



MET MESSENGER

From the Pastor

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6 ESV)

Although these recent months have brought some significant limitations to our ministry, the Lord has also provided some very wonderful new opportunities for us to expand our gospel reach. I was able to share briefly concerning one key new opportunity at the Annual General Meeting the other week, and I wanted to take the opportunity here to share the news with those who were not able to be with us.



ET ENCOUNTER
THE TRUTH

A couple of months ago, we received some encouragement from an outside advisor to give serious consideration to the possibility of expanding the reach of our teaching ministry through radio. We have taken professional advice and considered this carefully at the Board level. We have come to understand that there is space in the “marketplace” for fresh Bible-teaching programming, and we have been advised that we might be in a good position to use our sermon archive to develop a new broadcast. We have reached the conclusion that this is a worthwhile – and we feel, God-given – opportunity to pursue.

So, I am delighted to announce the launch of a new ministry entitled *Encounter the Truth*. We begin with weekly broadcasts on Sunday mornings in Ottawa (CHRI 99.1 FM at 9:00 am), Calgary (CJLI 700 AM at 8:00 am), and Vancouver (KARI 95.7 FM at 8:00 am) on August 2. In the coming days, a new website for the ministry will be launched (www.encounterthetruth.org), so please look out for that. More importantly, please join us in praying that the Lord will use these broadcasts to enable people across this great country to encounter the truth of God’s Word – and, through that, to encounter the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Himself the Truth that came down from heaven.

Warmly, in gospel partnership,

Jonathan

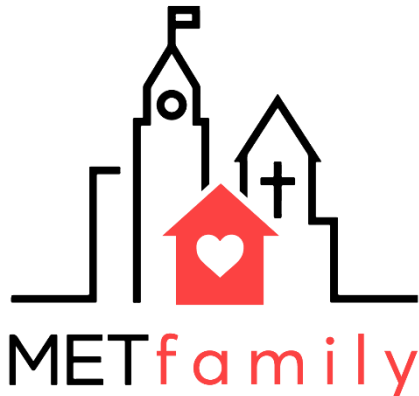
METMissions Update

Missions in an integral part of The Met’s DNA. In fact, our mission statement was intentionally crafted knowing our emphasis on missions. During the pandemic we are finding even greater opportunities to connect with our missionaries. Through Zoom we are learning about how God is moving our missionaries to engage in new gospel-centred initiatives that were not considered previously. We are finding these Zoom calls enlightening and we look forward to continuing them. Your missionaries appreciate the support and prayers from The Met community. We encourage everyone to follow our Met missionaries through the METMissions page on Facebook.

Recognizing the importance of missions at The Met, the Board created a sub-committee to realign the future of missions at The Met with our mission statement. Please pray for the Lord’s guidance as the Board and staff create a culture at The Met that focuses on disciple-making missionaries, who are gospel-centric in their approach and aligned with our mission.

METFAMILY Update

The METFamily ministry strives to provide encouragement, teaching, training, and support for the couples and families of The Met. Touching families during this unique time in our history is both challenging and encouraging.



The Parenting Q&A sessions have provided opportunities for families to connect online and discuss topics related to issues they may be facing while spending extended time at home. We have had some good conversations about the challenges of COVID-19 and how to lead our families spiritually through family worship and devotional time.

The Healthy Homes Sunday school class has continued virtually by offering Paul Tripp's course, *What Did You Expect*. Several couples have taken advantage of this opportunity and watched these classes in their homes, going through the accompanying workbook and connecting as a couple. Similarly, the *Getting to the Heart of Parenting* course has been accessed by hundreds of parents at The Met, equipping them to build up their families through training and reaching the hearts of their children.

You can find more information about these opportunities on the [METFamily Virtual Church webpage](#).

Thank you for joining us in praying for this ministry. Please pray that families will thrive as they are spending this extended time at home. Pray for unity and connection, as many people are dealing with relational challenges during these times. Families are under attack from the enemy who seeks to destroy God's kingdom and anyone who loves Him. Pray for people to be aware of the enemy's involvement and for protection from his destruction and deception. Pray for the METFamily leadership team as they work to provide tools for families and couples to be strengthened in their relationships with the Lord and each other.

Reintegration Update

This past Sunday, the Lord enabled us to reintegrate as a church family on site. When we received clearance to meet, in accordance with Ottawa Public Health protocols, our custodial staff were very diligent in making the facility safe for the congregation. There were just over 150 in attendance in the sanctuary and the gym, while there were an additional 1,300 views online. Physical distancing measures were in place. Our hosts interviewed every registrant regarding COVID-19 symptoms. Once inside our team of volunteers were there to guide everyone through this new reality. Pastor Jonathan was the service leader, our congregation was able to follow along with the pre-recorded music element, there was a live instrumental worship segment, then Pastor Greg preached live from Philemon chapter 1. Our custodial staff were quick to do a thorough cleaning and disinfecting after the service.

We warmly invite you to join us on Sundays at 10:00 am for our live service. Please note, if you would like to attend in person, you are now required to pre-register. Registration opens at 11:00 am every Thursday, and can be accessed through the [registration page](#) on the church website.

We look forward to seeing you Sunday, but we are aware that some will not be comfortable attending in person, and others will not be able to attend because of health conditions or other factors. For those not planning to gather in the larger body, we want to suggest that gathering with a few other members of the church family to watch the live service together in a home, while maintaining Ottawa Public Health guideline for physical distancing, might be a viable option.

Financial Update

We are very thankful for the way the Lord has led many in our congregation to continue to give regularly to support The Met's ministry. Many people have switched to give online, or to sign up for pre-authorized giving. This has enabled us to meet almost all of our expenses during this period of not being able to gather together in person each Sunday.

In addition to meeting our ministry expenses, we were also able to bless families in our church and in our community through our Benevolent Fund. Approximately \$33,000 was distributed by our Benevolent Committee to nearly three hundred people who were in need during this crisis.

Income during the period to our General Fund in January to June totalled \$1.485 million. Expenses were \$1.532 million, leaving us short by about \$47,000. This is actually a healthy position at this point in the year considering typical giving patterns.

We are, first and foremost, grateful to the Lord for His provision, and we are grateful to you who have given and are continuing to give to support the ministry, as you have in the past.

For more details on how to give, please visit the giving page on the church website, at metbiblechurch.ca/give.

Ministry Board and Property Board Update

The Met held its first ever virtual (Zoom) Annual General Meeting on June 28. There were 238 people who registered for the meeting, while there were 195 unique views (or connections), and three listened by phone. There were just over 420 votes cast (77% of the membership) in advance using the electronic voting tool and including seven paper ballots. These participation numbers were extremely encouraging. We are grateful to the Lord for enabling this meeting to take place and to enable the membership to engage with the exciting initiatives taking place at our church.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of the following Ministry Board Officers for the upcoming year: Morris Repeta, Chair; Julian Brainerd, Vice-Chair; and Andrew Harwood, Secretary. Lou Ranahan was appointed as Treasurer. Ted Lennox is continuing as the Chair of the Property Board. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for all of our Board members as they continue to lead the church during this unprecedented time.