



Pray... Give... Go...

Winter 2024 Newsletter—2023 Recap

PREPARING THE WAY: A VISION TRIP TO TORONTO

By Pastor Brian Parker, Discipleship & Missions



In April of 2023, Pastor Doug and I traveled to Toronto Canada to meet with several NAMB church planters with the intentions of finding one that would be a fruitful partnership for the new church as well as for Bethel. After meeting with each church planter, we returned home and spent several weeks praying and asking for God's wisdom before deciding that God was guiding us to partner with Francisco Ordaz, pastor of

Faith Emmanuel Baptist Church. After serving churches in his homeland of Venezuela, Pastor Francisco answered God's calling to move to Toronto in 2016 as missionaries and by God's grace, Faith Emmanuel Baptist Church was started in 2018.

Toronto is among the most ethnically diverse cities on earth, topping Miami, Los Angeles and New York City. The population is nearly 6.5 million, and of that number, about 2.3 million are foreign-born. Toronto is an exceedingly drivable city, and from the suburbs to the urban core, it provides an international immersion without the loss of comfortable western amenities.

Although about 33 percent of Torontonians claim Christianity as their religion, the evangelical presence in the area is a little better than 3 percent. There is only one Canadian National Baptist church for every 106,808 people.

Add to this an increasing immigrant population bringing growth in Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism and

other world religions. Toronto has one of the world's highest Jewish populations as well.

About 410,000 Torontonians speak a Chinese language such as Mandarin or Cantonese. More than 100,000 speak Filipino; 56,000 speak Arabic. In total, more than 2 million Torontonians report that they primarily speak a language other than the official languages of English and French.

Statistics are like skylines. They give you a glimpse of a city that only grows more diverse and complex with each community you visit, each home in which you eat and each ministry opportunity that brings you face-to-face with a city full of stories and needs.

Please join us in praying, giving, and going as we serve together in Toronto for God's glory.

You can learn more about Faith Emmanuel Baptist Church by visiting their website:

www.faithebchurch.org.



Bethel's Walk 4 Life Team

WALK 4 LIFE RAISES \$227K FOR CARENET

By Traci Hendron,
Missions Committee



Bethel Baptist Church showed up in a big way at the annual Walk 4 Life for Care Net Peninsula on May 13, 2023. Church members hosted a tent at the walk, passing out snacks and church information to participants. Church members showed up in a huge group, most wearing the black BBC Walk 4 Life t-shirt and walked through Newport News Park to bring awareness to the sanctity of life. Team members were also responsible for raising a tremendous amount of money. This year the Bethel team was the second highest fundraising group at the walk. The event was a huge success with Care Net Peninsula raising 227,000 that day.

HELPING NEBC TRAIN PASTORS ONE DUPLEX AT A TIME

By Stuart Johnson, Missions Committee Chair

The Vermont mission trip has been a staple trip for BBC for over 10 years. This mission trip supports the development of the Northeast Baptist College in Bennington, Vermont, founded by pastor Mark Ballard. Pastor Ballard's vision is to train up pastors and Kingdom workers directly in the northeast so that they may bring light to a spiritually dark area of the US. With Vermont having only about 2% of the population as evangelical believers, they qualify as an "unreached" people group. The college provides a cost-effective way for believers to gain an education in a variety of biblical and practical studies, and accomplishes this with the help of many SBC churches volunteering their time and talents to build and remodel the college's infrastructure.

Our July 2023 mission trip was focused on continued construction of the married student housing duplexes started in 2021. To date, 1 of the 9 duplexes has been completed, 5 more have been weath-ered in, and the last 3 are still to be started. We are looking forward to another productive year in 2024 with anticipated work in framing, roofing, siding, drywall and painting. In addition to the construction work, a team went to the college administrative buildings to help with office paperwork and library



Part of the 2023 Missions Team working on one of the married couple housing duplexes.

book cataloging. Our community outreach this year involved a cook-out and VBS coordinated by the Mountain Impact church group that we have worked with in past years. We also had a great prayer meeting one night with our host church, and had a video discussion night on an apologetics topic to help us be prepared to defend our faith.

