

Kicking Off A New Ministry Season

I am thrilled to be entering my first autumn as Lead Pastor of Centennial Road Church. Late spring and summer 2009 has been a wonderful time of transition for me and my family. In review, we arrived in Brockville at the end of May and entered what I characterized as a two and half month time of what I called “building the plane in the air”. Church ministry was flying while at the same time, new staff were being interviewed and hired and I was moving into a new office and new role. I want to thank the entire Centennial Road family for your support and encouragement during this key time of transition. On a personal note, my family has felt so welcome in this church during our time of adjustment to a new home, new city, new colleagues and new challenge.

September will mark a new ministry season and the first season for our new team. The Bible says that there is nothing new under the sun and the mission of God remains the same yesterday, today and forever. I do want to offer a new perspective on how we will be sharing the good news of Christ in our community and a new statement of purpose for our church that honours our heritage and at the same time charts our course for the future.

As a team we met to prayerfully consider how we could best put into words our hearts for ministry, and a purpose statement for Centennial Road Church. Here is the result:

The purpose of Centennial Road Church is to passionately celebrate and share the love of God, by inviting people to belong, grow and serve in the mission of Christ.

In this newsletter, you will be reading about some of the ways we will be living out our purpose this fall.

Sunday Morning Celebration

We will be offering two Sunday morning celebration services this fall beginning September 13th under the direction of Pastor Randy Hopkins and an extremely dedicated team of people who are serving selflessly in the area of worship arts. Our goal in these Celebration services will be to offer identical celebrative worship and teaching formats with the focus on creating an environment where everyone is welcome and offered love and acceptance and an invitation to belong to our faith community. As a team, we are committed to fostering unity within the diversity of our church. We are committed to offering programming for all ages while at the same time creating a Sunday morning environment where the focus is totally on God, welcoming guests and providing the best possible sacrifice of praise to God.

As your pastor, I am committed to the wonderful heritage of unleashing the church to worship in all kinds of ways. Over the coming ministry season, I will be praying for leaders to step up who will have a willingness to create worship environments that complement what we will be doing as an entire church family on Sunday morning.

It is my prayer that people with worship preferences of all types will be released in the power of the Holy Spirit to create worship environments at various times through the week. These could range from high liturgy to post-modern rock to southern gospel and others in between.

Youth Ministry

Two special environments that are already in process have been created for children in grades 1 thru 5 and youth of Jr. and Sr. High School age. Under the leadership of Pastor Mike Agrell, we are launching a new children's ministry program called KidStuf. KidStuf will combine the creative talents of teens and adults to create a unique ministry environment geared toward children. This worship environment will complement our Sunday morning Celebration service where children will begin worship with the entire community and be released part way through to join KidStuf.

On the Youth front, we are creating a new worship and fun environment for teens on Sunday evenings beginning September 13th. This environment will see all our teens join together for a time of music and teaching and then have Jr. High and Sr. High groups go to separate parts of our facility for activities and discipleship.

Small Groups Ministry

Pastor Aaron Perry will be leading our new small groups ministry this fall. Aaron's goal is to see every member and attendee of Centennial Road Church eventually engage in a small group to grow in Christ. Aaron and his wife, Heather will also be launching a new ministry called Crown Financial as a way of helping people learn and grow in the area of financial stewardship.

Christmas Lane

Finally, please be in prayer for our Christmas Lane ministry taking place the weekend of December 11-13, 2009. It may seem early to talk about Christmas but we as a staff have begun planning for a dynamic outreach to our valley that will see thousands of people experience the story of God's love through the birth of Christ. Stay tuned for more information and ways to get involved in this incredible event!

United in Prayer

There is one final key to any great ministry season and that is a church united in prayer. It is really more than one key because there are two components, a church united, and, a church in prayer. I want to ask you as a congregation to set aside one hour of time for specific prayer every Friday in August for our church entering the autumn ministry Season. For those with no health issues, I want to request that you also commit to fast all or part of the day on these Fridays. I will be setting aside the time between 6:30 and 7:30 each Friday evening for prayer time in the sanctuary and I would invite anyone who

would like to join as we commit the upcoming ministry season to God and pray for unity in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

Eric