

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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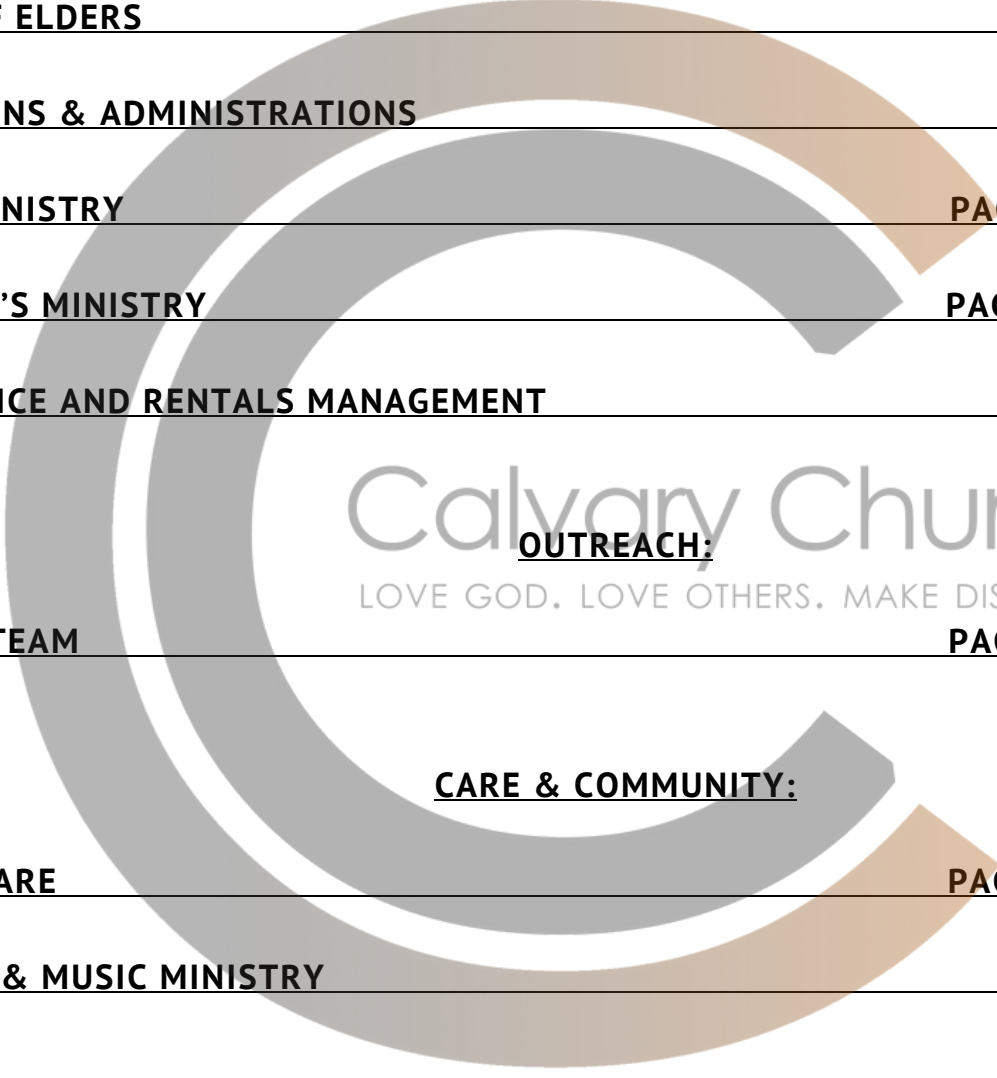
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PASTOR'S CORNER

WE ARE EXILES and SOJOURNERS!

Calvary Church Family,

Over this past year we have been able to see first-hand the MIRACLE of transformed lives. God, through His Holy Spirit is moving not only within our Church, but also in this city that we call home. It's been a blessing to serve with so many people over this year and to experience the "servant heart" of the Calvary family. The healthy heart of the Calvary Church family is so evident and for this I am so proud and thankful.



This past year, we have been teaching and preaching from the book of 1 Peter and have been reminded once again that this world is not our home. We are guests just passing through, and because of that, we as followers of Christ need to act and speak honorably to people so that we can display Jesus correctly. What a huge reminder.

This past year, we were encouraged through our series called; "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry", that our spiritual and emotional lives matter when it comes to understanding sabbath, rest, solitude, silence, and we tried to incorporate those principles within our Sunday gatherings and it was appreciated.

This past year, we as a Leadership have seen the benefit of a church showing love and generosity as a part of our DNA. We have seen multiple needs being met, whether it be financially, spiritually, relationally, or even emotionally, people have stepped up to be the hands and feet of Christ.

