



🇨🇦 Niagara Falls, ON

Pastor Rich & Yukyung Bultje

It has been some time since we last wrote a newsletter highlighting some of the activities at the River of Life church plant.

We have been blessed with several births, baptisms, and public professions of faith of both youth from families of the church and those who have joined us in the faith. We have also had the sad task of burying a loved one, which still causes grief and struggle. Through these ups and downs, I can truly say that God has tested us and grown us closer to Him and each other in service to our King.

Our hope and desire to have a **new building** in which to work and serve has also been blessed. The Lord has granted the purchase of a large, older restaurant/bar on the busy Stanley Avenue. Although we need to do some renovations before we will be able to worship in our new building, we as a congregation are excited with this new building from the Lord. Because our present building only has one restroom and a very

small nursery room, we are especially delighted that this new building will have men’s, women’s, and nursery restroom. I hope you agree with us that, although many church buildings have been converted into bars, art galleries and homes, it is great that the opposite also happens at times. May the Lord allow this old restaurant and bar where many came to eat and drink to become a place where many would come to worship the Lord Jesus Christ in the joy of salvation.

We are delighted that we have more men able and willing to take on the **offices of elder and deacon** in the church, and one member in whom God has worked a desire to take up the office of pastor and preacher of the Word. A new deacon was installed in October of this year. It is truly a great blessing when a church plant grows in such a way that more men are able to take on servant/leadership roles as elders and deacons. We are also blessed with men and women who have eagerly taken on leading Bible studies, making meals for others, providing accompaniment during our worship services and serving on the building committee.

In the midst of the pandemic with its worries and restrictions, it is a great joy to see new believers and old believers show a real desire to be together in worship and fellowship as a church community. When we came to Niagara Falls eight years ago, it was my wife and I and three young children. It is wonderful to see how the Lord has blessed the work in these 8 years. Some have come to join the church from existing churches and others have come to faith and joined the church. As a growing community of Christians, we are beginning to look like a functioning church. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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New church building

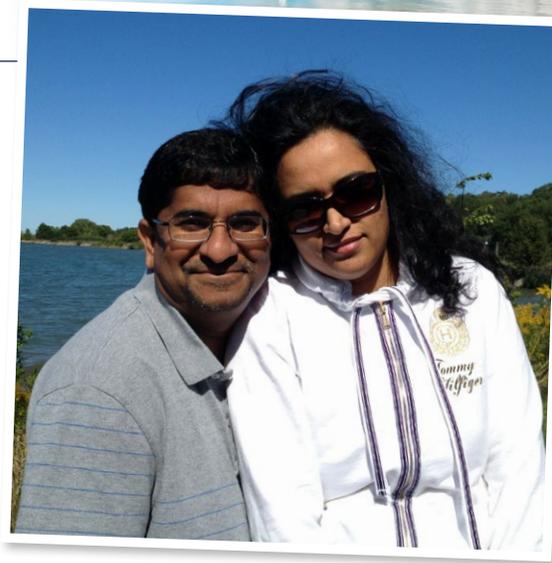


Winning team at our last outreach



🇨🇦 Scarborough, ON

Rev. Mitch & Shabeeda Persaud



An African, a Korean, and a single lady entered a...well...New Horizon and joined. All three did profession of faith this year. Yes, in the midst of the Covid crisis the Lord brought in these to membership, and we thank God for them. Joshua Fapo is from a Nigerian background. He does a lot of street evangelism with his Dad and has invited others to join him. Min Ho is a Korean young man in his 20's and has studied a fair bit of apologetics. He struggles with stress. Pray for him. Sherrie is a single mother with a 13-year-old son, and part owner of a tea shop. She is quite engaging and knowledgeable of the Scriptures. She listened to our sermons online and showed up one Sunday and never left. It is a joy to see how quickly these three have been incorporated into the church family, even without our regular fellowship meals and picnics.

Along with these, we are having a few more evangelistic opportunities, most done by Skype-type media. We also had another regular young Chinese lady who just showed up to church after listening to sermons online.

But as most pastors would have experienced during this time, the government lockdowns have created more work for us. (Toronto area has been targeted by the government for more stringent lockdowns.) And with newer Christians, there are additional challenges. Loneliness, despair, and frustrations are not in short supply. One member will likely close her business for good. (Thankfully, we still have contact with all our members and even a few visitors.) But this meant the elder (we only have one now as one moved out of province for work), and the active deacon (the other one is recovering from cancer) have had to make more calls, teach more classes, and have more people to our houses than normal. Technically, we aren't permitted by law to show hospitality, but we have a higher law.

The lockdowns that have limited us to 5 and 10 souls per worship have been particular painful and frustrating. Yet, we have been livestreaming and the Word is going out. More are joining online. So we are angry, but excited.

Needless to say, income that was on the rise recently, took a dip and we need your continued support. **Please send support for New Horizon, c/o Cornerstone URC, London, M6B 2M9, Canada.**



Josh Fapo's Profession of Faith



Sherrie Henderson's Profession of Faith