



Annual Ministry Report

August 2025 to July 2026



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The Metropolitan Bible Church



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Message from the Interim Lead Pastor

Dear Church Family,

Ministry reports are a great way to look back and see what God has done among us!

This past year has been a year of change in the life of our church, and in some areas, a season of uncertainty. Yet as I look back, I am reminded again that the work of the Lord has continued faithfully among us. Week after week, God's Word has been taught, people have been discipled, newcomers have been welcomed, those going through difficult seasons have been cared for, children and young people have been pointed to Christ, and the gospel has continued to go out in Ottawa and around the world.

There is much for which we can thank God. This year we celebrated 38 baptisms and welcomed 42 new members into our church family. Our Community Groups now include 19 groups with approximately 200 people participating, and MetYouth averaged 165 young people each week. MetSeniors is serving more than 300 seniors, and ministries such as Awana, Jellybeans, MetMen, MetWomen, Young Adults, and our children's ministries continue to provide ministry opportunities where people can hear God's Word and be cared for.

I am also grateful for the ways the Lord continues to equip people for ministry. Our Internship program has now seen 12 former interns enter full-time ministry since its redesign in 2018, eight of whom have become ordained pastors. This year we had the joy of seeing Aiden McCooeye and Chris Samuel ordained and installed into pastoral ministry.

Our calling beyond our city also remains strong - i.e., Global Missions. We supported 60 missionaries and global partners, had more than 50 meetings with them during the year, held our one-day Missions Course, and sent a short-term team to Ghana.

Ministries such as Banff-Ledbury outreach, GriefShare, our Cultural Groups, Community Groups, and newer initiatives for newcomers and outreach continue to create opportunities to build relationships and make Christ known. The addition of the Persian Fellowship and the welcoming of the Met Deaf Fellowship under The Met ministry umbrella are also encouraging developments in the life of our church.

As we begin another ministry year, I especially pray that we will grow deeper in God's Word and prayer, that more of our church family will use their gifts in serving - i.e., we will have more volunteers stepping up to serve, that newcomers will find meaningful connection and belonging, and that we will continue to take the gospel faithfully to our neighbours and to the nations.

Please continue praying for the Lead Pastor Search process, that the Lord's will might be discerned and done among us. The Lord is faithful - the Chief Shepherd will provide an under-shepherd for The Met as well!

Thank you to our pastors and staff, our elders and Board, our ministry leaders, and the many volunteers who serve so faithfully.

And thank you, church family, for praying, giving, serving, and walking together through this season.

The church belongs to Jesus Christ. He is the One who builds His church, and He will continue to do it!

Serving the Lord Jesus alongside you,



Christopher Joseph (Joy Gill)
Interim Lead Pastor

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Missions



Ministry Highlights

Through missionary updates, Met Connect conversations, Missions events, and our annual Celebrate Missions conference, our church was reminded of the importance of standing alongside those who have been sent to make Christ known around the world. We also saw growth in personal engagement through our Missions Interest Form, short-term missions opportunities, and conversations with those exploring missions involvement.

We have seen God faithfully answer prayers for greater missions engagement, deeper relationships with our missionaries, and increased opportunities for our congregation to participate in His work around the world.

We prayed that God would continue to cultivate a heart for the nations within our church, and we saw this through the strong response to Celebrate Missions 2025, the generosity of our congregation toward gospel projects, and increased interest in missions opportunities.

We also prayed for God to raise up and equip new workers. This year, we saw Him open doors for individuals to explore missions involvement through the Missionary in Training Program, short-term missions, and conversations about future ministry opportunities.

God has also answered prayers for our missionaries and ministry partners by sustaining them in challenging contexts and allowing them to continue seeing gospel fruit. Through regular updates, prayer support, and personal connections, we have been reminded that God is faithfully building His church around the world.

Missions Course

This year, we launched a new format of our missions course: the 1-Day Crash Course on Missions. Through our Fall and Spring offerings, **80 people participated**, gaining a biblical understanding of God's heart for the nations, the history and current state of global missions, effective mission strategies, and practical ways to engage in missions through prayer, missionary care, and local outreach. The course combined teaching, discussion, and application sessions, equipping participants to move from awareness to meaningful involvement in God's global mission.



Missionary Care

We continue to prioritize caring for our **60+ missionaries and global partners** by staying connected, encouraging them in their ministry, and praying with them regularly. A key part of this care happens through our weekly Met Connect Zoom meetings, where we hear directly from our global partners, celebrate what God is doing, learn about the challenges they are facing, and pray together with them. Over the past year, we hosted more than **50 Met Connect gatherings**, providing consistent opportunities to support and strengthen our missionaries as they serve around the world.

Whenever possible, we also value opportunities to connect with our missionaries in person through visits, shared meals, and times of fellowship. This year, we were grateful for the opportunity to travel to Montreal to visit **Chris McGregor** and **Soula Isch**, share a meal with **Arvind B.** and his family, and enjoy a brief visit with **Tim Ernst** and his wife while they were in town. We were also pleased to welcome **Elyse Jackson** during her visit to Ottawa as she introduced a young missionary from Poland to Canadian churches before beginning her maternity leave.



Missionary care also means walking alongside our global partners during seasons of grief and hardship. This year, Pastor Joy traveled to Nova Scotia to be with one of our missionary couples following the sudden loss of their son, offering pastoral care, prayer, and the reminder that they are deeply loved by their church family.

These personal connections provide meaningful opportunities to encourage our missionaries, hear their stories, pray together, and remind them that they are a valued part of The Met family.

Celebrate Missions 2025: God's Heart for the Muslim World

God used Celebrate Missions 2025 to deepen our church's understanding of His heart for the Muslim world and to renew our commitment to making Christ known among all nations. Through the theme verse, "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you" (Psalm 22:27, ESV), our congregation was reminded that God's desire is to draw people from every nation and people group to Himself.



Throughout the week, our church engaged with missionaries and ministry partners serving among Muslim communities in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and among internationals in Ottawa. Through Sunday services, a missions dinner, documentary viewing, ministry gatherings, and conversations with our guests, our congregation was encouraged by stories of God's work and challenged to consider their role in His mission.





God also provided an opportunity for our congregation to respond through generosity, toward five gospel-focused projects, raising a total of \$70,158. In 2025, projects included: **Bible adaptation for the Mappila people of India; evangelistic booklet distribution among Afghans; a pastoral missions trip to India, Bangladesh, and Nepal to encourage and support 18 missionaries; church-planting conferences in Morocco; and leadership training for nearly 100 believers from Muslim backgrounds.** Together, these initiatives focused on making Scripture accessible, strengthening missionaries and emerging churches, and equipping local leaders across key mission fields.



Pastoral Trips

In February, Pastor Joy had the privilege of visiting both Nepal and India to encourage our global partners, strengthen ministry relationships, and equip local church leaders. In Nepal, he met with all **10 of the Nepali national workers** and missionaries supported by The Met, along with their spouses and ministry leaders, providing encouragement, prayer, and pastoral care. He also spoke at a leadership seminar attended by approximately **100 pastors and their wives** and visited **three local churches** to encourage and pray with their ministry teams.

In India, Pastor Joy spent time with **three of our missionaries serving in the Delhi area**, speaking at **three local churches** and encouraging ministry leaders in their work. He visited a missionary overseeing **six church plants** and prayed with him at the construction site of a new church building, asking God to provide wisdom, protection, and perseverance amid significant opposition from local residents and political leaders. He also spoke at the graduation ceremony for the Bachelor of Theology (Hindi) students at the North India College of Christian Studies, led by one of The Met's global partners.





During the trip, Pastor Joy met personally with **26 pastors, assistant pastors, evangelists, elders, ministry coordinators, and emerging church planters** across North India, offering discipleship, encouragement, and prayer. He also recorded **15 gospel songs in Hindi**, creating a resource that has the potential to share the hope of Christ with the more than 600 million Hindi speakers throughout India.



Ghana Short-Term Missions Team

In response to our Missions Conference theme, this year we launched a new short-term missions partnership between The Met and Capro Canada, sending **a team of eight** individuals, led by Met Missionaries John and Jennifer Brown, to serve alongside Capro Ghana leader, Philip Soale among the Nanumba and Gonja communities in Ghana. This initiative reflects our desire to see our congregation actively participate in God's global mission by building relationships, serving local communities, and encouraging long-term ministry efforts already taking place.