This past year we have been impressed by God's Spirit, to once again, place a high value on the people that walk onto this church campus day in and day out, week after week from all walks of life. God has allowed us to see the growth of his church with brothers and sisters from different ethnic backgrounds, cultures and walks of life.

As we leave 2022 behind and embark into the unknown of 2023, we are confident that God by the power of His Spirit is leading and guiding and wants each one of us to partner with Him to change the world that we live in. We need to be stewards of God's amazing grace to the people around us.

However, amid what 2022 was—and what 2023 has started out to be and what it will become—we thought it would be helpful and hopeful to create a digital annual report to remember the tangible ways that God displayed his mercy and Grace here at Calvary Church. Amid all that was still hard in 2022, we need to be reminded of the goodness, faithfulness, and greatness of YAWEH.

We need to be reminded of how many persevered through trials, or how many said “no” to a multitude of destructive temptations, or how many hearts were transformed by the love of God, or how many re-structured their calendar and finances to place God first, or how many saw the generous heart of our church family, or how many seeds of the gospel were sown that will bear fruit in our Niagara community for generations to come in ways we never thought possible.

I want to thank all our staff teams, board teams, ministry teams and volunteer staff teams for the tireless days and hours you have put in making sure our ministries were running with excellence and that our community was connected with the message of Christ, which continues to be heard around the world. The Calvary Church family is one that is generous beyond words. THANK YOU!

I also want to make sure that we are reminded of the things that we often forget. May this be an encouragement to us all as we make our way out of one of the most uncertain times of the 21 Century and journey into 2023, unsure of what lies ahead, but confident that God will hold us up with His righteous right arm.

Therefore, God needs to be praised because...

Evidence of God's grace and faithfulness

Milestones

We celebrated being 88 years strong and continued to develop our ONLINE studio to reach our community and world for Jesus and we are sending a mission team to Turkey.

Salvations

We witnessed 5 people coming to know Jesus through the Calvary Church ministries and other people's lives transformed because of Jesus.

Preaching

We began the year with our Rediscover Church Unity Series and then dove right back into our Romans Series. We then took a 120 day Journey (The Habitudes Series) that reminded us that spiritual disciplines matter for our growth and then kicked off the fall with our 1 Peter series called; "Who are we really?".

Leadership

WE saw our board teams add to their numbers and experienced a camaraderie that helped get our building back into shape and cast vision for a land development project.

Membership

We welcomed 37 new members into our church family and have many new people working through the process of membership.

Disciple making

We saw our Four Chair Disciple making strategy upgraded and began to see our Enrichment classes on Wednesday nights help grow and mature believers. We saw 79 people attend these classes in person.

Mentorship

We have seen a few men and women and couples intentionally mentored as relational disciple making has continued.

Post COVID Response

We Live streamed every service gathering during 2022. All our Sunday Gatherings were in person. Having both online and in person gatherings has been a benefit for our church family.

Finances

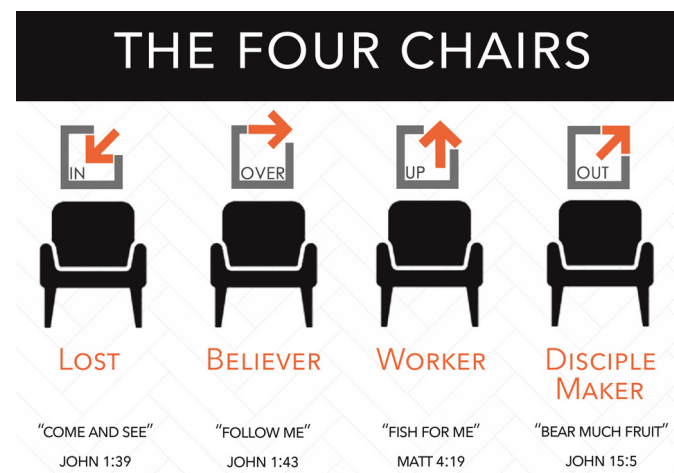
This past year has been one, where we as a church have been able to rely on God and his faithfulness to hold budget and even exceed our generosity. Our general budget continues to maintain in a good position. Please continue or consider being faithful and generous with your finances as we continue to maintain a solid, purposeful budget for 2022-2023.

Refugee Sponsorship

Nawras has arrived and has been in Canada for 8 months now. This was a 7-year journey from when we first started the conversation about sponsoring Nawras. We have successfully raised \$22,000 above and beyond the \$15,000 that was projected. Nawras is fitting in well and now has more brothers and sisters then he knows what to do with.

Merge Groups

We as a staff have seen a resurgence of interest in Merge Groups. Who would have thought that COVID would help us kick start the importance of living life together. Our Merge Group Director is hard at work with information that will be available soon. We have 12 Merge groups that meet on a regular basis.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023



As we move with wisdom into the new ministry year, our vision and mission remain the same. LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS and MAKE DISCIPLES. We want to see as many people as possible encounter and experience the life transformation that only Jesus by his grace can give. There are just a handful of God size goals that we will be praying through and developing over this next year.

