



August 2023

“OK, close your eyes, and pinch your nose. Ready?” I raised my right hand and said the proper words over the baptismal candidates. That moment of seeing a new convert close their eyes in anticipation of the baptismal waters covering their face is one of the most satisfying in Christian service. By God’s grace, we had three follow the Lord in believer’s baptism in a pool in our backyard. It was a wonderful day where the whole congregation joined us for a **Baptism & BBQ**. This is the first time we have been able to have a baptism near our church since we rent hourly. It was a wonderful day of celebrating the Lord’s goodness and enjoying Christian fellowship.

A brief overview of those who were baptized: **Dan** grew up in a good mission church in Mexico but struggled with doubts. He got his salvation settled in 2020 but never followed the Lord in baptism until now. **Karina** had also been saved many years ago but had never received baptism either. And then there is **Johnathon**. He grew up in Columbia with a Catholic background. He recently got saved this year around Easter as well as his wife. He followed the Lord in baptism as well. **We are praying for his wife, Rosio**, to be baptized and his sons, **Juan and Mattias**, to be saved and baptized as well. They all faithfully attending church.

We have had two separate **New Members’ Classes** for those interested in joining our church family. These are wonderful times where we hear everyone share their salvation testimony. We go through our doctrinal statement and then through a lesson or two on what it means to be a good church member. We have had three join the church as a result, and three others who will join shortly.

For the past few years our church family has gone to a local park to offer free Face Painting to families there as a way to connect and evangelize the neighborhood. Many Torontonians do not have their own yard. They use the city parks for play, BBQ, picnics, and their children’s sports games. This is a great opportunity to interact with people and invite them to church. We were very thankful for those who came from sister churches around the Toronto area to help, as well as many of our own church family. We had a great turnout with a constant flow of children for three hours.

For the second year in a row we held a Day Camp for Kids. For one week from 9-3 we offer a Day Camp. We mailed 7,000 flyers to the community, talked to every contact we had, and encouraged our own people to attend this camp. We had 14 kids, three of whom were from the neighborhood mailing and had never attended our church before! **After camp finished, ALL expressed interest in returning to church.** One was a Hindu family, newly immigrated from India, They were helping their 7-year-old son daily work to memorize John 3:16. They said they made sure he didn’t just memorize it, but that they took the time to explain the words! Please pray for **Stavia and his family**. Also, **Makar** has recently arrived from Ukraine when his family fled the conflict there. These have all been introduced to the gospel and we are striving to maintain a relationship with them. Pray that the entire family might be saved. **Emilie** lives nearby and we hope comes to church also. Please pray for them.

We want to thank all the volunteers who assisted!! We could not possibly run this camp on our own! We began praying during the spring that if God wanted us to run this camp He would provide workers. During that time, we received confirmation of one church an hour away that they would send workers for two days. A handful of our own church people and two young ladies from Indiana and Mexico both emailed us “out of the blue” indicating they would be in Toronto on the days of camp and did we need any help? They all came and were a tremendous help. We are so thankful for short term missions help! It truly makes a big difference.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cory McTague'.

Cory McTague

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