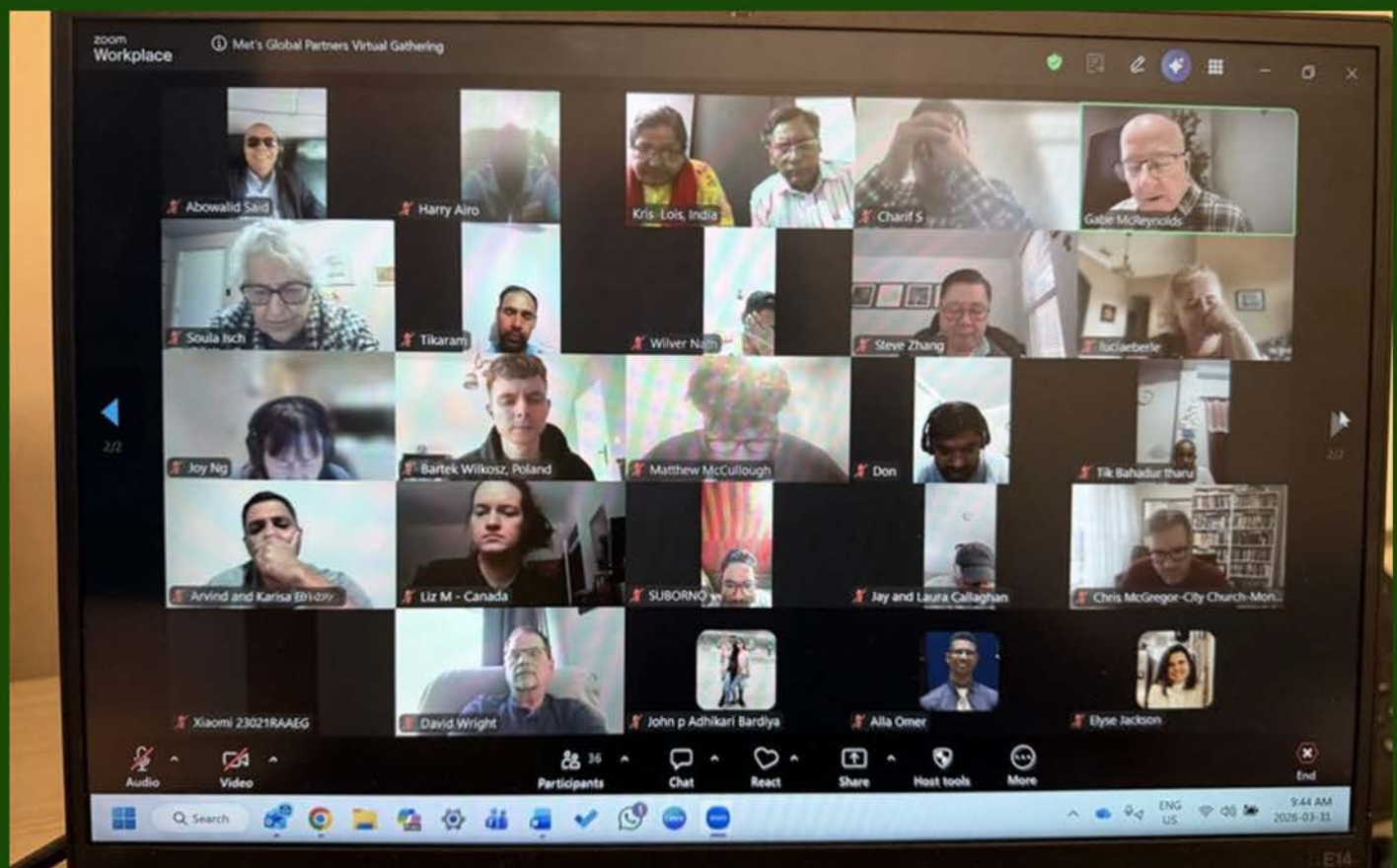
As our team prepared, our congregation faithfully came alongside them through prayer, encouragement, and financial support. Through fundraising efforts, including a mug and cookie fundraiser, our church family helped provide resources for the team's ministry and travel needs. Many also committed to praying for the team, the communities they served, and the ongoing work of sharing the hope of the gospel in Ghana. We are grateful for the way this partnership has allowed more people from The Met to engage personally in God's mission around the world.



Global Partners Online Gathering

In March, we launched our first Global Partners Online Gathering, a new initiative designed to connect our Global Partners serving around the world. We were encouraged to have **32 Global Partners** from various countries join together virtually for a time of sharing, encouragement, and prayer.

These twice-yearly Zoom gatherings provide an opportunity for Global Partners to hear updates from one another, strengthen relationships across different ministry contexts, and pray together as a global team. As we partner with individuals serving in a variety of locations, sending agencies, and ministry settings, our hope is that these gatherings will continue to foster connection, mutual encouragement, and unity as we participate together in God's mission.



Missionary In Training

The Missionary in Training (MIT) Program continues to equip individuals who sense God's call toward missions and ministry. Through mentoring, practical ministry experience, and exposure to missions leadership, our MIT participant is given the opportunity to grow in their understanding of God's mission and develop skills for future service.



Missions Kiosk

The Missions Kiosk resumed regular ministry presence this year, being available after both morning services as a place where our congregation could connect with missions opportunities, receive updates from our missionaries, and learn more about God's work around the world.

This was made possible through the leadership of **our Missionary in Training (MIT) and the faithful service of many volunteers** who committed to welcoming and engaging with people each week. The kiosk was also relocated to the main floor of the church, making it more visible, accessible, and available as a natural point of connection for our congregation.

Through this renewed ministry presence, we have seen increased opportunities for conversations, relationship-building, and helping people take next steps in their involvement with missions.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We are excited for Celebrate Missions 2026: Neighbours & Nations, as we continue to cultivate a church that understands and embraces God's call to make disciples both locally and globally.

This year's theme will highlight the truth that God's mission includes both the people living around us and the nations of the world. Through teaching, testimonies, prayer, and opportunities to connect with missionaries and ministry partners, we hope to encourage every generation of our church family to see their role in God's mission.

Our prayer is that Celebrate Missions 2026 will not only inform our congregation about global ministry but will inspire greater participation—through prayer, generosity, hospitality, evangelism, and sending.



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MetKids Sundays

Ministry Highlights

MetTykes and Elementary Sunday School

The MetKids Sunday Ministry program continues to play a central role in helping children engage with the gospel, become established in their faith, and grow in their understanding of God and His Word. Through Bible teaching, Scripture review, worship, prayer, and meaningful relationships with their leaders, children are given opportunities each week to learn biblical truth and see how it applies to their lives.

One highlight from this past year was the continued development of the Tykes ministry. We were grateful to **welcome Nathalie Cover into a leadership role** helping oversee the program. Her care, organization, and commitment to young children have strengthened the ministry and helped create a welcoming environment for both children and families. Another highlight was the continued focus on providing age-appropriate Bible teaching within both Elementary and Tykes. Throughout the year, children walked through key Bible stories and foundational truths of Scripture, helping them see the overarching story of God's redemptive plan and His faithfulness throughout history.

We are also thankful for the addition of **Sophie, one of our Summer Camp Facilitators, who is joining the MetKids team this fall** to help support the Elementary Sunday School ministry. Her experience working with children and her enthusiasm for ministry will be a valuable addition as we continue to grow and strengthen our Sunday programs.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed encouraging evidence of spiritual growth among the children who participate in Sunday Ministries.

Children demonstrated increasing familiarity with Scripture, regularly engaging in discussions about Bible lessons and showing excitement as they connected biblical truths with their everyday lives. Leaders have also observed children asking thoughtful questions about God, salvation, prayer, and Christian living, providing valuable opportunities for discipleship and gospel conversations.



We have been encouraged to see families remain committed to regular participation in Sunday School and to witness children building friendships that support their spiritual growth. The consistency of these weekly gatherings continues to provide an important discipleship environment where children can grow in their knowledge and love of God.

In Tykes, many younger children have become increasingly comfortable participating in classroom activities, learning memory verses, and engaging with foundational biblical concepts. These early opportunities to hear God's Word provide an important foundation for future growth and discipleship.

Volunteers remain the foundation of Sunday Ministries. Each week they faithfully prepare lessons, welcome families, teach God's Word, lead small group discussions, assist with classroom management, and care for the children entrusted to them.

