

Thanks **4** Supporting Bridge of Hope



...Whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Cor. 9:6)



Dear Friends,

Thank you for sowing generously into our ministry. Good things are happening, but we are also facing a big challenge as we move into winter. First, I want you to know how your prayers and financial support has been impacting lives in Waterloo.



On October 30, we chose to love the community in a radical way, even though we really lacked the funds to do it. We once again gathered on the front lawn of Tim & Kim Kemp to bless kids and parents as they go out trick or treating. We gave away nearly 800 hot dogs, 25 gallons of hot chocolate, and a giant tub of candy. We also gave out Bibles and invited people to share prayer requests. This event is a wonderful illustration of who we are... blessed to be a blessing.

Terri Proksch recently shared her thoughts about BOH on Facebook. I think her words will help you see who we really are as well.

"I would recommend BOH to anyone looking for a church home in Waterloo! Before I moved out of state I attended BOH and how I miss it. The thing that I miss the most is the LOVE that this church shows everyone. Every Sunday when you go you know you will be greeted with love, acceptance and affection. Pastor Kevin is such a gifted speaker his biblical teachings will stay with you all week so you can't help but grow spiritually. The praise band led by Rev. Floyd is so awesome you can't help but be moved and uplifted by the music!"

Clearly, good things are happening at BOH.

At the same time, we are facing a huge challenge. We need additional financial support. This summer, I did some research on our congregation's make-up and how it compared to 5 years ago. (see the "BOHreport2Classis" at www.bridgeofhopechurch.com/pray4us.html.) What I found even surprised me...

1. 57.1% were working full time salaried jobs, now it's only 17.6%.
2. We had no fulltime students (college), now students make up 17.6% of our attendees.
3. When we started, we had one person unemployed, now 20.4% are unemployed.
4. 22.2% were 18 years or younger, now they make up 35.7% and 61.6% are in single parent homes!

Add to this, some key individuals moving away and you have a congregation with financial challenges.

Our Steering Team is looking into ways we can cut costs for 2012, but even with the freezing of all non-essential budget lines, we need to bring in over \$25,000 in 2011.

Your gift will help us keep connecting people with God. You can send your gift to Bridge of Hope at the address below or give online at http://www.bridgeofhopechurch.com/support_us.html. Paypal does charge for this service, but especially for our friends in Canada this service is valuable because it converts your gift to the American dollar.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our ministry.

Your Partner in Building Bridges,

Kevin Van Wyk

Helping people connect with God and
experience hope and meaning in life...