- Continue to navigate this NEW normal with wisdom and discernment as we seek to re-launch and develop key ministries
- Continue to develop our on online platforms and add to our NEW podcast; CHURCHBOX
- Continuing to mentor Nawras and praying he would find employment.
- Continue to cultivate a culture of missional outreach to our community and the world.
- Continue to Grow our culture of disciple making, where every member is equipped, growing and helping others grow. (Four Chair Strategy)
- Continue and to further develop our global mission pipeline through our Good News Team to reach the unreached. Sending out a mission scouting team to Turkey to see where we can best serve.
- Continue to Love our Niagara community through tangible, sacrificial, and justice-filled service.
- Continue to develop leaders, including elders, OPS, missions, people care, staff, ministry leads and volunteer staffing
- Continue to develop our Merge Group Ministry to see the importance of living life together.

Calvary Church family, please continue to pray, that in 2022-2023 our lives would not only display Jesus correctly, but we would have a pure devotion to Jesus and one another and that more people would experience the life transformation power of Jesus through His Holy Spirit.

Partner with us

It is our prayer that all who consider Calvary Church their home church, would be equipped to become a devoted follower of Christ, and that they would display Jesus correctly, by Loving God, loving other people and making disciples. We also pray that people would engage and connect with one another, the ministry staff and Pastors so that authentic and transparent relationships can develop.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Growth.

I see a group of people that are working diligently to grow their area of focus - not to grow the name of Calvary, but to grow the name of God - and to help point people to a God that desires the closest of relationships to them.

It is very evident that there is numerical growth at Calvary - but I know that more than anything our leaders are striving for that growth to be God-led, meaningful to people's lives and shining a light to the world.

The ways that we strive do that:

Being a Good News Team - that does its namesake - bringing Good News to people, whether locally or to distant lands (as I am writing this a team from Calvary is heading to Turkey to work with the Turkish people).

Caring for the People - caring for the well-being of people, so that we may be like what is described in Ephesians 4:16 - "from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Being Good Stewards of what God has entrusted us - having an Ops and Admin Board that uses the resources that we have and helps direct those resources into the ministry of God's work.

Being the Spiritual Leaders of the church - Having God be the central point in our personal lives as Elders so that we may join together to pay careful attention to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit made (us) overseers, and to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

Ministering to the Congregation - so that we have people that will preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 2:4)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONT'D

One highlight this year was presenting the congregation with a vision for what can be done with the property at the back of the church. It was exciting to see how this news was received at the initial congregational gatherings. We sense that people are on board to further God's ministry and one way we can do that is potentially use our land to help provide much needed rental units for a city that is starving for them.

While we have started down this path, it is exciting to see what may develop out of the project – whether that results in units being built or a completely different use for the back property. In the same manner, and more importantly, it is even more exciting to be able to pour into the lives of people, and see what may come out of their lives and their spiritual journeys.

May this upcoming year be a year of growth in Calvary Church.

On behalf of all of the Boards,
James Bell

BOARD OF ELDERS

The elders of Calvary Church are dedicated to serve our congregation in any circumstance, and I must thank each of the men who have dedicated their time to this role.

As a local church we have been blessed with growth in numbers and we have seen a unity of purpose, under the Holy Spirit's guidance. The growth has been from several sources – people have been drawn by our on-line services, they have returned to Calvary after worshipping elsewhere, and they have left churches where they felt the Gospel was being compromised. It is important that we follow scripture closely to ensure that we are truly under the leading of the Holy Spirit. That is the role the Elders are called to: to protect the flock and encourage unity. There are challenges with growth- people bring their baggage with them and we already have our own baggage! But, if we closely follow Scripture and the Spirit's leading, the baggage will be taken care of, and we will have unity of purpose.

The Elders are committed to this task. We need your prayers to uphold us in this role so that Calvary may indeed be a Home Proclaiming Hope. Thank you for your support and trust.

Peter Sneath – Elders' Chairman



*"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
For there is no authority except from God, and those that
exist have been instituted by God."
Romans 13:1*



OPS BOARD

2022-2023 has seen a climb back into normal functions for the Ops and Admin board. The building has returned to most of its regular use. The board has been a consistent group throughout this year. In addition to a consistent leadership group, we have also seen many volunteers contribute their gifts in helping maintain the building. The gym roof has been repaired and we have received donations to help with the cost. We have also had a handful of successful fundraisers, with more to come. Thank you to our volunteers' willingness to use their skills and talents to help.

