

# Classis Toronto Prayer Newsletter - July

The Prayer Newsletter is taking the place of the Prayer Calendar. In this monthly prayer newsletter we will share what is happening in our churches and ministries: what the churches and ministries are celebrating and what the churches and ministries are dreaming that God will do among them. We will also be letting you know of activities of Classis. We ask that you lift up these items in prayer with others from across Classis Toronto. Use it to guide your prayer times at church, in small groups, at the family table and individually.

## Luke 10:1-12

For the last year, at the beginning of most classis related meetings and gatherings, the group read and reflected on Luke 10:1-12. Throughout the year three themes emerged from the passage that resonated with participants: Hospitality, Harvest/Mission and Kingdom.

Within the theme of Hospitality a few things stand out: those who are sent are vulnerable and when one becomes vulnerable one gives up some of one's power and empowers others. Being sent is about accepting hospitality from others who are different and about building relationships and being present with others with whom one shares the message.

Within the theme of Harvest/Mission there were also a few reflections that stood out. The harvest is plentiful, that when we are sent out we go in community (2-by-2), not alone, there is an urgency to the task, that we go out fully dependent on God and as a servant, and when people do not listen we need to have a sense of detachment and learn to go where people will listen.

Within the theme of Kingdom the reflections that stood out were that the whole passage is about the coming of the Kingdom of God. Jesus uses ordinary people to spread the news of God's Kingdom. the Kingdom is a comfort for those who believe and a threat for those who do not believe.

A few reflections on what this means for Classis Toronto: (1) It is God's mission and we are invited to participate. (2) How churches work out the message to their local communities is diverse. (3) We need to model Christ-like behaviour. (4) We need to be a welcoming community. (5) We need to be bold in what we proclaim.

Pray for Classis Toronto and our churches as we participate in God's mission to the world. Pray that we might go, accepting hospitality, proclaiming the message of God's Kingdom and healing those we meet.

*After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."*  
--Luke 10:1-3

Next Classis Meeting: October 6, 2011  
at Community of Richmond Hill CRC

## Migrant Workers Ministry - Springdale CRC, Holland Marsh CRC & Nazareth Baptist

For the last 22 years Springdale CRC, Holland Marsh CRC and Nazareth Baptist have been partnering to minister to the Mexican migrant workers who come every year to work in greenhouses and on farms in the area. The Nazareth Baptist team visits the workers, getting to know them and helping with paperwork, disputes and visiting when injured or sick. Every Sunday between Father's Day in June and Thanksgiving Day in October, a worship service is held, in Spanish, at Springdale CRC with a meal (provided and served by groups from Holland Marsh and Springdale churches) and an activity afterward (often an English lesson or a soccer game). Every year the workers are also taken on a visit to Niagara Falls and church members are encouraged to donate lightly used clothes and toys that the workers can bring back to their families.

Every year the ministry welcomes and celebrates a few new followers of Christ. It is exciting for the churches involved to see how their service benefits these workers who are far away from home and their families for long periods of time. Praise God for this faithful ministry.

Pray with Springdale CRC, Holland Marsh CRC and Nazareth Baptist churches as they continue to serve the migrant workers. Pray for the workers as they are often lonely and missing their families. Pray for the families who are missing their fathers and husbands. Pray for the safety of the workers. Pray for the teams of people who bring the gospel, pray that the message of Christ's saving love and grace will be heard and experienced by the workers.

## Classis Toronto Activities:

August 23: Candidacy Committee Meeting  
September 1: Deadline for Submissions for the Classis Meeting  
September 7: Race Relations Committee Meeting  
September 22 or 29: North of 7 Imagine Event at Bethel CRC  
September 25: Classis Toronto All Nations Heritage Sunday Service at Community of Meadowvale CRC