

Elder Update

Redemption Bible Chapel London

Q3 2024

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire."– 2 Peter 1:3-4

GENERAL MINISTRY UPDATE

- We are praising God for his faithfulness this past ministry season. He is at work in our church, and we know this is all of Him. How gracious of our God to use us, even in our weakness, to be part of His kingdom building.
- We normally see a drop in our attendance, starting mid-June and through the summer, with students away and families on vacation through the summer, however, our weekly attendance, so far, has fluctuated around 1300 for both Sunday services. Praise God for giving our people the desire and priority of hearing His Word.
- We took a pause on our Genesis series this spring for our "Foundations series", learning about our worldview and the lens through which we see the problems of daily life. We are thankful for this reminder of the priority and sufficiency of God's Word for daily living.
- For the remainder of the summer, our sermons will vary in theme and passage, but we look forward to getting back into Genesis in September.
- We have been blessed by hearing testimonies through a steady stream of baptisms this ministry year, including this summer, and we already have our first baptism service booked for the fall. If you are interested in being baptized, email baptism@rbclondon.ca.
- For those of you who are new to Redemption, or who are looking to get more involved, our Step 1 and Step 2 events have been paused for the summer. Watch our e-bulletin (make sure you are subscribed!) and announcements for dates for the fall.

- Our staff are working hard to get ready for our fall kick-off. We would strongly encourage you that if you are not involved at Redemption – now is the time to be thinking, praying, and planning for how you can get involved – whether as a participant in a study or small group, or serving, or both! It will be a blessing to both you and others!

FACILITY UPDATE

- In our last update, we mentioned the need for more classroom space, and that we were looking at plans to convert the gym into a more usable space.
- We have begun work on this project, and the first issue is the water that has been leaking into the gym. Thanks to Dan Taylor, who has spent many hours trying to get to the source of the issue, we believe we have made progress and are taking steps to fix this. This will involve some minor demolition to our main kitchen, which will impact our ability to cook and serve food for the next number of weeks, possibly into months. We will provide updates as able.
- Once we have the water issue fixed, we will use the opportunity to refresh our kitchen and take the next steps on the gym.
- We will be treating the floor in the gym to make it suitable for classrooms and have ordered a folding wall (like the ones in our two back classrooms) so the gym can be one large classroom or split into two smaller classrooms. We are putting all new lighting in this area as well, in addition to some technology and sound suppression on the walls. This will greatly help our Kids Ministry on Sundays, as well as other ministries.
- There are other smaller projects going on around the building this summer. Thank you again to the many volunteers who are willing to give of their time and expertise to help with these projects.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Our 2023 financial audit wrapped up in May, and we are thankful to the Lord for His grace and provision, enabling us to continue doing ministry, for His glory.
- Each year our auditors give us any recommendations they have on process changes, and we are thankful to have this outside set of eyes on our books, to ensure we are doing everything correctly, but also in a way that follows best practices.

- Our auditors recommended some minor reporting changes which won't affect our bottom line but will change how income from ministry-related events (registrations, book purchases, conferences, etc.) is reported.
- Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on June 23, and if you are a member at Redemption, you would have received an email with a copy of our audited financial statements.
- We closed 2023 able to cover all our operating expenses with general fund donations – praise God!
- Our 2024 fiscal year has started off strong. We are currently running about \$20,000 – \$30,000 behind budget, but that is normal for this time of the year. We are asking the Lord that we may see an increase in giving as there are numerous ministry opportunities within our church we would like to respond to, as we see God at work in new and exciting ways.
- If you would like to start giving to the ministries at Redemption, you can do this through online banking, by credit card, e-transfer, or by cash or cheque. Visit rbclondon.ca/giving for more information.

STAFFING UPDATES

- On June 30, after being on staff for over five years, our beloved Pastor of Hispanic Ministries, Hernando Medina, retired.
- Hernando has provided incredible leadership and shepherding to those in our congregation whose first language is Spanish. He is someone all our staff and elders respect, look up to, and love deeply. He is a man of maturity, humility, kindness, has a massive heart for the gospel of Jesus, for those who are far from Christ, as well as for followers of Jesus to help them grow in their understanding of God's Word and will for their lives.
- We are excited for Hernando and Libia as they enter this new phase of life, but we will be mourning the fact we won't see him all the time. Hernando's plan is to spend 4-5 months of the year between Columbia (his home country) and Cuba, enjoying the warm weather in our winters, but also serving churches and pastors in those countries. They will still be a vital part of our church, when here in London.
- Another recent staffing change involves Grace Reynolds, our Director of Kids Ministry. Grace has been on staff in a part-time role for the past year, but any of you involved in Kids Ministry have noticed that Grace, working with Susan Millar, has implemented wonderful new initiatives

in this ministry, requiring more hours than a part-time role. So, we decided to make it official and as of July 1, Grace has moved to a full-time role on staff. We also want to congratulate Grace on her recent engagement to Abishek Varghese.

- We also welcomed Nathan Green to our team in June. Nathan has joined Mike Zurawski as part of our weekend custodial team, providing support for weekend events and Sunday services.

MARKET UPDATE

- As many of you have noticed on Sundays, our Market ministry continues to be successful, and the demand continues to grow.
- It has been wonderful to see the Market helping so many (thousands over the years), but the costs continue to increase due to never-ending needs, and it has gone beyond a manageable level.
- Therefore, our leadership has decided that adjustments are needed for the second half of 2024.
- The needs continue to increase, and we know we can never meet all the needs, as our city is finding out as well.
- Therefore, as of August 1, our Market will be put on an indefinite pause. We will continue serving those clients who attend Redemption, but those outside Redemption will no longer be able to use the Market.
- We all remain very committed to the Market and are thankful for this ministry, but we need to determine a new method of discerning who truly needs help and who we can help.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Redemption Marriage Conference

- We are very much looking forward to our marriage conference this fall on September 27-28 with Dave Harvey.
- Dave has written several marriage books, including “When Sinners Say I Do” and “I Still Do”. He is a much sought after conference speaker. Dave is also the president of the church association we are a part of – the Great Commission Collective (gccollective.org).
- The conference will run the Friday evening and Saturday morning. Tickets are just \$30, which we think will be a great “return on investment” in your marriage.

- Dave will be here, in person, and tickets are going fast. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, we'd encourage you to do so, as you won't want to miss this. Get your tickets at rbclondon.ca/marriage-conference.