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Growing OUR MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1
AUGUST 31 2006

GROWING OUR MINISTRY IN A GROWING BRAMPTON

In June North Bramalea launched a project to help us grow our ministry in Brampton... a rapidly growing Brampton. Over the summer Norm and Jamie inspired us with stories of people in the Bible who caught the ideas God tossed their way and did amazing things. That's where we are today.

It's an exciting place to be. Every week we meet new families who are looking for a faith community. But now we as a congregation are at a crossroads. We have a sense of God's great dream for our growing city, but we have no more capacity in our little corner of Brampton.

The project to grow North Bramalea's ministry will push us, not just to grow in

numbers. It will push us to grow our capacity for ministry. We'll do that by:

- expanding and developing our leadership
- expanding the staff team that leads us
- expanding our ministries—with each other and with our neighbours;
- and expanding our building.

The project to ramp up our capacity for greater ministry will involve all of us. Each of us—from the youngest to the oldest--will be asked to pray about how God wants us to invest in expanding our church and our building.

God has honoured us by asking us to roll up our sleeves and join him with our talents, our money, and our passions. God is asking us to make his mission in Brampton our mission.

HERE ARE A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Mid-September

Architect holds face-to-face interviews with ministry leaders about the ways we use our space for ministry. If you've got ideas to contribute, contact Peter Waisanen at peter.waisanen@rogers.com

November 5, 2006

All-Church Celebration Event
A major event at the Holiday Inn, with dinner and a celebration of our life and ministry as a congregation.

This will be a busy fall, with many dates along the way. So watch the website, the NBUC Link, future newsletter and bulletins for other opportunities to participate.

*PRAY
PRAY THAT GOD WILL
STRETCH US.
PRAY THAT GOD WILL IN-
CREASE OUR COURAGE AND
FAITH.
PRAY THAT GOD WILL GUIDE
US ON THIS
JOURNEY.
PRAY THAT GOD WILL
USE US IN BRAMPTON.*

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Growing Our Ministry is about building our capacity in 4 areas of the church's life: ministry leadership, staffing, community ministries and space. Here are people who are providing leadership in helping us go forward.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

MINISTRY GROWTH

LIVING BEYOND MYSELF COACH:
Jeff Jacobs

DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH COACH:
Steve Allin

SMALL GROUPS COACH:
David Seunarine

COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVES:
Mel O'Connell

STAFFING COMMITTEE CHAIR:
Holly Wark

DESIGN/BUILD TEAM CHAIR:
Peter Waisanen

FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN PROGRAM DIRECTOR:
Doug Smith

FINANCE TEAM CHAIR:
Glen Blackwell

FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Doug Smith

MINISTER
Norm Greene

HOME VISITATION CO-DIRECTORS
Anne Marie Petrie

Jamie Holtom
CANVASS DIRECTOR

Sandra Henschell

HOSPITALITY & CHURCH EVENT DIRECTOR
Mary Southcott

LEADERSHIP DIRECTOR
Murray Morton &
Carman McClelland

COMMUNICATIONS/MULTIMEDIA DIRECTORS
Bonnie Greene

CHILDREN & YOUTH DIRECTORS
Nancy Leeson &
Donna Gileno

FOLLOW-UP DIRECTORS
Fred Bertolini

ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR
George Watson

GROWING OUR CAPACITY FOR MINISTRY BY.....

Over the last 18 months, we've felt God's vision emerging among us, calling us to transform people, build community, and reach out to Brampton, supporting families and offering hope. To do that, we're increasing our capacity for ministry.

GROWING OUR LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

Some time ago, North Bramalea moved from being a minister-centred church to a ministry-centred church. All of us sharing the love of God with the gifts and passions that God has wired into us.

It's one thing for the ministers to talk about that vision on Sundays. It's another to create an environment in which we are encouraged to step out and try a new ministry or to serve in an established area. In May of this year, North Bramalea's Living Beyond Myself program was

officially launched—a program that builds on the work of the Equipping Ministry Team. Jeff Jacobs, the coach for this program, worked with a small team, to help leaders of existing ministries put on our Ministry Expo in June. This program will be a regular part of our efforts to grow and support ministry leaders. The church has also increased the number of leaders it has sent to conferences and continuing education courses.

As the church grows, we will need to equip more and more people for the ministries God has given them.

GROWING OUR STAFF

North Bramalea has as fine a staff as any church we know of. In the church world, however, you need 1 minister for every 150 people just so the church maintains itself. Churches that grow their ministry need to add to their staff team. If they don't, the church starts to decline. If they do, the congregation grows. And church research shows that the number of church volunteers also grows—because people are supported in their ministry.

Ministry Council set up a team to work with our presbytery to find us another ministry staff. That team has prepared a job description that captures the church's desire

to make NBUC a place that supports families of all kinds in building relationships that draw on the life of God and God's dream for what families can be. The person we will be looking for will be a leader of all the people who help children, youth, and their parents learn to follow Christ more closely in the real world.

The team working on our behalf is chaired by Holly Wark. The United Church's process for calling a minister to a congregation is a long one; so the team hopes to post the job in the fall, with a person coming to work with us in the new year.

GROWING OUR SPACE

Space to do the work you need to do is a challenge at North Bramalea. We moved to three services to avoid turning away people—and their cars—on Sunday morning. Through the week, adult groups, kids' programs, youth groups, wedding rehearsals, outreach activities, small groups, Ministry Council meetings, musicians, and others all compete for the same scarce space.



