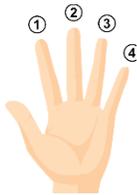


To the Members of Oromocto Baptist Church:

We are excited to share with you our new motto at OBC. As you can see, it reads: “Training His People, Equipping His Leaders, Engaging His World”. This is not a new concept; we have been doing it for years, but putting it into words does help to bring clarity and focus to our calling as a church family.



Thank you for your commitment to, **“love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”** Luke 10:27 Your church family stands with you as you seek to live this out daily, and in so doing, you will experience the true fullness of life. In fact, we’d like to give you a hand. Take a moment and look at the hand you normally write (or text) with. In just a few brief words, we want to share how that hand can be a reminder to help you grow abundantly in your Christian walk. Ready? Here we go...



- Thumbs - reminds us about the importance of weekly worship
- index finger – points us to connect with other Christians in conversations
- 2nd finger – reminds us to care for and serve our second family
- Ring finger – reminds us to love the world around us in practical ways
- Baby finger – remembering small steps in investing in Gods kingdom is powerful

Thumb - The thumbs up reminds you that it’s important to show up to worship with your church family. We know that we do not live in a society where we need to walk 2 hours each day to get to our daily water as some of our brothers and sisters do in other countries. Yet, we still seem crunched for time as commitments and exhaustion fill many of our days. The truth is, there will always be something that will push your time boundaries unless you set up a firewall. Build a hedge around your weekly worship service so you can keep your most important relationship strong as we worship God together.

“But I can’t” - This thought will come to each of us at some point. The truth is, you can. We have 3 weekly opportunities

- Sundays 1030am -**Sunday Morning Worship:** where we gather en masse at every age to worship.
- Tuesdays 1030am - **Retro:** a traditional service at our church plant above Guardian Drug on 225 Mitchell Street
- Saturdays 6pm - **Fill:** a Sermon Only & Scent Free interactive service in the OBC Family Room

p.s. If you are in a situation where you’ve tried and truly cannot make it out, we do, as a last option, live stream Sunday morning and catalogue the services though our webpage at obchurch.ca

Index finger- Make a point to connect with other Christians each week to talk about life and faith. The Christian life was never meant to be a lone ranger faith. We are made to function best and healthiest when we walk this journey together. God tells us it is not good to be alone (Gen 2:18) and He reminds us that these relationships keep us sharp and from becoming dull (Prov. 27:17). In a world where we virtually count friends on social media, we encourage you to physically meet with Christian friends that you can count on. So, block out 90 minutes once a week and flourish.

“I don’t know how” – Yeah, we agree this comes easier for some than others, but we are making it as painless as possible. There are a few groups that already exist and will be printed in the bulletin; however, new groups will be forming starting the week of September 16th. For 8 weeks we will be doing a series called “Starting Point” and each week we will have different life groups running to have conversations about faith. They’re easy to connect with. All you need to do is join in, and as you feel comfortable, talk about what you took from the message or video, as well as what questions or applications it

has in your life. The coordinator of these groups is Doug MacLean, and you can expect more info about this at church, through our webpage and other ways we're able to reach out.

2nd Finger - Choose to serve your 2nd family an hour per week. Through birth or adoption, we became part of our first family, and through being reborn and adoption, by God through Christ, we joined our 2nd family. We have various cares, joys and commitments to our first family, and we can witness to and demonstrate God's transforming power mightily in those families - but don't forget, you are part of an everlasting family. Remember healthy families gather together (thumb), encourage one another (index finger) and serve one another (2nd finger).

"There's no place for me... and/or I don't have the time." There is no lack of opportunity to serve within your church family. The battle is your willingness to assist in the chores. Most of our ministries require minimal training but need maximum enthusiasm. This could be nursery/ushering/worship team/administration/leading a ministry/hosting a life group/BBQing at events/youth ministry/counting offering/decorating/writing cards/committee work...etc. Many of these activities happen during times you may already be here for service (greeting on a Sunday morning), or are things you could incorporate into your household's weekly routine (make cookies for children's church). There is joy in serving.

Ring Finger- Love. Loving those outside our walls 2 hours per month. God's word points us in the direction to which His love flows (For God so loved the world) and how ours is to flow (Love your neighbor as yourself). One pastor once said, "The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members." We as a church have great responsibility and privilege to love the people in our community and globally as God loves them. In fact, Jesus says bluntly that how we treat "the least of these" is the true reflection of our faith (Matthew 25:40).

"I can't do the door knocking thing" No one is asking you to knock on doors. This monthly commitment can be formal (helping out at the foodbank, sewing dresses for Africa, organizing mission tours) things we do together - or informal (a meal for a sick neighbour, raking leaves for a senior, respite care for a caregiver) on your own. Just build into your lifestyle a desire and time commitment to "be light".

Baby Finger - baby steps of investing in the kingdom. We spend our lives investing, even when we are not aware of it. We invest in vehicles, in houses, in sports, in entertainment, in presents, etc. We pour out our finances in various channels and we in turn hope that we made a good choice and that the investment will have a lasting impact. There is nothing more lasting or rewarding than God's kingdom. God asks us to seek His kingdom first, and he will take care of the rest. Make a baby step or leap of faith and let God be the Lord of even your finances.

"I wish I could, but" First, know that this is completely between you and God, and never coerced. Scripture tells us, "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." In fact, the context of the verse talks about dependence on God and how we can be free from the thinking that we must hoard. We simply ask that you pray and act on any baby steps God lays out before you.

In closing, Pastor Perry was once at a training seminar and was asked about his priorities. As he listed them off, the instructor asked, *"Who put down family?... Ok great, now let's see if that's true or not.... look at your day-planner and look at your expenditures for the past month... because that's where the proof is."* It was an eye opener. Unless we are deliberate in planning and consistently seeking God to follow through, no matter how great our intentions we will find ourselves failing in the areas that we truly do believe matter most.

So, give yourself a hand! We hope you are as excited as we are going into a new season of training His people, equipping His leaders and engaging His world. As a next step, and to help us to determine our capacity to offer specific ministries, look to fill out a **starting point questionnaire**, either accompanying this letter, available in the church entrance, or from our webpage at obchurch.ca

From your Ministry Team at OBC:

Rev. Dr. Perry Hanley
Lead Pastor

Devon Palmer
Worship Director

Nigel Butterfield
Youth Director

Andrea Hanley
Children's Director

-Stronger Together