



## Downtown Thorold Missional Expression

**Seeking the peace of the city. Jer. 29:7**

Over the last 6 years, a missional expression has been taking root in downtown Thorold. As of early last year, 2020, that missional expression was named “The Table.” The mission of The Table is to proclaim the gospel of Christ among the unreached urban poor in downtown.

This last year has been both challenging and rewarding amid COVID-19. It is certainly challenging due to the fact that we have not been able to gather and connect in an inner-city school as we have done in the past. However, God led us to gather and grow in a new way by meeting in our homes, garages, and carpools.

As of the summer, we started gathering in 4 separate locations throughout downtown Thorold to facilitate growth and comply with attendance limits. The format of the gatherings includes 3 practices: 1) *Growing In*; Connecting over food (people bring their own “picnic” in some cases). 2) *Growing Up*; Through prayer and dwelling in Scripture. 3) *Growing Out*; Exploring ways in which we can love and serve our community amid COVID-19.

One Table gathering is hosted by a family in their home on Saturday afternoons. It's been amazing to see the fruit that has developed there. For example, one individual was recently freed from addiction through laying on of hands and prayer. Furthermore, on August 3rd, we baptized a young lady in the pool in her backyard.

Another gathering is a ladies Table led by Karen Schilstra each Friday morning at our home on Maitland Street. One of our immediate neighbours has been joining and is exploring faith in Christ. Karen has had amazing opportunities to share the gospel and God is working in the hearts of these ladies.

To learn more about the story of The Table and our missional practices, I encourage you to pick up my book *Peace of the City - A Handbook for Missional Communities* at [peaceofthecity.ca](http://peaceofthecity.ca). All proceeds of the book go directly to support the mission of God in downtown Thorold. Thank you,

Terence Schilstra

Pastor/Planter

The Table, Downtown Thorold [thetable.downtown@gmail.com](mailto:thetable.downtown@gmail.com)