Our BBC team was augmented again this year by our friends from First Baptist Church of Little Falls, NY. Between them, the NEBC staff, Mountain Impact and our host church members, we had an incredibly energizing week of fellowship and purpose driven activities. Even camping out in a church was a great bonding experience. We are looking forward to another great year in 2024. Please join us!!

NEW BETHEL PARTNERSHIP IN TANZANIA

By **Stuart Johnson, Missions Committee Chair**

BBC Yorktown is partnering with the IMB in Tanzania by sending mission teams to Kigoma, Tanzania. Our mission teams support and encourage full time IMB missionaries engaged in evangelism and discipleship to local churches, home groups, and pastors.



Bethel Tanzania Missions Team with local missionary

During our first trip to Kigoma in August of 2023, the BBC team participated and led multiple activities including: 3 door-to-door evangelism outings, 2 pastor home visits, 1 small home group bible study, a church discipleship training and a kid's camp.

We attended the Kibirizi Baptist Church worship service on Sunday and were greatly impressed with the love, hospitality, and fellowship we received from our newly found brothers and sisters in Christ. Not to mention the immense energy and joy of the worship there. The Kibirizi church elders showed us the new church building they are constructing as they are able. They currently have put up the walls of this building, which will be 4 times as large as

their existing church. The team was very impressed with the commitment shown by the church members to raising funds and devoting time to the construction of the new church, and Bethel Baptist has now pledged funding support to help them complete this project.

Our time spent with the full time missionaries there was very uplifting for us with great conversations on African culture and evangelism. It was very convicting to be able to witness the commitment these people have made to God's kingdom and to be a part of their mission for a short time. It will be awesome to return to Tanzania and continue our friendships and our own spiritual growth in Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!!

SERVE 757 TAKES CARE OF FIRST RESPONDERS

By **Traci Hendron, Missions Committee**

Bethel Baptist Church hosted a Serve 757 day on September 30th. This was a day where church members could work together to become a witness to the community. One of the many projects undertaken by volunteers that day was to create gift baskets for the first responders in our community. This was a way to recognize the long hours that are worked by our local police and fire departments on weekend and late night shifts, where there is not al-

ways a lot of availability to grab a bite to eat. Gift baskets containing a multitude of snack items were distributed to the York County Fire Station on Yorktown Road and the York County/Poquoson Sheriff's Office. Coffee cups with snacks were also dropped off at both locations, with notes informing the recipient that they had been prayed over by our members. York county 911 dispatchers were not overlooked. They were gifted with aluminum water

bottles to help them stay hydrated and bags of "Lifesavers" because that is exactly what they are to us. Even the K-9 units were included. Each of the four canine officers were gifted with snack buckets that included coloring pages from the children in the church. The gift baskets provided our church members an opportunity to let the local first responders know that we cared about them and we had prayed over them.

PENINSULA RESCUE MISSION ANNUAL BANQUET

By Traci Hendron, Missions Committee



Attendees of the Peninsula Rescue Mission Annual Banquet

September 29, 2023 marked the annual banquet for the Peninsula Rescue Mission. The mission is located downtown at 3700 Huntington Avenue in Newport News and provides a safe place for men to come in off the streets, have a hot meal, a place to sleep, and most importantly, hear the Word of God. The mission is open 365 days a year and has 40 beds open to men each night. Bethel Baptist Church has supported the mission for years through prayer, giving, and volunteers.

The banquet is one of the main annual fundraising endeavors by the Peninsula Rescue Mission. The banquet cost is covered by sponsors, so one hundred percent of the money raised that night goes toward the evening's cause. This year the focus was on the progress of their Women's Ministry, and all funds raised are designated to that new ministry.