Their investment extends far beyond Sunday mornings. Through consistent relationships, volunteers encourage children, answer questions, model Christlike character, and help create an environment where children feel safe, known, and loved.

The partnership between volunteers, staff, and parents continues to be one of the greatest strengths of the ministry. Together, they help create a discipleship pathway that supports children as they grow in their faith from their earliest years through elementary school.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We are excited to expand the scope of our teaching while maintaining a strong commitment to biblical instruction. In addition to teaching through Bible narratives, we plan to incorporate more theology-focused learning opportunities designed to help children understand foundational Christian beliefs. This will include question-and-answer style teaching that explores important topics such as who God is, why we need Him, the attributes of God, salvation, prayer, and other key theological truths. Our goal is to help children not only know Bible stories but also understand the biblical truths those stories teach.

We also look forward to introducing more thematic classes during the Christmas and Easter seasons. These lessons will help children better understand the significance of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection while connecting these events to the broader message of the gospel.



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MetKids Camps

Ministry Highlights

March Break and Summer Camps

God graciously used camps this year to engage children with the gospel and create opportunities for discipleship beyond the camp experience. One particularly encouraging story involved a boy who attended March Break Camp for the first time. The relationship continued beyond March Break Camp as the family became involved in other children's ministries. The boy attended Vacation Bible Camp, received a Bible, began reading it at home, memorized Scripture, and has since registered for both Awana and Christian Service Brigade for the coming year. His ongoing participation demonstrates how camps can serve as an entry point into ongoing gospel-centred discipleship.

Camps provided meaningful opportunities for children and families to hear the gospel, study God's Word, and build relationships within the church community. We also saw evidence of gospel impact extending beyond camp. One family visiting Canada enrolled their son in camp, where he developed an interest in reading the Bible. The family continued in Awana before returning to Korea, taking Bibles and the gospel message with them. Additionally, several families were invited through personal relationships and connections developed by church members, further expanding opportunities for gospel engagement.



The Lord faithfully answered many prayers related to camp ministry. One significant answer to prayer was the **provision of all four summer student positions** through government funding, along with the individuals needed to fill these roles. Prayer was also evident during March Break Camp preparations. Initially only one volunteer had registered to serve. Through persistent prayer and ongoing recruitment efforts, **fourteen additional volunteers joined the team**, allowing the camp to proceed successfully. Throughout the summer, the MetKids Camp staff gathered daily for prayer. These times strengthened the team spiritually and provided repeated opportunities to witness God's faithfulness in ministry and personal circumstances.

Volunteers played a critical role in every aspect of camp ministry. Their service included leading activities, preparing crafts, supervising children, decorating ministry spaces, providing snacks, and building relationships with campers and families. Volunteer contributions helped create an environment where children could not only hear the gospel but also engage with it through meaningful activities and relationships.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We are excited to continue developing pathways that connect camp families into ongoing ministries such as Awana, Christian Service Brigade, Sunday School, and outreach programs.

We also hope to expand volunteer recruitment so that additional camp spaces can be offered and more families can participate in future ministry opportunities.



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MetKids Outreach

Ministry Highlights

This year brought significant growth within our outreach ministry at the Banff-Ledbury community.

Two new events were introduced:

- Christmas Celebration Dinner
- He Is Risen Celebration

These events provided opportunities for children and families to hear the gospel, participate in activities, receive Bibles, and enjoy meals together.

The ministry also continued developing meaningful relationships within the community, including connections with families from diverse backgrounds, creating further opportunities for ongoing gospel engagement.

As trust continues to grow, we are seeing deeper engagement among children and families in the community. We have welcomed new participants, including children from Muslim families, and have been encouraged to see relationships develop through consistent presence and care. These connections continue to provide opportunities for gospel conversations, discipleship, and ongoing ministry among families who might not otherwise have contact with a local church.



One of the clearest examples of God's provision occurred during preparations for the **Christmas Celebration Dinner**. Although the facility lacked the resources necessary to prepare a traditional Christmas meal on-site, God provided generously through donations of food, volunteers willing to prepare meals, and individuals who delivered everything in time for the event. The impact extended beyond meeting physical needs. Families experienced hospitality, encouragement, and opportunities to hear the gospel.

Volunteers were central to the success of outreach ministry. They faithfully invited families door-to-door, taught Bible lessons, organized activities, prepared meals, and built relationships within the community. Their willingness to serve created opportunities for children and families to experience the love of Christ in practical and meaningful ways.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We look forward to continuing to build relationships within the Banff-Ledbury community while expanding opportunities for children and families to engage with the gospel.

Our prayer is that these connections would continue to deepen and that God would use this ministry to draw many children and families to Himself while strengthening partnerships between outreach, children's ministry, and the broader church community.



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Christian Service Brigade

Ministry Highlights

Christian Service Brigade (CSB) continues to fulfill its mission of helping boys grow as Jesus grew, “in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52, ESV). Through Bible teaching, discipleship, mentorship, skill development, and service opportunities, boys are engaged with the gospel, established in their faith, and equipped to become future leaders in the church and their communities.

One significant highlight this past year was the continued **growth of the Stockade program** for boys in Grades 3-6. Enrollment increased substantially, leading to the reintroduction of two separate groups, Builders and Sentinels, a structure that had not been used for nearly three decades. This growth provided additional opportunities for discipleship and age-appropriate mentoring.

Another highlight was the **involvement of younger men from The Met Internship program and Met Young Adults ministry** who served as teachers throughout the year. Their participation demonstrated the value of intergenerational discipleship and provided boys with godly role models who faithfully taught Scripture and encouraged spiritual growth.

A third highlight was the **annual Service Night**, where teams of boys and leaders served senior members of the congregation by assisting with household projects and practical needs. This event gave the boys a meaningful opportunity to put their faith into action by serving others in Christian love.

The Lord continued to bless CSB with both numerical growth and increasing spiritual maturity among the boys.

- **Tree Climbers (K-Gr. 2) served 13 boys.** Through Scripture memory, Bible stories, crafts, and games, boys were introduced to foundational biblical truths.
- **Stockade (Gr. 3-6) experienced significant growth, with 70 registered boys.** The year's focus, Jesus in the Old Testament, helped boys see how all Scripture points to Christ through teaching, discussions, sports, and achievement activities.
- **Battalion (Gr. 7-12) included 10 boys.** They studied Ephesians and Proverbs, explored biblical wisdom and leadership, and were encouraged to develop leadership skills by mentoring younger participants.

One of the most encouraging developments was **seeing former CSB participants return to serve as leaders.** Their influence on the boys reflects the long-term fruit of discipleship as those who were once discipled are now investing in the next generation.



God supplied a faithful team of men who committed their time and energy to teaching, mentoring, and discipling the boys throughout the year. Volunteers are essential to the success of CSB and play a critical role in the discipleship of the boys who participate each week.

This year, we had:

- **Multiple fathers** participate in Tree Climbers
- **20 men** serve in Stockade
- **7 men** serve in Battalion

These men faithfully taught God's Word, led discussions, coached activities, modeled Christian character, and invested personally in the lives of the boys. Their consistent presence provided encouragement, accountability, and opportunities for meaningful discipleship relationships.



The involvement of fathers within Tree Climbers continues to be particularly valuable, creating opportunities for spiritual conversations and shared learning experiences between fathers and sons.

Volunteers also made special events such as Service Night, camping trips, and recreational activities possible. Through these experiences, boys were able to build friendships, learn practical skills, and see examples of servant leadership in action.

2026-2027: Looking Ahead

Our desire is to further strengthen discipleship pathways that help boys mature in their faith and develop into future church leaders. We also hope to continue encouraging older boys to serve as mentors and junior leaders, creating opportunities for leadership development and spiritual multiplication within the ministry.

Above all, our prayer is that boys would hear and respond to the gospel and become faithful followers of Christ who, in turn, are equipped to teach and lead others. As Paul writes in 2 Timothy 2:2, our aim is to see boys grow into "faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" (ESV).



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Awana

Ministry Highlights

God has continued to use Awana to engage children with the gospel through Bible teaching, establish them in the faith through small group discipleship, and equip them through Scripture memorization.

