



# REACH VANCOUVER UPDATE

## The Conner Family / Summer - Fall 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

First of all, I need to apologize for the delay in this update being sent out. The last several months have been as busy and challenging as we have ever experienced in ministry, and we want to give God the glory for His grace and strength to His church. Since our last update, so much has happened, and I will do my best to catch you up to speed.

This past summer, we were able to begin having church in person again, and to our amazement, all COVID restrictions were lifted for churches. And thankfully, despite the implementation of vaccine passports to access certain elements of our society, the restrictions for churches have remained unchanged here in Vancouver. This has been a huge answer to prayer after so many months of lockdowns and online only ministry. Though the restrictions we faced were challenging, we have been amazed to see God continue to work, and provide, not only for us, but for other local churches in our area.



Our family at our 7th Anniversary service, and 1st service in our new building!

For City Baptist, one of the most incredible ways that God has been working, was in miraculously providing a new space for worship and growth. As you know, we have been looking and praying for a new place to move the church into for the last several years. But the availability and cost was such a deterrent for us, that it really would have to be an act of God for us to see something come available. Well, behind the scenes, God was working, and through His clear direction and leading, City Baptist Church now has a church building to meet in, without having to leave the city limits!

Just about a year ago, God put me in contact with a church that at the time had closed down. Through a connection with someone I knew in high school, I was able to connect with the conference that was now making decisions about the building. Over the next several months, we had many conversations and I was able to share with them the history and vision of City Baptist. After many months of prayer, they opened the doors to allow us to lease the building from them. I wish I could take the time to give you all the details, but the short story is that we are able to lease the building for our Sunday and Mid-Week services, have two permanent offices, and use it for other special events, for only a \$900 per month increase to what we were paying at the Tap Studio.



A photo from a recent service. We are so thankful for a lot of room to grow!

As well, since the building is in need of a lot of updating and repair, they have given us permission to play a large role in making decisions for the future. This has allowed our church family to really take ownership of the building. And so since we received the keys in August, we have been hard at work painting, installing drywall, upgrading lighting and electrical, as well as many more projects that needed to be done.



A few of our new volunteers at a recent training luncheon.

The building is still not where we would like to be, but it has been amazing to see God bring together the right people, including some professional tradesmen who have volunteered their time, to help us get the building into a usable condition. I am so thankful for the generosity of our church family, who have been giving faithfully the last five years to our “future fund”, which has allowed us to be able to do some of the necessary updates immediately. However, we do still have some financial needs if we are going to continue to see the building projects move forward. Would you pray with us that God would provide the necessary funds to see the auditorium painted (est \$6,500), as well as upgrade the seating, (est \$15,000) lighting and sound (est \$20,000). We are doing our best to make an old building feel safe, welcoming and comfortable for the many guests we believe God will send our way.

Overall, the potential of the building is unbelievable as we truly believe that God has provided this space for a reason, and that is to see it filled with the many who need Christ in this community. It was so hard for us when it seemed like God was closing the door for us to plant our second location in the River District in September 2020. But without us realizing it, He was working out a situation where we would move the entire church to that neighbourhood, and open a door for us to directly impact that same part of the city with the Gospel.

Already, we have seen the Lord work with five people accept Christ as their Saviour. As well, just a few weeks ago we were able to baptize seven in our baptistry, that thankfully works! We also recently hosted a well attended young adults event, started up Fall discipleship with over ten registered, and had our Missions Emphasis weekend with a Faith Promise Commitment of over \$40,000. We can only give God praise for His goodness and continued work.



Those who recently were baptized.

I want you to know that your prayers for our family are not in vain. God has been working on your behalf, and the next stage of ministry for City Baptist Church is an exciting future. Please continue to pray for us as we are still transitioning and adjusting to the new building, and that God would use us to make a difference and reach our neighbourhood with the Gospel. We are so thankful for you and your love for our family.

Your friends,

**Paul & Jenette Conner**

*Maximus, Myles, Owen & Royal*

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