



## The Gate is a Village

— Mark Royall, Lead Pastor

Recently God woke me up at 5:20am and said, “Mark, The Gate is a village.” My response was profound, I said, “Uh?” So I begin to think what does a village have. First of all, a village has residents. People live in villages. Then I realized we have 34 senior residents here at The Gate. A village will often have a school where young people go to learn and become educated. Then I remembered we have two high school classes from the DSBN who meet here daily at The Gate. A village will also have businesses, clubs, recreational sport leagues and organizations and once again I realized we have a number of these who rent space from us here at The Gate. Like villages, The Gate has churches. In fact we have four churches who meet in our building. So yes, The Gate is like a village where everyday a number of people come to live, to play, to learn, to do business and to worship God here.

As far as I know, there is no other church model like ours in Canada. When I came here there was no manual on how to run and lead a church which is like a village. In many ways we are breaking new ground in the way we are doing church. Sometimes it can be invigorating and exciting but at other times it may be frustrating and confusing. This is why we need to be listening to God. He knows, we don't. He sees down the road, we can't. He understands, we lack understanding. One of the most difficult things we will be asked to do is to set aside our presuppositions, our opinions, our personal likes, and allow God to lead and direct us as a village. For this to happen we


# Bringing the Love of Jesus to our Community

— Paul Stoia, Worship/Youth & Young Adults Leader

"Arise! The Youth and Young Adults at The Gate are in full swing! After focused studies and talks over the last few months on their value, identity and knowledge in Christ, they are now putting that all into practice by becoming active participants in the Great Commission and serving others in our community bringing the love of Jesus.

This past month our group enjoyed a Spanish cooking class, Bible studies at the Hilton Mist lounge, volleyball games, and an outreach effort they joined in with Love at The Gate to feed and clothe the homeless and undeserved in our community. In addition we have our Tuesday "The Flash Night" meetings in the Board Room.

On Friday, Feb. 1st, the youth and young adults underwent their orientation for our project to help build a home for a needy family with Habitat for Humanity. Our goal is to raise \$5000 from now until build day in May 2019. This is a phenomenal experience for our youth and young adults as they will assist in serving for such a great cause, but as well gain hands-on experience in trades such as electrical, window installment, flooring and framing, etc. These skills could possibly lead to a future career in the trades.


In February, the youth/young adults will enjoy a Eastern European Cooking class, partake in a Truck Outreach in Hamilton to feed over 500 homeless people and run their own food and clothing outreach in Welland at the end of the month. In addition to the regular scheduled gatherings, Paul leads Bible studies instilling principles of following Christ and allowing Jesus to live out His purpose and plan for each of the youth/young adults lives. 

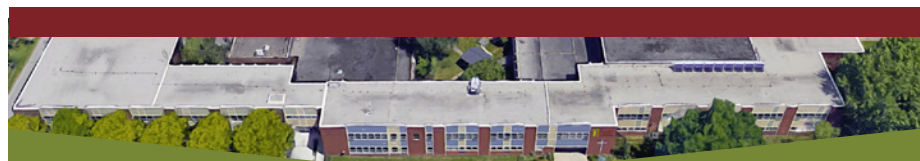


need to be promoting the place of prayer in our church where we listen and hear from God. How many times do we go and move ahead with what we think instead of stopping and hearing what God wants. If we were to follow what our people think here at The Gate we could easily be given 30 or 40 different directions for us to follow. If we seek and hear from God we will all be following only one set of directions and it will be the right one.

We will be participating in a series soon called, "A REVOLUTiON of Righteousness." The focus of this series will be on the need for us to humble, to surrender, and to



sacrifice our lives before God. We need to live more like Jesus and less like the world. We need to live in such a way where we are seeking to be "right" before God, not trying to please man, or our culture, or even ourselves. We need Jesus' righteousness in our lives. No other will do. We need a REVOLUTiON of Righteousness. Notice the "i" in the word, "REVOLUTiON" is not in caps but is small font. This is on purpose because we need to come before God humbly, ready to bow and listen to Him so we may be "right" before Him. 




## Improvements to our Campus

— Greg Olsen, Building Controller

Over the past few months we have been working hard to make improvements to our facility. I'm sure you all have noted the ceiling tiles being reinstalled with the exception of a couple... due to some remaining pesky roof leaks. Going forward we'll get these remaining leaks dealt with.

With the help of our many volunteers we have been able to complete the new youth room. Thank you to Jim Parkhill, and George McCleary for all their hard work. We have also made improvements to the "Love at the Gate" room. The overhead door has been repaired, and resealed. We have replaced the exterior door, added a closer and a handle outside. Deb is now free to move ahead with plans for that room.

We have also been working on a lot of smaller projects that have required attention for sometime. We've repaired the bottom of metal door frames, rotted by years of salt applications. Many old, leaking or non-functioning door closers have been replaced. 


# Overflowing Love at the Gate

— Deb Nanson, Love at the Gate Program Director

Christmas was truly a season of giving. The back hallways at The Gate were filled with toys, food and joy. Love at the Gate gave away over 700 toys just before Christmas. Volunteers wrapped the newly chosen presents for parents while others served coffee and sweet treats. Love at the Gate overflowed the generosity to the youth shelter, other local churches and aid agencies in the Niagara Region.

After Christmas came the coldest and the longest month for those who live on the streets and in shelters. We distributed record amounts of food in January, along with clothing and blankets. Jesus said; "give and it will be given to you," and so it has been for this ministry. The donations continue to pour in both in form of food, clothing, finances and volunteers.

As we look ahead. February we will start to teach some life skills in the form of a weekly cooking class. Please pray for those that have volunteered to teach and also for the participants that they feel the love of Jesus as they cook.

Needs? Transportation, favour and co-operation with local aid and government agencies. Please pray for the vulnerable folks that we are called to serve daily. 

**the  
money  
plan**

*The 6 week money  
course that will change  
your life forever!*

**Starts February 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm**

**Registration s \$25/couple or single  
www.TheMoneyPlan.ca**

*Photos: Cover - Top to bottom: David and Greg working on the front parking lot; Love at the Gate Christmas toy store; Combined morning service with NRCCC; Pastor Mark at the Toy/Food Store.*

## February Events

**12<sup>th</sup> / 12pm • Seniors' Potluck  
in the Fellowship Hall - Rm. 105**

**17<sup>th</sup> / 10am • Teen Challenge**

**19<sup>th</sup> / 7pm • The Money Plan  
starts at the Gate for 6 weeks**

**Wed. Mornings / 9:30am  
Ladies' bible study - Rm. 117**

## Contacts

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