One significant highlight this year involved a young boy who, after hearing a Bible lesson at Awana, became burdened for the salvation of a friend. After praying about it, he invited his friend to church. Although his friend was unable to attend, it was encouraging to see **a child taking intentional steps to share his faith.**

Another highlight was the involvement of **young adults who served as Bible teachers throughout the year.** Their faithful ministry demonstrates how God uses multiple generations within the church to disciple children and equip them to engage others with the gospel.

Awana also continued to serve as a connection point for families across Ottawa, with more than **20 churches** represented in the program. Over the years, some families have become part of The Met through relationships established in Awana.

We give thanks for the many opportunities to witness spiritual fruit throughout the year. Children continued to hide God's Word in their hearts through Scripture memorization while building meaningful relationships with caring leaders. We also saw encouraging examples of families inviting friends and neighbours to participate in Awana.

One particularly encouraging example involved a volunteer who invited her Muslim neighbour's daughter to attend Awana. The family knowingly participated in a Christ-centred program, creating opportunities for ongoing gospel exposure and relationship building.

Average weekly attendance during the 2025-2026 year included:

- **Children: 145**
- **Adult Volunteers: 35**

Awana also maintained a waitlist of approximately **15 children**, demonstrating continued interest and demand for the program.

Prayer became a significant emphasis this year, particularly among children in Grades 3-6.

Each week children prayed for pastors, missionaries, churches, the city, families, volunteers, and ministry needs. As the year progressed, leaders observed increasing engagement and enthusiasm for prayer.

Many groups maintained ongoing prayer lists and intentionally tracked answered prayers throughout the year. This helped children recognize God's faithfulness and grow in their understanding that He hears and answers prayer.

An additional answer to prayer was the opportunity to host a church-wide prayer night that encouraged both children and families to seek the Lord together.



Volunteer leaders remain essential to the ministry. This year Awana was supported by:

- **17 Youth Volunteers**
- **70 Adult Volunteers**

Volunteers faithfully taught Scripture, led small groups, listened to children, encouraged families, and demonstrated the love of Christ week after week.

Particularly encouraging was the growing number of former clubbers who have returned to serve after aging out of the program. Their involvement provides a powerful picture of discipleship producing new generations of servant leaders.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

Building on this year's emphasis on prayer, we are excited to continue developing a stronger culture of prayer within Awana. Our goal is to create additional prayer opportunities for children and families while extending prayer-focused initiatives to all age groups. We desire to see children grow in dependence upon God and develop lifelong habits of prayer as they seek His will for their lives, families, church, and community.



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Jellybeans

Ministry Highlights

Jellybeans, our weekly drop-in playgroup for little ones and their caregivers, continues to be a valuable outreach ministry that provides ongoing opportunities to engage children and parents with the gospel.

Through Bible stories, songs, crafts, and personal relationships, families are welcomed into a warm, Christ-centred environment where they learn about God, His love, and the good news of Jesus Christ. Special events such as the Mother's Day Tea, Christmas celebration, and year-end gatherings provide additional opportunities for connection and gospel engagement.

Attendance included:

- **Average weekly attendance of 57**
- **Highest attendance of 81 attendees in March 2026**

As children return each week, they develop a growing understanding of foundational biblical truths, including God, Jesus, sin, salvation, prayer, and God's love. Parents are encouraged to continue gospel conversations at home, helping establish faith as part of everyday family life.



One of the most encouraging testimonies this year came from a mother who shared that she and her husband were invited to The Met by a neighbour. Through the relationships they built and the ministries they attended, including Jellybeans, **they came to know the Lord**. This serves as a wonderful reminder of how God uses faithful gospel witness and genuine Christian community to draw people to Himself.

God also answered prayers by providing **additional leaders for the Jellybeans team**. These volunteers have served faithfully by building relationships with families, welcoming newcomers, and supporting the ministry in countless practical ways. Their care, encouragement, and commitment have been instrumental in creating an environment where families experience the love of Christ.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

The continued growth of Jellybeans has prompted discussions about expanding the ministry. Potential opportunities include adding an additional playgroup day or exploring offsite programming in communities such as Banff-Ledbury, creating even more opportunities for families to hear the gospel and connect with the church.



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MetYouth

Ministry Highlights

God has answered prayers in MetYouth in many ways this past year! We saw an average of **165 youth attending** each week. Many students were baptized, some invited and brought their friends to church, and new students came to know the Lord. Throughout the summer months we enjoyed times of connection, and we praise God for safety on retreats during the year. We also witnessed growth in our interns who served in MetYouth, and saw the Lord provide mentors for our ministry when they were needed.

Retreats are always a highlight as about **100 youth** head to Circle Square Ranch for intentional time together, connect with friends, chat with mentors, and study scripture together. To see godly friendships flourish is evidence of God working in the hearts of the young people.





Our Praise Team is youth-led, and we're blessed to see the youth intentionally using their musical gifts to lead us in times of praise. Our tech team arrives early each week to set up and run sound and projector. God is using each one for His glory here at MetYouth.



Another regular highlight is watching our Leaders In Training (LITs) grow through the year. It's an encouragement to see these youth step up and serve in different areas, for them to realize they are part of the wider church and see the gifts they can use in service at the church.

We had **48 dedicated volunteers** this year helping mentor at MetYouth. These volunteers are the backbone and success of youth ministry. They desire for youth to know Christ and grow in their walk with Him. Each week these volunteers come no matter the stress of their own lives and serve our youth so well. They give up their weekends for retreats and plan events to help their groups connect outside of youth on Tuesday evenings. I am always so thankful for this team and their fervour in serving with us.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

As we look to this year ahead, we are excited for some changes that are happening. Our church's mission is to engage, establish, and equip people with the gospel. At MetYouth this looks like connection: connecting with God, connecting with peers, and connecting with mentors. This year, **MetYouth Jr. High and Sr. High will be joining together for our large group time in the Chapel.** Our hope is that the younger grades will be able to look up to older grades as an example, and that the older grades will encourage the younger grades. We will also have **more focused events for the older age groups** to support them in what can be challenging years. We are excited to see how the Lord works with these changes and provides opportunities to connect together to glorify Him. Please continue to keep youth, parents, and mentors in your prayers.



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Bible Quizzing

Ministry Highlights

Bible Quizzing is a discipleship ministry that motivates youth to memorize scripture. All the quizzers memorized **240 verses from 1 and 2 Corinthians**. Many of them learned all the verses from both books—**649 verses!** Not only have we seen them memorize, but multiple times throughout the year we saw quizzers apply the Scriptures to their life events. They are learning the Word of God and are clearly growing in maturity. Every week there is a devotional on the material that was memorized to help the youth understand what they are reading and memorizing.

Every eight weeks, all of the churches involved in Bible Quizzing from the Eastern Canadian District (Ottawa to Toronto), get together for a Quizzing tournament. The quizzers answer questions about the Scriptures covered up to that point. This is the competition part of Bible Quizzing where the youth are tested on how well they've learned the material (Scriptures). Memorizing large amounts of Scripture takes work, and the tournaments bring a time of fun and fellowship with other youth who are also interested in memorizing God's Word.



This year we had **31 quizzers (26 returning and 5 'rookies')**. We had **eight teams** entered in the Eastern Ontario District and we participated in **four tournaments** among the other 21 teams. At the end of the last tournament, The Met finished with seven teams in the 'A' Division, which is made up of the top nine teams, where we finished 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th. The Met had three quizzers tied for 1st place overall in the category of Top Quizzer of the tournament! As well, out of all the 15 first-year rookie quizzers, the top five were from The Met.

We prayed that we would have the right team of volunteers to be involved and God answered that prayer. God brought us many volunteers and they led our group effectively. We have also seen many youth firm up their faith in Christ.

We had 11 adult coaches, five adult volunteers called 'Listeners', 11 adult officials and three substitute officials. That is **27 full-time adult volunteers for the 30 quizzers**. Something we praise God for is that out of those 27 adult leaders, eight are graduates from the Quizzing ministry and, knowing its benefits, they have returned to be involved in the ministry. As a side note, every year we have many adult volunteers (coaches, officials, etc.) as well as parents who also join in the joy of memorizing Scripture! We are grateful to the Lord for how He is using this ministry. It is our prayer that God will be glorified in and through it, and that those involved will grow in spiritual maturity.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We have made it a priority to integrate rookies to our group quickly. We want our young rookies to make friends with youth who serve God. Developing strong Christian relationship is one of the components that help them develop into mature adult believers.



