



THE DOVERCOURT DISCLOSURE

A regular update from the Elders of Dovercourt Baptist Church

Issue # 4
March 2006

Gospel Sing Concert

On Sunday, March 26th, at 6:30 PM, the Victory Gospel Quartet will be with us for an evening of music, singing and spoken word. This quartet has been ministering throughout southern Ontario for several years. Their southern gospel music style is enjoyed wherever they perform. "Something Good" is not only the title of their latest CD, but also what their audiences say after hearing them perform.

Also on the roster will be Sister Sarah (Kenya), Michael Cheena (First Nations), and Robert B. (Bangladesh). Invitation posters are posted in the church lobby and throughout the community. A full house is expected. This is an opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbours, and the "unchurched". Please remember this outreach event in your prayers.

Sunday Evening Services

As many of you know, Dovercourt has begun holding Sunday evening services again. Our priority continues to be good Bible teaching, but we still need ideas, suggestions, and volunteers to help develop some of the other aspects of these services, such as the music. Sunday evening services will also include the occasional teaching video, Christian movie, worship DVD, prayer time, and live concert. Just in case you need a little encouragement, here is a list of reasons why attending evening services may be of benefit to you:

1. If the Sunday morning Bible study and fellowship just aren't enough for you.
2. If you teach a KICK-Start class or are involved in other ministries during the morning worship service.
3. If you work or can't make it to morning services for whatever reason.
4. If you enjoy services in a more informal environment.
5. If you would like more time to develop friendships and encourage others in our church.
6. If you would prefer to invite unsaved friends to a meeting at a time other than Sunday mornings.

Reading Resources

For many years now, Dovercourt has operated a Resource Centre located in the church auditorium balcony. This location has always been a detriment since it is not very visible and many find it difficult to access. Various changes related to the Resource Centre are now in progress. The plan is to eventually clear out all resources from the balcony and make them more accessible to those who could benefit from them. The first stage is already complete. If you have visited the Heritage Lounge recently, you may have noticed some changes. A beautiful bookcase has recently been purchased (compliments of New Horizons Tower) which now contains a wide selection of reading resources made available to people from both the church and the Tower. Future plans include moving the Children's videos to the nursery, and keeping Bible teaching and study aids in the multi-purpose room next to the church office.

Greetings from Pastor Morvan

In 2006, Dovercourt has decided to support the work of Emmanuel Morvan as he ministers in Haiti. The following is a translated version of a letter of greeting and thanks recently received from Pastor Morvan:

Beloved brothers and sisters of Dovercourt Baptist Church,

May the peace and the grace of God be with you all.

I would like to inform you that during my stay in Toronto (Canada), I was blessed by your teaching. I want to thank you for the love offering. It contributed towards expenses for the Annual Conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ministry in which I am passionately engaged. Throughout the week, the church had more than 1000 attendants. 17 people were baptized and 26 accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. Specifically, the love offering helped to provide food from the 1st to the 8th of January, 2006, for people traveling long distances to come to the conference.

The churches in Haiti keep praying for Christians at Dovercourt and are thankful for their support.

God bless you.

Greetings in Him,

Pastor Emmanuel Morvan

Pastor Morvan's letter and pictures are on display in the church lobby.

Newcomers' Luncheon

A Newcomers' Luncheon will be held after the morning service on March 19th. This is a time during which people who are new to Dovercourt will have opportunity to get to know more about Dovercourt and meet some of the leadership and members.

Church Website

Plans are in the works to update and properly maintain the church's Internet website. One significant addition will be to offer Sunday sermons in MP3 format for anyone in the world to download and listen to. If you have any suggestions regarding the church's website, please pass them on verbally to Steve, Keith, Ivy, or Michael H-J.

Constitutional Changes

During his sermon on February 26th, Pastor Arc taught us how the Deacons in the early Church were those who were given oversight over specific ministries. The Dovercourt Elders believe that the same should be true of our church today. With this in mind, we have taken steps to identify key areas of ministry within the church, and then begun the process of appointing Deacons to oversee these various ministries. In order to allow for such a structure, some changes need to be made to our church constitution. Copies of these proposed changes are available at the Welcome Centre. Text highlighted in red will be removed and text highlighted in green will be added.

As was presented at the Annual Meeting and in the Annual Report, here is a list of ministries we believe should be lead by members of the MLT (Ministry Leadership Team):

Benevolent Care
College & Careers
Faithwalkers
Finance
Hospitality
KICK-Start
Ladies' Fellowship
Men's Fellowship
Missions & Outreach
Multimedia
Music
Newcomers' Care
Nursery Care
Seniors' Fellowship
Social Gatherings & Special Events
Visitation
Welcoming

A church business meeting has been scheduled for April 2nd to vote on the changes to the constitution, and also to present a list of names being proposed for the Ministry Leadership Team. If you are a member, please make plans to attend.

Ministry Descriptions

There are plenty of ways to be involved at Dovercourt Baptist Church. As we now begin another year in which to serve our Lord and King, please review the following ministries to see if there are any areas of service in which you think you may be able to help or would like to be involved. If so, please do not hesitate to tell someone, whether it be an Elder or member of the MLT, so arrangements can be made to get each member of the body functioning as God intends (1 Corinthians 12).

Congregational Care

Ministries that are primarily focused on caring for members, adherents, and visitors.

Ushers

Ushers care for people as they enter the auditorium. They give bulletins to attendees and show them to a seat. Ushers are available to answer questions and provide direction. When a special need arises, ushers respond in ways that cause as little disturbance as possible to the service. Ushers are also responsible for collecting the offering during the services.

