

Cityview Church Ministry Report November 2022

CITYVIEW
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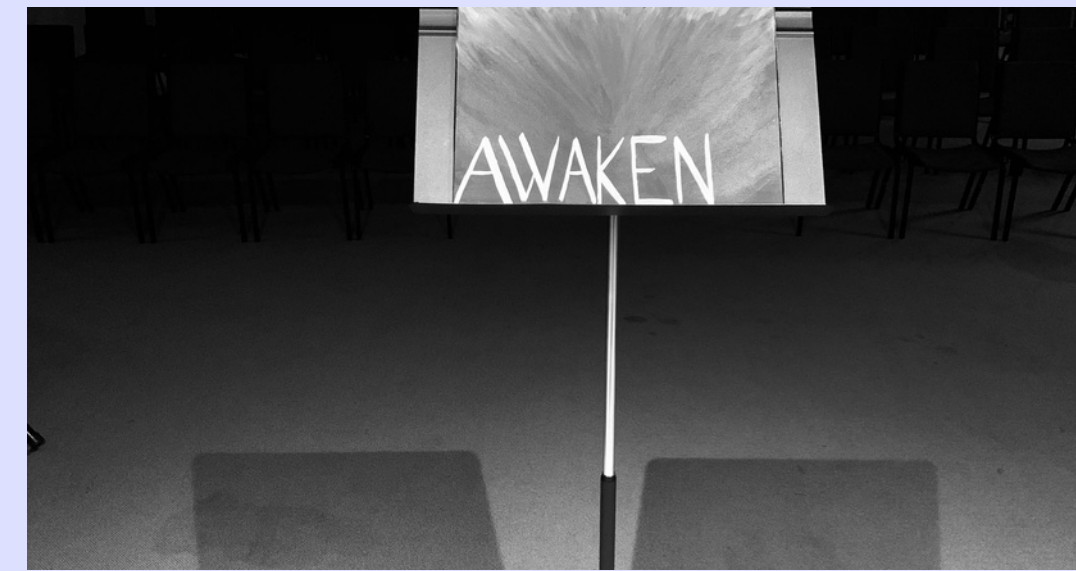
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Overview of the Year



Over the next little while we are going to hearing what has been happening at Cityview over the last 11 months. I hope, like me, you will find it encouraging, enlightening and even inspiring. Our aim every year is to fulfill our Mission Statement. To Love God, to love each other, and to love the community around us. The Up, the In, and the Out.

And the reports you will hear this morning fall under those headings. We will have a Worship report and a Prayer report. We will have reports on Life Groups, Kids Ministry and Youth work. And we will hear about our OpenTable ministry and a Project Community Update.

Before we get onto those I would to give an overview of what has been happening here. It's actually been one of the most remarkable years of my time here. It all started back in December last year in a small German town called Heidelberg. It was here that God gave me a very specific dream. He told me that He was going to do amazing things. We would see Him do amazing things. And he gave me the passage in Joel 2 where it talks of God pouring out His Spirit on His people. And out of that dream came our word for the year *Awaken*.

I'll be honest I thought I knew what that word meant for us at Cityview. But I was wrong. I thought God would pour out His Spirit on us and we would do amazing things. We would start new ministries, we would grow the church. But that's not what has happened. God has been doing amazing things. He was telling me and you to wake up, to open our eyes to see what He is going to do. And boy, He's kept His word. Nothing of any significance has happened here because of us and what we have done. He's done it all.

Overview of the Year

Ministry Team

This team of Frank, Daphne and Jeff have blossomed. They have sought God's heart and in the process been an incredible resource and support for me.

Jeff

Jeff joined the staff here at the beginning of the year and has brought fresh ideas and a fresh approach to Open Table, which we will hear about later.

Baptisms

We have had 8 baptisms this year. 8 people wanting to commit their lives to Jesus.

The SLT

We have had some challenges over the last couple of years but this team have shown commitment, wisdom and maturity as they have supported the ministry here and stewarded the resources that God has given us.

New Faces

God has brought many new faces to Cityview over this year. In fact 28 new faces. But not just their faces, he's brought their lives and their gifts.

New Teachers

We've wondered how our Kid's Ministry could move forward when we came back to the building. And God provided 3 new teachers to help us.