The Peninsula Rescue Mission has been a safe haven for men to get off the streets. However, more women are now homeless than ever before. In 2023, PRM Leadership announced that by faith, they would begin taking steps to open a group home to serve women experiencing homelessness. The first step will be serving unaccompanied women (i.e. no dependents) who are not in a domestic violence situation. PRM has now closed on the building/property and are moving forward with architects and drawings to begin renovations to convert this building into a safe haven for hurting women in our community. It's an exciting time. Many BBC church members were in attendance to support the mission. The night was one filled with prayer, praise, and stories of lives redeemed.



SENDING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

By Debbie Robinson,
Missions Committee

Bethel Baptist Church works with SBCV Disaster Relief to send volunteers out to help others in need. They bring help and healing and hope to places when natural disasters take place. Teams are sent out to help in many ways. We have teams for chainsaws, flood recovery, food, and to re-build. Training is provided in biblical foundations, evangelism and organizational protocols. These all work together to care for the physical and spiritual needs of people at their lowest point in life. Many people have lost everything and are looking for help and a reason to go on. We try to be the hands and feet of Jesus when there is a need.



A Disaster Relief team to Kentucky in January 2023 with several Bethel members.



SOUTHEAST ASIA MISSIONARY SHARES WITH MISSIONS COMMITTEE

By Traci Hendron, Missions Committee

Bethel Baptist Church partners with several missionaries across in the globe in various ways. The church has been a long time prayer partner with a missionary who resides in a country in Southeast Asia. The identity of this missionary is confidential because the country in which she serves places many restrictions on Christian churches. She is referred to under her pseudo name of "Beth" for her own protection. We also do not list the specific country where she is assigned or publish any photos of her.

"Beth" returned for a brief visit to the states and met with members of Bethel Baptist Church who support her through prayer. A luncheon was held at the church on October 23rd in her honor. "Beth" spent an afternoon describing the challenges of her work, including the difficulties of learning the language, government regulations, and navigating the country with a very different culture. She also shared with us about the lives that she has wit-

nessed touched by the Gospel. It was rewarding to hear about young people a world away coming to know Christ. She also articulated the obstacles a new believer can face in this culture. A person who accepts Christ in this country can become ostracized by their own family. The culture itself also presents challenges, with many people wanting to simply add God into their existing list of deities. "Beth" will soon be heading back to Southeast Asia but the members of BBC will continue to stay in touch with her and lift her up in prayer.



"Beth" shares about the challenges of her work in Southeast Asia.



THRIVE
PENINSULA

FOOD DONATIONS A CONTINUOUS NEED

By Christine Miles,
Missions Committee

One of the local ministries that Bethel partners with is Thrive Peninsula. Thrive provides emergency food, financial aid, and financial counseling to families experiencing financial hardship. The main way that Bethel helps support Thrive is through the donation of non-perishable food items with over 5,000 pounds donated in the first six months of 2023. There are about ten church members that volunteer each week to help with answering phones, sorting incoming food, and taking food to people's cars.

The number of people requesting assistance has more than tripled in the past three years. In September 2023, Thrive provided a week's worth of groceries to 611 families compared to 203 families in September 2020. Because of the increased food needs of the community, Thrive moved to a new building at the end of 2023 which will enable them to serve even more families. Their new address is: 12749 Nettles Drive, Newport News, VA 23606

For more information or to sign up to volunteer visit their website, thrivepenninsula.org.



CARE NET OPENS DOORS ON NEW LOCATION

By Traci Hendron, Missions Committee

October 12, 2023 marked the Grand Opening of Care Net Peninsula's new building.