Greeters

Greeters give out bulletins and help establish an atmosphere of friendliness and warmth for those entering the church. God's love for people is communicated through those who greet others with joy and sincerity as they enter the church. Greeters are available to answer questions and provide direction.

Welcome Centre

Organize and run the Welcome Centre before and after church services each Sunday.

Newcomers' Care

A group that works together to care for and welcome those who are new to Dovercourt.

Social Gatherings & Special Events

This group will plan and delegate responsibilities for various church social gatherings or special events.

Benevolent Care

The Benevolent committee considers the needs of those requesting assistance, explores options, and provides encouragement. The committee encourages members of the congregation to be involved in providing and meeting the known needs of our members and extended church family.

Visitation

Members of the visitation team seek to contact and visit those who fill out visitor cards on Sundays. They answer questions about the church or concerning a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Visitors go in teams of at least two. Team members are instructed in how to share their faith.

Nursery Care

Care for babies in the nursery when their parents attend the morning worship services. (Reserved for women only)

Faithwalkers Youth Ministry

Those interested in working with and helping the High School and College aged young people of our church.

Finance

A group of ministries which combine to oversee the finances of the church.

Finance Committee

The finance committee meets to deal with the financial matters of the church.

Tellers

Tellers are responsible for counting the church offering. Offerings are usually counted immediately after the morning service.

Envelope Secretary

Records weekly givings of envelope subscribers after tellers have counted the money. Issues envelope boxes to subscribers at year-end and throughout the year as requested. Also issues annual tax receipts.

Internal Auditor

Audits the church's financial documents once per year.

Trustees

Trustees oversee anything related to church-owned property, such as 7 Russett.

Hospitality

A group of ministries geared toward preparing for the social aspects of church gatherings.

Catering

The catering team works together to organize anything involving food preparation for church meetings and events.

Showers

This team organizes and oversees all church-sponsored wedding and baby showers.

KICK-Start (Kids In Christ's Kingdom)

A children's ministry for kids aged 4 to 13. This program runs simultaneous to the Sunday morning worship service in the auditorium, and provides children with a mixture of energetic worship songs, solid Bible teaching, and fun activities.

Beginners - Junior & Senior Kindergarten

Teachers and teacher's assistants for this KICK-Start class.

Primary - Grades 1 to 3

Teachers and teacher's assistants for this KICK-Start class.

Junior - Grades 4 to 5

Teachers and teacher's assistants for this KICK-Start class.

Jr. High - Grades 6 to 8

Teachers and teacher's assistants for this KICK-Start class.

Kids' Worship

Prepare for and run the Kids' singing time at the beginning of the KICK-Start program each Sunday.

Missions & Outreach

Ministries geared toward reaching out to the community and to the world.

Missions/Outreach

Stimulate our church to support various mission agencies and missionaries, both financially and through prayer. Encourage believers in our congregation to serve God in missionary activity, both at home and abroad. Act as a liaison between our local church and various mission agencies and missionaries. Plan various outreach events in which the church attempts to reach out to the community with the gospel message.

Tracts & Flyers

Monitor and organize tracts available at the Welcome Centre. Supervise the distribution of flyers or invitations in the neighborhood.

External Message Board

Prepare and set up messages for the external message board which pedestrians and motorists can read.

Multimedia

The crew which operates assorted audio and video equipment during church services and special events.

PowerPoint Preparation

Prepare the worship song lyrics, announcements, and sermon outlines in Microsoft PowerPoint.

PowerPoint Operation

Operate the Powerpoint presentations used during Sunday services or special events.

Audio Control

Operate the various pieces of sound equipment during church services.

Videography

Operate the video camera during church services.

CD/Tape Recordings

Oversee the weekly recording of sermons preached. Catalog and organize previously preached messages. Fill orders for requested sermons (purchase or loan).

Church Website

Plan for, maintain, and update the church's Internet website.

Reading Resources

Supervise, organize, and maintain the various reading resources offered on behalf of the church.

Music

Ministries that work together to prepare for and perform in all the musical aspects of our worship services.

Music Committee

This committee organizes and prepares for the various music-related ministries of the church.

Worship Leaders and Team

This group prepares for and leads the congregational singing during church services.

Instrumentalists

This team plays various musical instruments during worship services.

Choir Director

Organizes and leads the choir as they prepare for singing during special occasions.

Other Ministries & Helps

Pre-service Prayer Team

Meet for prayer before the Sunday morning services to pray for the service and various other needs.

Baptismal Assistance

Assist candidates for baptism with appropriate clothing for immersion, while offering support and encouragement.

Abuse Prevention

This group works to design, implement, and enforce the church's various abuse prevention policies.

Birthday Card Ministry

Send birthday cards to the children, members, missionaries, and shut-ins. Make sure birthday celebrants are announced on the bulletin board as well as in the weekly Sunday bulletin every month.

Communion Preparation

Help to prepare the elements and set the Communion table on Communion Sundays.

Flowers, Plants, and Décor

Responsible for purchasing and setting up flower arrangements in the sanctuary during special occasions such as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Care for potted plants in the church. Organize special displays or decorations, such as are required at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Drama

Participate as an actor/actress in the occasional dramatic presentation.

Facility Preparation

Responsibilities include coming early to set up and prepare the auditorium and classes for the Sunday morning service.

Sunday Service Coordinator

Plan for and co-ordinate various aspects of the Sunday services.

Church Clerk

Responsible for taking minutes during all church business meetings.

