

# BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

We Preach Christ

Crucified † Risen † Coming Again

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

March 17, 2024



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023 Elder's Report

## Psalm 36:5-10

5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies.

6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, Your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

7 How priceless is Your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

8 They feast in the abundance of Your house; You give them drink from Your river of delights.

9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see strength.

10 Continue Your love to those who know You, Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

Sometimes, especially during the storms of our lives, it is important to focus on the past reliability of God. How we have seen Him operate in the past gives us greater confidence to face what we can't even see in our future. This is true as individuals and even as a small group of believers gathered unto the Name of the Lord Jesus, here in Norwood.

The psalmist in Psalm 36 is reminding his soul that, Yes(!), God is reliable, He loves His people, He operates always in perfect righteousness and gives us security and abundant blessings in His care. Everything flows to us from Him, and so we can consider a Psalm like this and wonder at how frequently we see the words "You" & "Your" because everything comes from the Lord.

Every annual report that we read in the following pages, focuses our thoughts on the past year but should also remind us that God has been and is wonderfully reliable to His own people, the sheep of His pasture. Even as we remain weak, we have seen Him work in the past year and can rest, knowing that He remains able to work in an uncertain and tumultuous world.

Many of us were surprised and saddened to hear that our brother, Joe Joseph, passed away on July 1st, 2023. He loved to participate in the Lord's Supper and enjoyed the fellowship at Bethel. Mrs. Green also entered glory this past year after months of declining health and strength. She had longed for years to be with her Saviour, often wondering why the Lord continued to preserve her life.

Last year the Family Bible Hour speaking ministry continued to follow a chronological pattern. We wrapped up our study of Genesis (which took us several months) and also we studied in detail 1st Corinthians. It is our hope that you have been strengthened through the consistent preaching of God's Word. We are thankful for each man who has taken the time to participate in this vital ministry of our assembly.

The Men's Breakfast and Study time continued over the past year. These breakfasts have been a good time for fellowship over a meal during which we have followed a book study entitled "*Lessons in Spiritual Leadership from the Life of R.C. Chapman*". The accompanying discussion of this humble servant (Robert Cleaver Chapman) has challenged the men who attend.

The elders: David Walton, Frank Parker & George Idema

## *2023 Deacon's Report*

Each year we as deacons aim to provide a steady undisturbed environment for the Bethel family. Our goal is to make sure all the necessities are covered for the various activities and ministries of our membership.

This year we found a great deal on a used Subzero refrigerator for the kitchen. The standup freezer portion is much more suited to our needs than the existing chest freezer, which often gets used for overflow food bank items. This appliance should give us many years of service.

In May we replaced the taps on the baptismal tank. The old ones were leaking, and difficult to access. The new ones are easier to work with.

In June we replaced the photocopier. The previous model had been discontinued so supplies were becoming prohibitively expensive. It was more economical to get a different machine that used cheaper supplies.

In August Epcor required us to install a Double Check Valve Assembly on the water line. This protective device ensures that if there is a sudden draw on the water supply lines outside the church, water already in our pipes is not drawn back out, potentially harming items like our hot-water-on-demand appliance. An example of the potential risk might be if the fire department were to draw water quickly from a nearby hydrant in the neighborhood. With the DCVA in place, we are protected.

In December some much needed repairs to the basement tile floor happened, thanks to a recipient at the food bank. More work will be done in the coming months. Thanks to the men in the assembly who made that happen!

We thank you all for your prayers and support. Please remember that there are many duties required in our church family, and any help you give is greatly appreciated!

Submitted by the Deacons: Theryn Mills, George Bódy & John King

## *2023 Sunday School Annual Report*

Another year has flown by. Sunday school is continuing to run smoothly. We had to shuffle our classes around this year. Miss Heidi is still teaching our youngest children: Pre-K to Grade 1, Miss Kirstin is teaching our Grade 2-3 and I have moved into teaching the older kids Grade 5-9. We are still using the Sunday school curriculum from Answers in Genesis. We worked our way through Joshua and the spies going to the Promised Land, spent a number of weeks in Judges and are currently working our way through the various Kings in the Old Testament. I am so thankful for each of the children in our Sunday school. Our numbers are holding steady at around 18 children most Sundays. We are so thankful to have Dianne back teaching the last Sunday every month. Praise God that she is back to her healthy self and the teachers appreciate the break from teaching each month.