That's why Ministry Council set the ball rolling nearly 2 years ago to find a way to solve NBUC's space problem. In

February, our church leaders came to the congregation with a proposal that we expand on our existing site. The annual meeting agreed unanimously.

A Design/Build Team, chaired by Peter Waisanen, was

established to hire an architect and lead us through all the steps needed to get us the space we need for ministry. The architect hired is Parker Architects of St. Catharines, a team with a lot of experience in building churches and in consulting widely with people in the congregation to get the space that will work. We expect to have an architect's conceptual drawing available, with cost estimates for different options, by mid-fall. The hope is that we'll have made our decision and be ready to put shovels in the ground by late spring 2007.

Our team has been asked to aim for a sanctuary that seats 500 at a time, plus a reconfiguration of our existing space to make it more useable for ministries among ourselves and to our community. Fortunately, the original building team for North Bramalea had the foresight—and the faith—to make our current space expandable.

BETTER LIVES

NBUC is a church where God shows up and where people are drawn into the new life of Jesus Christ.

Here's how some NBUC folks describe the difference God has made in their lives:

- I'm at peace in high stress situations
- I'm inspired to invest myself in making the world better for others.
- I struggle with depression, but it doesn't conquer me anymore.
- I know my life is God-centred now.
- I found joy and a community after my husband died.
- I'm not afraid anymore.
- I have learned to pray—to start every day with my mind on God. It changes my way of looking at life.

"I'm inspired to invest myself in making the world better for others"

Each of us has his or her own story of how our lives have become better as we've learned to live easily and comfortably with God. Making room for more of our neighbours to experience new life is a big part of the Growing Our Ministry Project.

A BETTER BRAMPTON

The good news is that God loves our town and its people even more than we do. God's footprints already lead from North Bramalea's doors into the streets of Brampton. It's those footprints that lead us outside our walls to share the love and compassion we have experienced in this church with our neighbours.

CSI: Brampton (community support initiatives) is the name we give to our community ministries, including those that already exist, like the Snow Shovelling Ministry, Single Mom's Ministry, Family Camp and Evening of Hope for people affected by cancer. It also includes all the ministry ideas people have brewing in their hearts, if only we had space.

North Bramalea is becoming known as a church with a heart for the community. The Lucas Holtom Carnival is a significant part of how people know us. The idea of bringing Wellspring, a community-based cancer support program—to Brampton was born and nurtured in this congregation.

Two years ago, Ministry Council approved a plan for a Christ-centred outreach in Brampton that focuses the resources of NBUC on relationships in order to strengthen all kinds of families and individuals and to prevent relationship breakdown. The church's strategy would be to help families work better, play better, and find support in emergencies.

A recent study of homelessness in Peel found that the breakdown of a marriage or long-term relationship is the single most important cause of homelessness and poverty in our region. Like all churches, we do a lot of benevolence work with people who are already in trouble. Preventing homelessness by working on relationships just

BETTER FAMILIES

People whose lives are better because they're centred in God make their families better too. The emphasis on families at NBUC comes out of the hearts of its people. Our congregation has felt a call to strengthen family relationships as the focus for reaching out and for transforming people. By "family," we mean "all kinds of families". None of us is without family in some way. We want to strengthen the deep, sustaining and complex relationships that people have at all stages of life. It all matters to God...birth, growing up, making life-shaping decisions about careers, life partners, priorities and passions. Our vision is to make North Bramalea a place where every family can be inspired and strengthened in its efforts to build life-long relationships of love, care, and trust.



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IMAGINE

GOD BUILDING

BETTER LIVES

BETTER FAMILIES

A BETTER BRAMPTON...

We do!

The Growing Our Ministry Project is about building our capacity to make that dream a reality at North Bramalea. For us it means:

- *Hearing God's heart as it beats for the people of Brampton and feeling our hearts grow as they resonate to the heart of God.*
- *Welcoming twice as many people into the life-transforming experiences we have in worship and discipleship growth*
- *Opening our doors for all the activities that make family life what God dreams it will be.*
- *Providing a support base for the people of this congregation who feel God's spirit rising up in them for new community ministries, e.g. creative parenting events.*
- *Putting our collective hands on our city for the blessing of its people.*
- *Having the leaders, the staff, and the space to do all that God has called us to.*

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INVESTING IN GOD'S WORK.....OUR FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN

Growing our ministry at NBUC will take money. Some will come from reserves, some from available grant programs, some from loans. And some will also come from us—the people who make North Bramalea the special place it is.

NBUC will run a financial campaign this fall to raise our share of the total project and to let us make our personal commitments over and above our normal givings. Ministry Council appointed Doug Smith as Program Director for the campaign. Over a dozen people have come forward to work with Doug in leading this campaign.

The church also hired Ben Harder, a well-known church financial consultant who helped us raise the funds to build our current building back in 1987. Ben has been meeting with our the Steering Committee for the financial campaign over the summer. The advice is that churches of our size typically raise between \$850,000 and \$1,000,000 in a campaign.

Ours is a directed stewardship campaign, which asks each of us to pray about the commitment God is calling us to make over 3 years to growing North Bramalea's capacity for ministry. Watch church bulletins, our website (nbuc.on.ca), and mailings for details.