

## **English Ministry Annual Report 2022**

English Ministry Team

Surely 2022 ushered in a year of great change for MCBC. Ministries that were held back or paused in 2021, came roaring back to life this past year. Outreach campaigns like prayer walks, food drives, virtual visitations, Operation Christmas Child and reopening sport ministries expanded MCBC's reach into our community. While in-reach caring events like luncheons, chit-chat time, park hang-outs and small groups helped us rediscover the power of connection and community as believers. The worship and nurturing ministry never shut down despite technical and physical challenges that came along the way.

In 2022 God answered many personal and corporate prayers for MCBC – like seeing YLD and Children's worship reopened – enabling the church to welcome and minister to 50+ children and families each week; God brought Pastor Mike and Amy to us, ending a 5+ year long search; and God inspired new leaders to step up in Sunday school and worship ministries, when we needed them most.

As we look forward to another year, let's remember the goodness God delivered in 2022. How He helped us rediscover community, and what it means to "church" together. How He raised up new leaders and brought us more leaders and another shepherd. How He heard our collective cries and answered.

May our prayers in 2023 be bolder, bigger and reach wider into our community than ever before. And may He who answered us in 2022, hear our cries again to see His kingdom work done in and through us.

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." – Matthew 6:33*

### **Worship Ministry**

In 2022 we went through a great deal of the Old Testament from the pulpit, preaching through the Great Prayers of the Old Testament, Psalms, and Habakkuk, to name a few. Pastor Mike also joined staff and integrated into the preaching roster for the second half of the year.

Looking forward to 2023, we will be devoting a majority of the pulpit time to walking through the gospel of John. Pray for our English Pastors as they shoulder the bulk of the preaching in 2023.

This year was a challenge for the Worship Team (AV, Music, and Host), but through it all, God has still been gracious and provided us exactly what we needed. All of our teams put in a lot of time and effort, week after week, to provide our congregations God-centered corporate worship experiences.

I want to give a shout-out to the AV team especially, who despite being low on manpower, faithfully provided live streaming to our brothers and sisters who could not come in-person. Though we had a few team members leave, we also had a few new members join. We are in the process of training and discipling them. I have seen growth in the faith and skills of many of the team members this year. God is good!

At the end of 2022, the team was in discussion on how to alleviate the AV team's serving burden, and working with the English pastors, proposed to stop live-streaming and instead, move to an 'on-demand' service model. We are thankful that the congregation has been understanding and supportive in this.

We are also thankful for the congregation for their encouraging words. There have been many instances where after service, certain congregants were moved to thank us for the worship that morning.

As we head into 2023, we are currently looking for a few more people to serve on the AV team, as well as a few specific instrumentalists (e.g. piano and cajon). Please pray that our members would find the rest they need, and serve from a spiritually and emotionally healthy place.

Please also pray for our Host team, as they figure out how to best make people feel welcome when they come to church. .

### **Small Groups Ministry**

2022 began with the last of our lockdown but by February, as mentioned earlier, we have returned to in-person worship. Still, most groups for safety purposes and with also brothers and sisters zooming in from abroad, as far as Timiskaming. However, by summertime groups were more ready and eager to meet in person. One of our largest groups had 20+ people plus a hybrid model of online and in-person small groups. Some continue to use RightNow Media, and the family groups alternate between moms and dads and met monthly. Another highlight is the leaving of a small group couple, another couple has stepped up in our young adult group, with some university graduates joining as a result of our softball ministry. We launched the Elements of the Healthy Small Group video training in January so every small group member will be on

the same page as to what they can expect to give and receive in their community. With the addition of Pastor Mike, we began to go deeper into exploring discipleship and coaching, as we align with a common understanding as to how small group ministry is the main discipleship platform into 2023.

### **Nurturing Ministry**

As worship resumed for a month and other congregations began returning to in-person, we thought one area we need to provide is Christian education and so we launched Christians and Society to look at how current political, societal and theological thinking and policies affect our everyday life. Followed by The First and Last Letters of Paul, looking at Galatians and 2 Timothy to learn how the Apostle Paul's growth is a reflection of the Christian journey in terms of theological maturity and what it means to be in Christ, as the church, for the sake of others. We attempted to launch a Faith+Life initiative called Managing your Talents on wise stewardship in person, but the timing was not suitable and it had been cancelled. Going into 2023, Nurturing ministry would like to focus on, besides head knowledge and wisdom, what it means to be formed by God through spiritual practices and rhythms to form lifelong habits.

### **Caring Ministry**

During 2022, the caring ministry was able to create opportunities to encourage the whole congregation to gather together for fellowship.

From May-August, we held monthly park hangouts on the last Sunday of every month at our local neighbourhood park, within walking distance from the church. We provided Chinese bakery buns and water. These were intentionally held outdoors with consideration of ongoing pandemic precautionary measures. We saw many in our congregation join in, including young adults and families with young children.

In September, due to rainy weather, we moved the hangout indoors to the new basement, setting the stage for our transition to indoor gatherings. Indoor chit-chat time after services were resumed in the month of October with many dedicated volunteers to help provide refreshments. Caring ministry also prepared light refreshment table spreads for Baptism on September 11, 2022, and Christmas Day on Dec 25, 2022.

Finally, we reintroduced our welcome lunch after a nearly three-year hiatus, hosting a large luncheon on Nov 13, 2022, in the gym. We greeted all newcomers from 2020 onwards. A total of 53 adults and 19 kids registered and all in attendance had a wonderful time.

## **Concluding Remarks**

As we enter into 2023, it is the start of a new chapter. With our Lord's blessings, we can now worship in person and see what we missed the most — to be able to worship our Lord together as a community; as one body. We look forward to this year with the renewed goal to be better disciples of His, to follow and know more about Him. We would like to see more and more of our small groups to gather in-person, praying together and caring for one another. We see opportunities to explore more collaborations among all divisions to leverage each others' skills and gifts. We are all brothers and sisters, one family and serving one Lord.

May we continue to persevere in 2023 by multiplying disciple makers for the gospel and to show Christ and His love to our community and neighbours. We lift up MCBC, its ministries, our pastors, workers and lay leaders, our programs and decisions into Christ's hands. For it is his church and it is him we serve.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.*