



Dear Prayer Partners,

March 17, 2021

Ottawa is currently in an orange “Restrict” zone in response to Covid-19. Ontario is using a colour zoned map in response to the different geographical case counts. Ottawa has been in the orange for several weeks now and our service attendance and our re-connecting in-person has been gaining momentum.

There are reports and rumors that we will go backwards into the red “Control” (interesting word choice, “eh”) zone any day now. If we are placed in the red, the venue where we are holding services will be in danger of closing again.

The government tagline right now is “Stay home, stay safe, save lives.” The repetition of this message to the public has been effective, and even Christians are questioning the importance of assembling in-person when we are permitted to do so.

Praises

- 1) We are currently having discipleship Bible studies with two individuals who are requesting to be baptized.
- 2) We have a man that faithfully attends our Church planting services. His wife has had health problems and has been hospitalized for about a year now. Honestly, her condition seemed that it would stay with her the rest of her life. After much prayer and various successful treatments, she will return to live at home this week! Our small congregation REALLY knows that God answered a BIG prayer request for us!

Prayer

Please pray for the future of religious freedom in Canada. Nationwide, a few Churches, Pastors, and Church members have received fines and summons to courts during the Covid-19 government shutdowns. The fines and court cases are for various violations to the Provinces’ *Public Health Act* or *Re-opening Act*. Courts have been stalling on these cases, but now some court dates have been set. The first few court rulings are very important because they will set a precedent for future cases. It seems the next few months will be crucial to the future of religious freedoms in Canada.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support!
The Smiths

