



The Dovercourt Disclosure

A regular update from the Elders of Dovercourt Baptist Church

Issue # 8
April 2009

Gospel Sing Concert DVD

A DVD of our Spring Gospel Sing Concert is available to those who would like to purchase one. You will be blessed over and over again as you watch and listen to this great concert event that was held at DBC on March 29th. Close to two hours in length. Take it home for \$ 5.00.

You will hear:

- Markus the German and his dad (singing with guitar and accordion)
- Greg Peterson (soloist extraordinaire from the Salvation Army)
- Marjorie (our own preteen sensation singing three songs)
- Michael Cheena (First Nations, country style)
- JCA (five sisters from Congo accompanied by their two brothers on piano and drums)
- Nudge and Brigitte (our own superb Worship Team members)
- Vernal Banton (author, poet, singer, song-writer, musician, actor and more)
- Sarah Kariuki (singing in Swahili and English her own material and traditional)
- also appearing: Pastor Arc, Mike from Victory Gospel Quartet, and emcee Walter

See Elder Walter if you are interested.

Newly Affirmed Deacons

The following names were recently affirmed for our 2009 Ministry Leadership Team. Please pray for these people as they continue to serve in various leadership roles at DBC.

Cathy Noble (KICK-Start)
Gail Mole (Ladies' Fellowship)
Kevin Noble (Men's Fellowship)
Manise Morvan (Nursery)
Marion Alexander (Seniors' Fellowship)
Marvin Reynolds (Visitation)
Michael Hamilton-Jones (Multimedia)
Michael Harris (Worship)
Rani Reynolds (Hospitality)
Richard Steinecke (Benevolent Care)
Shirley McKoy (Welcome Ministry)
Zola Landu (Newcomers)

New Members

The following people were recently voted into membership. Please take time to welcome them into the DBC family in your own special way.

Aldith Brooks
Amiel Bakurirehe
Fritz Gerald Marcel
Marie Marcel
Mashami Benjamin Mwiseneza

Joe and Mirjam Berger

Last September New Horizon Tower and Dovercourt Baptist Church met with the leaders of Liebenzell Mission Canada to talk about the possibility of having some of their missionary trainees come and serve with us. Individuals and couples who have applied with the mission in Germany to serve in various parts of the world usually come to Canada for 8 months of training in English, language school, missions and spiritual development, and are also assigned to a ministry for service. Over the years they have served in our neighbourhood through Oasis, Adam House, and Toronto City Mission. While we were talking about perhaps having someone serve at NHT and DBC in the fall of 2009, we were then told that it might be possible to receive some missionaries a year earlier than that in October of 2008. It seemed rushed, but we sensed God was in it.

NHT agreed to provide affordable accommodations and meals, and ministry opportunities at the Tower, and the Church would oversee the missionaries and give them opportunities to serve at DBC. That began our introduction to Joe and Mirjam. They are recently married (July of 2008) and are planning to serve in Malawi in the fall of 2009. They have served at the Tower by building friendships with residents and students and helping out at the weekly devotionals. At the Church they have used their musical gifts to assist in worship through piano and trumpet on Sundays and Wednesdays. They got involved in outreach events, have been active in helping Pastor Shawn with the Youth ministry, and also helped at Adam House and Salvation Army. Joe and Mirjam's servant hearts and love for God and God's people have been a great blessing to our Church family. We will miss them, but we are confident they will be used greatly by God as they follow his leading to serve in Malawi.

Soccer Ministry

Early this year, because of our connection with Adam House Ministry and Dufferin Oasis Community Centre, Joe Berger, our missions intern with Liebenzell Mission, asked if we would be open to combining our three ministries and renting a gym for adult indoor soccer. Since the school across the street from us had two gyms, we wondered if it would be possible to have a program for adults and kids.

In early March we received our gym permit and began a six-week indoor soccer league called "Bloor Indoor Soccer." Each Saturday 28 kids participate, and about a dozen adults play pick-up soccer. Out of the 28 kids 10 have connections with our church and the rest are from the community. We are grateful to Joe Berger for his leadership and involvement as a coach in this ministry, as well as to Hans-Peter Hertler, another missionary from Liebenzell, who is stationed at Adam House, and helped as a coach. Chris Ortiz, the Director for Oasis, has been overseeing the adult soccer, and our own Elder Armstrong has served as a referee for the kids. On Sunday April 26 we will be hosting our final banquet and trophy presentations. Thank you for your prayers.

Please continue to pray for opportunities to minister to children and families this summer through soccer. From mid-May to Mid-August we will be involved with seven other churches from our community in the Bloor Central Soccer League. This outdoor soccer league provides affordable recreational opportunities for families. We anticipate having 130 to 140 kids. This year we have added a special 3-day overnight sports camp at Salvation Army's Jackson's Point retreat centre at the end of August.

