

## MODERATOR & LEAD PASTOR REPORTS

### MODERATOR

Gord Braun

I was recently greatly encouraged by the release of the album "This is Our God" by our own Central Heights Worship Team, which is now available on most streaming platforms. The songs on the album articulate the character of our amazing God based on Exodus 34:6-7 which reads:

*And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."*

There is so much to praise God for in that short passage of scripture! As a church, we have been called to proclaim the God spoken of in this passage to our city and beyond. Through the completed work of his son Jesus on Calvary's cross, and through his resurrection, our Father God has clearly demonstrated to us the compassion, grace, patience, love, forgiveness, power and faithfulness spoken of in this passage. What a privilege and responsibility it is to think that the God who created the universe has chosen us to partner with him to proclaim this message of hope to the world. Through the many ministries of Central Heights Church, which go far beyond our Sunday morning worship and teaching gatherings, together with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are doing just that. This happens through the many avenues that our church is involved in such as our Community Groups, Women's Ministries, Youth, Kids Church, Wee College, Kid's Camp, Men's Groups, Worship Arts, our Prayer Ministry, Aid and Assistance, Global Missions, Marriage Ministries, and so much more! When I think back on the many years Julie and I have been attending Central Heights, most if not all of these have blessed us and our family in some way, and I am so grateful for that!

When I reflect on all these ministries, and how they have touched me personally, I am also so thankful for our pastors and church staff who serve by leading and coordinating these many opportunities so that this message can be shared with us and proclaimed to our community. But they can't do it alone, and that's where we come in. As we receive blessings from our Lord through these many ministries, if you're able, why not consider how you can also serve our God and bless others by getting involved with one of them? When we serve, it's an act of worship and through our service we ourselves are blessed.

Your Elder Council is firmly committed to supporting the ministries of Central Heights Church. Together let's amplify and multiply this message of love and hope to a hurting world. ■



# LEAD PASTOR

David Morelli

I've always been drawn to David in the Bible. There's many reasons why but one is David's first act as the King of Israel. David had many responsibilities and almost endless possibilities for what he could do as king. But when he ascended the throne, he chose to bring the ark of the covenant back and put it at the centre of the nation's life. The ark was where God's presence rested and he spoke to his people. As king, David wanted the person and presence of God to be close to the people, and the people to be near to God.



Now, I'm no king but I do long to see the manifest presence of God among his people. So, at the start of the ministry year, we set our focus on the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

*<sup>a</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," declares the Lord.'* Jeremiah 29:13-14

What a promise God has made: when you seek me, you will find me. God is not playing hide and seek with us; he's made himself available to know and enjoy. He waits for us to want him, and he promises that we will find him when we seek him. This promise became our focus this year and we let it fuel a desire in us to create a culture of prayer and worship that prioritizes the person of Jesus and our pursuit of him.

To live into this, we launched our first weekly Prayer Room; a space of worship and prayer making room for people to meet with God and intercede for our church, city, region, and nation. To date, 281 people have visited the Prayer Room, with an average of 20 people gathering to pray each week. In the Prayer Room, I see a culture of prayer and worship developing.

I also see it growing as our worship community released a live album called 'This is Our Lord' based on Exodus 34:6-8. Each song was written, sung, and mastered by those serving in our worship ministry in order

to magnify the God we worship, both in our own church and beyond it as well. I'm proud of this team and how they used their God given creativity and giftedness to put words and music together in order to bring God glory.



Add to this the study and engagement with the truth of Scripture in the Women's and Men's groups that gather weekly or the conversations happening in our youth Life Groups, and I see a culture of prayer, worship, and Scripture forming. I could tell

you story after story of the way God showed up and moved among us this past year as we pressed into this. Here's just one story among many:

'One of the most impactful 8PM worship nights happened in the summer. We created a unique way for anyone to testify how God's brought them out of their own personal Egypt. It was incredibly powerful. Once the evening was officially over, no one moved. One person yelled 'sing again!' We continued worshipping until we were forced to stop because of the building's alarm.'

This is a people with a hunger to be with God and worship him! I pray God will grow this hunger for him in us, so that Central Heights would truly be a place where God is present and extravagantly worshipped.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next year the pastoral team will continue to emphasize the following three areas:



### PRESENCE

*We will cultivate a culture of prayer and worship that prioritizes the person and presence of God.*



### COMMUNITY

*We will pursue spiritual formation and mission through a community based model of ministry.*



### KINGDOM

*We will embrace the Kingdom vision of Jesus and love our city, the region, and the world through acts of justice and service.*

Together as a team, we will host a prayer and worship event beyond our weekly Prayer Room, serve a meal to international students from UFV, and partner with a local organization to reach out to the community. I'm very excited about how God will take these efforts to draw people to himself.

I am also thrilled to announce that after a year-long discernment process involving elders, pastors, and over 100 lay leaders in our church, we will unveil our new vision and values in September! God has led us every step of the way and laid a vision before us that I cannot wait to share and begin living out with you. The future is exciting and I'm grateful to share the journey with you Central Heights. I love you. ■