Please continue to pray for our children, that their knowledge and love of God may continue to grow. Pray for wisdom for the teachers in sharing God's word with the children each week.

## *2023 Social Ministry*

This last year, the Social Committee has had the privilege of planning and hosting several luncheons and one wedding shower. We are encouraged by the number of people participating in these events, as well as in the Brown Bag Prayer lunches.

While we do the organizing and executing of the meals and events, we could not do this without the faithful volunteers who help set tables, wash dishes and make coffee. Their cheerful willingness to help is what makes each of these events, big and small, a success. Thank you!

We also coordinate sending flowers and fruit arrangements to shut-ins and the sick.

It is our joy and privilege to serve our family at Bethel in this way and we thank you all for the opportunity to serve.

Sonja Idema & Sarah Tremblay

## 2023 Bethel Pantry

*If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.*

Isaiah 58:10

The Bethel Pantry entered into its fourth year of operation as of October. In 2023 we served an average of 126 people per week. While we continue to see a consistent number of 'regulars' (whom we are getting to know better), we also have a large number of new faces every week, including immigrants and refugees. In addition to Syrians and Ukrainians, we hear many African and Spanish voices coming through each week. We are thankful for the linguistic skills that some of our volunteers bring.

Although the vast majority of the food continues to come from the Edmonton Food Bank, we also get weekly donations of bread and pastries from local bakeries. Individuals, both at Bethel and in the local community also contribute.

In addition to non-perishable (and occasionally fresh) food, we also give away gently used clothing, small household items and good literature – not to mention pet food. Bibles, booklets and tracts are regularly taken.

It takes about 23 volunteers to run the Pantry efficiently each week. We are thankful that the Lord has met our needs each week, from both the wider community and local churches. Regular Bethel volunteers include: Paul Fletcher, Barbara Congo, George & Kirstin Idema, Frank & Dianne Parker, Miriam Love, Cassidy & Hazel Specht, and Emma & Clara Tremblay. Earl Krechuniak, Dave Walton & Pascal Gisenya have been faithful in managing bread pickup and packaging on Thursday evenings. Others have contributed as their schedules have allowed.

While the Pantry continues to provide physical blessings to the wider community, our deeper desire is to also provide spiritual good news. Please pray for good Gospel conversations with both volunteers and shoppers.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frank Parker

On behalf of the volunteers

## 2023 Meadowlodge Bible Camp report (62<sup>nd</sup> year of ministry)

During the 2023 camping season, 136 individuals (including 10 from Bethel) served at Meadowlodge, ministering to approximately 440 campers of all categories: children, teens, families (60 people), and seniors (70 registered). This approached our theoretical maximum capacity of 480. Most of the camps had waiting lists that, unfortunately, we were not able to accommodate. Volunteers included 12 young people in the Counselor Training Program, who not only helped out at the Children's Day Camp, but many went on to serve at other camps over the summer.

In terms of facilities, the rifle range was completely refurbished, and the archery range was moved to the meadow. As well, minor renovations were undertaken on the managers' house and other camp buildings.

Concerns about the rapidly rising cost estimate of the pool replacement project led to a complete rethink of the plans. It was agreed that, in the short term, we would undertake incremental upgrades to maintain the existing pool, while looking at other options for a new building, including possibly a portable change/shower facility.

A major, non-facilities project this year was a complete revamping of the staff evaluation and feedback program, moving from a paper-based program to digital. This proved to be much more timely and less labour-intensive.

For the 2024 season, we are planning to add a girls' outdoor camp, and a second family camp (to meet increased demand). We are also developing a sexuality & gender policy in coordination with other Bible-based camps, to help meet the emerging challenges of the current culture. As well, we are still in need of a dedicated medical coordinator. Your prayers and suggestions would be appreciated for each of these initiatives.

