

Elder Update

Redemption Bible Chapel London

Q1 2024

"And he believed the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness." – Genesis 15:6

GENERAL MINISTRY UPDATE

- Happy New Year Redemption! As we begin a new year together as a church family, we are reminded of God's kindness and faithfulness to us – He is good, all the time.
- We enjoyed a wonderful time celebrating Christmas together and the birth of our Saviour. While some of you were missing having a "White Christmas", we were thankful that the roads were clear and safe, as we had over 1700 join us for our services on Christmas Eve – praise God for His stirring in the hearts of many!
- We continue to see many new families attending Redemption, so we would encourage all of you – even the introverts, and those of you who don't serve in Guest Services – to say "hi" to someone you don't know each week. Let's all be loving God and loving others.
- Our Sunday attendance has been consistently on the rise, so we'd like to remind you – if you want your choice of a seat, or a guarantee of seating in the Worship Centre, remember to come early.
- Many of you like the "aisle seats", which we completely understand, but if you are someone who is just as happy in the middle of a row, it would really help our ushers if you could fill up the middle of rows first and use every seat. We'd like to be able to fit as many in as we can.
- We have been continuing our study through the book of Genesis this fall, and after a brief break for Christmas, have picked it back up. We are excited for what God will teach us through His Word.

FACILITY UPDATE

- We are excited to have our new vestibule in use! When you are entering and exiting the building (including during the week), please use this as the main entrance as it will help keep the winter weather out of our lobby.
- There are a few remaining touch ups on the vestibule, which we plan to finish in the coming weeks and months.
- As you may have noticed when you are here, we've added some acoustic panels in the lobby, and hopefully you've also noticed, this helps reduce the overall volume on Sundays. We are hoping this project will wrap up in the coming weeks as well.
- We have a few other projects for 2024, including a new storage area for the lobby, as well as a new accessible washroom on the second floor, with a renovated multi-use washroom where the current accessible washroom is.
- As was announced in our e-bulletin and you may have seen on Sunday, we've recently changed the format of our Step 1 event, to take place after both services in our upstairs lobby. One of the blessings of a busy ministry is that we are short of rooms to use, so this was the only location that worked. We would ask you all to refrain from walking through the upstairs lobby on Sundays for 20 minutes after both services, on weeks where Step 1 is taking place. Also, if you are looking for any of our staff on those weeks, that is likely where they will be.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- We are so grateful to God, for all of you, for your amazing generosity. As a church, we were able to collect \$47,079.15 towards our Christmas Offering! This is the highest amount we have ever collected for our Christmas Offering – thank you! These funds (100% of it) will go to bless the three ministries selected for our 2023 Christmas Offering. Next month in one of our services, we will give an update on how God has used your generosity to bless these other ministries.
- Again, we are thankful to God for your generosity, as we were able to end the year strong with donations to our General fund. While some

2023 expenses are still coming in, we are confident that our 2023 giving will cover our 2023 operating expenses. Thank you!

- Our annual audit will begin in the coming weeks – please pray for our Finance team.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- We continue to see an increase in membership applications, which is very encouraging. We are so thankful for the many new people who have chosen Redemption as their home church, and to commit to serving and being discipled as a part of our church.
- Just a reminder, you may think you are a member, but if you haven't formally applied and been accepted into membership, you might not be. The requirements to become a member at Redemption are:
 - Profess faith in Christ
 - Be baptized
 - Attend Step 2
 - Be serving in an area in the church (sometimes, due to different seasons of life, this may not be possible, or possible within our church)
 - Be in discipleship (small group), if able
 - Complete and submit a Membership application form
 - Be approved for membership by our elders
- If you are a member at Redemption, you are invited to join us for our Members-Only meeting on Sunday February 25 at 6:00pm here at the church.

OTHER UPDATES

Church Planting

- The Lord enabled us to send a team to Romania in November to connect with Deo Gloria, a GCC church plant in Sibiu which we are financially supporting.

- The trip was a wonderful time of building relationships with the leadership and church in Romania, as well as attending the GCC Eastern Europe conference. Please be praying for Pastor Betuel, his family and elders, as well as the church.
- We will have an update in one of our upcoming services, where you will hear from a few of our team members. We praise God for the work He is doing in Romania.
- We are also continuing to work with Iglesia Biblica Redencion – the GCC church plant in Belize. We had looked at sending another team this summer to help with some practical needs, but instead, we are looking at taking a different direction this year and sending a smaller team to do more leadership building. Please be praying for pastor Pedro and the church.
- We also continue to financially support the GCC plant in Edmonton. They are just over a year into their launch, and growth has been slow, however they had a very good fall with many new families plugging in. They are hoping to be self-sustaining in another year or so. Please be praying for Pastor Kyle and their team.