

Important Dates... Mark your Calendars!!

February 1st - 2nd: *New Frontiers 2008 Leadership Conference*

is being held at 200 Main Street! New Frontiers had its beginnings in the UK. It is now a world-wide family of churches together on a mission, with over 600 churches worldwide! The leaders of MBC are encouraged to attend this amazing event.

February 6th: *9am-5pm High School - Today's Teen Training Conference*
This event is for adult and teen leaders of MBC's Consumed Youth Ministry. It's a day of training, seminars and encouragement for all. They will be joining the rest of MBC for the "Concert of Prayer" at 7pm that same evening.

February 16th: *12 Hour Prayer Vigil*
We will spend 12 hours in dynamic prayer to God for the needs of our church family and our community. Prayer begins at 200 Main Street at 9am and will conclude with a "Concert of Prayer" 7pm - 9pm. Be sure to sign up for an hour of prayer!

February 22nd-24th: *MissionFest '08*
You'll have an opportunity to meet, hear and learn from Ashok Andrews, a man of God who has rightfully earned the title "The Billy Graham of India". On Saturday the 23rd of February at 8:00am, the men will gather at the church for a special breakfast with Ashok, followed by a message especially for men. Then, at 7:30pm, the same day, there will be a special ladies' night out with Ashok at the church. Your Missions Ministry Team really encourages you to plan to be present for "your" event, and we invite you to bring along a friend, a family member or an unchurched neighbour. You won't regret it!

February 29th - March 2nd:

High School SnoCamp Retreat
is going to be held at Muskoka Woods Sports Resort. There'll be sports events, a talent show, energizing worship, and dynamic speakers. If you're interested, please speak to Mark Strickland (905.876.3586)

March 1st: *Deck Bowl-a-thon*
(Junior Youth and Friends) Students will be raising funds to support the Deck Youth Centre which is a Youth Drop-In Centre which runs out of MBC's basement.

March 11th - 13th: *March Break VBS*
for kids in grades JK-4 (see article inside).

March 20th - May 8th:
The Marriage Course

is running again for 8 weeks on Thursday evenings. Greg and Janet Hopkins are looking for 15 to 20 couples, ideally, some from outside of the church and some who are searching for truth. The goal is to strengthen marriages and to bring spouses closer to each other, and to God.

March 27th: *Connections Café*
7:00 - 8:30pm. In partnership with Halton Region, the Connection Café presents Triple P

Teen Seminar 3: "Getting Teenagers Connected" at Milton Bible Church. Who can attend? Parents/ caregivers of Teens and Pre-Teens (this seminar is directed toward parenting those aged 12-16). The goal of Triple P is to help parents manage their child's behaviors in a constructive and caring way, to develop good communication and strong relationships with their children, and to learn positive parenting skills that may be applied to a broad range of parenting situations. Children and youth who grow up with positive parenting are more likely to feel good about themselves and develop to their full potential.

March 29th: *Ladies' Worship Night*
Last year we had our very first Ladies' Worship Night. There was food, fellowship, worship and touching, inspirational testimonies from our very own women! It was an amazing night. You'll want to be sure to set this evening aside...just for YOU!

April 5th: *MBC Leadership Breakfast*
9am - 11am. This morning is hosted by our amazing Elders, a breakfast meeting that will help you become a better leader. We will begin the fall planning process and you will leave encouraged through prayer and fellowship. This will be our 2nd of 3 Leadership Breakfasts in 2008.

April 18th - 20th: *Jr. High Retreat (Grades 6-8)*
This will be at the Liebenzell Mission which is near Moffatt. There will be activities, Bible Studies, a Campfire and TONS of fun.

If you're interested, please speak to Mark Strickland. (905.876.3586)

April 25th: *Ladies' Craft Night*
- Craft Night is a time to sit back, relax and try your hand at a fabulous craft which will be advertised ahead of time. There will be a time of sharing from God's Word, as well as fellowship and laughter. You don't even need to be particularly crafty! Come on out with the girls!