Financially, we still have been careful with what God has provided. As building functions increase so do expenses. While some long-term rentals have fully returned, others were unable to. We responsibly continued with a conservative budget that was put in place the previous year, and God has provided what was needed to cover our minimum expenses and essential repairs (with continued ingenuity to save on expenses required).

We still hope to rebuild our capital fund, something that was not possible this last year, and replace the renters who have not returned. Future planned repairs to the building include:

- Paying back the gym roof repair
- Repairing the roof over the café
- Replacing the 20+ year old boiler
- Replacing furnaces as necessary

In His Service,

Tim Shields, Stefan Ediger, Dennis Brennean, Chris Priestley and Lynn Middleton



YOUTH MINISTRY

“*“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.”*

1 Peter 2:9

theUNDERGROUND YOUTH
beCONNECTED. beEQUIPPED. beMOVED

Last year we saw a large group of our students graduate out of youth, and with that, we started the year with slightly lower numbers - most notably in our Sr Youth. Because of this we moved to having a combined group on Wednesdays in January. But since then, there has been a steady increase throughout the year, and we continue to see new faces almost every week!

YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

RETREATS

Every year, these are such important events! We brought 14 Jr Youth & leaders to Muskoka Woods for GETAWAY in November, and 16 Sr Youth & leaders to STRIVE in March.

AGC NIAGARA EVENTS

It's a blessing to have a handful of AGC churches within 20 minutes of each other, and we have been able to take advantage of that with the youth by having outreach events throughout the year. We had a Survivor night with 75 students and leaders in November, and then our TRI-Sports Tournament had 70 students and leaders take part.



YOUTH ALPHA

This January, we brought back Youth Alpha and combined our Jr & Sr Youth on Wednesday nights. It's been great for youth to get a grounding in their Christian faith, but we've also been encouraged to see new friends coming out almost every week!

YOUNG ADULTS

This year, we have begun to see growth again in our Young Adults group. We were able to have a number of events throughout the year, and have now begun to meet weekly on Tuesday Nights for a time of worship & faith development.

YOUTH DROP-IN

With combining our Jr & Sr Youth in January, we have continued to open our doors on Thursday Nights for a Sr Youth Drop-in for youth in Grades 8-12. It's been great to see students take this opportunity to connect together, worship together & pray together!

LEADERS

We have had so many amazing youth leaders over the years, and I am so thankful for each and every one of them! Just as the youth grow and move on to young adulthood, we have seen leaders come and go, but they all leave an incredible impact on the lives and hearts of our students.

Thank you to Margarete, Beth, Scott, Brendan, Tristan & Gabrielle for all your hard work and for all the love you show to the students!!

LOOKING FORWARD

As we continue to see the youth ministry grow, we are in need of volunteers! If you have a heart for young people, and are willing to invest in the next generation, we would love to have you on our team!! We need leaders for our Sunday Bible Study, and for our Youth Nights.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this incredible ministry at Calvary!!

Andrew McGrath, Youth Pastor

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



This past year has been another year of changes. A new logo and a new vision. Our children's ministry is now called the Calvary Kids Treehouse. It is based on Colossians 2:6-7.

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

The Calvary Kids Treehouse mission is to lead children into a relationship with Jesus, learning to Love God, Love others and become disciples. Our goal is to help kids build a foundation for Jesus, rooted in God and partnering with parents/guardians.

Sundays

This year we made the switch to a curriculum offered by Grow. Our youth program also uses Grow so we were able to combine our subscriptions. We really like what Grow has to offer. It's a very adaptable program for all ages. While offering solid biblical teaching it is also user friendly making it easy for our volunteers to prep for each week. It has been an engaging program that keeps the children interested and asking questions.

We have seen steady growth in attendance since our fall kick off in September. Something that we have heard from our families is that they feel incredibly welcomed by the church congregation. And their children/grandchildren feel the same way. This is in part, due to our very dedicated and friendly volunteers. We ensure a safe environment through screening and training our volunteers.



@calvarykidstreehouse

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONT'D

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS CLUB

Kids club has expanded to 2 classes, age 3-SK and Grade 1-4. The growth that we have seen made it necessary to split into 2 groups so we could be more intentional with age appropriate lessons, activities and games. We also use the Grow curriculum on these nights with more of a focus on building relationships with each child and nurturing the friendships built between each other.



SUMMER CAMPS

CALVARY KIDS CAMP

Last summer we had our first ever “Calvary Kids Camp”. We changed the name to ‘Kids Camp’ so that our local community would have a good understanding of what happens during the week. It seems to be that more people are familiar with the camp aspect. We still run the camp as a typical Vacation Bible School and it is advertised as such in the description of the event.

With the help of lots of volunteers and leaders, we were able to show the love Jesus has to offer to around 90 children. It was both a blessing and an honour to be able to run this program in person and see so many smiling faces every day.