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Met Young Adults

Ministry Highlights

Met Young Adults (YA) is a discipleship arm of The Met that seeks to engage, establish, and equip 18-25 year olds to follow Jesus. At Young Adults, we aim to be intellectually robust (by the renewing of our minds) and relationally warm (building community) to provide opportunities for transformation. The Lord is working through our ministry in many ways! We have a group of servant-hearted leaders and mentors, a great staff team (Claire and our interns Jacob, William, Caleb, and Senai), a number have been baptized, some have gone on short-term mission trips, and others are doing tract evangelism to share their faith.



Other highlights include:

- Welcoming newcomers and new believers has grown with God's help
- Opportunities to engage the university and college campuses (Lunch and Learn at Algonquin College, and training for The Navigators at Carleton on how to engage Muslims with the gospel leading up to Islam Awareness Week)
- Training up believers (Youth Mentors, Sunday School Teachers, Elders in Training)
- Joe Candy directing musical worship with excellence, while also recruiting and training new worship leaders



In 2025-2026 at MetYA we studied:

- **The Apostles' Creed** - instruction in sound doctrine and biblical exposition
- **Titus** - what is the true nature of the church
- **Prayer** - we are not just Bible and theology people, but spiritual people
- **Doubt** - equipping young people to overcome their doubts while in the trenches of university and the workforce
- **Ephesians** with Michael McKittrick and **Ecclesiastes** with Daniel Avitan on weekend retreats
- **The Gospel According to John** - Bible at the Beach in the summer



Although we love to see many young people at MetYA each Thursday, we emphasize the importance of the local church, whether they attend The Met or not. We frequently remind young adults not to replace church with MetYA or their campus ministry groups. We praise God for the ways He has worked in the lives of many young adults this year and pray that transformation will continue.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

This Fall we will be doing a series called *Fire From Heaven: The Life of Elijah*. As well, once a month we plan to run workshops to better equip young adults to handle the Word for themselves, providing skills and tools to study scripture faithfully. We also plan to go on our annual seasonal retreats. We look forward to welcoming the two new interns (Caleb and William) to serve with YA this year as well.



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Met 25-35s

Ministry Highlights

Throughout 2025-2026, Met25-35 has continued to supplement our adult discipleship ministries by providing opportunities for those in the 25-35 age range to intentionally connect with their peers and learn more about other Met ministries they could be involved with (e.g., MetWomen, MetMen, and Community Groups).



This year we experienced a major transition in the 25-35 volunteer leadership team, with **four new leaders** stepping up to replace previous long-time volunteers who were moving on from the ministry. The new team collaborated remarkably well to plan and deliver **13 events** throughout the year (approximately one per month). I am deeply grateful for the ways our volunteer leadership team sacrificially gave of their time and energy to serve the ministry. They have been a true answer to prayer.

We saw an average of approximately **50 attendees per event and over 200 unique event registrants**. Our summer **day retreat** on June 20 was a highlight of the year, where we enjoyed a beautiful day in Gracefield Quebec exploring the biblical theme of rest.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

Of our 25-35 event attendees, approximately one third also attend either MetMen, MetWomen, or a Community Group. While a number of our Met25-35 attendees attend a church other than The Met, in the year ahead I hope to further facilitate the integration of our 25-35s into the adult discipleship ministries of The Met.



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MetWomen

Ministry Highlights

It has been a wonderful year at MetWomen. In the fall there were over **450 participants** for *Behold our God*, a study examining the attributes of God. Then during the winter, we explored the book of Romans over 17 weeks.

My top three highlights have been:

- Seeing so many MetWomen attendees go through the waters of baptism
- Seeing women with various levels of Bible knowledge wrestling together with deep truths (and big words) in Romans
- Seeing younger and older women pursuing and valuing intergenerational friendships



I have seen the Lord answer prayer in providing exceptional individuals to hold some key roles within the ministry. **Ellen McAree** now leads the MetWomen teaching team. With her dedicated investment and thoughtful equipping, the team has grown not only in number, but in godliness and ability. **Linda Lemke** stepped in to oversee the MetWomen Kids program on Wednesday mornings. Linda has a passion for discipling children, while also shepherding their moms and her crew of dedicated volunteers. **Tiffany Yang** is now serving full-time as the MetWomen Co-ordinator. Tiffany is a gifted Bible teacher and a whiz with administration. Not only that, she is also wise, creative, humble, and diligent. It is such a joy to work with these women.



I would like to extend an invitation to any women who have not joined MetWomen yet.

It is a diverse, dynamic and welcoming group. It's a place to build relationships and develop community while gathering around God's Word. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please feel free to reach out to us at women@metbiblechurch.ca.





2026-27: Looking Ahead

As we approach fall, there are three things that I'm really looking forward to:

- MetWomen Fall Study on Prayer (AM & PM)
 - Prayer is both a discipline and a delight, and it's an area where every believer can grow. We are excited for how the Lord will use this study to enrich our prayer lives as individuals, families, as a church, and far beyond.
- Christianity Explored (PM)
 - We are glad to partner with MetMen and MetOutreach to offer Christianity Explored this fall on Wednesday evenings. We are hoping and praying that many unbelievers will come and be exposed to the gospel and make decisions for Christ.
- MetWomen Fall Retreat (November 13-15, 2026)
 - A special time away with other women from our church family (Full Weekend or Saturday Only Options)



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MetMen

Ministry Highlights

Over this past year, we saw many men be baptized, some who had been in the church for a long time, and others who had just come to know the Lord. In both cases, it was amazing to see the men being moved by the Lord to take that step of obedience for Christ as they walk with Him.

We saw men coming out to MetMen Fellowship in consistent numbers to hear the Word and to fellowship together. During a time of change in our church, when people could have turned away, we instead saw men turning to Scripture, to fellowship, and to the encouragement of one another.



Over this past year, the MetMen Fellowship had an average attendance of **168 in the fall and 157 in the winter/spring**. In a challenging year, it was encouraging to see the men come out to fellowship each week with such consistency. To see that many men committed to the weekly fellowship with one another to seek Christ together in the midst of a season of unknown in the church and the ministry was a mighty testimony of the grace and kindness of God for His church.



We are always encouraged to hear of the ways that men have engaged others with the gospel. A number of men came this year as the result of an invite from a current attendee. That has been encouraging in many ways as we try to equip men to go out and share the gospel and to receive others into gospel community.

In the winter/spring, God answered prayers in the area of teachers. With the loss of a Men's Pastor to do the majority of the teaching, the Lord was gracious and enabled us to have all the pastors, as well as others in training at the church, come and take a turn to bring us the Word of God.



As well, the Lord raised up many generous volunteers who committed their time to see that ministry would continue to go forth and bring Christ to the men of The Met and the men of the city. MetMen Fellowship has been blessed by God with around **50 volunteers who serve in various roles** amongst the ministry: set up and clean up team, connections team, small group leaders, curriculum team, and MetMen's Council. These roles are vital to the weekly running and flourishing of the ministry, and without our volunteers, this would not be possible.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We are awaiting a new Men's Director/Pastor this year, and plan to do regular seasonal activities like the Men's Hike.



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MetFamilies

Ministry Highlights

There are a few ministry highlights from this past year where we saw God at work in the lives of families at The Met.

- **Child Dedication Class:** Parents thoughtfully considered what it means to lead their children toward Christ and embraced their responsibility to nurture their children's faith.
- **Marriage Café:** Couples allowed God to shape their marriages, making needed changes, seeking counsel, and growing in humility and self-giving.
- **Serving alongside faithful couples:** One of the greatest highlights has been serving with couples who love God, love one another, and willingly use their marriages and lives to serve those around them.

God answered prayer by raising up **new leaders for Marriage Café** who are willing to invest in the marriages of others. We have also seen God work deeply in the lives of participating couples, particularly in developing humility, selflessness, and a willingness to make changes for the good of their spouses.





2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We are bringing a **parenting and marriage conference** to equip families and strengthen marriages.

We are also planning a **seminar on conversations about identity, sexuality, and gender**, designed to equip both families and students to engage these challenging subjects thoughtfully, biblically, and graciously—with one another and with the broader culture.



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MetSeniors

Ministry Highlights

MetSeniors exists to fulfill the vision and mission of The Met by equipping seniors to remain rooted in Christ, grow together in faith, and continue bearing fruit for God's kingdom in every season of life. This year, our teaching series, *Encouraging One Another*, focused on the biblical call to intentionally build one another up through love, prayer, service, hospitality, forgiveness, and mutual encouragement, strengthening both our faith in Christ and our fellowship with one another.