May 16th - 19th: *High School Pitch 'N Praise Camping Trip*
- A camping trip with thousands of teens from all across Ontario will gather in Stayner for the weekend. Fantastic bands, speakers, and worship along with lots of sports...this is what's in store for YOU!!! If you're interested in being a part of this awesome weekend, please speak to Mark Strickland. (905.876.3586)

May 23rd: *"The Good and the Gross Night"* Junior Youth - If you're a little squeamish, don't worry! There's something for everyone on this night...Good and Gross!

May: *Mixed Softball* - MBC has a Mixed Softball team for ages 14 and over that starts in May. This team is part of an interchurch mixed league in which the church has participated for over 20 years! It's a great time of fellowship and outreach. Games are usually played once or twice a week, with two tournaments each season, one in June and one in September. Please contact Grant Zikman (905.876.4800) or Keith McIntosh (905.693.0448) if you'd like to be a part of baseball this summer!

June 29th: *MBC Church Family Picnic*
We'll be gathering at Victoria Park (in front of town hall) for our family worship time. Before this date, there will be an opportunity for you to sign up for a salad or dessert or sandwiches and such, 'cause there'll be a picnic lunch following the service. A net will be set up for anyone who'd like to play some volleyball. There's the creative playground and games for the younger ones, so bring your hats and sunscreen. Don't forget your lawn chairs!



A New Year - A New Theme

God has placed a renewed Vision in my heart and a new Spirit of revival within me. That is why I am so excited about our theme for 2008, "Church on a Mission". I believe it is time MBC got very focused on its great commission to make Disciples of Christ. Over the past few years we have misplaced our divine calling to be a Missional church, and it is time to get back on track. Our five year Vision Plan will greatly empower us to be the church God has called us to be in Milton.

Our theme verse for 2008 is Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."



A word from Pastor Jim & Mary

It is my intention to preach through the book of Acts in 2008. The book of Acts is about the beginning of God's Mission through the church. It will be both inspiring and challenging to the faithful at MBC. Much can be learned for the church to go forward in this day.

I can't wait to see how God, through the power of His Holy Spirit, will transform our church culture, and through a changed church, how He will transform the town of Milton and beyond to the ends of the earth.

Pastor Jim

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth."

Jeremiah 1:4-9



The Vision (3-5 Year Ministry Plan)

Elders: Jim DeMarsh, Dave Gray, Sid Jones, Rick Shalley

Last fall, the elders went away for a spiritual retreat to seek God's direction for Milton Bible Church. This is a summary of the VISION God laid on their hearts.

MINISTRY is to be:

Relational
Missional
Scriptural
Spiritual
Doxological

Year ONE of the Ministry Plan

- *Additional Staff
- *Identifying Social Justice Needs
- *Christian Bookstore and Café
- *Additional Worship Service

Year TWO of the Ministry Plan

- *Key Partnerships
- *Local, National and International Missions organizations
- *Academic Institutions
- *Organizations with Shared Values

Year 3 & 4 of the Ministry Plan

- *More Deacons
- *More Elders
- *More Ministry Leaders
- *More People

Year FiVE of the Ministry Plan

- *The possibility of a New Church
- *An option for a Church Plant

We believe we will need to seek God's direction for His people and for His church at this time.

ONGOING goals.

These are our ongoing core values and goals.

- *100% Involvement of MBC people in ministry
- *20 Conversions each year
- *Excellence in Teaching
- *Discipleship Strategy
- *Leadership Development Plan
- *To be Debt Free

Communications

Anne White, Ministry Leader
(Team: Michelle Roberts, Richard Dilda, Mary DeMarsh, Jim DeMarsh)

We are very pleased to present to our church family, MBC's first newsletter! The Communications Team wishes to serve the Lord by keeping His MBC children informed of the church's events, needs, opportunities and spiritual matters. We pray that all will use this newsletter as one of several tools to help us build awareness of, caring for, and investment in the ministries of Milton Bible Church.

God Bless!



