

Assist Church Expansion exists to catalyze new churches, sites, mergers and adoptions that will expand our movement with Legacy Churches.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:



Growth at Main Street Church following launch



Grace Fellowship Church welcomes new Associate Pastor



Ted and Elise Adomanis make another move



Family forms at Renew Cambridge



Grasslands Church makes a big impact



Community of Hope looks to the future



“I LOVE MY CITY”



The Three Creeks Church Launch Team is off and running! The team has grown from 60 to almost 100 people over the last three months ... and there are still two months before the public launch of this new church. But even more exciting than the growth of the team has been the impact Three Creeks has had on the local community of Gahanna. By introducing the “I LOVE MY CITY” series of events, Three Creeks has been able to serve their community in a unique way in every month of their Launch Team season. The goal is to help people – and let them know that the church is here to serve them.

February 18, 2018 is the official Launch Date for Three Creeks Church. But that is not the “finish line”. That is the starting gun going off – and Three Creeks is not setting out to “do great things for God”, but instead, this young church is praying that God will “do great things through this church”. It’s all about Him!



MAIN STREET CHURCH: PUTTING OUT MORE CHAIRS



Since their official launch in September, Main Street Church has seen an exciting amount of growth. Additional chairs were recently purchased to accommodate their growing Sunday morning service, and families are getting plugged into “Next Step Groups”, which are Main Street’s version of weekly small group Bible studies. In addition, two individuals recently made the decision to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus through baptism!

At the beginning of December, Main Street Church hosted “Lights Out After the Parade”, an event that helped kick off Chelsea, Michigan’s Hometown Holiday weekend. The event took place immediately following the Lights Parade downtown, where Main

Street humans marched alongside their own float made with wood pallets and over 1,000 twinkly lights. Members of the community were invited to the church after the parade to enjoy live music, hot chocolate, cookies, and s’mores. This was Main Street’s third year hosting Lights Out After the Parade, and there was a great turn out!

Main Street Church also eagerly anticipates the Christmas season, when they will host their first candlelit Christmas Eve service. Pray that many new families would attend. And pray that they would see – maybe for the first time – who Jesus really is, and what his birth, burial, and resurrection has achieved for them.

THE ASSIST TEAM



Nathan Bryant
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ted & Elise
Adomanis
ADMINISTRATION
AND FINANCE



Mark Artrip
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
PLANTING & RECRUITMENT



Philip Bryant
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH:

WELCOMES A NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR ON STAFF



THE KIRBAWY FAMILY



GRACE FELLOWSHIP WORSHIP SERVICE IN BRUNSWICK ELEMENTARY



For several months Lead Pastor Scott Avey has been praying that God would miraculously provide someone to come and help with leading worship at the church planting work in Brunswick MD. Knowing that resources are scarce and that the young church plant could not support hiring an additional pastor, he really was asking for a miracle. Out of the blue, Scott was told about a young family from Akron Ohio that was looking for a pastoral ministry opportunity where they could invest in the kingdom and make a big impact – even if it was in a tent-making capacity. After many Skype calls and a site visit, it was apparent that Benaiah and Jamie Kirbawy shared the same passion for church planting, discipleship and evangelism that Scott was feeling.

The elders and people of Grace Fellowship enthusiastically supported asking Benaiah to come be an associate pastor. This is a huge step of faith for the Kirbawy's as they leave their family and home behind to follow God's call on their lives.

Please pray for Benaiah and Jamie as they work to find a house and jobs to support their kingdom efforts in Brunswick MD.



TED SNACKS ON FRESH DEER JERKY PROVIDED BY A FAITHFUL GRASSLANDER



TED & ELISE AT ONE OF THE MANY REST STOPS ALONG THE ROUTE THRU ALBERTA, MONTANA, IDAHO, UTAH, ARIZONA AND NEVADA



ARRIVING SAFELY IN PAHRUMP AND REALIZING THERE'S NO GRASSLANDERS TO HELP UNLOAD!

The aptly named "Assist Mobile Unit" moved again this year only this time in a new direction ... south!

After moving north to Ontario, Canada 16 years ago, then west to Alberta three short years ago, Ted and Elise hit the road once again for a new adventure, the States. "No one was even thinking of Assist Church Expansion 9 months ago. Everything developed rather rapidly as we took on new ministry responsibilities and accepted challenges being thrown our way by our team leader, Nathan Bryant," quipped Ted. "The last thing we thought we'd be doing this year was moving again ... and certainly not to the U.S.," added Elise.

All of this has come about as GBCanada USA, which has historically targeted all its activity in Canada the last decade, felt it needed to fill the gap of church planting within the Charis Fellowship. So, was birthed Assist Church Expansion (formerly GBCanada USA). Just a simple name change and a BIG shift in focus into the U.S. and Canada was all that was needed. Yet, a lot of people are confused by the change probably because of how rapidly it happened. "We're still the same old Coke, just with expanded flavor in a new container," joked Ted. After being part of three church starts in Canada, Ted and Elise are establishing the new U.S. offices for Assist Church Expansion in Pahrump, Nevada. What better location for a Christian ministry than in a town that means Water (pah) and Rock (rump); two elements representing the Holy Spirit and Jesus!



