



OUR FOUR THREADS (SEWN)

SERVICE: Reaching out to the Church and the downtown community, helping with their immediate needs, creating opportunities to present the Gospel, promoting justice and righteousness in all church, social and civil spheres, and by applying Biblical truth to family, school, government, etc., to improve the quality of community life.

EVANGELISM: Training in the ministry of evangelism and apologetics, sponsoring events, building relationships with the sceptic and the unchurched, and supporting and growing the Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity, Toronto.

WORSHIP: Encouraging private worship and prayer, providing public worship opportunities, and building an awareness of God's awesome presence by celebrating in the administration of the sacraments, and by teaching that all of life is an opportunity for worship through obedience to the comprehensive and all-sufficient Word of God.

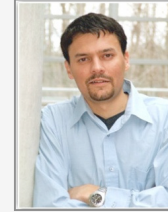
NURTURE: Equipping God's Covenant people, expounding and applying God's Word practically, by developing gifts and talents for building up the Kingdom of God, by encouraging godly character and environment.

OUR FUTURE

WE BELIEVE that God in His Covenant has promised His Church a glorious future in Jesus Christ (Isaiah 2). We look forward to the future, knowing that it, along with all its struggles, persecutions, afflictions, *and* progressive victories, belongs to the faithful, covenant-keeping people of God (1 Cor. 3:21-22). We are, therefore, future-oriented in our present responsibilities. Our vision for life and the future is determined by the promises of God's Covenant and of Christ's Kingdom. We pray that God would use us to bring the covenantal blessings of salvation to the families of all the nations of the world (Psalm 22:27f; Gal. 3:7-29) represented here in Toronto. We believe that the Kingdom will leaven the whole loaf of human life and society, as it advances toward final and total victory (Mark 4:21-32). We work, pray and hope for the day when "the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9) so that Christ may return to conquer His last enemy which is death (1 Cor. 15:26, Luke 20:42-43), claim His people as His Bride, and fully inaugurate His new Creation with the Church as joint-heirs (Ps 72:8,11; Eph. 2:6; Ps. 2:8; Matt. 5:5; Prov. 13:22).

OUR PASTOR

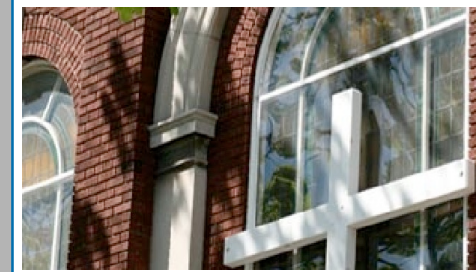
REV. JOE BOOT is an apologist, educator, author and pastor. His undergraduate work was in theology at Birmingham Christian College in England and his post-graduate research is in missiology with the University of Manchester. He served with Ravi Zacharias for seven years as an apologist in



the U.K and Canada working for five years as Canadian director of RZIM and continues to serve as an adjunct apologist. He has spoken all over the world in over 20 countries in numerous universities, seminaries, churches, colleges and conferences, including Eton College Windsor, Oxford University, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, London School of Theology, Virginia Tech, and Forman University in Pakistan. He has publicly debated leading atheists in several North American universities.

His apologetic works include *Searching for Truth, Why I Still Believe* and *How Then Shall We Answer?* which have been published in Europe and North America and are available through www.ezrabooks.ca. He is visiting lecturer at the Oxford Centre for Christian apologetics at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, England and is a contributing author to the major apologetics volume *Beyond Opinion*.

He lives in Toronto with his wife Jenny and three children Naomi, Hannah and Isaac where he is pastoring Westminster Chapel and building the Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity.



Westminster Chapel is a church family established to glorify God by communicating the universal Lordship of Jesus Christ and the truth of Holy Scripture to the City of Toronto. Equally, we encourage our intentional Covenant community to become fully dependent upon Christ, obedient to the Great Commission, engaged in the Cultural Mandate, and diligent in seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and justice.

