



Building a network of churches that make disciples who live and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities, Canada, and the Nations.

Upcoming Events

Seminary Board Meeting:

February 19-20, 2016

Canmore, AB

National Board Meeting:

March 21-22, 2016

Edmonton, AB

National Celebration 2016:

June 23-25, 2016

Friendship Community Church

Saanichton, BC

Pastor's Retreats

God Stories from BGCC Churches

Name this Newsletter Contest

Interesting Reads

BGCC Videos

GMP Mission Focus

Donations:



Hello from Edmonton! It is a privilege for me to greet you and I trust you are having a good week of ministry as we serve the Lord together. I am only six weeks into my role as Executive Director and have already enjoyed meeting pastors and wives in retreat settings in Saskatchewan and BC. My wife, Laura, and I are visiting the Sunday

services of the BGCC churches around Edmonton and we are meeting pastors and their families as well. Soon I will be in Montreal, Winnipeg and Toronto meeting other pastors and congregations.

I have God-sized dreams for what the Lord is going to accomplish in and through our denomination going forward. Two scriptures that have informed my thinking throughout my 35 years of pastoral ministry are Acts 20:24 - "My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" and Colossians 4:17: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord". I pray that I will be a faithful servant of the Lord in this new chapter of ministry out of the national office. Please pray for me as often as the Lord calls me to your remembrance.

This will be the new format for the *E-pastor* that came from National Office. I love theology and keeping up with current issues in Christianity and I will have links to articles in Interesting Reads below. However, my focus for this publication is to connect the BGCC family together. God is moving powerfully in our churches! You have the stories that will bless and encourage others in our movement. Some of our stories will be triumphant songs of praise – others may be contemplative or sobering as pastors share the burden of their local situation.

Christine Pedersen, our Information and Pastoral Relations staff member, sent out an email earlier in February asking for your submissions. They are starting to come in – which is great! Send your pictures and videos too!

If I can ever be of any help or assistance to you, don't hesitate to call or email. If you are coming through Edmonton, stop by and meet our staff that serves you and our global personnel in the national office

Pastor's Retreat:

Saskatchewan - January 25 -27, 2016



God Stories from BGCC Churches:



Wadena Baptist Church, Wadena, SK

2015 was an incredible ministry year. It all began with focus on what Jesus called us to – to go and share Him with our

community. Why is this so big? Because we shifted from an inward focus to start making steps to being outward focused. Jesus called us to be an army going, not an audience of spectators.

So what has happened?

In the past six months Sunday attendance grew 30% to 91 people / week. And in January growth continued to 104+ / week. In addition, we run our kids club called Faithbuilders which adds another 50+ souls per week (mostly with no church background).

Why is this happening?

Please know Wadena is not growing. We are land-locked. But God is moving. Most people who have been added to our church are a result of the church engaging the community and sharing Christ

with them.

Our numbers aren't mega-big, but they are mega-eternal!
Real ministry is happening. That's why we saw in 2015:

- 1 Baptism (+7 more last Sunday)
- 12 professions of faith
- 40 new people began attending
- 40+ people have been part of discipleship care groups
- 800+ people reached through our Outreach Programs (and several come to know Jesus, attend church and become engaged with ministry as a result).

So what's next?

Focus: we must continue to disciple the people within our walls to be a people focused outside the walls. To fulfill our purpose as a church, we must engage our community and share Jesus.

So we've made a monumental step. Our membership voted to increase the budget by 48% to hire a full-time Associate Pastor this year. Our determination is to hire for where God is leading, and not to just maintain where we have been. Our new pastor will help mobilize the church to the next level of effective ministry.

How will any of this happen? I don't know! But, our one hope is that as we focus on what He has called us to, He will prove faithful to build His kingdom. Our joy is to be part of it!

