

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

We are quickly coming to the end of another year. The Christmas season for 2003 will soon wrap up and be history. We look back with thanksgiving for what God has done. But we also look forward to what He is about to do!

Innisfil Community Church has had a good year. It has been a year of transition as previous staff moved on and new staff were added. The only thing that seems constant these days is change itself. Financially, the church has been stretched. North American statistics indicate that less and less Christians are accepting their spiritual responsibility to tithe to their local church. Emotional appeals from a variety of sources are tapping the tithes that God intended to be directed to the local church. The biggest hindrance to the furtherance of the Gospel is not laborers, or volunteers. It is the lack of finances.

Amazingly, we have been able to do some very exciting things in 2003. With the subsidy of some businesses, we were able to execute our "Why" Project of distributing \$100,000.00 worth of books for our cost of \$12,000.00. How could we turn down such a wonderful opportunity... even if financially we were running behind? And how could we ever stop doing V.B.S. or cut back in that area where almost 500 kids are brought in to hear the gospel...our cost over \$5,000 not including hydro, air-conditioning, staff, and other resources!

This past summer also saw us venture out to hire two full time students to do community programming. Now we wait for the fruit. We continue to pray that the many backslidden people in the community will be restored to faith. We pray that God will touch the hearts of the many new people moving into the community. We pray that the entire community will experience revival.

As we look forward to the new year, we are launching a special week of prayer and fasting from January 4-10. Can you.. Will you... join us?

Pastor Courtney



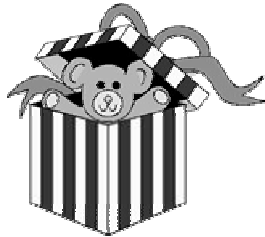
PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following needs:

- For those suffering from cancer:
- Darlene Bedford (please pray for complete healing for Darlene)
- David King's sister, needs our prayers
- Ruby Hutchison's niece's husband (aneurism); in Sunnybrook Hospital
- Muriel Roberts (Muriel is currently in a nursing facility in Newmarket, awaiting placement in the Barrie area)
- Kelly Mittler (undergoing bone marrow transplant on December 18th—trusting God for a miracle).
- Sandy Benson, recovering from a stroke. Please pray for complete health.
- Baby Kourtney Farnell—desperately needs our prayers.
- Many of our families who are suffering with pneumonia, colds and the flu
- Our seniors and shut-ins; especially those who are alone this holiday season.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Innisfil Community Church had the pleasure of preparing and delivering 16 Christmas hampers to bless those who needed a little extra help this year. This is made possible through the kindness and generosity of people within our church and community who have a heart to give and reach out to others. Thank you for sharing!



Innisfil Community Church

NEWSLETTER

January, 2004

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

This year's musical, "Two From Galilee", was under the direction of Pastor Eden Jamieson. Four productions were held at the church, two of them dessert theatre style. Many hours were spent rehearsing for this play and it was amazing and rewarding to see the cast perform so effectively. The dessert theatre nights are always so well received by those who attend from the surrounding communities. Although some of the seniors had to cancel their reservations because of snow and slippery road conditions, the total attendance for the four performances exceeded 600. Twenty-five people completed cards for salvation, indicating their acceptance of Christ into their lives. That's our ultimate goal—to reach out to those around us and win souls for the Kingdom. Thanks Pastor Eden and cast for all your hours of hard work!

“WHY”

We did it! Although it was a very stormy morning, on Saturday, November 29, approximately 4800 “WHY” books were delivered door to door to the residents of Innisfil. Seventy-six brave, committed and enthusiastic volunteers, ranging in age from 10 to 65, arrived at the church early, pumped and ready to go. Each team was prayed over as they set out with their red and green gift bags. At noon everyone gathered back at the church for a hot lunch of chili and a variety of soups. Thanks ladies for wonderful food! Special thanks to Karen Boylan for co-ordinating the meal. Following the luncheon, teams regrouped and headed back out to cover the unfinished part of their routes. It was very exciting to drive along the streets and see the colored gift bags hanging on the doors of the homes. It was also very exciting to have received our target of \$12,000 to cover the funding of these books. Praise God! Here are a few excerpts of comments we have received:

- *“Thank you so much for the WHY book. I was thrilled to get it.”.....Leslie*

- *“I would like to thank you very much for the book you left at our house. What a nice surprise when I opened the door—I will pass it on to my friend”.....Joan*

- *“Thank you for the beautiful WHY book—I love it! I took it to my work.”.....Sarah*

- *“Thanks for the WHY book—my kids are currently reading it.”.....*

Thanks everyone for your faithfulness to the work of God and for a job well done! May He continue to bless you as you bless others.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- The Gate

On December 3rd, the junior highs (The Gate) held their very own formal Christmas Banquet and carol sing. Everyone had a fun time.

- BG Christmas Night

On December 10th, the BG's closed off their year with a Christmas fun night of crafts, concert and special treats.

- Sunday School Concert

On Sunday evening, December 14th, our Children's Pastor, Pastor Charlene Roberts, directed the Sunday School play, “The Perfect Son.” The children performed so well as they shared the story of how God's power can change broken lives. An enjoyable time of fellowship and refreshments followed.

- Youth Banquet

The Youth held their Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 20th. A full turkey dinner and fun was enjoyed by all.

- Primetimers

On December 4th, approximately 40 of our Primetimers enjoyed a meal together at Swiss Chalet, followed by a lovely Christmas light tour along Anten Mills, Midhurst, and in and around Barrie....with our bus driver, Pastor Courtney (and Beulah).

Then, on Tuesday, December 9th, the Primetimers enjoyed a delicious luncheon of turkey and all the trimmings, followed by a Christmas carol sing and skits. Thanks Gil & Delores for co-ordinating these events!

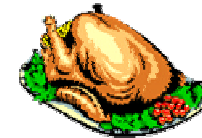
MORE CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- Board and Staff Dinner

A dinner was held on Monday evening December 1st, to recognize the Church Board and staff for their dedication and hard work. Pastor Courtney addressed each person individually and shared from his heart on the theme “The Gathering of the Restored.” It was a most enjoyable evening.

- Rejoice Christian Academy Concert

The students of Rejoice Christian Academy held their annual Christmas Concert on Thursday evening, December 18th. Added to their inspiring program was a round-table style of fellowship and good desserts!



Christmas Eve Community Dinner

As this newsletter is written, plans are underway for our annual Christmas Eve Community Dinner, coordinated by Mrs. Marion Boone. This turkey dinner is especially prepared for those who are alone, in need, seniors, or stranded students. Those attending are then invited to stay for the Christmas Eve Carol Sing.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Canadian Blood Services held their Blood Donor Clinic at Innisfil Community Church on Friday, December 19th; once again, “Thank You” for giving the “gift of life”.