

News/Tidbits



DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Russell Seaton

It is with extreme sadness that we announce the sudden death of Russell Seaton, a long standing member of Innisfil Community Church. Russell was killed in a tragic accident on Wednesday, February 6. While on his way home from the USA to Toronto, the tractor trailer he was driving hit the shoulder of the road and plunged into the forest. Please uphold in prayer his loving wife, Donna; daughters: Elaine, Allyson, Karen, and Russell's son, Sean; as well as a number of grandchildren. A celebration of Russell's life was held at ICC on Tuesday, February 12, with Pastor Courtney conducting the service. May God's comfort and peace sustain the hearts of all those who mourn this very sad loss.

Doreen Gainforth

Our sincere sympathy is also extended to Ralph & Gloria Fox on the passing of Ralph's sister, Doreen Gainforth, in her 76th year. The late Mrs. Gainforth had been critically ill for the past month and was on life support. A memorial service celebrating her life was held at Hiway Pentecostal Church on Saturday, February 23. Please pray for the family.

PASTOR KRIS OFF TO KOREA

Pastor Kris Reid has been the Youth Pastor at Innisfil Community Church since the beginning of May, 2005, ministering to both the junior highs (GATE) and the senior highs (GROUND ZERO). As well, Pastor Kris has preached, led worship, and has been a member of the music band. On Sunday, February 3, he presented a letter of resignation, announcing his decision to leave ICC and pursue a teaching career in Korea (teaching English). Before heading off to Korea he will be spending a few weeks in Newfoundland with his family. Pastor Kris, we appreciate your ministry at ICC and pray God will bless you and continue to guide you in the days ahead.

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SERVANTHOOD APPRECIATION

Brenda Clair has served at Innisfil Community Church for many years as Tithe Envelope Secretary and in other areas of ministry. After 4 years serving as President and Director of Women's Ministries, Brenda is taking a break at the end of the WM year (June), and stepping down from this position. She has ministered to our ladies (both inside and outside the church) with passion, compassion and with excellence! In a recent Sunday morning service, Pastor Courtney publicly honored Brenda and presented her with a "Towel and Basin", representing her heart of service to God's work and to Innisfil Community Church. Thank you, Brenda!

SHARING THE PULPIT!

Pastor Rob Sharpe preached his first sermon at ICC on Sunday morning, February 10. In introducing his message, he showed a clip from the movie "The Glory Road" - Luke 19, the inspiring true story of an underdog Texas Western basketball team that surprisingly won the 1966 NCAA tournament title. Pastor Rob's inspirational message was about living as believers and accomplishing the mission of the church as opposed to just using your gifts. Well done!

PARTNERS TOGETHER

Innisfil Community Church continues to partner with Calvary Community Church. Earlier this year, the Board of ICC agreed to support Calvary, in their recent pastoral transition, by contributing \$1000.00 per month for a 5-month period. This has been a real blessing to the congregation that had diminished to about 20 people. With the new transition the numbers have increased almost 3 times that, to around 60 people! Our \$1000.00 cheque arrived just in time this past month following a winter storm that resulted in a very low Sunday attendance. We rejoice with the wonderful leadership that Rev. Lawrence Crews is giving this assembly.



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, 2008



GOD'S HEART

February is Valentine's month; a time most closely associated with the exchange of cards and love notes as expressions of love from the heart.

God's love is an every day Valentine for us all! The Bible says "No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Author Andrew Murray puts it this way: "In Christ the heart of the Father is revealed and no higher comfort can be found than resting in the Father's heart." In keeping with the theme, Pastor Courtney's sermons for the month reflected on God's love and the love for one another. How privileged we are to be "God's Valentine!"

Communion & Praise

Sharing in communion on the first Sunday of the month (February 3), was also a time to reflect on the heart of God, who loved us so much that He gave His only Son that we might live. During the communion service, the "Vessels of Praise" dancers presented the song "You Deserve The Glory". This is a group of young girls (and ladies) who are using their talents to minister in dance as a true form of praise and worship unto the Lord. Under the leadership of Joan Trensche, this ministry group is been trained to be sensitive to the Spirit as they lead in various styles, songs and choreography. They desire to be not only vessels of praise, but anointed vessels of God who will use this vehicle to take people into worship before His throne.