Overview of the Year

Worship Team

Our worship Team has been expanding. I don't mean they are getting fatter. There are more and more people being involved in worship. One of the greatest joys for me personally this year was seeing Cherin Hale up here worshipping God with joy.

Building Relationships

As we heard last week God has introduced us to Reality Church and Mitch Klassen. And through that relationship a new era of youth work has begun.

There's more but we don't have time. And the others who come to speak will share some of it. But if we do nothing else at the end of this time, then we must give thanks to Him who promised He would do amazing things. (Trevor Josh)

Worship

Praise God for the worship ministry of Cityview Church. 2022 has seen us enjoy many, many beautiful times of worship of our Saviour God. Below is a synopsis of how God has been moving within this ministry over the past year.

A growing number of congregants have joined our team of musicians in 2022, adding to the richness of our praise. We are thrilled to have Yeci, Julia, Erwin, Hale and Luke now part of the team. Thank you for stepping up! We are also thankful for the return of Michael after a break of several years. Daphne, Tanya and Tim share most of the worship leadership duties, with occasional help from visiting worship leaders Mike Spiliotopoulos and Johnathan Hers. Andrea, Allun, Jeff, André and Xavier have continued their welcome contributions, and we have also benefited from guest musicians Clara Kim (vocals) and Catriona Day (cello).

Our Easter service team involved a “cast of thousands” ... well, six people, leading a joyous time of celebration. Also in 2022, we have had the privilege and joy of two baptismal services, where seven people have affirmed their faith and commitment to Jesus.

We have re-established a routine of Thursday night rehearsals, to have more time to work on orchestration ahead of the Sunday service. And we recently hosted a “worship jam”, where ten of our musicians came together for lunch (thank you, Arlene!) and then to trial ten new songs. It was a rich time of fellowship and collaboration.

In 2022 we have also had some important developments at the back-of-house. One of the most exciting developments was, in addition to André and Adrian, we trained two new techs to manage sound: Emily and Daphne. Thank you for stepping in and enhancing the team! A shout out also goes to Chris and Steve for their rock-solid role on projection. Warren has also been stepping in when he can to help with projection.

We have made a couple of big changes to audio-video equipment in 2022, the biggest being upgrading our 20-year-old sound board. We've upgraded to a fancy new board with many features that we're still discovering! We also, unfortunately, had a camera stolen, but André and Steve stepped in temporarily with their own, to ensure there was no interruption in the live streaming. We have now replaced the camera with a new one.

We also purchased a “cajon”, which is the drum box played mostly by Erwin and Luke. We are looking at other percussion options for next year.

We are so thankful for all these people and various aspects of the worship ministry at Cityview.

We praise God that He is moving amongst us, and we look forward to the next chapter in 2023. (Tim Hardie & Andre Baron)

Prayer

To me, worship and prayer are inseparable. They inevitably lead to one another as we praise and worship our God. Our God desires a deep and meaningful relationship with us. We want to hear what God says, we want to recognize His voice, and we want to submit and be obedient to His prompting – because we know that in order to live a truly Godly life and have a meaningful relationship with Him, God must be our centre, He must be the one who leads, and His wisdom and His way must be what we seek and follow.

In order to do this at Cityview Church, we want to foster a practice of daily prayer and worship. In 2022, we have had two Weeks of Prayer – one in January, and one in October. In both weeks, we have paired passages of scripture with a worship song or hymn for each day, and we asked that participants dwell in God's presence and pray for about an hour each day, and document what God has given/shown them in whatever medium that works for them – be it a journal entry, a song, a picture, a photo, a poem, etc. We also asked participants to send feedback and share what God told them on the WhatsApp group and/or with Trevor via email directly. Our goals from the Weeks of Prayer are to give some practical guidance and to encourage our congregation to continue a practice of spending time with God and listening to His voice.

We also had our Night of Prayer for Healing on Wednesday, Nov 9th, in lieu of Life Group Meetings that week. The worship leaders among us brought their instruments, and we sang worship songs together. We laid hands and prayed for those present who needed healing, as well as those who could not be there but were in our congregation and among our friends and family.

Looking forward, we are planning on another Week of Prayer in January 2023, and another one in the fall. In addition, we are seeking God's guidance on how we can minister to our congregation in prayer and facilitate ways to encourage daily meeting with God in worship and prayer.

