



**🇨🇦 Scarborough, ON, CA**

Rev. Mitch Persaud



*There have been some wonderful things that have happened this past year at New Horizon,* and few not-so-wonderful things. Let me mention a few of the wonderful things.

Isabel Li professed her faith and was baptized after attending worship for 17 ½ years...yes, you heard that right. (I mentioned this in our last full newsletter.) Many tears and prayers went up for this dear lady! What joy she brought to us and to heaven! She is progressing well in her faith. Baptizing her was the 2nd greatest highlight of my service in ministry, our children’s professions of faith being the 1st.

Saverna Jeffrey, an East Indian single lady from Guyana, made profession of faith and was baptized this year. She has only missed worship once in almost 3 years...and that was because of a snow storm. She listens attentively to the sermons and loves to bring snacks for fellowship times (so she is a favorite of mine).

In July this year Arthur Lam, a Hong Kong native and recent university graduate in engineering, was baptized after attending worship for quite a few years. God has blessed him with great insight into his Word and he has taught Bible studies at univer-



Saverna's baptism

sity even before he was baptized. He has a sharp mind and loves engaging others (often over-excitedly) in theological discussions. And don't bring liberal ideas to him.

Our seminary student, Enoch Chow, has completed his 2nd year at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. This summer he is serving as intern at Covenant URC in Toronto, under Pastor Al Bezuyen. Enoch proposed to Liz So (and she accepted), a wonderful Korean American, and they hope to be married next year. So New Horizon will get a new variety of members, a Chinese/Korean mix. (We only have a Korean/Mexican couple.) God's kingdom is colorful.

We are thankful to have Ben Verdonk (He's Dutch, if that is not evident), a student intern from Living Water URC, working with us on a part time basis, as he continues his seminary training. Ben is a very engaging and outward looking young man. He will be involved with the young people and develop new outreach contacts. He will do some preaching as well

We were excited to receive a couple of covenant babies as well this past year.

One of our desires is that the Lord will bring a couple more solid families, along with another potential elder candidate. This will open up the opportunity to organize as a congregation.

Please designate support for New Horizon and send to Cornerstone URC, 180 Waterloo St. London. ON N6B 2M9, Canada. Thanks for your continued prayer and financial support. We need them both.



New Horizon kids



Arthur's baptism

# Tepic, Mexico

Pastor Matthew Van Dyken

## *Greetings from Tepic, Mexico! There are a number of firsts that I would like to share with you.*

First of all, in June we had our first joint retreat with the Reformed Church in Puerto Vallarta. Pastor Zack and Sandy Anderson have been there for quite some time now, and the Lord has blessed their labours. Our churches are more than three hours apart, so we haven't historically had too much physical contact with them other than pulpit exchanges. But this year, our church in Tepic invited them to our yearly retreat at the coast. It was quite the blessing. We had over a 100 people. Lots of work! But lots of helping hands. We look forward to their invitation to come to Vallarta a year from now.

Secondly, our church in Tepic sponsored their first Mexican summer intern. His name is Jasiel Ramirez, and he is a second year student at the National Presbyterian Seminary at Mexico City. It was a great encouragement to have him with us for six weeks. He came to the Lord later in life, and coming from a broken home, can relate to people here in ways that I cannot. His preaching was well received, and many people had him in their homes. It was good for the church too, in the sense that we trust it has matured them to think about the responsibility of providing for a Mexican pastor someday.



Our third first is not a first for the church but for ourselves. The Lord willing, we will be back on furlough from the middle of December, 2019 to the middle of June, 2020. We have been on the field since 2012, and we are looking forward to being closer to aging parents and to a rest. We trust that it will be good for the church to become more independent and to take on more responsibilities. Different men will be here to cover for the preaching.

Our final first is in terms of seeking to buy our own building. The church here has grown quite a bit, and the building we presently rent is not really suited anymore. We would like to continue in the center of Tepic, however, which brings the cost up. This will also require us to be registered with the government, so there are a lot of details to be figured out. Our hope is that our supporting churches will be able to pay for the land, while the local church here pays for the building.



In your prayers for us, if you could remember to pray for the Lord to raise up godly men, that would be greatly appreciated. Our deacon Irving has reached the end of his term, and we are hoping to elect another one in his place soon. Thank-you for your steady support and prayers, of which we are mindful.

In Christ,

Matt Van Dyken