Truly, we see the truth of Psalm 92:12-15 beautifully reflected in the lives of our seniors as they remain rooted in the Lord and nourished by His presence:

"... They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him." (ESV)

God has continued to bless and grow this ministry. We currently serve more than **300 seniors**, including those who are homebound (approximately 16% of those we serve). Our **Thursday Gatherings averaged 140** attendees, and we welcomed more than **146 newcomers** throughout the ministry year



God has also raised up faithful volunteers who have stepped forward to serve, allowing the ministry's teaching, care, and outreach to extend beyond our weekly gatherings. We now have **33 volunteers on the Leadership Team**, with the formation of a new Special Events Team.

Our ministry is supported by these volunteers and two staff members. This year the Lord graciously provided interns and an Administrative Assistant (**Curtis**), helping us respond to the growth of the ministry and strengthen its long-term sustainability. We are deeply grateful for the faithful support of our whole staff team, including the **Communications Team**, and the unity and partnership across ministries that have helped MetSeniors grow.



This past year, God's work was especially evident in three areas:

- **Engaging:** Through a new initiative, *My Salvation Story*, seniors were encouraged to share their testimonies, deepen relationships, and celebrate God's transforming grace. This video-based initiative has been one of the most joyful and meaningful developments of the year as we hear about Christ's work and faithfulness in many seniors' lives.
- **Establishing:** Survey feedback consistently showed that seniors experience genuine belonging, care, and meaningful friendships. Many described MetSeniors as a welcoming, safe, and encouraging community where they continue to grow in Christ.
- **Equipping:** Our programming combined biblical teaching with practical application, equipping seniors to serve, share their faith, and use their gifts for God's glory. Our teaching series, *Encouraging One Another*, strengthened seniors' commitment to love, pray for, serve, and build up one another. As one senior shared, "The program is well planned and balanced. There's always something to take away."

Our seniors have grown in spiritual maturity. We have seen increasing compassion for one another, greater involvement in serving, actively caring for one another, a growing passion for inviting others, and an increasing hunger for God's Word. This spiritual growth has been evident in the boldness with which many seniors have shared their testimonies, some of which have even been preserved in books such as *Broken & Beautiful* by Ray Desmarais.

We have also been encouraged to see more seniors actively serving one another through various initiatives and groups that have been formed, including the **MetSeniors Prayer Team**, which faithfully prays for seniors' needs, the Tell the Next Generation conference, and the specific needs of all Met ministries.



As we look ahead, our desire is not simply to grow larger but to grow deeper in Christ, helping seniors remain faithful, fruitful, and engaged in God's mission for the rest of their lives. We also desire to continue encouraging the church family and wider society to recognize, honour, and care for seniors as vital members of the body of Christ and valuable contributors to our communities.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

During the coming ministry year, we look forward to:

- Continuing to strengthen fruitful initiatives such as ***My Salvation Story***, while seeking to improve our programs based on feedback from our seniors.
- Expanding and completing the formation of our **Care Groups** among seniors (with approximately 60% already formed), so that every senior can experience meaningful connection, encouragement, and care. Our aim remains: No One Is Left Behind.
- Welcoming and intentionally **caring for newcomers**, ensuring that everyone feels known, loved, and connected.
- Launching new initiatives including ***My Retirement Story***, ***Finding Hope Amid Trials and Tears***, and a **Habakkuk Study Series** to encourage seniors in their faith journey.
- Hosting the ***Tell the Next Generation Conference 2026*** to encourage retirees within our church, our city, and beyond to embrace God's purpose for this season of life.



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Care Ministry

Ministry Highlights

"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for every and ever. Amen."

- 1 Peter 4:11 (NIV)

GriefShare

Over the past year, GriefShare has continued to be a vital source of comfort and community for those navigating grief and loss of a loved one.

- **September 2025:** We welcomed **six participants** who walked through the grieving process together.
- **January 2026:** We welcomed **seven participants**, notably reaching beyond our immediate church walls as the majority of this group did not attend The Met.

Participants expressed deep gratitude for the profound support they received, highlighting both the dedication of our four ministry leaders and the meaningful connections they built with one another. It has been a privilege to watch God use this ministry to provide a safe, healing space for both our church family and the wider community.

We thank the Lord for blessing GriefShare with the capable leadership of **Melissa Gordon-Joseph**. Her knowledge and care take this group to a whole new level for our ministry leaders and for each participant. Thank you, Melissa.

Funerals

The Met hosted **14 funerals/receptions** over the past year. We have a wonderful team that works tirelessly to make all the aspects a gift of love to grieving families. Floral arrangements are sent regularly on behalf of The Met church family to both out-of-town and off-site in Ottawa funerals, as well as those we host on-site.

Appointments for pre-planning funerals at The Met with folks who want to clarify their funeral wishes are being conducted regularly. It is also a joy to meet with these godly people who want to make sure that the gospel is preached and the Lord is high and lifted up.

Cards and grief booklets are sent out to the grieving family over the year following a death. I want to thank **Lois Beach** who faithfully fulfilled this ministry for many years. At this time, I would like to welcome **Muriel McConnell** for her capable organization and time in taking on this role. God has blessed us with these precious ladies who also pray for each family before the books are mailed.



Benevolence

Each story has been difficult to hear, especially when health issues have sidelined families and thrown them into financial hardship, and when children are involved. Our Benevolence Committee has been very thoughtful and generous with each request that is submitted.

An in-person intake appointment is made with each request. This gives us opportunity to meet, pray, read Scripture together, hear the circumstances that led them to us, and obtain any necessary documentation. Most people share how they feel that they walked into The Met as strangers and they left as friends.

Recently, the Benevolence Committee funded **financial relief for the July 1 flood victims** in Ottawa. This was very timely for these families.

Care

Our MetCare team regularly visits, emails, and phone calls those who are hospitalized and/or convalescing at home. We rely on our Met church family to keep us informed of the needs in our congregation.

A team of volunteers have supplied MetCare with delicious frozen meals. This allows us to obey the Lord's command in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" (NIV).

Prayer Bulletins and Met Kneemails continue to go out to our prayer warriors. This ministry is covered in prayer by our church family. Thank you! All the prayer requests that come past my desk cannot be published, so thank you for praying for those as well.

There are hard days with very hard stories of challenging situations, heartbreaking diagnoses, and painful loss, but God supplies all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.



2026-27: Looking Ahead

I am working with our funeral reception team to publish Funeral Reception Guidelines. This template will include details and the timing of each area of the reception to make it a smooth process and build into our leadership team.



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Outreach



Ministry Highlights

The Big Give

This year The Met participated in The Big Give, a city-wide annual event where churches are encouraged to love their neighbours extravagantly. We collected donations of seeds and plants from our generous church family to be distributed to the residents of the Banff-Ledbury community. Along with handing out plants we also shared some delicious homemade salsa and chips, had a prayer tent with Bibles and gospel resources, and had an 'ask the gardener' tent for questions related to having a fruitful garden.

For more than 10 years, God has opened many opportunities for gospel conversations in a variety of ways in this neighbourhood. Handing out seeds and plants for gardens in this community was another way to strengthen our relationship with them. We pray for the gospel seeds that were planted and watered will produce abundant fruit just like the seeds and plants that were handed out!



Go & Do Workshops

This ministry year we launched a new Outreach focused equipping series called *Go & Do*. These workshops are led by church members who have extensive experience in their specific outreach field and a heart to encourage people to reach out to others through sharing practical advice and lead table discussions on the topic.

We began the series with two workshops: *Hospitality as a Gospel Tool* and *Open Mics/Open Doors*. In the hospitality workshop, we discussed what Christlike hospitality is, who and how to invite others, ways to create a hospitable space, and how to initiate gospel conversations and maintain connections to those the Lord has placed in our path.

Our *Open Mics/Open Doors* workshop invited participants to listen and learn how they can use their musical gifts to bless those in our city and build connections in their community. Whether through open mics, retirement homes, community housing, or other opportunities, participants listened to the testimonies and advice of people already involved in this type of ministry. The goal was to encourage those in our church with the gift of music to use it to bring the message of hope and life into these spaces.

In total, we had about **50 attendees** participate in this year's launch. We had previously prayed for ways that we could effectively equip our people to share the gospel where the Lord has placed them with the gifts they have. The launch of *Go & Do* workshops was an answer to that prayer!