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WHO WE ARE

THE CHALLENGE: Toronto was once known internationally as the “City of Churches” and regionally as “Toronto the Good.” As such, Canada was regarded as a prime example of a Christian dominion (Psalm 72:8). Today, we are living in a radically pluralistic and immoral society. Anti-Christian ideologies of every kind have taken root and are being imposed upon Canada and its families top-down by coercion. This deterioration is manifest in family breakdown, social decay, perversion, violence, and decadence in our cities and communities. We now increasingly live in a culture of despair and death, rather than hope and life. Suicide has become the second leading cause of death among youth 15-24. Canadian cities, which are at the forefront of this cultural decline and decay, offer the Church an opportunity for the redemption and healing found only in the Lord Jesus Christ, mankind’s Prophet, Priest, and King.

OUR CALLING: Toronto’s international diversity and exposure represent an opportunity for the whole world to see the manifold wisdom of God through the Church (Ephesians 3:10-11), the power of His Spirit, and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in this, our “city set on a hill” as a “lampstand” to all the nations: *You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that*

they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).

OUR MISSION: To glorify God by reaching Toronto and beyond for Christ, equipping God’s Covenant people in the Word. We are dedicated to worship, evangelism and apologetics, nurture and discipleship, service and mission. Vital are church participation, Covenant community life and cultural engagement in obedience to the Scriptures as interpreted by the ecumenical councils and historic evangelical confessions.

OUR FOCUS: Our focus is the triune God manifest in Christ, Who is the Saviour of the world, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Our motivation is Christ’s person. Our foundation is Christ’s work. Our power is Christ’s Spirit. Our pattern is Christ’s humanity. Our protection is Christ’s Father. Our governing authority is Christ’s deity. Our strategy is Christ’s Word. Our hope is Christ’s victory. Our mandate is Christ’s law. Our scope is Christ’s Kingdom. Our food is Christ’s sacraments. Our chief end is Christ’s glory.

OUR MAKE-UP: Our people come from a variety of ethnicities and backgrounds, from one economic, intellectual, or social spectrum to the other. We are a multiplicity of peoples, languages, and races, woven by the Holy Spirit into one united body in Christ. We work and pray diligently “to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”



OUR FOUR PILLARS (REAP)

REGENERATION & REVIVAL: Undergirded by a distinctly Biblical foundation and the commitment to prayer, we seek transformation and cultural engagement at all levels – beginning with the individual and the family, followed by the community, the academy and the socio-cultural order, seeking to apply the Lordship of Christ in all areas of life and thought (1 Tim. 6:5-6; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Ps. 2: 10-12; Matt. 28:18; Gen. 1:28, 9:1; Matt. 28:18).

EDUCATION: Through preaching, teaching, lecturing and discipleship, we seek to take all thought into captivity to Christ and His Kingdom. We believe that the conflict between Christianity and all competing systems of thought occur at the worldview level – all of which are inescapably religious. The Christian’s ultimate starting point is Christ and the infallible revelation of God in Scripture, not subjective human experience or the independent “facts” of the universe which are always interpreted by a non-neutral worldview. There is not one area of life that the Christian faith does not address and therefore not one area of life that can remain unaddressed by Christian education.

APOLOGETICS: The Apostle Peter instructs believers that they should be “always ready to give a defence [*apologia*] to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). The defence of the Christian faith [*apologetics*] is the responsibility

of every Christian. As believers become better equipped to defend their faith, they find greater confidence and boldness to carry the message of the Gospel to every dark place. Westminster Chapel seeks to take every thought into captivity to Christ by equipping believers to reach, impact and revive a nation for Christ and His Kingdom. We assert that Christianity is not *probably* true; it is a total *certainty* which rests upon Scripture’s self-attestation to its authority and truthfulness. By supporting the Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity and by its own adult education, Westminster Chapel seeks to thoroughly train believers and Christian leaders so they may articulate, defend, and manifest the truth and righteousness of Christ and His Kingdom (Titus 2:8; Proverbs 22:6; 2 Timothy 2:15).

PROCLAMATION: We seek to be an outward-turned Covenant people, committed to the mission of the Kingdom of God, that is, the Cultural Mandate (Genesis 1:28) which is renewed in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to make all nations Christ’s disciples. We focus simultaneously on the social needs of Toronto and on preaching and teaching. We work towards the transformation of lives, families, and the culture by the power of the Holy Spirit through the all-sufficient and infallible Word of God (Romans 10:14-15).