Please email Daphne at daphne@cityviewchurch.ca if you have any questions or suggestions about prayer and worship! (Daphne Lee)

Life Groups

Life Groups are basically a group of people who do life together. It's in the name – Life Groups. And Life groups are key to the spiritual growth and well being of you at Cityview. At Life Groups we laugh together, play together, study God's word together, share our joys and pains together, and we support, encourage and pray together. Life groups are not an add on to the Sunday gathering. If anything, the Sunday gathering is an add on to the Life Groups.

We followed up our successful Alpha course at the end of 2021 by maintaining 3 Life Groups. Tuesday morning led by Daphne, Wednesday evening led by me, and Thursday evening led by Laura/Linda. They all started online and now the evening groups are transitioning into a hybrid model where an in person gathering takes place at someones home at least once a month. The study this year has largely focused on the passage preached the previous Sunday. I would say that around 30 people are connected to Life Groups but we are continually encourage others to join.

Next year I am hoping that our Life Groups will become an even more crucial part of the ministry at Cityview. Actually, my vision is for Life Groups to become the main vehicle by which we fulfill our mission. So they will become a hub for worship, discipling and also connecting with the wider community. Stay tuned. (Trevor Josh)

Kids Ministry

March 13th 2022 was a momentous day: After 2 years of Covid shutdown, Big Life returned to the church building with our first session together and the kickoff of a new curriculum. That day we had 5 kids and have continued with about that number on average. I am so grateful for this time downstairs with the kids, but also grateful that Jenn, Kristen, Alan and Ethan have come alongside to teach in rotation. We each take one or two sessions per month so that it's not a heavy burden on any one us.

I want to give you a small taste of what we do downstairs during my sessions.

I've have been working through a curriculum called "The Gospel Project" published by LifeWay which was a gift to us from Broadway church.

The curriculum provides materials to help us create a teaching powerpoint, including an animation of the bible story and a "Questions from Kids" video. Our time downstairs is short so we don't have time for all the materials so this is what I tend to focus on:

A review section; so that the kids feel that when I am with them there is a continuous theme.

The story section; when we look at the new story for the week and show the 2 short curriculum videos. We review the story with a variety of methods including quizzes, puzzles and discussion.

If there's time we do a craft, or a game and we have a snack if I remember to bring some!

I have also done some special themed Sundays, one on baptism when we baptized Barbie, one on Lent when we ate pancakes and learned why, and one for Palm Sunday when we made lots of palm crosses to share with you guys upstairs. But in general I work through the curriculum.

In summary we try to learn, pray, have fun, make noise, and we don't worry too much about disturbing you guys upstairs or finishing up on time so please let us know any of this is not working your family. And thanks for lending us your kids! (Linda Josh)

Youth Ministry

We began the year meeting regularly on Sunday mornings. In the spring, we went through a series from Alpha called Life on Purpose, which was meant to lead to another session of Alpha Youth.

Then came summer. In the summer God orchestrated a connection with Reality Church, where Jeff met with Mitch and they talked about Youth Group.

Since September, our grade 6-12, have been invited to participate in this Youth Group that gathers youth from 4 different churches. They meet every

Wednesday evenings 7-9, doing things based on a book called "faith for exiles". They are focused on building intimacy with Jesus through discussion based learning and interactive learning of God's word. They are building resilience by inviting guest speakers and getting the youth to participate in asking clarifying questions. They are building trusting relationships through smaller home groups to share and discuss together. They are turning outwards by serving the community with service projects. They are meeting peers that also have questions about what it means to follow Jesus. They are meeting and building relationships with trusted adults.

You can listen back to last week's message on YouTube. These details are outlined between the 51:50 mark – 54:48 mark. (Jeff Groulx)

OpenTable Ministry

A year ago, we defined OpenTable as a “ministry to the poor and the marginalized”. This year, with God's leading and through the input of many within the OpenTable community and at Cityview, we've removed some of the labels, which can be confusing or misunderstood at times.

So now we say that, OpenTable is a weekly community meal, where we welcome everyone, regardless of their background or current circumstances, and is a safe place to share life together.