Drop-In Sports

Drop-in Badminton meets weekly in The Met Gym on Monday evenings. Average attendance has reached about **60 people each week**. This year we opened up family badminton at an earlier time so that kids and families could have time to play together. This year also included a few badminton tournaments which were well attended and great for building community.

One element of Drop-In Badminton is sharing a Bible thought so attendees have an opportunity to hear from the Word. We hope to better equip speakers to share the gospel effectively by sharing their personal testimonies. The next step in this ministry is to find ways to disciple those who are regularly attending.



Drop-In Floor Hockey similarly gathers a regular group of people once a week to engage in sports and build friendships. There are a number who attend that are unchurched, so this ministry is continuing to look for ways to best reach out to them. A next step is to consider how to build an intentional Christlike community amongst players that goes beyond their Friday night hockey games.





Bridges

Through the Bridges ministry, Together we are nourishing the souls and bodies of people by teaching from the Word and providing a healthy meal, offering prayer, and sharing in time of fellowship. The average attendance at Bridges is **40 people, including attendees and volunteers**. We are thankful for the faithful, dedicated team both in the kitchen making the meals and at Ottawa Chinese Alliance Church (OCAC), our partner church, who engages with attendees. This is a beautiful example of what effective church partnership looks like as we serve together.

Looking ahead, we hope to better equip teachers and increase our teaching roster. We continue to seek the Lord's wisdom in how to disciple the regular attendees well.

Outreach Ministry Volunteers

We continue hosting worship services regularly at **Waterford** and **Ravines** with faithful volunteers who run a service of Bible teaching and worship. An element of this ministry is to talk and visit with the residents, which can be very meaningful. We have also heard interest from **Windsor Park Retirement Home** to start a service, so we are looking to build a team of people to serve there.



We are very thankful for our Outreach leads who help make the ministry run. These faithful servant-hearted leaders care for their volunteer team and the people they serve with excellence. Their dedication to spreading gospel seeds throughout the city and walking alongside those who are curious or new to the faith has produced a rich harvest of new believers and faithful servants. They hold on to the promise found in Galatians 6:9, which says “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (NIV).





2026-2027: Looking Ahead

This ministry year we hope to add to our *Go & Do* workshop series with *My God Story*. This workshop will lead with a time of self-reflection about our testimony. Then participants will be given some writing prompts to begin to shape how it will be written out and shared. Our hope is that this workshop/writing exercise will help prepare and encourage people to share their testimony with those God has placed on their path.

We plan to introduce *Church CPR (Cultivate, Plant, Reap)* for our Outreach ministry. Working with Pastor Godfrey Thorogood, participants will be introduced to the qualities of an effective Outreach ministry, including defining what Cultivating/Planting and Reaping events are within an Outreach program. We then move into an exercise where we will analyze the current Met Outreach ministry programs, define which of our programs and events fit into these categories, and identify the gaps and areas of growth. This is an exciting opportunity for those who want to see our Met Outreach ministry program be more effective and intentional as we reach out in our neighbourhoods and city.



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Connections

Ministry Highlights

Explored Classes

Explored classes are an accessible, relational, and honest way of presenting the gospel to those who are curious about the Christian faith and searching for answers.

This past ministry year was a fruitful season with a total of **46 registrants** in one of our Explored classes. We started the year with **16 registrants** in the Hope Explored class which is a three-session series about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that examines his extraordinary claims. With a combination of teaching from Rico Tice and studies from Luke's Gospel, we discussed how Jesus offers us a hope worth having, a hope that won't disappoint us.

We followed up with Christianity Explored where **30 registrants** looked through Mark's Gospel, over eight sessions, to find more about the life and person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ.

The consistent interest and fruit in the lives of attendees of our Explored classes led us to consider expanding the program. For this to be possible, we realized that we would need to raise up an army of leaders who would facilitate discussion and support those attending. Our hope was to equip those in our church with a heart for evangelism who were searching for ways to share the gospel with those who are curious about the faith. **45 future leaders** were equipped and may one day serve within our Explored classes offered at The Met or in their neighbourhoods, reaching others with the gospel.



Church-wide Fellowship

This initiative began as an opportunity to gather our church family in a smaller setting for a time of fellowship. Our hope was that it would build and strengthen community amongst newcomers or those in the church who are looking to expand their church connections. On average, we had close to **100 people** coming out each month for a meal and time to connect in a smaller setting.

Prior to this year, we prayed for how we could create welcoming spaces for our church family and newcomers to gather, to build community through authentic and intentional fellowship. Seeing newcomers regularly attend this event to start building connections was encouraging and an answer to prayer!

With the launch of Church-wide Fellowship this year, we needed volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up after the event. We were thankful to partner with several **Community Groups** who joyfully served together. This blessed our church family while also creating an opportunity to bond and strengthen relationships within the Community Group. A win-win for all!

Summer Missions Café

For the first time we opened the **Missions Café over the summer**, switching things up to a summer menu (ice cream and lemonade, plus old favourites like Blessing Loaves and the regular selection of coffee and tea). This was only possible because new volunteers stepped up to serve allowing our regularly café volunteers to have a much-needed rest. Opening the café over the summer blessed our church family, newcomers, and visitors. As well, our **Parole de Vie missionaries** will receive all the summer café profits for their ministry work.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

This year our Outreach/Connections team is considering how we can create clear pathways for those who are new to The Met or new to faith. Our hope is that the creation of these clear pathways will allow people to consider where they are and know what their next steps would be. We have begun to add some classes to respond to some of the gaps currently found on these pathways.

We are excited for the **expansion of Christianity Explored** and the launch of this new ministry partnership with MetWomen and MetMen. With many newcomers being encouraged to plug into mid-week ministries, there was a gap with newcomers who are new to faith or searching for answers about who Jesus is and what Christianity is all about. The decision to expand Christianity Explored and offer it during the same time as MetMen and MetWomen on Wednesday evenings is meant to fill this gap. We are thankful for the leaders who have stepped in to leading small groups in Christianity Explored and we are praying for a fruitful season for all involved. Our hope is that after this fall Christianity Explored session people will move into the winter MetMen and MetWomen study for the next step in their faith journey.



Upon the completion of Christianity Explored, we find that some participants are still not ready to jump into mid-week Bible teaching ministries. Some are looking to grow as they build a strong faith foundation. Our hope in launching the Bible Course this year is to respond to this need. **The Bible Course by the Canadian Bible Society** is an eight-session program designed to help participants understand the overarching story of the Bible and build confidence in reading Scripture. Suitable for both beginners and long-time readers, the course uses video teachings, study manuals, and reading plans to show how different books, events, and characters connect.

As well, we are introducing **Next Steps**, a discussion-based class that begins with a general overview of the 'why' those who call The Met home are called to serve. Participants then take time to reflect on their personal experience and identify giftings related to ministry settings. We then review the various serving opportunities at The Met, and share expectations, including time commitments, documents, and training necessary to serve in various roles. We hope that after completing this class participants will have a better idea of the various serving options available for them to prayerfully consider and eventually commit to.





As one of the largest churches in the city, we recognize that it may be difficult for those who are new to The Met to connect and find community. In light of this, we are introducing a new ministry initiative called LINKS. Building LINKS encourages our regular church family to reach out and build links to those who are new to The Met. Newcomers can sign up at the Welcome Centre so a Met person or family can help them by:

- **L**earning more about The Met
- **I**ntroducing them to others in The Met church family
- **N**etworking with other ministries
- **K**nitting them into the fabric of The Met
- **S**erving and welcoming them into the church

For those who consider The Met home, they can also sign up to be part of our LINKS newcomer program. We hope that this will help newcomers to The Met feel seen, cared for, and connected as they consider making this church their home as well.



Sandra Tharakan

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Community Groups

Ministry Highlights

Met Community Groups meet in people's homes all around the city, usually on a weekly basis, to enjoy fellowship with one another, study scripture, apply Sunday sermon content to their lives, and pray. We currently have **19 Community groups, with 33 leaders** faithfully leading those groups. Approximately **200 people participate** directly in our Community Groups ministry.

This past fall, I was very grateful to witness the creation of **three new groups: one in Barrhaven, one in Greely, and one Downtown**. Every new group is an answer to prayer.

I have had the privilege of leading the Downtown group and seeing firsthand the formation of gospel-centred community there.



