

## A PERSONAL NOTE FROM PASTOR COURTNEY

It's a wonderful day at Innisfil Church! God's blessing has been evidenced as we have seen many come to know Christ as Savior, and mature in their love for Him. We rejoice with exceeding great joy as the shepherds did when they discovered the good news of the Savior.

Volunteers have served so well over the years in the many programs of the church. Every ministry has seen results. Regularly, kids discover Jesus. In Sunday services we have witnessed adults coming to a commitment to serve Jesus.

As the programs expand to serve our community, so does our need for new and fresh volunteers. Every new or expansion of programs brings added expense, but certainly worth everything we put into it. While the Sunday morning attendance—our true volunteer base—has been maxed to capacity, the need for us to provide additional room for growth has become alarmingly apparent.

In 1998 we became aware of the need for sanctuary expansion, but opted to build a gymnasium to provide better program and outreach ministry space. It has proven to be a wonderful blessing. But the volunteer base has not grown significantly or proportionately.

We have come to the point where we must expand our core volunteer base and make room for more in our Sunday morning worship service.

The next step will be the biggest step we've ever taken.

In 1981 a group of 33 people joined hearts and hands to build the first sanctuary at a cost of approximately \$250,000. It was a step of faith. It was a time when people believed God that

there was a harvest to be brought in and those 33—men, women and children—took the risks to do it. And....we built!

Little has changed in the sanctuary space since then. Little, that is, except that the sanctuary has been filled....more than once—consistently and repeatedly!

And, many have come and gone. Many have moved away to become active and involved in other churches. Many have left to enter full time ministry. Some have left to go on the mission field overseas. God has done a great work. But...there's so much more to do.

Innisfil has not yet been won to Christ! We have a huge task ahead. More programs are needed. Existing ministries need to be enhanced. Numerous new volunteers need to be recruited. And the facility needs to be enlarged to accommodate them.

A "Steering Committee" has been formed to take us forward. You will be hearing from them over the next three months. The vision is clear. The need is evident. And now is the opportune time.

We invite you to join with us in the next phase of growth!

There's a place for YOU and YOUR neighbors. We are counting on you. We are counting on your faith. We are counting on your volunteer efforts. We are counting on your financial sacrifice. In fact, not only are WE counting on you, but GOD is counting on you to do your part. It's time for us to make history and change the world around us!

**WILL YOU JOIN WITH US? WILL YOU DO YOUR PART IN WINNING INNISFIL TO CHRIST AND INVESTING IN THE LIVES OF THOSE AROUND YOU? TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!!**

*Pastor Courtney*



## NEWSLETTER

August, 2005

### CANADA DAY SERVICE



"O Canada, our home and native land. True patriot love in all our son's command. With glowing hearts we see

thee rise, the true north strong and free; from far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. God keep our land, glorious and free; O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

Every Canada Day weekend, Innisfil Community Church holds their outdoor Sunday evening service at the Alcona Plaza. This year was no exception. It was a hot and humid day and, while many enjoyed the service sitting on chairs in front of the platform, most chose to listen from their air-conditioned cars. They especially appreciated the ICC complimentary bottles of refreshing ice water handed out prior to the service, along with complimentary Canadian flags and Canadian bumper stickers. The evening began with everyone joining in the singing of Canada's National Anthem, "O Canada", followed by a variety of special solos by Pastor Crystal, Sheri McLaughlin, and Christine Ross. Karen Boylan and Sarah Gilpin both shared their personal testimonies, as well as giving thanks for the benefits and blessings of living in the country of Canada. The message of the day was a follow-up of the "Live 8" concert (held in Barrie during Canada Day weekend) and its emphasis on world poverty. Pastor Courtney's message focused on the "spiritual" poverty of our nation and how we need a "return to the Bible and to God" in our land of Canada.

