



In our previous update, we were excited that the main floor of our new facility was taking shape. Now the entire superstructure has come together and is just about complete. We look forward to it being completely closed in by the end of Fall.

The building has really taken shape, with the gymnasium to the north with its beautiful wooden beam and tongue and groove decking. At this point we are waiting for the completion of the skylight structure and windows facing James Street.

On the south side of the building the prominence of the three floors of housing is the dominant feature. The exterior walls are being roughed in and the expectation is that the windows will be arriving mid-October so it will really be closed in from the elements at that point.

In a number of areas the interior walls are being added which finally helps us see what's only been on paper so far. In the basement the classrooms for the Scooters and grades Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 are laid out. The Youth area at the north end of the building has lots of room for all kinds of activities and gatherings.

Another large gathering room for our Karen Church to use on Sundays is now in place. Finally there are the open foyer spaces, hallways, washrooms, storage, elec-



trical, mechanical and elevator rooms. On the main floor the Gymnasium, Hospitality Center, Nursery, Kitchen and offices are becoming a reality. We praise God for how this project continues to move forward.

The schedule has been extended a bit, like it seems happens on most construction projects, so we are now talking about being in the building in April 2020.

Pray with us that this will be the final projection for completion and that we can begin to dream about a Grand Opening Weekend to worship God in what He has provided for us. Pray with us as well that the full funding for the project will be completed by the time we open the doors.



Hughson HAPPENINGS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF HUGHSON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

FALL 2019

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Pastor Dwayne Cline



Complicated – caring for the poor can be complicated

We all need care...none of us is self-sufficient and autonomous. Sometimes we require financial help (a car loan or mortgage), medical help (for an ailment), academic assistance (in a field or area we aren't familiar with), psychological help (for mental health), and practical help (building an addition or moving some furniture). When caring for the poor however, you quickly realize that although many are exceptionally resourceful, the barriers they face to a healthier way of life are daunting. There are over 12,000 Hamiltonians who access food banks every month supporting 4,500 children. Contrasting two neighbourhoods that are less than a 15 minute walk from each other in Hamilton, the median income in one is \$118,000 while the other is only \$20,500; 4.5% of those in the wealthier one live below the poverty line while 46.3% live below it in the other and the average life expectancy in the wealthier area is 81 years while the other is 66 years, a staggering 15 year discrepancy.* What a difference a 15 minute walk makes! (*Stats are from Code Red 10 years later).

"The only person I knew who didn't have a criminal record was my mom," Ruth told me. "And she's been

gone two years. Most of my friends don't have a place to stay. We struggle with mental health illness and can't hold down jobs," she shared. Complicated care. Years ago I helped with a group assisting men who had been freed from their addictions enter back into the workforce and rental market. I remember talking to them about friendship when Rob said, "Friends? We have no friends. They left us during our addictions. We have no one to turn to and don't even know where to start." Complicated care.

Complicated care doesn't mean we give up. Complicated care drives us to our knees. We can offer programs where people can meet and develop healthy friendships. We can assist individuals and families with food and clothing. We can offer shelter for those needing housing, but most importantly we can point everyone to the greatest friend of all, Jesus Christ. A relationship with Him changes everything. Thanks for your partnership and prayers.

Because of grace, Pastor Dwayne

PARTNER WITH HUGHSON

HUGHSON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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Donations will be used as restricted with the understanding that when the need has been met or changed by the HSBC Board, the remaining funds will be used where most needed.



The federal Liberals announced \$1.96 million for the Hughson/Indwell building project from the National Housing Strategy co-investment fund during a visit to the steel-and-concrete bones of the new building climbing four storeys at the corner of James and Picton streets.



One of four groups of children impacted by our CrossTrainers Summer Camps

Summer Ministries so thankful for God's provision

The fall season is such a fitting time to express thankfulness. When we last reported on the plight of our summer ministries we were in need of some major funding in order to be able to offer our three main programs: Camp Widjiitiwin, CrossTrainers Summer Camps and the North End Soccer League. Prospects looked bleak, but our God is so much bigger than any obstacles we might face and He proved Himself over and over again this summer.

Being denied government funding for the second year in a row for our summer ministries dramatically reduced our options to find workers to deliver our programs. We put a call out to our church family, our many supporters and friends and were amazed at the outpouring of support. We received enough funds to send 80 children to Camp Widjiitiwin, hire four student leaders and a cook for CrossTrainers, and sponsorships for our soccer league.

All our summer ministries are important, but our CrossTrainers Summer Camps have had the most impact on our ability to really connect with the families in our North End community. The camps ran for four

weeks with over 50 children aged 5-11 in attendance each week. The majority of them came from unchurched homes.

We received numerous emails and posts on our social media sites from parents thanking us for pouring into their children's lives. Some even sent videos of their children reciting their memory verses and singing the songs they learned during the week. Invitations were extended to all the children we interacted with this summer and we are seeing some of them register for our mid-week programs. Some of them also come to our Kingdom Kidz Sunday School. One mother asked if her daughter, who is now too old to attend our camps next year, could join our 3TEN youth leadership program.

CrossTrainers also impacts the older youth in our neighbourhood, because many of them look for opportunities to gain volunteer hours. Thankfully many of the youth who attend our church serve, but almost half of those who serve do not. Every lunch hour our 3TENs spent time being encouraged in the Word. We are looking forward to continuing these relationships during our weekly youth programs.

This has been an exciting summer. It has been amazing to see the work God has done through the ministry areas we have run over this past season. Specifically there are a couple stories from Camp Widjiitiwin and our North End Soccer League that I would like to share with you.

This summer we took 80 kids from our community in the North End of Hamilton up to the Muskokas to spend a week at Camp Widjiitiwin. A majority of these kids come from homes with no church background, and would not be able to attend a week of camp without our partnership with Widji and the support of our donors.

At camp we handed out nearly 20 Bibles to kids who asked for them. One camper began reading his Bible on the second day of camp and read all of Exodus, ten chapters of Genesis, and read ahead for all the chapel times that we had. It was amazing to see God stir up such an eager appetite for His Word in this young camper, and we pray that the hunger



Derek Hisson, far left, with some of our 3TEN youth summer camp leaders.

for God grows in his life and for opportunities to connect with him throughout the year.

Second, at our summer soccer league we have the privilege of sharing the Gospel with many families in our community each week. One week we received an email from a teacher who sponsored a couple of her students to play in the league. One of these students shared with her classmates about the devotional from the night before. She was teaching her friends, who happened to be from families of other religions, that God created the world and how to pray. It was awesome to hear how God was taking the work from the soccer league and spreading it through the lives of participants throughout the week.

We are very thankful that God has blessed us with these opportunities to be a part of his Kingdom work. We are excited and prayerful to see what He has in store as the school year begins.

