

THE JAMES NORTH JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of James North Baptist Church – Winter 2023

Pastoral Perspective

We were finally fully open for Christmas in December 2022 at James North Baptist Church. After being restricted, it felt like we finally opened the doors of our new facility and welcomed our neighbours into a great variety of ministry. It was the first time we felt the full potential of our building to reach out to the people of the North End. At every step we praised God for the facility that He has provided through his grace and the generosity of so many people. After our Christmas offerings this year our mortgage will be reduced to \$705,000 (in an interest-free loan) which we are praying to pay off in the next three and half years. We are also so thankful for the continued support we receive to provide meals, fellowship and the gospel message of hope to our neighbours.

I was reminded several times during the Christmas season how the Lord has allowed us to be faithful in providing care and blessing to the people of the North End for over 135 years. This consistency has been a strong testimony of God's grace. The last 29 years have been under the leadership of Pastor Dwayne Cline. As his time with us draws to a close we are thankful for the rich heritage that he leaves us as a church family to build on for the future. Dwayne had his final Sunday with us on January 28th. Give thanks with us for the years of his service and pray for the Clines as they follow the Lord into new ministry still to be revealed.

During the Toy Shop for our Christmas Hampers I heard stories of how our ministry has been a constant over many years. It's stories like a young mom telling me how much she remembered what it was like to get a toy delivered to her house when she was a child.

Now they find themselves in a similar situation where they needed help with toys and food for the family, and James North is still there lending a hand.



People are struggling with work and housing feels impossible to maintain as fewer places are available at much higher rates. People are so thankful that James North has been there over all this time, and we are blessed when they make the connection that the Lord is behind it all.

Pray with us that these touches of grace would stir people to pursue Jesus more deeply in the year ahead. We will invite everyone who received a hamper from us to a new session of Christianity Explored in February. Pray with us that the Lord will grant us new opportunities for sharing his hope of eternal life.

Pastor Paul

Christmas Hampers

We are so thankful for our partner churches who collect food, toys, financial donations, or invite their church family to come and volunteer during Hamper Week. Hope Bible Church, First CRC, Binbrook Baptist, The Meeting House (Downtown Hamilton), Heritage Baptist, Boston Baptist, West Highland Baptist, Grace Trinity Community Church, Springvale Baptist, St Cuthberts Presbyterian, and Flamborough Baptist all had a part in making it happen this year. The Laboratory Staff at Joseph Brant Hospital put on a Toy Drive in their department and delivered a car full of toys to us as well. We also appreciate the toys that City Kidz passes along each year from their toy drive. Lots of individual donors also give their time, gifts and finances. We had just over \$29,000 in donations this year, which beautifully covered the \$28,834 in expenses. Thank you everyone!



James North has a great team of people who participate as well, particularly those who adopt families. Adopting a family means to pray for them, connect with them, deliver the food hamper and then follow-up with our invitation to a Bible Study in the New Year. Over 80 of the families that we helped this year had this personal touch attached to them.

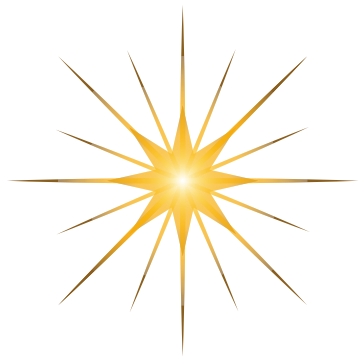
And who are the 300 people we helped? First CRC takes about 20 of the boxes for families connected through their ministry and neighbourhood. Bennetto Elementary and St Lawrence schools each connected us with 20 families who needed some extra help. After that, most people connected with us through Coffee's On, Youth Ministry, KidZone and our other neighbourhood ministries. Some people contacted us through the grapevine saying my friend told me you might be able to help me, and a few saw our Ad in the local North End Breezes paper that tells them how to get in touch with us.

At our Toy Shop (Monday & Tuesday of Hamper Week) we invite parents to come and pick out toys for their children. This year we provided toys for over 150 children, and a \$25 gift card for over eighty children that were 12-18 years old.