FAMILY FORMS IN CAMBRIDGE



Merry Christmas!

Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday that we were packing up our home in Rittman Ohio and heading up to the Great White North! Can you believe that it's been three months already?

So much has happened in the last three months ... We've gotten to know a new group of folks that we proudly call our Cambridge Core Family, we've made new friends and met new neighbors, we've seen twelve people from our neighborhood show up to an event, we've celebrated the life of my grandpa Gene Moine and said goodbye ...

While some things have been hard, we've learned long ago to embrace the whole. The good and the not-so-good. We can do that because we know and love a good God! Nothing has come that hasn't been met with the overwhelming grace of God.

Regarding our mission here to press into a new frontier called Cambridge, we've seen God do some amazing things. Miracles even.

If I were to characterize the last few months and this Christmas season I would have to say that we've been overwhelmed by God's movement. We've seen a real awakening of the Spirit in our church through a 24/7 prayer initiative that all of Renew Church participated in. Pouring our hearts out before God, every hour

of every day for a week. The answers to those prayers are still rolling in! Personally we've seen God provide financially. And, as I mentioned before, we hosted 12 total strangers at a connecting event we held!

I want to thank you all so much for your prayers over the last several months and would ask that you continue to pray. Here's some things to focus on:

We're asking God for 30 adults for our Core Team

- Protection and blessing for those who have already committed to Cambridge
- Our upcoming Family Event in January
- We have about \$40,000 of resources to raise over the next 10 months

From Austen, Beniah (4) Nora (3) and Sawyer (1) myself, and the whole Cambridge Crew we're wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and, as a reminder, take a deep breath this holiday season and remember what it's all about!

With love

Erik Jensen



SMALL CHURCH. BIG IMPACT.

“I have never once been unable to feed my family or clothe my kids, so it is difficult for me to imagine that there are people in our surrounding neighbourhoods who struggle with these things. We can’t do much, but we will do something to make difference.” – Pastor Bart Blair



With the dip in oil prices and increased government regulation in the fossil fuels industry, the province of Alberta has faced significant economic hardship over the past several years. Unemployment and underemployment have plagued the city of Medicine Hat, leading to a 300% increase in the use of local food banks and similar services.

Everyone feels it. And, of course, churches feel it.

Although Grasslands Church has a number of its own members and attendees who need assistance this Christmas, the Community Group Leaders of the church rallied to put together nine extravagantly generous gift packages for needy families in the community, outside the church family.

These families were referred to Grasslands by the Nurture Pregnancy Support Centre, a local Christian ministry, and the Southview Community School, a school that is home to a high level of at-risk children.

According to Pastor Bart Blair, the church had designated a portion of its mission budget for local benevolence to use this Christmas and assumed that the funds would go toward helping put the packages together for those referred families. But the church members went above and beyond expectations, using

their own resources to complete the project without dipping into the church’s mission fund.

“We still used that money for benevolence,” says Pastor Bart, “but the funds ended up being directed towards helping situations that weren’t even on our radar at the time we had committed to this other project.”

A number of the church members gathered a week before Christmas to put the packages together for delivery and to pray for each of the families that would receive them.



Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. – Philippians 2:3-4



COMMUNITY OF HOPE'S CHRISTMAS DESSERT THEATRE

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM COMMUNITY OF HOPE!



Here at Community of Hope Church in Surrey, BC we just finished off 4 shows of our Christmas Dessert Theatre. We had over 260 people come out to enjoy the show. Our daughter Ana had the privilege of directing under Pastor Jason's care, and Elijah & Josiah had small roles in the play. It was a fantastic performance and the best part is that over 13 of our neighbours and friends that we had invited came out. None of them are believers and we are so encouraged to see them take this big step to come to a "church" event. They all really enjoyed it. Please pray for the Watson, Howell, Dhillon, Sarora, and the McCaskill families, that they may desire to know Christ and that we would have more opportunity in their lives.

These are exciting times at Community of Hope as Pastor Isaac Whiting has fully taken on the role as Campus Pastor now. This has

opened up time and opportunity for Philip to travel, visiting churches and Bible Schools to connect with future leaders and build networks and a prayer base for Assist. Keep praying for Philip in his travels that the doors would be open. Pray for the family as he will be gone a lot over the next while.

Pray specifically for Community of Hope as we desire to start more campuses here in the Vancouver area. It will require that our church grows and that God connects us with new families that have this desire as well. Pray specifically for Ruslan & Regina as they have literally just landed here from Russia. They have been great partners with Encompass both in Kyrgyzstan and in Vietnam, but have finally got permission to come to Canada.

Thankful that we serve a great King,
Philip, Beth, Lydia, Ana, Alissa, Elijah & Josiah Bryant