Missions

Ted Hilton, Ministry Leader (Team: Donna Timpson, Mathew Abraham)

During 2008 it is the hope and prayer of the Missions Ministry Team that they will be able to encourage everyone, through a number of initiatives, to become not only aware of the true meaning of Missions (locally, nationally and internationally), but that the entire Milton Bible Church Family will, because of their efforts, discover ways that they can serve The Lord and honour "The Great Commission" given to us by Jesus:

"God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28, verses 19 & 20, from "The Message" Translation).



Nursery Kelly Dilda, Ministry Leader (Part of Kingdom Kids Ministry - Wendy Strickland, Ministry Leader)

2007 proved to be an awesome year for our nursery. Our increase in both toddlers and infants has grown to a potential 20 children in attendance. With this type of potential, we have undergone some changes to our nursery.

The nursery is split into two rooms. Our toddler room is designed for the active walkers and perpetual players that most toddlers are. With age appropriate toys, that allow the development of motor skill and coordination, the children are involved in play from the moment they arrive. As well as play time, our toddlers will be encouraged to join in on a short circle time that introduces rhythm and music. This is a great opportunity to display God's love to our toddlers.

Our infant room is designed with our wee ones in mind. We have an assortment of toys that are designed to nurture infants' minds. These toys are separated once a child has played with them and are thoroughly cleaned. We have a change table with stock of diapers and wipes, as well as a play pen for sleeping babies and a high chair for bottle time. There is a privacy screen for nursing mothers and plenty of rocking chairs for soothing tired babies.

Our nursery is made of 30 volunteers that rotate on a 6 week schedule. However, there is always room for more. We have in place a secondary list of people to help when someone is unable to volunteer on their Sunday. This secondary list is always open to new

people who want to get involved but have little time. If you have a passion for sharing God's love with our little ones, please contact Kelly Dilda or Wendy Strickland. We would be happy to answer any questions you have. Or just drop by and see what God is doing in great abundance.



Women's Ministry

Anne White, Ministry Leader

(Team: Kelly Dilda, Maria Grobler, Deb Hilton, Bobbi Strutt, Shannon Zikman)

As "children are a reward from the Lord" (Ps 127:3), we are being greatly rewarded at Milton Bible Church. Our nursery is bursting at the seams! With more babies on the way, we are truly a blessed community of believers.

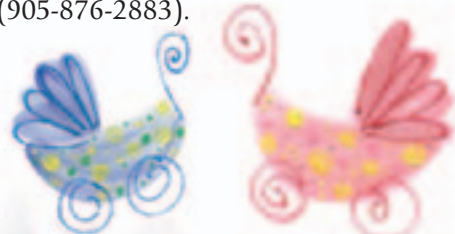
As the New Year has rung in, the Women's Ministry Team would like to start a new "Baby Welcome" tradition. In an effort to encourage as many women as possible to share in the joy of new moms and babies, we are suggesting a new way of celebrating.

Women's Ministry will host "Welcome Baby Teas" at which a prayer blanket and a prayer plaque will be presented to each new 'Mom and Baby' along with "best wishes only".

If there is anyone who knits or crochets and would like to contribute a 6" prayer square to one or more of the Prayer Blankets, please speak to Maria Grobler (905-876-2883).



Also, Women's Ministry has an exciting lineup of events this winter/spring, to provide opportunities for women to fellowship with one another, and to build relationships inter-generationally and with the Lord.



Please see the back page for dates.



Kingdom Kids Joins Consumed Youth!

Something special is coming your way this March. During the March Break, the Senior Youth will be leading a Mini-Vacation Bible School! This will run for three mornings, March 11th, 12th, and 13th, at the church. This special event is for boys and girls in grades JK - 4. Pastor Mark and Wendy Strickland (Kingdom Kids Ministry Leader) will be overseeing the VBS. There will be a limited number of spaces and registration will begin in early February... SO KEEP YOUR EYES ON YOUR BULLETIN FOR THE REGISTRATION START DATE!!



church on a mission