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THE JOURNAL OF EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL/CANADA
JULY/AUGUST 2019

A FAMINE OF HEARING THE WORDS OF THE LORD

By Denys Blackmore



The Old Testament prophet, Amos, prophesied that there would be a famine of hearing the Words of the Lord as part of judgement on people because of their blatant disregard of God's ways. The consequences of this famine would be so dire that even the young and strong would become weak and fall useless (Amos 8:11).

When Old Testament prophets spoke God's Word to the people, they pointed them in the right direction and positioned them to experience God's blessing in the whole of life. **Failure to hear and follow the Word of the Lord resulted in dire consequences.**

We now live in New Testament times with the new covenant in Jesus Christ. The written Word of God we are blessed to have contains all that pertains to life and godliness for now and eternity. God's Word is our life, our light, our hope, our solid ground.

Acts 6:7 describes what happens when the Word of God is presented to the larger public. Faith comes, conscience is guided, society is affected positively, lives are renewed by its power.

In Canada today, one could think that there is indeed a famine of hearing the Word of God, and the evidence is growing day by day.

However, we are seeing that when the gospel message reaches people, intersecting their path where they live and where they go, there is a response. The simple fact is that there is a harvest all around us. In every corner of this nation there are people whose hearts are open to the Gospel.

The least we can do as God's people is to help increase the presence of the Gospel so

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HONDURAS: A LAND OF BEAUTY AND DARKNESS

They place themselves at great risk to reach lost people. “In and out of season,” Paul wrote. For some, the out of season is a long and difficult road. Still, they go, just as Jesus asks that we all do.

The EHC team in Honduras focuses on the mission before them, not on the challenge. Where most would see only the bad and threatening, they see a harvest. But the dangers are real in this nation where even the judicial system is marred in corruption and abuse.

Honduras has one of the world’s highest rate of homicides. Crime is rampant everywhere. It is so pervasive that the tourism department actually gives a list of tips to help visitors stay safe. This land of immense natural beauty is bathed in darkness and corruption.

Gangs hold tight control over neighbourhoods and many residents are afraid to even have conversations with outsiders. But in all this darkness, there are hungry hearts and Christians are bravely taking the message

of salvation, hope and peace right into the heart of these crime-ridden communities.

In a place like this, it is vital to bring the gospel message to people, to create opportunities for light to pierce the darkness and to make disciples that will multiply.

In a work like this, every victory is huge. Here are some testimonies that give a glimpse into this unique mission field.

HOME-TO-HOME OUTREACH

“We visited the community of El Paso. At one home, we met Mr. Javier Lopez. He listened to the gospel message and committed his life to the Lord. He then asked that we share this same message with his wife, Nora. She also



FINDING THE HOPE: THE PROCESS IS WORKING!

EHC Canada is committed to the process of evangelism and through the *Finding the Hope* outreach we encourage churches to think that way.

We encourage pastors and congregations to reach their communities intentionally and with focus. It's a multi-faceted and necessary process that includes prayer, every home gospel message saturation, cultivation, gathering of the harvest, and discipleship training and equipping that generates multiplication.

Assemblée Chrétienne du Nord, a French congregation in the city of Saint-Jérôme, Québec is an outstanding example of what happens when this process is undertaken and sustained.

Saint-Jérôme is a very secular city just north of Montreal with approximately 35,000 homes. The total evangelical church attendance in the whole city would be less than 300 people. This church, led by Pastor Isaac Baize, engaged in a first phase of outreach in late 2018, reaching 7,500 homes just prior to Christmas. The *Finding the Hope* packet included an invitation to special events. An unprecedented crowd attended with scores of new people showing up.

Cultivation of the new contacts resulted in visitors returning and people committing their lives to Christ. They engaged in a second phase of outreach leading up to Easter, reaching an additional 21,442 homes. In addition to people

responding at events, many others wrote in and requested the EHC follow-up book, *7 Days with Jesus*.

THE PASTOR'S REPORT

- We announced the events on local Christian Radio.
- We systematically called the people who had attended past evangelistic events to invite them once again. We gave them our address and offered transportation to those who needed it.
- We had two events announced in the *Finding the Hope* packet that Every Home for Christ provided by mailing to each



Mapping out the area of outreach.

home. Also, door hangers were taken to homes complementing the mailed-in materials as people walked and prayed.

- A testimony night entitled, “An Evening of Hope” was held to make the connection to Every Home for Christ’s *Trouver l’espoir* banner which is proudly displayed on the front of our church building. During the evening, Vahen King, author of *Going Farther*, shared a powerful testimony of her broken life and God’s unconditional love. There were 25 first time visitors and many returning visitors. That night at least 6 people gave their lives to Jesus. We normally begin these events with free coffee and dessert ½ hour before the service. A total of 178 people attended the evening’s events.
- Easter Sunday Service. We invited the community to attend our Easter service announcing a Gospel Music presentation by our choir. The Sunday morning attendance was 283, with at least 60 children present. Usual attendance would be 120-140. We ran out of space and had to add chairs in the church auditorium. Four people were baptized that morning and each one shared the personal testimony of conversion. Following these testimonies an altar call was given and 4 people came forward to receive Christ as their Saviour.

