I would find freedom. I am in a free country that preserves the freedom of all people, but I am bound from my inside, and I am not free, and I am still a slave to sin. After 3 months of watching Voice of Faith radio (Nadalla's online ministry) I made the decision to follow Christ. The moment I surrendered my heart to Christ and asked Him to be the King and Lord of my life, I felt liberated and freed from my sins, and I felt a great inner peace.

Please keep reading for our full update on all church plants:

# Updates and Prayer Requests (by city in alphabetical order)

## Ajax Lighthouse, Ajax, ON- Oliver & Marie Ipwanshek



We've successfully received the incorporation status for Ajax Lighthouse Church and are currently applying for non-profit status. Please pray that all goes smoothly. Please pray for relationships to be built as we've reopened for in person services and new families are attending! Praise God our online services have been reaching the Philippines with regular weekly attenders. Pray for wisdom and guidance as we minister to those who are hurting and please pray for the Ajax Lighthouse Leadership to remain committed and faithful as we preach God's Word.

## Emmanuel Church, Barrie - Arabic Site - Fateh & Kifa Salloum



Please pray for Kifa as she has started a friendship with four Muslim ladies. Pray for fruitful and growing friendships with them and that they will choose to follow and believe in Jesus. Also pray for our outreach into the community. We are holding classes for newcomers to Canada. We are teaching them about the Canadian tax system and how they can manage their budgets as newcomers. Please pray for these classes to be useful and an invitation for them to come and follow Jesus.

## Emmanuel Church, Barrie – North Barrie Site – Jordan & Olivia Wilcox



We've been really enjoying meeting outside over the last three weeks! This past Sunday we had our first baptismal service where 3 individuals were baptized! Praise God! We are excited that we've had lots of good connections with people in the community. We could use prayer as we discern what our best meeting location will be long term, as well as prayer that we would remain focused on our task of making disciples!

### Harbour Church, Belleville ,ON – Dave & Jocelyn Drabiuk



It is great to be back meeting together in person as a church. We meet at the West Hill Green Space when the weather is good, and at the Belleville Youth Centre in case of rain. We have had some new people join us when we are outside. If you could pray for our kids camps we are running with EPIC on July 5-9 and August 2-6 in the community. We are hoping to reach



some new families and build relationships.

#### Arabic Site of Bramalea Baptist, Brampton, ON-Joseph & Eliane El Massaad



We thank God that we have returned again to meet in the house of the Lord in person. We have few numbers in attendance because many people are still afraid of the virus, but by God's grace we will continue despite all the challenges and difficulties we face. Please join us in prayer that the Lord will take away the fear from people's hearts so that they can return to worshiping the Lord in the church again. Pray for the Lord to open new doors to reach new families in the area, and that the services we are still doing on

Zoom and Facebook on Sundays and during the week will reach more people by the word of God.

### Church of the City, Brampton ON – Jeremiah & Kathryn Thomas



Church of the City Brampton has adjusted well during these difficult times. Our missional communities are thriving while meeting in smaller numbers. God has provided for us abundantly and continues to give us more opportunities to connect with people from Hindu, Sikh and Muslim backgrounds. Please continue to pray for us!

### Restoration Church, Cambridge ON, Aaron & Nikki Ottaway



Being a church plant during a global pandemic means that we have been everywhere and tried everything. It has required much creativity and perserverance. As difficult as this year has been, Restoration Church, by the grace of God, has experienced growth, has found a new place to gather in, and continues to seek ways to see the kingdom of God move forward in Cambridge. Our greatest prayer is that as we pursue a more intentional seeking and loving our neighbour, that many in our community would come to Christ!

#### Compass Community Church, Grand Valley Site – David & Marianne Dorman

Please continue to pray for this new site of Compass Community Church that started in February of 2020 and then was unable to meet in person there since they are using the public school in Grand Valley. They continue to meet for small groups and for worship with the main site in Orangeville. Pray that things will open up again for them to meet and spread the love of Christ in Grand Valley.