This day was the culmination of the Building 4 Life campaign that began in October 2022. Members of Bethel Baptist Church have been supporting this effort through prayer and fundraising. The new building is located at 1101 Warwick Blvd. in Newport News. This is a great location near a bus stop that should be beneficial in reaching more moms than ever before. The day began with a prayer, some short speeches, and the cutting of a pink ribbon to open the building. Pastor Doug was in attendance along with many church members. Tours were given of the new building which show-

cased beautifully decorated office and clinical spaces, counseling rooms, and sparkling clean treatment rooms featuring state of the art medical equipment. One thing that is always emphasized by Care Net is that the Gospel is always the main focus. Women who come to this clinic for help are met with Christian love and many people eager to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This building is really a place of help and hope on the Peninsula for local women facing unplanned pregnancies!

How do we support CareNet Peninsula?

- Baby Bottle Campaign (January-February)
- Walk4Life (May)
- Baby Supply Donations (year-round)
- Monetary Donations (year-round)



**CHRISTMAS MISSIONS
EFFORTS FOR OUR STATE
AND THE WORLD**

**By Jane Bates,
Missions Committee**

Thanks to the Bethel community, this year’s collection of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and Backpacks for Appalachia surpassed the previous years. Children in our Bethel Baptist Christian School decorated the insides of 100 shoeboxes, and then our members filled those plus 164 more for a grand total of 264 (Last year we turned in 188 shoeboxes.). We filled 67 backpacks this year, compared to 58 last year. We continue to pray that the recipients as well as the senders will be blessed, drawing closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.



**CARING FOR HARMONY RESIDENTS-
WEEKLY AND ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

By Christine Miles, Missions Committee



Bethel Baptist has partnered with Harmony on the Peninsula which is an assisted living facility. Each Sunday members of Bethel host a church service lead by Pastor Bob Bonta. The residents are able to come and enjoy singing hymns and hearing the word of God proclaimed. After the service, the ministry team is able to visit with the residents and give words of encouragement.



Harmony residents show off their Christmas Cards from BBCS students.

During Nurses Appreciation Week, Bethel gave gift bags to the nursing staff in appreciation for their work at Harmony on the Peninsula.



Bethel Baptist Christian School has also shown support and encouragement through our partnership with Harmony on the Peninsula. Their 1st & 2nd graders came out to share some Christmas joy and the love of Jesus with residents.

2024 MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

January 25-30

Bogotá, Colombia

Partnership: SEND Relief

Purpose: Serving Venezuelan Refugees

March 5-15

Kigoma, Tanzania

Partnership: IMB, Kibirizi Baptist Church

Purpose: Evangelism and Discipleship

March

Tbilisi, Georgia

Partnership: IMB

Purpose: Encouraging Local Pastors and Evangelism (working vision trip to determine future opportunities for Bethel)

March 30-April 6

Guadalajara, Mexico

Partnership: IMB

Purpose: Student Mission Trip

July 14-20

Bennington, Vermont

Partnership: Northeastern Baptist College

Purpose: To renovate existing, and construct new school facilities.

August 10-15

Toronto, Canada

Partnership: NAMB, Faith Emmanuel Baptist Church

Purpose: Evangelism/Outreach

August 30-September 2

Family Mission Camp

Location: To Be Determined

Purpose: Evangelism and Discipleship

Late September

Argentina

Partnership: Church Planting Argentina

Purpose: Evangelism and Discipleship



MEET OUR MISSIONS PASTOR

Pastor Brian Parker has now served in the role of Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Missions since February 2023.

Brian's heart is to come alongside the local body of believers to lead, feed, and protect the congregation. His hope is that we would come together to fulfill our calling to engage the lost with the truth of the gospel, bringing life to where there is none, make disciples who make disciples, and glorify God with our lives.

He has worked in several local area churches as well as with the International Mission Board. He has a Bachelors of Science in Biblical Studies, a Masters of Arts in Theological Studies and a Doctorate of Ministries in Ministry Leadership, all from Liberty University.

Brian has experience providing discipleship inside and outside the church and in planning and leading mission trips locally, nationally, and internationally.

Pray ~ Give ~ Go



For more information on these trips and other local, national, and international missions opportunities, scan the QR Code or go to bbcYorktown.org/missions