A TESTIMONY

“It was Saturday morning, a group of men and I were walking around town distributing literature to people we met on the street. As we turned a corner to walk up another street, there was a woman whose car was stuck in a snowbank. We offered our assistance and she gladly accepted. We got her car out of the snowbank, then told her that Jesus loves her and we did not believe that it was chance that led us to cross her path. She responded that she didn’t believe it was chance either. She shared that she was going through a very difficult time. We invited her to attend our ‘Evening of Hope’ and repeated again that Jesus loves her and that she was welcome to visit our church. Once she got back in the car, she did not leave right away. She started crying. As one of our men approached her once again he was able to encourage and console her. We took her

contact information and she told us that she would do everything in her power to come to our event. This woman came to our Sunday service and she gave her life to the Lord. She is being disciplined by a mature Christian in our congregation.”

ONGOING IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

- We have noticed that people in our community are beginning to recognize us and are coming back to the church. Since our Christmas outreach with Every Home for Christ, our people are seriously motivated to see souls saved. We have distributed thousands of booklets and invitations and believers are encouraged because they know they are doing what the Lord has asked them to do.
- We have welcomed more than 20 new converts in the past three months. We have come to realize that people are attending church on Sunday because they were touched by the literature distribution. This has encouraged us to faithfully pray that the literature distributed through Every Home for Christ will continue to touch the hearts of those who have received it.
- In April, a man came to church and gave his heart to Christ, because he had received the literature from our Christmas outreach. The lesson we have learned as a church is that we have to remain faithful in our evangelism efforts, praying that the seeds sown in the hearts of people will grow.
- Ongoing considerations (cultivation) for the future include using significant dates (special holidays) in the community to reach people with the message of the Gospel.
- We praise the Lord for the ministry of Every Home for Christ and the powerful impact they have made in our local church to encourage us in our mission to win souls in the community where the Lord has placed us.

Let’s remember Pastor Isaac Baize and his congregation as they continue to cultivate their mission field in Saint-Jérôme, QC. May the Lord give an unprecedented increase as they sow and pray.



The hope of the Gospel shared among the people of Honduras.

surrendered her life to the Lord and now, they are preparing to be baptized and want to serve the Lord.” *Let’s pray for the multiplication of disciples like Javier and Nora.*

“The morning of February 13, 2019, we went to one neighbourhood after another where the ‘watchmen’ would not allow us to do our evangelistic work. Because we were hindered, we made our way to a dangerous neighbourhood ruled by 18 gangs. We met several people who refused the Gospel and said they go to church when they feel guilt, but don’t want to make a commitment to the Lord. But two people prayed to receive Christ and His salvation. They are Adriana and Walter. In another neighbourhood where crime is high and the violence is increasing, we were able to reach out with the Gospel and many people received Christ.” *Let’s pray for Adriana and Walter and for many more to be opened to the Gospel of salvation.*

A CHURCH’S VISION FOR EVANGELISM

In early March, Pastor Barahona contacted EHC to ask for help taking the gospel message to two neighbourhoods. He said, “For 30 years this place has been plagued with gangs who keep growing and persuading young people to join their illegal groups. We need to give the gospel message here.” In their strategic outreach, they were able to give 456 gospel messages to people who received them. *Let’s pray for Pastor Barahona and his team, and for the gospel message to take root in their neighbourhoods.*

COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING

In late March, 77 people came to a day of prayer and evangelism training. EHC also provided evangelism material to those who attended. The event was attended by pastors, leaders in evangelism and many young people eager to learn. The team reports that “a total of 11 churches were represented. The day was filled with joy and the church in Choloma has been awakened. Everyone was impressed that our ministry has material, resources, training, personnel, logistics to create evangelism events and home-to-home outreach. The church in Choloma has neglected evangelism for a long time and it will take many years to reach all of Choloma.” *Let’s pray for more churches to join this long-term outreach and that many in Choloma will open their hearts to the Gospel.*



Outdoor events bring the message of Jesus in new and engaging ways.

May the power and light of the Gospel of Christ overcome the darkness in Honduras!



Going home by home introduces Jesus to people right where they are!

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more and more people may be exposed to these wonderful words of life.

As we celebrate Canada's nationhood, I pray that God will move all our hearts to implore Him for a revival of His Church in Canada—that His

people would wholeheartedly love Him, love His Word and love His mission to reach lost people. Then, that we may faithfully pray for an awakening in every section of our population to a deep and personal need of Christ as Saviour and Lord.

LEGACIES OF LOVE

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Every Home for Christ gratefully acknowledges:

Gift From	In Memory Of	Gift From	In Memory Of
Anonymous	Rev. Jack MacKenzie	Peggy Longworth	Aunt, Shirley Moore
Mrs. Anita Aker	Mom, E. Harris	Mrs. Nancy McCormick	Mother, Jean Williams
Dr. & Mrs. Gerry Bristow	Mother, Mary Stregger	Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Myers	Son, Scott
Rev. Gary Churchill	Douglas Churchill		Daughter, Barbara
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Shirley Jaakkola	Mr. & Mrs. Jaakkola	Mr. Peter Wiebe	Brother, Henry
	Michelle Espina	Mrs. Gloria Willoughby	Father, Joseph Grieco
Alma King	Norma King		
Mr. Dave Klassen	Helen Klassen	IN HONOUR OF:	
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Klym	Don & Joanne Hait	Ruben & Ruth Dietrich	Their 60th Anniversary

Harvest Partner is a monthly publication of

Every Home for Christ International/Canada

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The vision of EHC is to reach everyone, everywhere, with the message of the Gospel. Established in Canada in 1946, this ministry has taken the Good News of Jesus to over 2 billion homes in nearly 200 nations and have followed up with over 230 million people who have written to express their desire to know Christ.

President/CEO: Denys Blackmore **Vice President:** Jacqueline Dugas



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