

As we take time this month to focus on prayer for Ness, the OVC plant and for personal growth, we turn to our members covenant. We encourage you to pray through this covenant that we make as we become members of Ness. Please also pray for the ministries and ministry leaders, that in each area ministry God would be glorified.

I will strengthen the ministry of Ness Avenue Baptist Church:

- by discovering my gifts and talents and using them for God's glory.
- by being equipped by my Pastors, Elders and Deacons, and leadership team.
- by developing a servant's heart.
- by living a Spirit-filled life according to Scripture.

"Each man is given his gift by the Spirit that he may use it for the common good," (1 Corinthians 12:7 J. B. Phillips)

"... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ..." (Ephesians 4:12 NASB)

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, ..." (Philippians 2:5-7a NASB)

"But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you will be slave of all. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"." (Mark 10:43-45 NASB)

I will share the responsibility for the Spiritual Life at Ness Avenue Baptist Church:

- by praying for its growth in all areas to the glory of God.
- by inviting my non-believing friends, family & acquaintances to attend, for the benefit of their souls, that they might hear the whole counsel of God.
- by seeking to minister Christ's loving care to those who attend.

"... always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ..." (Philippians 1:4 NASB)

"We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ..." (Colossians 1:3 NASB)

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20 NASB)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor, He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, ..." (Luke 4:18 NASB)

I will protect the unity of Ness Avenue Baptist Church:

- by acting in love toward other members.
- by encouraging my brothers and sisters in Christ to increased faith and maturity.
- by refusing to gossip or use unkind words.
- by following its spiritual leaders.

"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, ..." (1 Pet 1:22 NASB)

"... that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine." (Romans 1:12 NASB)

“If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.” (James 1:26 NASB)

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.” (Hebrews 13:17a NIV)

I will support the testimony of Ness Avenue Baptist Church:

- by attending services faithfully.
- by living a holy life, becoming Christ-like in all things spiritual and temporal.
- by giving regularly to the Lord's work.
- by submitting to the ordinances, doctrines and teaching of the Word of God.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, . . .” (Hebrews 10:25 NIV)

“. . . but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “you will be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15, 16 NASB)

“Every man will give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17 NASB)

“On every Lord's day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering.” (1 Corinthians 16:2a NLT)

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16, 17 NASB)

“. . . the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.” (1 John 2:6 NASB)

Prayers for Osborne Village Church

Last year we began the journey toward planting Osborne Village Church with a month of prayer and fasting. We came out of this united as a congregation. We felt the clear call of God on our church to step out and sacrifice in faith in order to pursue this goal.

A Recap of prayer for OVC from last year.

These are the things we prayed for last year. Read over these now with a year of perspective behind us and a spirit of praise to see what God has done!

- Pray for the neighbourhood where the church will be planted. We are looking seriously at Osborne Village. God led Ness to choose Osborne Village and we have seen His Holy Spirit go before us. We now have several people from OV connecting with Ness and even more connecting with our planting team.

- Pray for the Ness Baptist family, that we will be moved to seek the Lord in this process of discernment. We voted overwhelmingly in support of planting OVC. This level of unity and support was certainly a move of God among us.

- Offer prayers of confession, asking the Lord to show us each what it is that we're called to sacrifice for this new movement. This is a difficult, and ongoing point of prayer. We have been called to give up money, hold relationships loosely with those who are helping plant, and relinquish our comfort. With half our worship committee joining OVC and several other families coming along as well, the gap left at Ness will certainly be felt even more as time goes on. This is good, in the same way having a child causes a degree of pain but the end result is beautiful and worth it.

- Pray for an attentiveness while in God's word, to hear from him and to see his heart for this potential church plant. This is also an ongoing point of prayer. The call to be part of the OVC planting team or to step up at Ness is still just as needed. Be attentive to what God is calling you to. Remember, God's call on your life is almost never comfortable or easy. If it was, you wouldn't need to rely on him!

- Pray for boldness in your own life. The work of building a new church with new Christians begins by building up Ness with new Christians. And if people from Ness move to help plant, then it falls on those who stay to share the gospel so Ness will continue to grow and God will be glorified! This has been incredible to see. Since we voted to plant OVC, the congregation at Ness has grown by leaps and bounds. So many of the faces in our family are new and eager to serve. This is the work of the Lord!

- Please pray for wisdom in planning. Our leadership team seeks to do God's will in His time. God has certainly granted wisdom, but we still need it! Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand." We want to make sure that we continue to build according to God's plan and that he would establish the work of our hands. (Ps. 90:17)

- Please pray for the Cattani family as they walk through what this new plant will look like for their home. Our home has been transformed into a community hub over the last year. We are regularly working with our planting team to feed and train between 15-25 people each Wednesday. Neighbourhood potlucks around our table have been packed with no room left. Our Fridays and Saturdays are often spent eating with neighbours and our relationships with them have actually deepened now that covid-19 is preventing us from practicing in home hospitality. Yet it's no longer just about the Cattani family. We have a total of 7 families represented in our planting team, each of whom have been changed and stretched as they grow to be more intentionally missional.