Youth and Young Adult News

The youth continue to meet Friday evenings from 6 to 9 PM for a meal together and a time of games, sharing and prayer. The fellowship and community that we are able to share is an encouraging time and one that is a staple of the youth ministry at Dovercourt. Friday nights have always been a time for our youth to have a safe place to be themselves, ask questions, and be challenged to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. It has been a true pleasure to see how God can use these times to build up self-esteem, confidence, and relationships that bring glory to our Father in Heaven.

We had a great (but tiring) time at our 30-hour Famine 'lock-in' at the beginning of April and look forward to more events that stretch our knowledge of the world and challenge our hearts to be more involved in global change. Involvement in missions (whether local or global) is a goal that I hope every Christian, young and old alike, makes for their life and one that is wonderful to see our youth just starting out in.

This year youth ministry has been attempting to be more intentional with including family in events and being more involved with wider church events. These relationships, as some of the building blocks of our lives, are important in the mutual development of all ages. Pastor Shawn looks forward to an exciting future of more mutual respect for what youth have to offer our church family!

The Exchange is a new ministry for young adults in their 20's and 30's that will be kicking off April 26th and continuing every 2nd and 4th Sunday evening of each month. *The Exchange* is a place to gather in worship, engage in conversation about God, and participate in authentic community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Café Update

After the café presentation at the business meeting last Fall, the Elders met and began preparing answers to all the questions submitted by members. By February of 2009, all questions were answered (close to 60 in total), and a document containing these answers was prepared, along with a more detailed business plan, for distribution to the members. Our original intention was to make this document available and then hold an information meeting some time in April where members could meet and ask more questions and further discuss the matter. After all questions were answered, we would then set a date for a vote.

During this process two significant things happened. As many of you know, the TTC has major plans to upgrade the Dufferin subway station. They informed us that during their construction they may have to come into our lobby and brace the walls to prevent our walls from collapsing. We still don't have all the details of what may be involved, but we may lose access to the hallway leading to the washrooms and the nursery. Until we know more about what inconveniences and disruptions this TTC construction project will cause, both DBC and NHT are reluctant to begin any major enhancements to our lobby.

The other thing that happened was a request from Hugh. As Hugh began to realize that the church would not be addressing the café plans any time soon, he asked the Elders for permission to give away free coffee while operating his Bible ministry this coming summer. Since this involved no cost to the church and was something very similar to our own Advent Café this past winter, the Elders agreed to grant his request. Hugh has made it clear that he will not be charging for the coffee, but will still be accepting contributions from anyone who wishes to donate. Hugh is hoping that these contributions will subsidize the cost of the coffee and perhaps even his own living expenses. Only time will tell.

In the mean time, the Elders have decided not to distribute the café informational document to the members until we see how both the TTC project and the Bible Ministry progress in the coming months. We wish to thank all those who took time to submit questions regarding the café plans, and we look forward to the possibility of presenting our answers in the future if opportunity allows.

TTC Plans

As mentioned above, reconstruction plans for the Dufferin Subway will have a major affect on both the Church and the Tower. Current proposals call for the elimination of half our parking lot. In the interest of maintaining the current number of parking spots, a suggestion was made to construct a parking lot where 7 Russett currently stands. And before these TTC issues arose, Pastor Arc and Brigitte had also expressed an interest in purchasing 7 Russett from the Church. All these issues will require some major decisions to be made by both NHT and DBC in the next little while, so we are asking the members to keep these issues in their prayers for the next few months. The TTC will be holding a public open house on Monday, May 11, from 4 PM to 7 PM, right here in our auditorium. We would like to encourage as many of you as possible to attend and to use this opportunity to voice your concerns regarding the inconvenience and the loss of parking caused by this project.

Dates To Remember

Big on Bloor

A community street festival on Bloor from Lansdowne to Christie. 1 to 9 PM on Saturday, June 20. We hope to be involved in this opportunity to serve our community and share the Good News.

Church Picnic

Saturday, June 27 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM at Liebenzell Mission Centre in Moffat, Ontario (about a 45 minute drive north-west of Toronto). We plan to take a bus from the church, and enjoy the beautiful grounds at the centre as well as a nearby conservation park. Lunch and dinner will be served. \$8.00 for Adults and \$4.00 for children. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Foundation Annual Meeting

We trust you are planning to attend Dovercourt Baptist Foundation's Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009, just after the morning service. Child care will be provided. Please sign up in the lobby for the hot luncheon to follow in the Friendship Room. The Foundation's audited financial statements are also available in the lobby if you wish a copy. Thank you.