



## PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

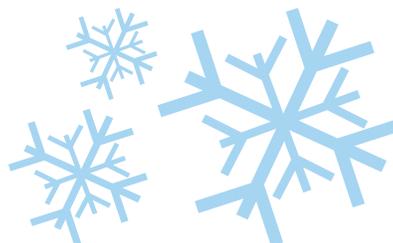
God's providence has always been evident. On July 5, 1886, a group from James St. Baptist Church formed a core team that would establish a mission work in the North End of Hamilton. They were burdened with the lack of gospel work and witness in that part of Hamilton. On July 13th, they purchased land at the corner of Ferrie and Ferguson Streets. Northern Baptist Church began to meet there one year later, in their newly constructed building on August 14th, 1887. As the North End of the city has always struggled, the church has, from its inception, cared for the marginalized. In October 1898, the Hamilton Spectator ran an article entitled, 'Home of Contagion: The Unsanitary Condition of the North End of the City' citing the exceptionally high rates of chicken pox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and typhoid. Northern Baptist Church ministered faithfully to their struggling community. The church met at the corner of Ferrie and Ferguson

Streets until February 21, 1910 when it moved into the schoolhouse it had purchased on Hughson Street near the corner of Simcoe St. The church was renamed Hughson St. Baptist Church in 1910. God allowed that church to experience seasons of growth and struggle in that modest building constructed on a largely dirt basement. In 1989, after 39 years of faithful service, Rev. Alfred Bell retired from ministry at Hughson St. Baptist Church. He was 87 years old. The church was struggling at that time and many wondered if it would close. Dr. Michael Haykin comments, 'By God's grace, Alfred had been used to preserve the Baptist cause on Hughson Street so that in God's time it would experience revitalization.' The Lord raised up Pastor Pete Wright at that time and he used Pete and Darlene for just over four years where he began his revitalization process at Hughson St. I had the privilege of arriving at Hughson

St. in January 1994 and volunteered under Pete that year. In January of 1995 I began pastoring the church. In 2007, we realized we were outgrowing the church building and in working with architects and engineers determined it was better to rebuild or relocate than to renovate. In early 2011, God provided the property at 500 James St where we would begin to build in 2017. The church began to meet in Bennetto School in 2011 to accommodate the growth. God graciously allowed us to use the school, at no cost, on Sunday mornings for 9 years. In 2016, Hughson St. Baptist unanimously decided to proceed with a building project that would include housing, rather than simply build a worship and ministry facility. On August 24th God granted us occupancy of much of the new facility at 500 James St. North. Tenants began to move in and we were able to offer one week of 'socially distanced' day camp. On Sunday, September 16th, we celebrated our first service in the building – wondering at God's gracious providence and provision. We prayerfully engaged in a process of renaming our church (as being Hughson on James St. seemed odd) back in 2018. The Lord led us to rename our church, James North Baptist Church. Our name has historically reflected our geographic location. There is both a connection to our original name of Northern Baptist Church and to the church that established us in 1887, James. St. Baptist Church. If you haven't had the opportunity to come and see what God has done here, we'd invite you to join us on a Sunday morning at either 9 or 11 am, following COVID protocols. You can sign up on through our website. If the Lord tarries, may He grant us another 133 years of faithful gospel witness in the North End of Hamilton where believers can be encouraged in their walk with the Lord and those who don't know Christ will turn to Him and be saved. Lord may it be so. Thanks be to God.

Because of grace,

*Pastor Dwayne*



JAMESNORTH.CHURCH



# GROWING TO SERVE UPDATE

In 2016, when the Lord led us to build a worship and ministry space that would seat 500 people as well as house 45 supportive and affordable apartments that we have leased to Indwell for \$1 a year to assist those struggling with homelessness or in precarious housing situations the building was projected to cost \$16 million. In 2017 the price grew to \$17 million. As our project was hit hard by the tariff wars, as well as rising construction costs, the project cost grew to \$21 million by the end of 2019. We strategically worked on the next season of our Growing to Serve campaign praying to God for both wisdom and His provision when COVID hit. At that time we needed an additional \$2 million to secure the remaining government monies. God miraculously provided the \$2 million dollars we were asking Him for, through COVID, when in June we were told that the building would cost an additional \$900,000 for a total of nearly \$22 million. Thank you for your prayers and donations and I'm thrilled to announce that the Lord has provided the necessary \$900,000 between June and September. God has raised up a total of \$19 million for this project. That currently leaves us with a \$3 million mortgage. We are praying God will raise up an additional \$1 million between now and March 1st so that our mortgage will be just below \$2 million. We are meeting here twice on Sunday mornings, the Karen are meeting on Sunday afternoons. Both our Jr. High students and High School students are here every week for Bible study and we have a few classes running in the facility (following COVID protocols). Additionally, 48 tenants have moved into the 45 apartments. All of them were in precarious housing situations and some were homeless. Pray with us for God's continued miraculous provision. May He provide \$1 million over the next 3 months.





# CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



As the statistics indicate, those hit hardest by COVID are the marginalized and racialized. This Christmas, we will be distributing Christmas hampers to 300 individuals and families on Saturday December 19th. We are praying God will provide the necessary \$37,500 for the hampers so we can care for those that have been hardest hit by this pandemic. We will be offering a toy shop again this year. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us with a financial gift toward the Christmas Hamper ministry? If you would like to volunteer this year, please contact the office. We look forward to sharing and showing the love of Christ this Christmas.



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jamesnorth.church - office@jamesnorth.church

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## MY DONATION FOR JAMES NORTH

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas Hampers

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for Capital Campaign

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for General Fund

**Email transfers:** send to office@jamesnorth.church

**Direct Deposit:** Email office@jamesnorth.church for direct deposit form for pre-authorized gifts

**Online:** through Canada Helps

**Cheque:** Payable to James North Baptist Church

Donations will be used as restricted with the understanding that when the need has been met or changed by the JNBC Board, the remaining funds will be allocated where most needed.