The present global event of covid-19 does not change this at all. In fact, we've found that our connections with people in the Osborne Village neighbourhood has deepened and people struggle to find hope and meaning in such an uncertain time.

Please pray that God will continue to build the OVC team in the following ways:

- At least 30 adults by Fall 2020 (we are currently at 12)
- A team passionate about children's ministry
- A space to meet. While we have been exploring multiple options, it has not felt like God has made it clear where we should go.
- We long for deep, lasting relationships among our expanding planting team; the Cattani clan, the faithful Futros's, the mighty Mercados, the dynamic Giesbrecht duo, tremendous Travis, Issac the indomitable, and the resilient Ramsdales. That is 12 adults and 8 children.

Please pray for the neighbourhood of Osborne Village. That God would:

- Continue to open doors to his message in the hearts of residents
- Continue to build connections with local businesses, especially when the current covid-19 initiated economic crisis begins to turn around.
- Give us boldness to engage residents in larger, public ways such as neighbourhood clean up, BBQs, potlucks, day camps, etc.

Please pray for Ness through the season of birthing OVC and nursing it to strength. Pray that:

- The Holy Spirit would raise up volunteers to shoulder new responsibilities as key people leave to help the plant.
- New Christians would be born in St. James and fill Ness with invigorated passion for the gospel
- The leadership of Ness would walk through this exciting time with wisdom and boldness to follow God, even when that means making difficult decisions.

Prayers for Covid-19 Pandemic

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...” (Ps. 46: 1-2).

Some of the things we can pray for regarding the pandemic:

- Virus containment
- those infected with the virus
- families that are grieving as they have lost friends and family to the virus
- that researchers would find a vaccine
- for those that are isolated and lonely
- for those that are poor and vulnerable
- wisdom for public authorities
- our health care professionals that are on the frontline
- the economy
- our spiritual leaders
- that we will fulfill God’s mission by caring for those affected by the virus
- peace for those that have lost jobs and are fearful about their financial needs

Praying for Ness Leadership & Ministries

Pastors & family

Jeremy, Tanya, Kael & Anika

Pastor Matt, Karen, Judah, Selah & Michiah

Pastor Brennan, Rhonda, Caden, Annabelle, Coralise & Jonny

Elder Board—Pastor Jeremy, Pastor Matt, Pastor Brennan, Harold Wiens, Dennis Kawa, Doug Sadler

Deacons—Jordan Dalzell, Derek Taplin, Dennis Kawa, Harold Wiens, Clinton Giesbrecht

Deaconesses—Joan Smith, Kim Marr, April Krohn, Bev Taplin, Kathy Elias

Worship Director -Krista Antonio—Committee, Pastor Jeremy, Alana Giesbrecht, Rhonda Cattani, Adam McLean, Clinton Giesbrecht

Children’s Ministries—Leadership team –Diana Stahl, Donna Melsness, Cheralyn Regehr & Shelley Bergamnn

Nursery—Leadership—Cheralyn Regehr, Scheduling—Shelley Bergmann

Women’s Ministries—Leader: Dorothy Krohn

Helping Hands—Leader—Sally Epp

Men’s Ministry—Leadership team: Pastor Brennan, Kevin May

Audio/Video Ministry—Leader: Bob Ellison Teams: Bob, Len Krohn, Jordan Dalzell, Eli Melsness, Markus Buhler, Corwyn Gregoire, Mark Melsness, Fred Coad

Computers—CJ & Randy Byrnes

Lifegroups—Leaders and host families and participants

Jr. Youth Leaders—Pastor Matt, Jason Tomes, Katrina Bergmann, Kael Olfert, Sarah Eisner, Skylar Martens

Sr. Youth Leaders—Pastor Matt, Adam McLean, James Anderson, Vivian Gregoire, Courtney Mackelson, Krista Hagglung, Apprentices: Corwyn Gregoire and Anika Olfert, Noah Bergmann

Young Adult Ministry Leaders—Clinton & Alana Giesbrecht

Food Bank—Leaders—Derek Taplin and Harold Repko, many volunteers needed to make things run. Spiritual team leader: Pastor Brennan

Finances Committee— Jordan Dalzell, Harold Wiens, Carol Sandilands (Treasurer) Kathy Elias (Envelope Secretary)

Day Camp 2020—July 27—31 Leadership team—Diana Stahl, Kim Marr, Diane Johnson, Dorothy Krohn, April Krohn, Montana Coad, Donna Melsness, Cher Regehr