The theme was ‘Monumental’ which was like a western set in the desert with lots of rocky landscapes and colourful vegetation. A huge thank you goes out to our church family for pitching in with volunteering, sending in snacks, offering financial donations as needed and most importantly for praying for hearts to be changed for Jesus.

This summer we are launching into a Stellar summer of Kids Camp. We will be venturing into space and showing the kids how to shine Jesus’ light in all situations. Join us in preparing for another great week of fun, games, crafts and bible stories to help kids soar their relationship with Jesus into orbit.



2022.

MAIN OFFICE & RENTAL MANAGEMENT



A HUGE year of changes. My family moved from Niagara Falls to St. Catharines in the fall. We bought our house from a long-term member of our church and the timing couldn't have been more perfect. We have made it our own and love being closer to our families.

Isaiah started JK in the fall but had to move schools when we moved to St. Catharines. He thrives with a regular routine so moving houses and school's was a difficult transition for him. Thankfully he has now settled into his new school and loves his teachers. Thank you to those who helped us move, renovate, and checked in with us through the first few weeks. We really appreciate it.

2022 was our first year since Covid with no lockdowns; Fewer rules; Less news articles about current cases. And (hopefully) less fear. God has been with us through it all. Because of these times 'normalizing', our church has made some positive changes.

The main office is now open longer throughout the week. I'm here Monday-Thursday from 8:45-2:45, due to school times. When I'm at my desk, chances are I'm answering emails from potential renters. Rental inquiries have kept increasing from last year. This summer we have three big rentals coming up. We are so grateful!

Additions to the website are made regularly, as well as on social media. I promote upcoming events on our Instagram, Facebook and website. I'm always looking for pictures of our events so feel free to email me.. I work on the bulletin board monthly and update the calendar so our church family can be kept in the loop of what's happening that month!

Lots of tech changes are being made, as I'm sure you've noticed the tv's and cameras throughout the church. Changes are also being made to the staffs emails & the rental calendar to make booking events easier.

Every day I feel so blessed to be part of this team. Here's to another great year!

Kailey Huys

A large, textured orange circle with a brushstroke effect, serving as a background for the word 'OUTREACH'.

OUTREACH

MISSION TEAM

Theme for 2023 - 2024 "Love Türkiye"

Bible verse: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promises as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

The Good News Team (GNT) is striving to share our passion for missions. Our hope is that Calvary Church will continue to see the importance of mission work in the world. During 2022 our Mission Sunday focus was "A Third Of Us". We were blessed by the messages shared by Marty Frisk, Craig Danielson, Andrew McGrath and Moshen Hasanipoor. The focus of their messages was the great commission Jesus gave to His followers.

Reflecting back on our Mission theme in 2022, "A Third Of Us" based on the book from Marvin Newell. A Third of the world does not have access to the Gospel. The Good News Team attempted to present a clear view of the present situation in the world. One out of every three people in the world is unreached for Christ. There is an unfinished task that Christians are continually faced with, sharing the gospel with the world. A third of the world has no opportunity to believe because they have no access to the good news of Jesus. Essentially, they have No Bible, No Believers, and No Church. They are called the Unreached, the Least-reached, or the Frontier peoples. The problem is that many of the unreached people of the world are not easily reached due to restrictions such as geographic location, political environment, language barriers and financial resources.

We believe the next step in our journey of obeying the great commission of Jesus has led us to our theme for 2023 "Love Türkiye". The country of Türkiye is one of the least reached people groups of the world. Our goals for 2023 - 2024 include investigating how we can share the gospel with the unreached people of Türkiye. To facilitate this goal, Calvary Church is sending a team to Türkiye to listen and learn from Christian leaders there. Marty Frisk will be leading a team in May 2023 to Türkiye including Roger and Olga Bronn, Tanya Kostenyuk and Zareh Zetlian from the Peoples Church in Toronto. We want to learn what we can do to support the growing number of believers in Türkiye.

Our Calvary Church missionaries have continued to serve our Lord faithfully. I will endeavor to provide a few missionary highlights in my report. For more in depth information with specific details that will allow you to pray effectively, consider signing up for email newsletters.

David and Sue Schmidt spend a good portion of 2022 back in Canada and the United States completing training requirements. In the fall, Sue taught a seminar course at Heritage Seminary in Cambridge. They returned to Israel in mid January 2023. Their work with Israeli congregations continues. David is preaching in their different congregations. Both David and Sue are teaching courses and providing valuable leadership training for believers in Israel.

Mark and Janet Case continue to serve the Lord in Paraguay. Their leadership skills are being used to help plan and assess work with Bible translation projects and Church plants in different tribal areas. Please pray for the training and mobilizing of new missionaries and the planting and development of tribal churches.