#### Guelph Baptist Mission, Guelph ON- Arnel & Cherry Lindongan



We have continued our Worship and Prayer Connect via Zoom. We have begun some visitation of the members and observe that they are ready and wanting to get back to physical gathering. Please pray that our previous place of rental (Evergreen Community Centre with the City of Guelph) will open up once again for us to meet in.

## Hamilton Kurdish Church - Hamilton, ON - Kojan & Lajan Mohammed



Please pray for this new church plant that is meeting at Elliott Heights Baptist Church. Kojan and Lajan and their family are Kurdish immigrants who are reaching the Kurdish population in Hamilton. Plese pray for Lajan's health as she is experiencing a lot of neck pain and undergoing tests. Pray for the new believers in Hamilton to grow in their faith, as well as the 3 churches in Kurdistan that Kojan planted. They are facing weakness and division. Pray also for believers in Iran facing persecution and poverty.

## Kingsville Christian Fellowship, Kingsville ON- Pablo & Angelica Aguilar



Here's an update for Kingsville Christian Fellowship and prayer items as well. Effective July 1st, KCF will have its separate financial account from the mother church PIBC. Please pray for a smooth transition. There are at least 6 people getting ready for baptism this July. Please pray as I begin to follow up on them. We are anticipating an even bigger attendance in the coming weeks. Last Sunday we doubled the allowed attendance. Praying for more of the restrictions to be relaxed. Our plan is to repaint the front of the church this summer.

## Grandview Baptist Arabic Site, Kitchener, ON – Nadalla & Rachelle Al Rajo



We are gathering to pray and study the Bible every Tuesday. We are also looking for new opportunities to share the Gospel with Arabs and Muslims in our region. The evangelism in Victoria Park is great, we always meet new people and share our faith with them and make appointments to visit them. The Lord has blessed us with getting to know people from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, and many other countries. Our mission is to share the gospel with them and tell them the good news and

the truth of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray for my health, and that we will get off to a strong start after some time off. Pray that more people will come to pray with us and study the Bible.

#### Heritage Grace Church, Kitchener, ON - Aaron & Mariah Roeck



Things have been going well at Heritage Grace Church! It has been such a joy to be gathering in person again. We have also been able to welcome a few more individuals into membership which has been very exciting as well. Please pray for us as we seek to be faithful in planting this church for God's glory. Specifically pray for boldness in our evangelism and wisdom during what are still strange and trying times.

#### The Centre Community Church, Lindsay ON - Mike & Amanda Kleinhuis



We have experienced new growth in the community, especially at two city run housing complexes. We've had more people join with us online, but we are looking forward to meeting together as a large group once again. Through the latest lockdown we ran three services through the week so that we could have some of our people come together in person. Here are some specific prayer requests for us: 1) Mental health and addiction continue to be a big issue for members of our community. We're involved with a number of individuals who struggle with drugs/alcohol and are trying to get clean. Covid

restrictions make it more difficult to get them the help they need as well as bring them into the church family.

2) We are partnering with the United Way once again to deliver fresh produce to families in the South End. Pray for open doors to share the gospel as we share fresh fruit and veggies with our neighbours.

- 3) We would like to meet outdoors like we did last summer, but right now the city is limiting the gathering size on municipal property. Pray that as the Covid restrictions lessen that we would once again be able to meet as a full church outdoors at our local park.
- 4) Mike is taking most of the month of July off. Pray for spiritual refreshment and wholeness, and good times of rest.

## All 4 One Biker Church, London ON – Graham & Brenda Morrison



Covid has taken its toll on our outreach. Prayer is needed for wisdom on how to plan outreach events for this summer when most city events are cancelled. Pray for our associate Stefan as he serves our community on the streets, and for our board of directors, Bonnie and Gord. Pray for Graham and Brenda's health and time management during this particularly busy season for them.