Then the true highlight comes when we gather for the final delivery on the Saturday of Hamper Week. It was exciting to see a great host of people assemble in our gym from James North and our Partnering Churches. It was an eager team of people ready to bless our neighbourhood in the name of Jesus Christ. Over and over we heard stories of people's grateful hearts as they received the food, but more, to know that they were cared for.

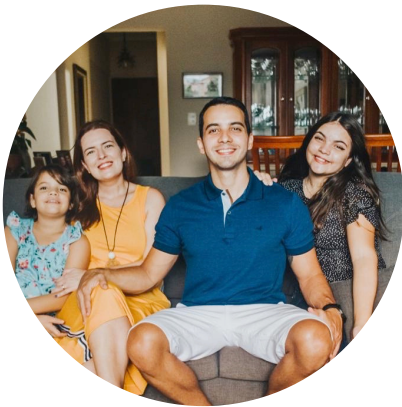
Thank you to everyone who helped us make Hamper week and delivery day a great success! Pray with us that this act of grace will be translated by God's Spirit into a message of eternal life in the hearts of people.

Thank You



Christmas Eve with Joy Church

Pastor Giuliano Coccoaro arrived in Canada December 26, 2021. He came from Brazil with his family to launch a church for Brazilians living in and around the Hamilton area.



We are pleased to be partnering with them by giving them space in our building for their Saturday night worship services, and a couple of days a week of Pastor Marcio Silva's time (Marcio is our Community Pastor here at James North). We are blessed to see that this church has grown through the year and on Christmas Eve we shared a time of worship with them as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ.

The service was a blend of English and Portuguese in songs and scripture. People from James North and Joy Church shared in leading different parts of the service and we ended with the tradition of lighting candles throughout the congregation as we sang Silent Night. It was a meaningful time of worship and fellowship that is possible because of the facility that God has provided for us. Praise God for his grace and faithfulness!



Our New Children's Ministry Director

We are so pleased that Michayla Tabet joined our staff team on Sunday January 1, 2023. After starting her undergraduate studies at Heritage Bible College with a focus on ministry, she moved over to an Honours - Clinical Psychology program at Redeemer University and expects to graduate in April 2023. She will be part-time until her graduation and then enter into her full-time role. As our Children's Ministry Director she will oversee our Sunday Children's Ministries: Nursery, Scooters and Kingdom Kids (babies up to Grade 5) for about 90 children and their volunteer leaders. She will also help the Karen Church coordinate their children's program on Sunday afternoons. During the week it's KidZone, our evening program for about 50 children in Grade 1-5. In the summer it's Crosstrainers day camp. Pray as she helps our families grow in Christ together.



Michayla describes her journey this way: "Growing up in a ministry-focused home, I knew at a young age that I was being called into vocational ministry. I wasn't quite sure why the Lord led me to Redeemer, but it has become quite evident over the past 2 years that He has brought me to this area so that I would grow a heart for the people of Hamilton. I believe the Lord is moving in this city and I have felt truly blessed to be a part of the work He is doing here. Having been in various children's ministry roles over the years, I have seen the importance of equipping children with biblical truth at an early age so that they may grow up with a solid foundation rooted in the gospel. I believe the Lord has called me to James North so that I may walk alongside the church family to create a biblically-rooted and God-centered environment for the little minds and big hearts of James North to grow up in. I have been kindly welcomed into the James North community over the last few years, and look forward to how the Lord will grow us together."

We thank the Lord for giving us Michayla and her gifts for our ministries.



500 James St North, Hamilton, ON, L8L 1J4,
jamesnorth.church - office@jamesnorth.church

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MY DONATION FOR JAMES NORTH

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Email transfers: send to giving@jamesnorth.church

Direct Deposit: email office@jamesnorth.church for direct deposit form for pre-authorized gifts

Online: through Canada Helps

Cheque: Payable to James North Baptist Church

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