Marty and Becky Frisk are passionate followers of Jesus serving the Lord with Christar. Their ministry work allows them the flexibility to work from their home here in St. Catharines. Calvary Church really gets to benefit from their willingness to teach and serve. In the fall, Becky taught a Wednesday night live course on "Resolving Everyday Conflict". Marty's preaching and teaching (including summer bible camp) has helped us all to be mission minded. Marty is taking two teams to Turkey in April and May this year. He has a tremendous passion for the unreached people of Turkey to see Jesus. Marty has used his Mongolian yurt to draw attention to the need of the gospel among unreached people groups in the world. To learn more about their ministry work, talk to them.

MISSIONS TEAM CONT'D

Javed and Roya Javed are diligently serving the Lord with Pamir ministries. Their internet and radio studio presents both live and pre recorded messages broadcasted into Afghanistan every day. Listener inquiries are responded to by Javed and Roya and other team members. Javed and Roya visited Calvary Church in November 2022 for a Wednesday night Encounter session. It was a blessing and a challenge to hear how God is at work in Afghanistan. Their hope is to move to Turkey to continue their ministry work of sharing Jesus with the unreached people of Afghanistan.

Moshen and Mina Hasanipoor visited Canada for several months in 2022. Moshen preached at Calvary Church in July, sharing Jesus' teaching on the great commission from the Word of God. They shared their challenges in reaching refugees and travelers coming to Turkey from Iran and other countries. The Good News Team was blessed to meet with them for lunch and share some time fellowshiping with them and praying with them. They invited us to come and visit them in Turkey.

Brian and Carol Ann Lawrence meet with the Good News Team in March for dinner and fellowship. We learned more about their ministry work with Kurdish people in the Hamilton region. We also met with Kurdish refugees, Kohzan and his wife Lajan. Kohzan and his family came to Canada a little over three years ago. They had suffered much persecution for their faith in Jesus prior to coming to Canada.

Brian and Carol Ann also have other ministry responsibilities with Christar in North America. They are organizing a Christar Affinity conference for ministry workers in July 2023 in New Jersey.

Derek and Ann-Marie Johnson are a vital part of the member care team working at the Christar office. Derek is actively supporting the missionaries of Christar around the world from his office right here at Calvary Church. Derek is working full time with Christar. Derek and Ann-Marie are anticipating going to the Philippines in July 2023 to spend time with the Lewis family (Christar workers). Their short term ministry project is expected to be very busy. Ann-Marie will be providing special education training for teachers at a Christian school, where the Lewis's five children attend. She will be providing guidance with the development and implementation of individual education plans for students with exceptionalities. Derek will be providing training sessions on topics such as conflict resolution. Consider being a prayer Partner in 2023!

Lynn Middleton continues to be responsible for financial matters on the Christar member care team. Christar workers are depending on Lynn to make sure their financial support is handled in a timely manner. Thank you Lynn for using your training and expertise for the Lord's work with Christar!

Rev. Charles Henri Cote has been asked to help start a new church in Rockland, Ontario (near Ottawa). This French speaking community is very close to the Quebec border. Charles has decided to slow down a bit but is still working diligently for the Lord.

Joshua Narjinary and his mother, Puspa continue to serve the Lord faithfully in North Bengal India with Partners International.

The Good News Team continues to use our special offerings to provide support for local missions work and top up the McLean fund for special mission projects. Calvary Church has been able to support local ministries; Niagara Life Centre, Youth Unlimited, Migrant Workers, Agora Ministries, Niagara Falls Christian Ministries food bank, and Out of the Cold ministry. Through the McLean fund we have provided support to David and Sue Schmidt to cover medical expenses, Marty Frisk for a trailer to transport and store the yurt and supplies. Turkey team members to help cover trip costs, and Ann-Marie Johnson trip expenses traveling to the Philippines.

MISSENS TEAM CONT'D

The Calvary Church bake sale organized by Bethany Shields on behalf of the Good News Team was a resounding success. Thank you to everyone who baked and purchased items. The fundraiser for the Egbe hospital in Nigeria was a great success. The money raised, \$2014 has been sent to support the water restoration project. This project was needed to rebuild the hospital water reservoir that was destroyed due to heavy flooding in 2022.

The Good News team continues to grow and change. We invited Esther Kroeker to come back and join us in 2022. Esther agreed and has continued to serve Calvary Church and our missionaries. Esther has been working on a special project since rejoining the Good News Team. She hopes it will be finished soon. When it is completed, we hope to share it with you. Thank you Esther.