#### West Park Arabic Site, London ON – Mark & Sura Namourrah



We keep reaching out to our Arabic community in London through visitations and helping families that are facing many challenges in their lives. Pray that there will be new opportunities to show the love of Christ to our Muslim and Arabic community especially in light of the recent tragedy. Pray for us as we're seeking to build a team of Arabs and Canadians who can work together to help fulfill these needs on a physical and a spiritual level.

## Chelsea Green Community Church, London ON - Peter & Samantha Barnaby



Thank you to all who have been faithfully praying for our little church plant. God is indeed GOOD! As we see a lot of these Covid19 restrictions lift, we are embarking on an initiative to tangibly bless our neighbours in meaningful ways. Our congregation is excited to get back to our "roots" and out onto the streets again! Please be praying for God to bless our renewed efforts to reach our community. Please also be praying for a potential new church plant out of CGCC that is in the works, and for partner churches to help carry the joyful burden of sending out brothers and sisters to reach the Kurdish population here in London, ON.

#### Grace Community Church, Marathon & White River ON - Bill & Gerri Morgan



We are very encouraged as we are able to meet at our main church in Schreiber and as well with the group we are planting in White River and spend time fellowshipping together. Please pray for the group in Marathon as their meetings have been put on hold. There is a fear of Covid-19 in the group and they have not wanted to gather at all. Please pray for Bill as he is seeking to develop a deeper prayer life at this time.

City Centre Baptist Church, Arabic Site, Mississauga, ON – Armen & Zina Hakopian



Praise God! We are amazed and so thankful that He has been growing the Arabic Ministry at City Centre even in spite of the lockdowns and uncertainty. We are seeing new families every week since reopening, and consistently strong engagement in both Sunday worship and weekday ministry. We need your prayers for wisdom and strength for Pastor Armen and his team as we manage this rapid growth. We also appreciate your prayers for the many new lay ministry partners who are being raised up to serve.

God's Kingdom Fellowship, Mississauga ON - Luel & Annabelle Declarador



We have opened a food bank in the same building as our Worship Sanctuary. Pray that we will be able to reach out and help many in our community that need physical and also spiritual nourishment. Please pray for financial provision to pay the rent. Pray for our upcoming Church Camp from July 9-11<sup>th</sup>. Pray that there will be a time of growth and encouragement for all of the church family.

Saturate Church, Mississauga ON – Greg & Caitlin Armstrong



A major theme in our launching this year has been "adaptation." It has proven to be a blessing in bringing many of us very close together as we navigate through it. It has also been a great challenge for us as a newly forming community, with some leaving and others coming in. We have moved from meeting in smaller groups in homes to now meeting outdoors for our Sunday gatherings. We are now in the early stages of starting up two Missional Communities with a focus for now on equipping in Bible, theology, and apologetics, with the aim to move it from weekly training to opening it up biweekly to non-believing friends when each group feels ready. Recently, we also resumed our in-person ministry at a local mosque which had moved online in October. We meet there weekly outdoors to compare and discuss the Bible and the Quran. Most of the people now coming are new to joining this kind of ministry, which they've shared has really opened their eyes to how pleasant it can be to have conversations with Muslims and how the Lord is growing in them a heart to reach them.



The Meadows Baptist Church, Mississauga ON - Graeme & Julie Melvin



Despite the Spring lockdown, Jesus opened up many new connections and relationships with immediate neighbours as we were intentional to get out and use the warm weather. Recently we started hosting several weekly backyard BBQs and resumed gathering on Sunday mornings in a local park as a church. It is time to move from Acts 1 to Acts 2! Please pray for an affordable indoor facility to open up for us to rent in our community especially as we look towards the Fall.

Reach Montreal, Montreal ON - Dustin & Raquel Boreland



Please pray for Dustin as he takes some time off this summer on Sabbatical. Pray that as a family they may be refreshed, encouraged, built up, and ready to resume ministry. Pray for the church in their absence that they will continue to grow and multiply as they reach new people for Jesus in Montreal. Pray for the elders as they lead and for leaders from within to be equipped for future ministry.

