What Is a Kingdom Pioneer?

Webster’s Dictionary defines a pioneer as a person who helps create or develop new ideas or methods. A Kingdom Pioneer is someone who has a heart for the “not-yet” and lives out the values of the BGAV by being relationally-rich, gospel-centric, reasonable and gracious, and investing in the shared mission of advancing the Kingdom together.

ROBIN ELLINGWOOD
Lead Planter, PRAXIS (Toronto, ON)

In 2014, Robin, his wife, April, and their four kids moved from a small city in eastern Canada to plant a network of missional communities in the neighborhoods of Toronto. Home to over 2.7 million people, Toronto is the fifth largest metropolis in North America and the second most multicultural city in the world. Less than three percent of the population attends an evangelical church.

Since moving there, they have been getting to know their neighbors, gathering people, and joining in the good work that God is up to in their city. Now, nearly two years later, they have a group of 20 adults and seven children. The group gathers to sing songs of worship, interact with the scriptures, and pray together.
During a recent Christmas party, a young woman from their community borrowed a wetsuit and was baptized in the cold waters of Lake Ontario, identifying with Jesus in his death and resurrection. Two weeks later, the young man who designed their church logo surrendered his life to Jesus.

“None of this would have been possible without the support of the BGAV and V3,” Robin said. “Through their kindness and generosity, we have received training, coaching, and funding. On behalf of our young church plant, I would like to thank the BGAV for sowing into our kingdom venture. Because of your investment, our faith community is gaining a fresh imagination for what it means to be the church in the place we live.”

Ministries like this one are made possible by the generous Cooperative Missions gifts of Virginia Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Read more Kingdom Stories at BGAV.org/Blog.

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