We are excited to welcome Funmi Cole to the Good News Team in 2023. It is wonderful to have new members on the mission team. Unfortunately at the same time, we are saying goodbye to Esther as she will be moving out of the area. We are also saying goodbye to another member of our team, Svetlana Muhutdinova. Nicolai, Svetlana and their family will be moving back home to Eastern Europe. We are sad to see you go. We will miss you. We know you will serve the Lord by continuing to spread the gospel wherever God will lead you.

*If you would like to receive e-newsletters directly
from a particular family,
Please Contact Roger rogerolgab@gmail.com.*

WHO DOES CALVARY CHURCH SUPPORT?



- Mark and Janet Case, Ethnos 360 in Paraguay
- Marty and Becky Frisk, Human Resources Personnel for Christar
- Brian and Carol Ann Lawrence, Affinity Directors for Christar North America and ministry workers to Kurds in Hamilton, ON
- Mohsen and Mina Hasanipoor, Christar, church planting in Asia Minor
- Derek and Ann-Marie Johnson, Christar, member care appointees
- Lynn Middleton, Donor Relations/Accounts Receivable for Christar
- Javed and Roya Javed, OM Canada and Pamir Productions in Asia Minor
- Nicholas and Puspa Narjinary, Partners International in North Bengal India
- Philip and Alempia Das, Partners International with Adopt-A-Village Bangladesh
- David and Susan Schmidt, Church Planters with ABWE in Israel
- Charles Henri and Lise Coté, Church Planters with AGC Quebec
- Niagara Life Centre, St. Catharines
- Out of the Cold Ministry, Calvary Church St. Catharines
- Every Easter and Thanksgiving a special offering is collected for local missions, including support of Migrant Workers in Niagara.

Please continue to pray for and to support missions at Calvary.

*If you would like to receive e-newsletters directly
from a particular family,
Please Contact Bethany @ bethany.lamb@gmail.com*



CARE & COMMUNITY

PEOPLE CARE MINISTRY



As I look back over the year, it has been wonderful to once again function normally, without the past restrictions.

Our group of “Merry Widows” were able to meet monthly beginning May 20/22 at the home of Dianne Young. Approximately 12 ladies enjoy a cup of tea, chat and just have fun spending time in each other’s company.

June 12 th was to be our Annual Church Family Picnic at Queenston Heights but due to inclement weather it was held in our church gym instead. The rain let up enough for some family games to be played in the parking lot. Despite the weather we had a good time as always.

Our church picnic, to be held this year on June 11/23 will be held on our church property. Due to rising costs for renting the pavilion and parking meters at Queenston Heights it was felt it is no longer practical to use this facility. Mark your calendars for this date and plan for good food and good fun.

A Meal Train continued for the Pyke’s through to September when WNL started up again. Thank you to all who provided meals. They were greatly appreciated.

Speaking of WNL, Enrichment courses and dinners were started up again this past September – November/22. Approximately 60 – 80 people attended the delicious meals each week. Starting with the winter sessions February – April/23, approximately 90 – 100 people have enjoyed the flavours from around the world. We have tasted cuisine from Italy, Mexico, Malaysia, Nigeria, Ireland, Jamaica and we look forward to a fundraising evening on Wednesday April 26 th as the Johnson’s plan to go to the Philippines this summer on a mission trip. Thank you to all the cooks and workers who have made these evenings possible. They say it takes many hands to do the work and approximately 12 people + are needed each week, from cooking, to set up, to greeting, to serving, to cleaning. We have a great team of workers! Thank you all who make these evenings so enjoyable.

PEOPLE CARE MINISTRY CONT'D



Several fundraising events for our roof have taken place this year. At our Church Christmas Banquet we raised over \$2600 at the Silent Auction. Thank you to the Browett's who organized this for us. Proceeds of nearly \$2000 were raised at the Games Night in January, Soup Challenge in March and Trivia Night in April. Thank you to all who participated.

Visitations continue to our Shut-Ins and those in hospital. 30 Benevolent gifts and \$850 in food vouchers were given out during the Christmas season. Also, a Carol Sing was arranged visiting Meadow Green Manor, Tufford Nursing Home and 4 private homes. What a joy for all involved. As God loves, we too love one another. People Care continues to meet the needs of our church family in practical ways as God leads.

As always, I want to thank my board members Dianne Young, Sue Filer, Debbi Payne, Carolyn Ingrams, and Gerald Hall. I also want to thank the many others who help make the work possible.

Respectfully,
Denise Sneath – Chair People Care Board

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY



This year has been another successful year within the music ministry at Calvary. This past year the team and I (Peter Bruin) have been blessed by the kind words and positive reception we have heard from you, the congregation, on how the music and liturgy elements have been beneficial to your walk with Jesus. We pray that the services and discipleship ministries continue to be effective in helping all of us to walk and shine brightly as disciples of Christ.

