**Dear friends of Long Branch Baptist Church,**

As you may have heard, we **as a church are celebrating our 100th anniversary this year**. We thank you for your vital participation in the Lord’s work here over the years and would like to invite you to two events in particular in early May if you are able to come.

The first event is on Friday evening May 2nd (6:30 p.m. arrival for 7 p.m. dinner) at the Oasis Catering and Convention Centre, 1036 Lakeshore Road East (between Cawthra and Dixie Rd. , Mississauga). The tickets are $30 each for the full sit down meal and program. Make cheques payable to the church and note on the cheque “for banquet” or buy your ticket in cash from Colin Bannister. Please buy or reserve your tickets by Sunday, April 20. After the meal, we hope to show a 30 minute video presentation of our church’s history which Frances Nojd, one of our members has put together. Colin Bannister will interview various people with a roving microphone. Unfortunately, there is no discount for young children, so any children coming will have to pay full price for a seat. We hope to conclude by about 9:30 p.m.

The second event is on that same weekend as we will have a two hour worship and celebration service from 10 a.m. to noon at the church on Sunday morning May 4th. Former youth pastor Andrew Gordon will minister the Word and we look forward to special music, worship and other good things. After the service, we will host a light luncheon in our second floor Fellowship Room where we can continue to share together.

Our theme this year is “100 years- Celebrating God’s Faithfulness.” God has been so good to us as a church and in celebration, we want to gather a special offering that weekend (in addition to our regular offering) in order to bless our city and the nations with God’s love and grace. Our special offering goal for that weekend is $15000 and it will be distributed in the following five ways:

$3000 toward the ministries of Urban Promise in Toronto

$3000 toward Pastor Jose and Daglis’ new house church building in Los Tunas , Cuba. We have supported their ministry under Partners International for five years and it was exciting for Rohan Archer and me to witness their church’s enthusiasm and growth when we visited them last November.

$3000 toward clean wells and water in Nigeria in connection with our Partners International missionary, David Umune

$3000 toward rescuing girls from the sex trade in Nepal in either direct or indirect connection with our Partners International missionary, Man Bahadur Tamrakar.

$3000 toward Philippine Missionary Fellowship (under Partners International) as they minister to people following last year’s typhoon disaster in the south and central Philippines.

Special Anniversary offering envelopes will be available both at the Friday evening banquet and in the pews on the Sunday morning. Please make sure that we have your name and address in the envelope so that you can receive a receipt at the end of the year. Or send cheques payable to “Long Branch Baptist Church” with a memo at the bottom stating “Anniversary Offering.” Thank-you, in advance, for your participation in these very worthy causes. Let us together reach and surpass our goal for the glory of God and the blessing of many people.

If you cannot be with us during that weekend, feel free to pass along by email or letter any words of greeting or special memories by April 20 and we will make them available in a scrap book for people to read during that weekend and throughout this our 100th anniversary year.

May the Lord bless and use you in your corner of the Lord’s vineyard.

Sincerely, Pastor Robert Miner