

**MERCY**   
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A photograph of three people smiling in a church setting. A woman on the left is holding a coffee cup. A man in the center is wearing a blue polo shirt. A woman on the right is wearing a light-colored blazer. The background shows a brick wall and a television screen.

**Building Foundations,  
Restoring Hope**

**Case for Support**

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# A Vulnerable Neighbourhood

## McQuesten, Hamilton

The McQuesten neighbourhood is one of the more financially stretched areas in Hamilton, with many residents facing the daily challenges of poverty. The community includes a high number of single-parent households, and students often face barriers to learning that can make academic success more difficult to achieve.

After prayerfully surveying 21 neighbourhoods in 2018, Mercy Church felt a clear and compassionate call to be a gospel presence in this vibrant and resilient community.



**Almost 50%**

Of the people residing in McQuesten live in poverty.



**A community  
in need of  
hope.**

# A Witness is Established

The church has grown from its launch of 90 people in September 2019 to 325 attending each week, being instituted in 2022.



**90**  
members

**MERCY**  
instituted

**325**  
members

2019

2022

2025



## Soft Launch

First time worshipping together – September, 2019



## Love for God's Children

Mercy has always looked for every opportunity to be present in the McQuesten community, to be involved in events, and become familiar with the people.



**“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness the prisoners.”**

Isaiah 61: 1-2

# **We are a Reformed church in East Hamilton that glorifies God through gospel-centred worship, intentional discipleship, and the promotion of the gospel both locally and abroad.**

Mercy Church preaches the full council of God's Word while extensively reaching the McQueston neighbourhood.

- We walk alongside single mothers,
- advocate for youth caught in street life,
- assist with groceries and job connections,
- prepare welcome baskets for Indwell tenants, and
- host drop-in programs and a Moms & Tots group.

All of it is rooted in the desire to proclaim Christ not only in word, but in tangible acts of mercy and love.



## **Mercy Youth**

Mercy Youth ministers to groups of high schoolers every week.

## The Mercy Center

We rent a modest storefront, which we have called the Mercy Center. It is a hub for prayer, Bible study, pastoral care, and community outreach throughout the week.

This space has been a wonderful blessing to our church and the surrounding community, but our ministry is outgrowing it.

## Sports & Tutoring

Local children drop in every Tuesday for sports and tutoring.



# The Witness is Displaced

Mercy Church had been renting a local Catholic Church for Sunday services in the McQuesten neighbourhood, but was displaced when this building suffered a significant basement flood. That building had its limitations - steep stairs, no nursery, unreliable elevator - but it had been a gift.

God provided Guido School as a meeting place which is only 3 km away, but for many in our neighbourhood without cars or mobility, it might as well be across the city. We've arranged rides, but the barrier is daunting. At our current size, renting space in McQuesten is challenging.



# God's Missional Heart

Being thankful for God's work in our lives, we long to extend His grace to individuals and families in McQuesten. Our guiding Scripture is from Ephesians 2:

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ -

**by grace you have been saved"**

We prayerfully and intentionally share God's love in all of our ministries.



## **40** Children

Our Tuesday Drop-In sees up to 40 children each week for worship and a bible story, a meal, sports, and tutoring.

## **100** Participants

Our Summer Games Night impacts up to 100 children each week.

## **30** Teenagers

Mercy Youth ministers to 30 youth on a weekly basis.

We bless this neighbourhood with a Moms and Tots program, community-wide clean up, a Christmas flower drop for 1000 families and by volunteering at the McQuesten Urban Farm.



# God is at work.

God has saved several neighbours in the six years we've been here, and we have introduced a multi-generational Bible Study with a number of women attending from the community and two evangelistic small groups meeting on different nights with between 25 – 35 people in attendance.

**“Mercy Christian Church was a beacon of light in the darkest time of my family’s lives . Their love and support changed our lives for the better . I truly believe they were a blessing from the Lord to our neighborhood . We never felt at home here until we became a part of Mercy! Mercy became the family we never knew we needed.”**

- Mary Davis-Ramage



# Seeking God's Provision

We have prayerfully and diligently searched for property in McQuesten—mostly storefronts or former factories—but nothing has met the unique needs of our ministry.

Recently the Lord has brought an ideal property to our attention that will be available in September 2025.

We are currently asking everyone who considers Mercy home to sacrificially give to our Building Foundations, Restoring Hope campaign. We are praying for equal sacrifice with various amounts – everyone sacrificially giving, knowing the amounts will vary.

Our congregation, made up largely of modest-income earners, cannot pursue this vision alone.

**We are prayerfully seeking partners to join us in this journey of faith.**

Specifically, we are asking the Lord to provide **\$2 million in seed funding through pledges and gifts by the end of 2025 to enable the purchase of the property.** We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might join us in the Lord's work in McQuesten.

Following this target amount, we will continue this drive to reach the targeted amount to build our new church and outreach center.

**OUR GOAL: \$2 Million**





## Partner with us



### PRAY

Pray for the leadership and members of Mercy Church that God would provide what is necessary to see this vision come to life!



### SHARE

If you have someone in your life with a passion for the spread of the Gospel within our nation, please prayerfully share this campaign with them.



### GIVE

We are praying for equal sacrifice with various amounts – everyone sacrificially giving, knowing the amounts will vary.

# A Message from Pastor Ian Wildeboer

Brothers and sisters, friends of Mercy,

From the start, we've always said that Mercy Church is not just about Sundays. It's about being present - right here - in the heart of McQuesten.

It's about living and proclaiming the mercy of God in a neighbourhood that is in great need for more faithful gospel witness.

We've seen the Lord do more than we asked or imagined. From a handful of families meeting in Sept of 2019 to over 300 people gathering weekly, from youth on the margins to women studying the Word around tables in the Mercy Centre, Christ is building His church. But we are at a crossroads.

We believe the Lord is placing an opportunity before us to purchase a permanent home for Mercy Church, right here in the community we serve. A place for worship. A place for discipleship. A place where kids can run and learn and be loved in Jesus' name. A place where the gospel is preached and practiced every day of the week.

But we won't be able to see this vision through without your help.

We are asking every member of Mercy Church and everyone who shares our vision for the gospel to prayerfully consider how you can give, from the way the Lord has blessed you. We are not asking for equal amounts. But we are praying for equal sacrifice.

This is only the beginning. After the land is secured, we will need to keep building, both with bricks and mortar, but with continued generosity, prayer, and love.

Let's not let this moment pass us by. The need is urgent. The door is open. The witness is alive. And the Lord is faithful.

Would you join us? Would you give, so that Christ may be known more fully in McQuesten - even for generations to come?

With gratitude and hope,

**Pastor Ian Wildeboer**  
Mercy Church, East Hamilton







# Trusting God for the Future

With God's leading, we are stepping out in faith to raise \$2 million by the end of 2025 to purchase a property in McQuesten - one that we believe the Lord has graciously placed before us. This is the first step in a greater vision. Once this initial goal is met, and with God's continued provision, we will move forward in expanding and building a new church and outreach center that will serve our community for generations to come. We trust that He who has begun this work will be faithful to complete it, and we invite you to prayerfully consider how you might partner with us in this mission.

