

Building a Community to Reach a Community

— Mark Royall, Lead Pastor

The byline to our new sermon/Life Group series called '**DEVOTED**' states how we are "*building a community to reach a community.*"

First, "building a community" calls us to grow in our relationship to one another as a community of believers here at The Gate. One key strength of the early church was that they were devoted to fellowship. The word used in the original language of the New Testament is, '*koinonia*' which means sharing, partnership, and community.


Secondly, we want to be reaching the community who live around us and who do not know Jesus. We will be better equipped and more successful in accomplishing this second part when we get the first part right ("building a community").

But how can we grow as a church family? One of the key ways we can grow as a community of believers is to be **devoted** together to the **teaching** of the Bible, to **fellowship, prayer, hospitality, worship** and in being **generous**. All of these we can do with one another and for one another.

Church Renewal will also seek to lead us in building a strong community of believers. Recently some of our elders, along with their spouses, were able to attend a Church Renewal weekend with Glenda and I in Steinbach, Manitoba. With our leaders being introduced to Church Renewal, we are better equipped to move forward with more surety into the process of renewing our church.

We were also grateful to host a **Church Renewal Roundtable** here at The Gate with Pastor Ray Duerksen. I am told this was the largest gathering of pastors and leaders in one place for our region in at least 20 years. God is on the move in the Niagara region! Praise God!

We are beginning the renewal process with **prayer**. Sunday morning "Prayer Start" will eventually lead to an after service prayer time where we will have people of prayer available to follow up with those who desire prayer.

Recently much has happened. Currently there is a lot taking place and there is much more to come. It is an adventure! 




Church Renewal Weekend — Steinbach, MB

— Ray Peters, Elder Chair

When I was a pastor I had attended many conferences and seminars about how to grow a church, how to set priorities, how to grow your church to “the next level”, etc. Pastor Mark promised that this conference was going to be “different”, “nothing new”, and he was right – of course.

I found that the “Cross” was central to the weekend’s teaching. The true cross is not a pretty earring or necklace – it is anything but something to be admired. Jesus took the cross and turned it into something good. I grew up in a Christian home - not a perfect home, but a good home. When I was a teenager I sometimes wished that I had a more colorful or dramatic testimony than I did. Looking back now, decades later, I’m so grateful for my “tame teen years” because I’ve been spared so much pain and the awful memories that many experience. It was so good to see many experience a new freedom and forgiveness at the gathering.

There was a session titled “Does God still speak today?” As someone who has “heard from God”, though not as often as I would like, I was glad to hear that “God longs to reveal Himself and His will for us by the Holy Spirit.” It is essential to remember that knowledge of the Bible acts as a filter through which the events of our daily lives must pass before we can discern if God is truly speaking in these events. We were also cautioned to stop trying to hear from God if we are not spending time in the Word. 

lifegroups

— David Gagné, LifeGroup Coordinator

Thanks to the LifeGroup leaders for opening their homes to host 53 LifeGroup participants. The Bait of Satan series challenged us all in striving to follow Jesus’ teachings and to live fully the life He has called us to live.

For more information or to sign-up for a group — thegatechurch.ca/lifegroups

Women of Integrity

— Joanne Young, Women's Ministries

A "woman of integrity" is wise, she knows how to humble herself and stand up for what she believes in when the need arises. She is faithful in God and is not ashamed to share His message to others. She keeps her word even if it comes at a cost at her expense. She goes beyond what is expected of her. Even when nobody is around to notice or reward her she is always striving to be the best she can be in the sight of God.

We need to become deeply rooted into God's word in order to receive the proper nourishment. Not all growth is "productive" growth so, at times, we need to submit to God's pruning to cut away those things in our lives that are distractions and using up our energy and not fulfilling the will of God. Once we are filled with God's words and His laws we are able to grow strong and vigorous in His truth. When we are facing dark times, it is then that we need to remember to stretch towards our Light source – Jesus Christ. Remember, wherever God has planted you to **bloom where you are planted.** 🌱



Building Update

— Greg Olsen, Building Controller

It's been a few months since my last update. During that time, we have been working hard on improvements, and upgrades to our building. Rental turnovers within the Gate space have created several opportunities for enhancements to electrical and plumbing services to those temporarily vacant spaces. Hopefully these improvements will make these spaces more attractive to prospective tenants.

We completed a lighting upgrade to the front of the building. There is a LED flood light illuminating the "GATE" logo. All front entrance lighting (Church & Valley Way), as well as driveway lighting, have been upgraded to LED. This makes the front of our building much brighter, and more energy efficient.

Our parking lot repairs for 2019 were also completed. This year we cut out and replaced a large 900 sq/ft section in the driveway, directly in front of the seniors' residence. Your vehicle alignments are now safe! 🚧





The start of a new message and LifeGroup series - DEVOTED. Based on Acts 2:42-47. Building a community to reach a community.

LEFT: Serving up a pancake breakfast with special guest missionary speakers "D&D".

RIGHT: "ShopTalk" men's breakfast at Betty's hearing about Church Renewal weekend.



The Gate family celebrated Pastor Mark & Glenda's thirty years of faithfully serving in ministry. In appreciation, a gift of a framed Bible page from 1600 was presented to them.

Smiling faces at LifeGroup at the Peter's home in Chippawa going through "The Bait of Satan" series.



Mom's were gifted with a special photo booth celebrating Mother's Day.

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