

WEEK 44 • NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Canada: A Vision of Hope (Blind Congregation)

Acts 20:35—“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Neena and her husband, Kevin, live in a high-rise apartment in Toronto, Canada. In many ways they live a normal life. But one thing is different. Neena and Kevin are visually impaired.

“Sighted people don’t know how to relate to blind people,” Kevin says. “It’s as if we’re not near them. I’d like to tell sighted people to please talk to us, get to know us.”

Several years ago, Kevin and Neena were asked to help establish an Adventist congregation for the visually impaired. The church’s goal is to lead blind people to Jesus and to provide emotional and spiritual healing and hope through God’s wonderful grace.

The group, now known as Hope Vision Fellowship, was formed to meet these needs. Today new visitors come through the doors regularly because they know they will be welcomed and feel safe here. With its own church now, Hope Vision Fellowship can open the door with more ways to assist the visually impaired.

“There are a lot of visually impaired people who need a refuge from the challenges they face every day,” Neena adds. “I want them to feel welcome and loved.”

Most of the people who attend the church are not Adventists. They come because they feel safe there. This congregation goes beyond meeting the spiritual needs of our community. We also help them meet some of their physical needs. Pat, one of the founding members, prepares food bags for the members to take home. “Most of our members can’t afford some of the basic necessities of life,” Pat says. “Some rely on food banks, but they can’t always get there. So, we try to help them get what they need and bring balance to their lives.”

Jesus touched the visually and the hearing impaired, healing them and calling them to follow Him. He wants us to do likewise. God asks His followers to return their tithe and give a regular and systemic offering, called Promise, every time they are paid. We give the offering to God through the church, and trust God to use it locally, regionally, and internationally as He sees fit. He in turn promises to supply all our needs “according to His riches” (Phil. 4:19 NKJV) and our faith to draw those who do not yet know Christ to find their way to the feet of Jesus. Let’s give willingly and bless abundantly.