Respectively submitted by,

Frank Parker

Bethel Representative on the Camp Board

## Financial Report - Bethel Gospel Chapel of Edmonton

From January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Total income	145,080.23	121,909.25	117,265.63	104,142.97
Total Expenses	98,994.79	160,293.58	106,805.83	106,180.62
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>46,085.44</b>	<b>(38,384.33)</b>	<b>10,459.80</b>	<b>(2,037.65)</b>
<hr/>				
<b>INCOME</b>				
Offerings	138,857.49	119,030.54	116,840.57	103,125.56
Bank Interest	6,222.74	2,878.71	425.06	1,017.41
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>145,080.23</b>	<b>121,909.25</b>	<b>117,265.63</b>	<b>104,142.97</b>
<hr/>				
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Ministry Expenses</b>				
Advertising			1,575.00	1,575.50
Bethel Social Events	0.00			
Flowers, Cards, Gifts, etc	743.14	463.80	563.47	240.31
Memberships & Licensing Fees	310.00	593.33	592.20	411.00
Publications	0.00	205.47	273.43	103.17
Visitation	0.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
<b>TOTAL Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>1,053.14</b>	<b>1,322.60</b>	<b>3,064.10</b>	<b>814.48</b>
<hr/>				
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Caretaking Services & Supplies	9,112.50	11,808.08	10,780.95	8,200.00
Equipment, Renovations		41,895.36	200.50	1,272.90
Insurance, Taxes	11,518.47	10,410.42	9,077.20	8,154.00
Kitchen Supplies & Food	1,579.38	1,237.62	712.85	377.34
Maintenance	8,137.12		15,781.65	8,012.44
Office Supplies	2,687.03	2,044.45	1,167.67	1,069.47
Other Supplies				
Utilities	11,907.15	11,675.05	9,027.71	7,459.91
<b>TOTAL Operating Expenses</b>	<b>44,941.65</b>	<b>79,070.98</b>	<b>46,748.53</b>	<b>34,546.06</b>
<hr/>				
<b>Donations (Workers &amp; Organizations)</b>				
Designated Funds (O.M. Samuel)	1,500.00	900.00	2,400.00	1,950.00
Designated Funds (Lowrie Project)	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
Designated Funds (Edm. Food Bank)	300.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	2,100.00
Guest Speakers	4,200.00	5,900.00	4,400.00	4,350.00
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	<b>11,800.00</b>	<b>8,800.00</b>	<b>8,700.00</b>

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Organizations</b>				
Meadowlodge Bible Camp	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Mount Carmel Bible School	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
MSC Canada (Admin)	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Congo Container Project	0.00	22,000.00	5,593.20	
<b>Subtotal Organizations:</b>	<b>21,800.00</b>	<b>43,800.00</b>	<b>27,393.20</b>	<b>21,800.00</b>
<b>Workers</b>				
Andrew & Latetia Russell (MSC)	3,600.00	8,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Barbara Congo (MSC)	21,600.00	21,600.00	21,600.00	22,500.00
Frank Parker (Direct)	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,200.00
<b>Subtotal Workers:</b>	<b>25,200.00</b>	<b>30,200.00</b>	<b>25,200.00</b>	<b>39,300.00</b>
<b>Total DONATIONS</b>	<b>53,000.00</b>	<b>79,900.00</b>	<b>56,993.20</b>	<b>65,450.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>98,994.79</b>	<b>160,293.58</b>	<b>106,805.83</b>	<b>100,810.54</b>
<b>Cash reserve</b>	45,291.00	44,926.00		
Operating Account (note 1)	56,437.66	24,475.06		
Savings/Reserve Account	222,114.19	215,891.45		
	<b>278,551.85</b>	<b>240,366.51</b>		

#### Notes

1 \$30,000 transferred from Operating Account to Savings/Reserve Account January 2024 due to better interest rate on latter account.

Prepared by George F. Body 5 March 2024