

Classis Toronto Prayer Newsletter - September

This monthly prayer newsletter shares with you what is happening in our Classis Toronto churches (22 CR congregations) and our joint ministries. The focus is on what is being celebrated and what the churches and ministries are dreaming God will do among them. Where appropriate, we will also share what challenges are being dealt with. Remember these ministries in prayer in church and at home.

MILTON CHURCH PLANT

Church Planter

Earlier this year, Rev. John Bouwers, then of Fellowship CRC in Ancaster, accepted a call from Meadowvale CRC, Mississauga (in partnership with others – see “Partnership” below) to plant a new church in Milton, the fastest growing area in the GTA. John and his family are now in Milton and starting this important new work.

Partnership

Classis Toronto and Huron and three churches (Acton, Georgetown and Meadowvale), together with CR Home Missions have partnered together on this church plant. Individual partner representatives make up a Liaison Team that supports this work.

Developing Vision

This church plant was envisioned to be somewhat of a “tent-making” ministry. John is initially hired at only ¼ time to develop this ministry and as it becomes settled the plan is for him to go to ½ time. This model of church planting allows staff to build ministry while being “in the world” through other jobs. It also creates greater ‘resource focus’ on the needs of the people in Milton. This is part of the vision for this ministry. Give thanks for the vision that God has lit in the hearts of those who have and are beginning this work. Pray for the Spirit’s guidance and strength as it continues to develop.

Painful Beginning

On June 30, John and his family were ready to move from Ancaster to Milton when they found their oldest son, Joshua, had died unexpectedly during the night of heart failure. This loss continues to be felt deeply, of course. Remember John, Geraldine and their children Rachel, Matthew and Lucas in prayer as they struggle to make a life in Milton without Joshua. Thank God for their strong and secure faith which comforts them amidst this terrible new reality.

CLASSIS HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Milton Church Plant

Maybe 3 years ago now, the Classis Home Missions Committee (CHMC) initiated a visioning workshop among the Western group of Classis churches. Out of that visioning time came the idea of planting a church in Milton. See the other column for more on that. Give thanks for the working of God’s spirit.

Outreach Visioning North of Hwy 7

Sometime this fall, CHMC is organizing a visioning workshop for the churches north of Hwy 7. Those nine churches will be invited to send individuals who are dreaming about reaching out to their communities to dream together. Pray for an enthusiastic group of people and for vision.

Committee Membership

Jim Broekeman, Immanuel Brampton; Rev. Sam Cooper, Meadowvale, Mississauga; Rev. Kobie du Plessis, Bethel Newmarket; Victoria Shipmaker, Friendship Community Toronto; Martin Slofstra, Immanuel Brampton; Rev. Geoff VanderMolen, ClearView Oakville. For info on joining the CHMC, contact Corrie Bootsma, Classis Nominating Comm. chair at bootsma@axcent.ca and/or Martin Slofstra CHMC chair at martinslofstra@hotmail.com. Remember these people in your prayers.

Classis Activities (see www.classistoronto.org)

September 7: Race Relations Committee

September 16: LOGOS Committee

September 22 or 29: North of 7 CHMC Visioning Event at Bethel CRC in Newmarket

September 25 evening: All Nations Heritage Sunday Service, Meadowvale CRC, Mississauga

October 6: Classis Toronto Meeting, Community CRC in Richmond Hill

October 15: Day of Encouragement, Ancaster

October 14-16: Youth Retreat, Ont. Pioneer Camp