One story worth highlighting is that of Rachel and Taylor Oglow. Rachel and Taylor had just moved to Ottawa when I met them in September 2025 through Starting Point. They were soon connected with the Downtown Community Group and over the months that followed became an integral part of the community, even hosting our Easter dinner. Rachel now works at The Met as our Front Desk Administrative Assistant and Taylor has begun to lead our group discussions when I am away. What a joyful thing it is to see how God can turn strangers into gospel co-labourers over the course of a year!



Community Group Leader Equipping Dinners were hosted at the beginning of the fall and winter ministry semesters to facilitate connection between group leaders and help leaders sharpen their leadership skills. Our fall equipping considered how leaders can foster relational connection in their groups while our winter equipping focused on how to lead well across the various stages that a group moves through in its lifespan. In June we hosted a **Community Group-Wide Dessert Potluck**, gathering all our groups together to celebrate the end of the year and reflect on what God has done in our midst.

If you are interested in being part of the Community Groups ministry, please reach out to Pastor Aiden at amccooeeye@metbiblechurch.ca. We are continually building the Community Groups ministry and gradually adding new groups throughout the city, with a number of groups now open and waiting to receive new members.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

In the coming year, I am looking forward to the website redesign that should make it easier for congregants to learn about and connect with our Community Groups.



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Assistant Pastor, Community Groups & Met25-35

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Cultural Groups



Ministry Highlights

We currently have **four official Met Cultural Groups: the Chinese, Filipino, Persian, and South Asian Fellowships**. These groups meet at The Met, usually monthly, to provide fellowship and discipleship to people from a particular cultural background or language group.

The 2025-2026 ministry year saw the **addition of the Persian Fellowship** to our roster of Cultural Groups. Ministering to those who speak Farsi, the Persian Fellowship extends The Met's legacy of gospel-centred Bible teaching to those in this community.

The South Asian Fellowship is made up of a number of longtime Met members as well as those who are new to the church. It has been especially encouraging to see how this group has helped draw in those who are on the periphery of the community. About **30 people** attend the South Asian Fellowship each month.

The Chinese Fellowship saw many prayers answered throughout the year and celebrated the baptism of one of its members on Easter Sunday. They have had approximately **20-30 attendees** each month.



The Filipino Fellowship has seen its members showing increased commitment to learning about the Lord. This past year they worked through the theology of Romans, studied the fear of the Lord, and learned about the person of the Holy Spirit. Their Christmas celebration was particularly well attended with the gospel being preached to dozens of people. They have approximately **10 regular attendees.**



Aiden McCooeye

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Met Deaf Fellowship

Ministry Highlights

The Met Deaf Fellowship (MDF), formerly an independent organization, the Ottawa Valley Deaf Church (OVDC), has come under The Met ministry umbrella. Throughout 2025-2026, much work has been done behind-the-scenes to facilitate this merger and help care for our Deaf brothers and sisters in Christ.

As a part of our congregation that communicates through American Sign Language (ASL), the MDF worships in room 265 on Sunday afternoons. However, we are increasingly working to integrate them into the broader life of our church. Through the help of ASL interpreters, in 2025-2026 the MDF joined our hearing services in the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We hope to have ASL interpretation available more regularly at our services in the year ahead. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping provide ASL interpretation for the MDF, please reach out to Pastor Aiden.



Aiden McCooeye

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Internship

Ministry Highlights

The Met Internship program is a key way that our church equips servants of the gospel. This one-year program balances three elements: theological development (preparation for preaching and teaching), mentoring, and ministry experience.

In 2018, we redesigned the program to align with the church's new mission statement. Since then, **12 of our interns have gone on to serve the Lord in full-time ministry. Eight of those have become ordained pastors** (either here or at other churches in Canada), and **four others are currently in non-pastoral full-time ministry positions**. Most recently, **Aiden McCooeye** and **Chris Samuel** were formally ordained and installed into pastoral ministry this July. A number of former interns are still serving on our staff team in different capacities, and we are so grateful for their continued ministry at our church.

One development in the last couple years has been the churches in the Ottawa region who have turned to us to help them fill their pulpits in preaching supply, week by week. It seems like almost weekly a **current or former Met intern is preaching in other churches** who are blessed by the young men that we have trained to handle God's Word. We're very thankful for how the Lord has used this ministry to build up His church.



We had two outstanding interns on our team this year (**Jacob** and **Senai**) who quickly stepped into supporting and teaching across various ministries. I'm very excited to see what the Lord has in store for them. They're both still discerning and processing God's call on their lives, and what their next steps will be. They have both expressed a desire to pursue pastoral ministry, so I'm very encouraged by that.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We're very excited for our two new interns this year, **Caleb Payne** and **William Lowery**, who are with us from June 2026-May 2027.

We are also discerning what a **Met Equip Course** will look like, whether this class is the best model to equip people with the tools to go from text to Christ-centred message in whatever context God is calling them to do Word ministry.



Adam Callaway

Pastor, MetYA

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Equip: Church Education, Membership & Baptisms

Education Classes

Seeking to disciple our people in a variety of ways to fulfill the “establish” and “equip” strands of our church’s mission statement, we have continued to provide opportunities for more formal instruction. We are grateful to see a growing appetite for this format here at The Met.

Pastors Greg, Joy, and Rich taught classes in the areas of **marriage, missions, and foundational theology**. Pastor Adam also taught the **Met Equip Course** as part of the Internship program and for others looking to learn about preaching and teaching from the Bible. Each class was well received, and we look forward to continuing to expand our offerings in the coming year.



Baptisms

The Berghuises, the Harrisons, and Pastor Rich continued to facilitate baptism preparation at the church. It was a wonderfully busy year, with **38 baptisms** and multiple services in a row where people shared their testimonies of salvation in Christ. For the first time, Pastor Rich had to teach two back-to-back baptism classes—such was the demand!

We were blessed to see people of all ages, stages, and cultures go through the waters of baptism. These services have become some of our favourites here at The Met, and this year we have had so much to celebrate.



Membership

Our elders and Pastor Rich continued to teach and facilitate our Membership Classes. In a world where commitment can sometimes be shunned, we were greatly encouraged to welcome **42 new members** to our rolls.

We continued to offer two formats: the Saturday class with lunch and the two Sunday afternoons following second service. These classes provide a wonderful opportunity for our leadership to come alongside those who are new (or not so new) to our church family, to get to know them, and to encourage them as they take their next steps.

The Lord continues to add to His church in many different ways, and we are grateful.

2026-2027: Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the coming year, we prayerfully plan to continue offering a variety of classes while exploring the possibility of creating a more intentional progression of learning opportunities. Our hope is to provide greater continuity, helping people grow steadily in their understanding of Scripture, their faith in Christ, and their ability to serve and disciple others.

We are grateful for what the Lord has done this past year and look forward with anticipation to how He will continue to establish and equip His people in the year ahead.



Richard Agnew
Associate Pastor

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Worship and Tech

Ministry Highlights

Leading worship for our church family is a privilege and blessing. We are so grateful for the incredible team of volunteers who serve each week to make our Sunday worship services possible, so we can all come before God's throne of grace in worship and praise.

This year we saw **new people join the worship team**, using their musical gifts to serve the Lord, and we also had opportunities for new people to lead worship. We **introduced some new songs** to help our church family engage with themes in the sermon series on the Gospel of Mark.



Our tech team has also strengthened and grown this year. **Eight new and returning volunteers** have begun serving regularly this past year, with others in the pipeline to begin serving soon. This was an answer to prayer. Typically, a team of five tech volunteers are faithfully serving rotationally each and every Sunday for both services. The full team currently includes **17 volunteers**.

The **annual Christmas concert** was a highlight once again this year. The title of the 2025 concert was ***Hope Is Here***, which drew both regular Met attendees, extended families, people from other churches in Ottawa, neighbours, and newcomers. We held two concerts back to back with a time to enjoy fellowship and deserts in the Gym after each concert. The full band and lights contributed to the concert environment as we celebrated the beauty of the gospel during the Christmas season and the hope we have in Jesus.



2026-2027: Looking Ahead

We are excited to integrate more people to serve on the worship and tech team on Sunday mornings and special events. We look forward to having our worship team lead some sessions at the seniors' conference in September 2026. Plans have already begun for the 2026 Christmas concert, *Hope Has A Name*.



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