Trailhead Baptist Church, Pettawawa ON - Tim & Stephanie Roddick



Posting season has begun with new military families moving into the area. Please pray that our church family will make connections with our new neighbours; and that present restrictions will lessen to enable us to escape the heat and humidity of outside worship and to return back into a local community centre for weekly worship.

Pray for Trailhead's leadership as we begin to navigate a path forward towards

Pray for Trailhead's leadership as we begin to navigate a path forward towards independence from our mother church this calendar year.

## Life Church GTA, Pickering, ON - Lendl & Mia Salangsang



Due to our growing congregation, we have been blessed by Bayfair Baptist Church in Pickering and have started to meet in-person at their church on Sundays at 4pm. We currently have 7 Life Groups that meet during the week for study and fellowship, please pray for the leaders who are pouring into the lives of the people in the community. Please pray as we continually look for our own permanent space to hold our services.

## Equip Church, Peterborough ON - Shannon & Melissa McConnell



Praise God that Equip Church has been granted charitable status by the government. Please continue to pray for the growth of the church family and that they will continue on mission in these days of restrictions. Pray that the many souls that need Jesus in Peterborough will have the opportunity to be saved through God's Word and this church family's testimony. Pray for Shannon, Melissa, and their family's health and protection as they serve on the frontlines.

#### Fellowship Baptist Church Site, Port Hope, ON – Ben & Naomi Mills



We praise God that we have been able to work with the town of Port Hope and are meeting outside at a local soccer field for our services this summer. Please be in prayer as we are no longer able to rent the indoor space we previously rented at. Also pray for us as we are planning a number of outreaches this summer, including a soccer camp in July. See our God story on the front page of this update.

### Evergreen Chapel, Smiths Falls, ON - Tim & Shannon Tysoe



We are meeting together mostly outdoors and thankful for the good weather. We have 75 people attending church right now and are very encouraged by this. Please pray for unity and grace among congregants during very divisive times. Please pray for our elders, that they would continue to uphold the standard for leadership in their own lives and families as they care for the family of God. Please pray for meeting facilities to be provided for us and evangelistic opportunities among our neighbours. We are thankful for those who pray for us! We are indebted to you.

## Liberty Grace Church, Toronto ON – Darryl & Charlene Dash



We have hired on two summer students to help us with community outreach over the summer. Please be praying for them as they begin their work and planning. Be praying for creativity and opportunity for many different outreach events to happen this summer as the city begins to open up more. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to search for a new building to use in Liberty Village.

#### Q50 Community, West Niagara Area – Graham & Sharon Bulmer



We are plugging away and continue to worship and be the church the best we can as a community of faith while honouring the public health guidelines on gathering limitations. Praise God that things are opening up. Please pray for us to have new opportunities to reach out to our community and grow together. We are so thankful for God's faithfulness and we look forward to what He will continue to do here.

# Church planting apprentices:

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Exeter ON- Josh McBurney (Monica)

Heritage Grace Church, Kitchener ON - Josiah Rock (Rachelle)

God's Kingdom Fellowship, Mississauga, ON – Fredie Buen (Melissa)

Church of the City, Brampton ON – Ryan Oh (Angel)

Church 21, Montreal, QC – Evan Walker (Kristen)

Liberty Grace Church, Toronto, ON – Nathan Kapteyn (Elaine)



# What we're doing

Inspiring and facilitating a church planting movement across our region that will impact Canada and beyond. We want to plant churches that will plant churches that will plant churches!

# Why we do what we do

Christ's love compels us to plant churches until every man, woman and child has the opportunity to respond to the gospel in their context and become disciples for God's glory.

## Our Team

Led by Church Planting Director Tom Haines, the team works together to advance church planting in the FEB Central Region. Please pray for Tom and the rest of the team:

Darryl Dash, Advance Church Planting Institute Director Bechara Karkafi, Ambassador to Arabic & Islamic Communities Marc Soto, Church Planting Catalyst (South and Central West) Tammy Haines, Church Planting Administrative Assistant

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