## FAREWELL TO BONNIE!



On Sunday evening, June 26, a prayer of blessing was prayed over Bonnie Pereira as it was her last service at ICC before leaving for India. Bonnie left on Thursday, July 7, to begin a one year term teaching Grade 9 & 10 science at the International School in Kodai Kanal. She covets the prayers of her church family and friends. If you would like to communicate with Bonnie via e-mail, her address is: bonpereira@hotmail.com. Please pray that God will protect her and provide for her in every way.

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Congratulations to Gil & Delores Weston on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary! On Saturday, July 16th, their children hosted a lovely reception at Innisfil Community Church, surrounded as well by Gil & Delores's grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a host of other family members. As the large gathering of friends arrived, they had an opportunity to view the many photos that were displayed along the walls of the gymnasium and reflect on the scores of memories and stories that took place over those 50 years. Also among the guests, and bringing greetings, was MPP Joe Tascona. Catering was provided by Glenda Mitchell and, as usual, there was a colorful spread of delicious finger foods, sweets and treats. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. Again, congratulations Gil & Delores. May God continue to bless you both with many more years of health and happiness.

## DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Ron & Sharon Emmons on the passing of Ron's father, Ernest (Grant) Emmons, on Saturday, July 9th. Funeral service was held in Strathroy the following Monday and was attended by Pastor & Beulah Courtney, Pastor June & John White, Pastor Gerry & Margaret French, and Marion Boone. *(We thank God that Ron had the opportunity to lead his father to the Lord just two weeks prior to his passing).*

We also regret to announce the passing of Henry Marr on Friday, July 8th. Henry was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy, just 10 months ago. Both Henry and Dorothy began attending Innisfil Community Church during the Y2K Emergency Preparedness Seminars offered at the church. They became regular attenders and especially enjoyed the monthly Primetimer events. The funeral service was held at the Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home in Barrie and was conducted by Pastor Courtney and Pastor June White.

Please pray for the Marr and Emmons families during this time of bereavement.

## GROUND ZERO



Our Ground Zero youth continue to meet throughout the summer months, on Friday nights. On Sunday, July 17th, the evening service featured Ground Zero and the Youth Band, with Becky Boone on the keyboard,

Pastor Kris and Andrew McGhee playing electric guitars, Derek Clugston on the drums, and Jason Wells accompanying on bass guitar. As well, Becky and Andrew jointly led worship. After a time of praise and testimonies, Pastor Kris shared his 3-point message on "Patience, Persistence, and Prayer". The service concluded with a time of prayer around the altar.

## GETTING READY FOR VBS!

It's almost time! The kids are getting excited as VBS's "Serengeti Trek" is fast approaching. Leaders and volunteers are gearing up for the program, which runs the first two weeks in August (August 1-5 and August 8-12). Many registrations have already been received in anticipation of the adventure of this year's Vacation Bible School.

## THANK YOU!

We sincerely appreciate the donations of food and clothing that come in on a regular basis. This past month we have been able to provide several families within the community with food in an emergency crisis. We were particularly delighted to be able to assist one family who lost everything when their home was destroyed by fire. Our volunteers in the clothing portables set aside clothing for this family, toys for the kids, and other practical household items to help get them started in a temporary home. Our food cupboards continuously need stocking and it is because of YOUR generosity we are able to give back to those less fortunate. Thank You, especially, to our seniors who consistently volunteer in the clothing portables, sorting the clothing and accommodating the requests that come in, and, to our volunteers who put together and deliver food on a need-to-basis. You are appreciated.

*"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40 (NIV)*

## MISSIONS TRIP PLANNED

Pastor June White is planning a Missions Trip to Guatemala. The date is May 20th to June 3rd, 2006. Only 14 people can be accommodated. The cost is approx. \$1600. If you can hammer a nail, use a paint brush, sweep up, minister in some way—God can use you to bless others less fortunate than yourself. If you are interested in getting involved in this trip, please contact Pastor June at 436-1611.