
Sunday, May 13, 2018
Did You Know?

Toronto City Mission Special Offering

On March 19, 2018 Members of Parliament voted on a motion on the Canada Summer Jobs program, a disappointing 93 in favour to 207 against. The motion would have affirmed that organizations that do non-political, non-activist work should be able to access summer student funding regardless of their private convictions -- whether or not they sign the attestation of values and beliefs.

The attestation, new to this year's form, requires groups to say their "core mandate" respects a variety of rights, including "the values underlying the Charter of Rights and Freedoms" and specifically mentions reproductive rights. In other words, unless an organization agrees to the Liberal party's understanding of no restrictions on abortion and the hiring of any person regardless of their sexual orientation, even if it goes against the Bible's teaching, they are not able to receive government funding.

Many Christian evangelical organizations that were depending on these funds were not able to sign the attestation and maintain their Christian convictions. In fact, we believe it is a violation of religious freedom. Toronto City Mission (TCM) was one such organization that refused to sign the attestation and was, thus, excluded from receiving government funding for their summer programs.

CoaH has partnered with, and served alongside TCM for over a decade in reaching the most needy communities within our city. After speaking with TCM leadership, we were told that they were depending on receiving \$100,000 from the government to pay for their summer staff. They are still in need of over \$60,000.

From a heart of Christian love, and a strong belief in the ministry of TCM, the Session of the church has decided that the CoaH congregation take a special offering for Toronto City Mission. The leadership team also decided that the church will match this special offering, up to \$30,000, from our church's general fund. The offering will be collected from May 13 - June 3. We hope and pray that each of you would give generously so that the Gospel could be communicated to hundreds of young people this summer.

Your pastors and elders,

Peter Yi
Jane Shin
Woohyun Jung
Michael Kim
John Park