Events/Activities



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

"Hello Dolly" - this was the theme for the special event held on Tuesday, February 19. The evening, organized by Sharon Emmons and her crew of helpers, featured children as special guests. A beautiful exhibition of vintage dolls, international dolls, and famous types of dolls were presented by Sharon, as well as a parade of dolls presented by the "mini moms". The children planned the menu for the unique lunch that was enjoyed by all. "It's a Small World After All!"

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Men's Ministries hosted a "big screen" Super Bowl party in the gym on Sunday night, February 3. At the same time, prayer and worship was held in the sanctuary and those who wished to join in the festivities following the service were invited to do so. This event was not only for fans who enjoyed the sport, but also a time for families to come out and share in board games, "football-themed" games, and other activities. Of course there was no shortage of food, which included chili & buns, sweets & snacks, and ice-cream.

The following night the men got together in the Fireside Lounge for a time of fellowship and wholesome discussions.

PRIMETIMERS

The 55+ group held their regular Monday shuffleboard activities during the month, as well as sharing in board games and a fellowship tea time. Thanks to Beth Skabernicky, who faithfully sets up the shuffleboard & carpet bowling each week, ensuring that it runs smoothly.

OTHER ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Taking place on a weekly basis are the following activities: The GATE, Ground Zero, BG's, Adult Bible Study, Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study, Boundaries Course, Marriage Enrichment, Friday Morning Prayer, Leisureworld Nursing Home & Innisfil Beach Gardens Services, and Saturday night ICC Men's Hockey.

Events/Activities (cont'd)

HOUSEWARMING BLESSING

On February 9, friends and family gathered at the "new address" for Bonnie Pereira, joining her in the excitement of purchasing her first home. It was wonderful to see so many drop by for her housewarming celebration. Bonnie was blessed with many beautiful gifts to help get her started. You are loved Bonnie! (When are you having us all for dinner?) (

DESSERT CONCERTS

As mentioned in last months' letter, ICC hosted "The Torchmen Quartet", who were our guests for the Dessert Concert held on Sunday evening, January 27, ministering in song to a full audience. When the information cards were collected, we were thrilled to see that 16 of the attendees had checked off the box indicating they had prayed the sinner's prayer (led by Pastor Courtney) for salvation! February's Dessert Concert featured the gospel group, "Reunion."

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Canadian Blood Services continue to use ICC's gym facility for their blood donor clinics, the most recent being held on Thursday, February 21. It is our privilege to be able to contribute in this way in giving the "gift of life".

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

As this letter is being written, the Annual Business Meeting is planned for February 26. The results of the meeting will be reported in next month's newsletter.

MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Innisfil Prayer Breakfasts began in February 6, 2002, following the U.S. Twin Towers terrorist attack. Coordinated by Pastor Courtney, and under the patronage of The Mayor and the Town of Innisfil, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast was held on Wednesday, February 13, at the Stroud Recreational Center. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together those who are playing an active leadership role in the Innisfil community and to ask God's guidance in carrying out their duties and responsibilities.

Thank You For Praying!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Donna Seaton & Family	For comfort and strength in coping with the sudden death of Donna's husband, Russell
Ralph & Gloria Fox	For comfort in the passing of Ralph's sister, Doreen
Margaret Vantil	Diagnosed with breast cancer
Yvonne Avery	Out of RVH; recovering at home from bleeding of the lungs and other health issues.
Pat Andrews (Kevin Gill's mom)	Heart problems, breathing difficulty, weakness in body
Rolf Trench (Mark Trench's dad)	Heart problems, pneumonia
Linda Roddick	Broken Elbow
Dennis Fehr	Liver cancer. Continuing chemo treatments
Owen Dixon	Stroke & paralysis. Continuing treatment in Rehab in Toronto

Our God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think". Ephesians 3:20



The Lord instructed us to pray not only for our needs but to reach out and pray for others as well. We are told to pray and to make intercession for all men. Jesus was the greatest intercessor of all time and He is looking for people today that are willing

to enter into this ministry with Him. He has always sought people that would "stand in the gap" for others. (Ezekiel 22:30-31). The ministry of intercession is a vital part of our Christian walk. There are many needs amongst us. Let us never cease to pray.