Every Thursday morning, a group of dedicated volunteers come to prepare a meal in our commercial kitchen. We thank the contributions of our volunteers:

- Arlene, Barbara, Julie, Johnny, Avtar, Andrea, Andy, Jae, Sairun, Teri, Shelley, Loreen, Minnie, Trevor, Daphne, Frank, another Frank and lots more...

God has brought all these people to us. All by His hand, not by anything we've done. We have such a mix of people serving in the kitchen at the moment, some of them live in the neighbourhood, some were guest at OpenTable, some are low income, some are not, some are Christians, some are not. We're so grateful to God for each of them.

Every Thursday at noon, people gather here at the church (usually in the downstairs hall, but sometimes outside on the south lawn during the warm summer days). There's a short message, a bible verse and a prayer is shared, all centered on the good news of Jesus.

We serve about 30-40 meals and we eat together and spend time together. We greet each other, we tell stories together, we get to know one another. Sometimes we share something deep, sometimes not. Sometimes it's quiet and awkward, but we still do it together.

And from that, connections form and people feel safe and willing to share more.

OpenTable Ministry

This year we've heard stories of sadness:

- Families being estranged,
- fighting within families,
- the death of close family members,
- financial struggles,
- housing search struggles,
- physical struggles like cancer diagnosis, people struggling with mobility issues, etc.

But we've also heard and seen stories of God redeeming and restoring people:

- Successful surgeries
- People letting go of anger and extending forgiveness
- People willing to be prayed for
- Witnessing friends praying, maybe for the first time. Or for the first time in a long time.

These so often go hand in hand, as we walk alongside them in their struggle, but we hear of the ways that God is moving, redeeming, restoring. And sometimes we don't, and we just continue to walk together.

Some of this "walking together" happens at OpenTable and some happens BEYOND OpenTable. A few examples are serving together, like going grocery shopping together, cleaning the Cityview kitchen. Helping someone, like with resume writing, with looking for housing. Accompanying someone to an important appointment like going to apply for their ID, going to apply for their pension, going to an appointment with their lawyer. Being present for important events like funerals of their close family member.

So this is what happens at OpenTable and beyond OpenTable. This is what it looks like when we live out the gospel together.

OpenTable Ministry

We're grateful for all the ways that OpenTable is supported.

1) Through grants:

This year, we applied and were approved for a grant with the CNBC with the purpose of sharing the gospel and inviting people into a relationship with Jesus. We're thankful to our regional ministry leader with the CNBC and our friend, Hamish Buntain for bringing this grant to our attention

2) Through donations:

This year, we've begun new relationships are now receiving donations from nearby coffee shops, including Starbucks and JJ Bean, from grocery stores like No Frills and Buy-Low Foods on Fraser St. We have access to excess Cobs bread every Friday and can pickup according to our needs. We also have potential donations from more grocery stores and restaurants locally.

3) Through shared wisdom, learning, ideas, prayer with churches and organizations:

We have regular connection with Oasis Café at Tenth Church in Vancouver and with The Neighbourhood Table at The Neighbourhood Church in Burnaby.

We've also connected with leaders and pastors from CityReach, UGM, The King's Way Church, CNBC, Inner Hope Youth Ministries.

4) Through you at Cityview:

We're grateful for your financial support, but also your prayers for this ministry and all that God is doing through it.

Thank you! (Jeff Groulx)

Project Community

In line with our values and Mission Statement, the Cityview Church congregation back in 2019 started thinking about how we can best use our building and our land to serve the wider Riley Park - Little Mountain community. We began the long and careful process of re-development. We called this process "Project Community".

The mandate of this project is to provide:

1. A space for our church community to worship and grow in our relationship with God and each other.
2. A space for the wider community to use/rent and give an opportunity for us to continue sharing and showing the love of Jesus.
3. Some form of housing that is affordable and encourages community living.

Since 2019 we have worked with architects and developers to create plans to submit to the City of Vancouver. This was done earlier this year. We received general support from the City with a few alterations. The next stage is to prepare to submit an application for rezoning. This is a big task and will require us to raise approximately \$250,000. The Project Community Team are currently reaching out to fundraising experts to see how this could be done. But, we would encourage the Cityview Community to keep praying and supporting this project. The task seems daunting because we are a small church, but remember we serve a MIGHTY God! (Trevor Josh)

To God
be the glory,
great things
He has done!



Looking forward
to seeing what
God does at
Cityview next
year!