This past year we have seen continual development within the contexts of our music ministries. We have been absolutely impressed with the number of those who have wanted to be involved in helping lead music on Sunday, we have seen many new faces, and are thankful for the talents each one brings coming together to make joyful noise before the Lord.

Highlights from music ministry this year would be both are Christmas Eve service, where we not only played various arrangements of Christmas tunes as well as some other contemporary songs, but we were also able to engage the youth to participate in making it come together, namely those who helped with the drum line. Easter was also a major highlight. Since I started serving two years ago I have never heard the congregation singing so loudly! It was truly incredible and I look forward to more Sundays where we can continue to glorify God through our shouts of praise.

Our vision moving forward is to, To REORIENT people to Jesus as we REFLECT his creativity in a space where we RELATE to God and one another.. We do this through our song, confession, prayer, anointing, communion, responsive readings, and other liturgy elements. Our goal is for those who come into the church to see and encounter the person of Jesus, and that within that encounter to be transformed and directed to walk in step with the Spirit. As a music ministry we do this through our creative expression, seeking excellence as those made as God's image bearers. Through this we enter into fellowship with God, as he inhabits our praises, and with one another as we encourage and journey with each other.

LIBRARY

Thank you to all who donated library books. The library is open to the public one designated Thursday per month from 9:30 - 12:00. The library is also open 9:30 on Sunday mornings before the service and also open after the service.

Our library team consists of Diane J., Pat W., Jamie W., Ruth L., and junior helper Moyosore.

Big thank you to "technical Tim" who is looking after installing a newer library computer system. God meets all our needs.

In His service,
Elvira



A large, textured orange circle with a brushstroke effect, serving as a background for the title text.

CONNECTIONS

MERGE GROUPS



2020 caused quite a stir in meeting together. There were only a limited number of groups available and they were forced to adapt.

In-person meetings were not allowed and therefore alternatives were researched. Zoom, Messenger as options took center stage. Faces were seen but the capability of being in close contact with other believers was taken from us.

2021 continued along the same line with in-person meetings returning. This pleased quite a few individuals but others chose to remain virtual only. We have endeavoured to accommodate those individuals as best we can.

For a few years now we have seen modest growth in both the number of groups and also in the attendance within those groups. As of this date we have 12 groups that meet. Most are meeting in someone's home on a regular basis. 2 of these groups are only able to meet bi-weekly and 1 other group meets virtually every week. We have a men's group only and also a woman's group only.

Our Young Adults also started a group all their own last year and meet as often as possible.

There were according to my records from early March, around 100 attendees of which a very high percentage are from Calvary Church adherents and members! Well done, Calvary!

Bible studies within the groups are mostly utilizing RightNow Media® Bible Studies.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Payne
Calvary Merge Group Director



NEXT STEPS

How encouraging to see the growth at Calvary Church. There have been three Next Steps Newcomer's Luncheons, each of which had at least 20 in attendance. At the Luncheon, an informative power point was presented explaining what Calvary Church and the AGC is all about. Many attenders expressed interest in becoming involved in various ministries and membership.

The Welcome Centre has branched into two kiosks. The one closest to the door is specifically for Newcomers where they are presented with a gift bag and are encouraged to complete a Newcomer greeting card. The other kiosk is in front of the library. This one is for sign-ups to the many fellowship functions and inquiries on ministry volunteering and church membership.

Our "SLO" (Sunday Lunch Out) events have been extremely successful. On the fourth Sunday of every month, Calvary Church folk may sign up to attend lunch together at a local restaurant (no more than 15 minutes away). There are between 20-30 in attendance at the SLO events. This is a wonderful time of connecting with new and regular attendees at Calvary Church.

There was a Hawaiian Event in June 2022 that was very well attended. There were prizes for the best dressed child and adult. Hawaiian games and treats were enjoyed by all. Great Koinonia!

We are looking forward to the Grand Prix Derby Race happening on Saturday, April 29th . There are 40 Racers signed up so far! This is another opportunity for fellowship and outreach, as the Gospel message will be shared by Pastor Craig. Another wonderful Koinonia time will be at the Calvary Church Retreat happening June 16-18 at Elim Lodge Christian Resort Centre (Kawarthas/Lakehurst/Peterborough) Registration is due mid-May so don't miss out on this amazing opportunity of connecting with one another!

By connecting with one another within Calvary Church and within our community, we show our love for God by caring for each other.

Respectfully submitted by Paul and Marian Browett,
Connection Directors

CALVARY CHURCH FAMILY

Births:

- Charlotte Gene Fast - May 28, 2022
- Kinsley Mae Vandyken- September 10, 2022

Deaths:

- Ida Brooks - March 15, 2022
- Katharina Siemens - April 2022
- Carissa Bradley - September 15, 2022
- Grace Poirer -November 12, 2022





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