Tim Irvine

Pastor of Wadena Baptist Church

Know*Love*Share*Jesus

Northwest Community Church, Calgary, AB

Four leaders from our church (Northwest Community Church in Calgary, see pic) just attended the Church Renewal Weekend (Jan.29-Feb.1) at Southland Church in Steinbach, Manitoba. It was an amazing weekend of deep confession, deliverance, hearing from God, listening prayer, and vision casting for church renewal all across Canada. Pastor Ray Duerksen (see pic) from Southland has been led by God to challenge leaders from every denomination (19 denominations represented at this last weekend) with the question, "What are you doing about sin in your church?" because the enemy appears to be overpowering the western church. Others from the BGC were there, including Pastor Doug Gordon and Pastor Greg Schatkowsky and their wives from Ebenezer Baptist Church, Wetaskiwin, AB, and we all affirmed what we were hearing. Many others from the BGC have gone to previous Church Renewal Weekends and it is being supported by our Alberta District and promoted by our District Ministers Roger Helland and Bob Shepansky who first attended a couple of years ago. The momentum continues and a record number of pastors are now meeting online each week to encourage each other in this renewal. We just had our church leadership team meeting last night and had the most powerful time of prayer we've ever had

with our board! One week later, we are already seeing renewal. I highly recommend this ministry to anyone who hasn't heard about it yet. The next weekend is May 27th-30th, 2016 (www.churchrenewalministry.com).



Name this Newsletter:



What's a great name for this BGCC email? Send in your ideas by March 31, 2016 and the chosen submission will receive a Tim Horton's gift card.

Email: office@bgc.ca

Share our Story:

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone in your church or that would be blessed to know more about the BGCC.

Interesting Reads:

[12 "Spark" Phrases that signal trouble in the church](#)

Hudson Taylor's letter to his sister on his powerful spiritual discovery:

[The Exchanged Life](#)

Canadian Bible Engagement Study (CBES):

[Do Canadians read the Bible?](#)

BGCC Videos:

Evergreen Community Church in Coquitlam:

(To open this video you will need to type in password (Church))

<https://vimeo.com/153058828>

Pastor's Retreat Video in Saskatchewan:

<https://vimeo.com/155164188>

Story from Global Ministry Personnel:

Story from Central Asia - Name withheld for security

Our 1st Christmas Party!

With the mill now open and several employees employed full time, we were excited to have our first company Christmas party! We

invited our 7 full time guys, and their wives and kids, out to a local restaurant. 6 came, and we enjoyed rich fellowship. I shared a bit about how Jesus has changed my life, made me a better husband and a better father. That I am different because he has taken my old heart and given me a new one. Then we ate together, and afterwards enjoyed some of Cheri's Christmas baking! Everyone got to take home some extra Christmas baking and some fruit. But before everyone went home, we had to do one special thing, by request of the factory employees. They all wanted to take their wives and kids over to the mill and show them where they worked! They asked if they could put on their company uniforms, and also asked if they could make a tonne of product. *After the Christmas party?* I thought? *What's up with that?* What I discovered was that these guys are so happy with their positions at our mill, and they have such a sense of ownership and pride in their work, that they wanted to show it off to their wives and kids. Neat!

We have been blessed with great employees so far. It is always a highlight of my day to get out of the car at the factory, and as I am walking into the mill, to be greeted by each of the employees with a warm handshake and several questions about my family.

One of the employees will call me if I haven't been to the mill for a couple of days, just to see if I am OK, if my health is OK, if I am at peace. And they all really celebrate with me when we have sales to new customers. Sometimes I will say, "Don't be angry...I need you to come in on Saturday and make a couple of tonnes of product." They always say of course we aren't angry, rather we are so happy that another customer has ordered product!" and happily come in. And if you want to see them really hustle, just watch what happens if I try and load a bag or two myself. They yell and run over, take the bag out of my hands, and do the work for me.

We are also becoming known in the community. Just this past week I was at the factory when a local farmer came in. He wanted to sell his produce. We talked, agreed on a price, and then I wanted to see a sample of it, so I suggested we head to his house. I found out that he had walked the 7 km to the mill, so I offered him a ride in the car. On the way, he asked me how my kids were. "You have 4 kids, right?" he asked. I looked astonished at his knowledge, when I am sure we had never met before. "How'd you know that?" I asked. He said he had heard the guys talking at a local diner a while back. It was fun getting to know this guy. We paid a fair price for his produce, and he delivered it that day -with his wife riding on the big stack of bags in the wagon pulled by his tiny tractor! Then this past weekend my family and I were driving out to a scenic spot about 50 km outside the city. About 40 km out, we stopped to buy naan bread, and the guy serving me said to his friend "Hey, this guy speaks our language", to which his friend replied, "Of course; he has the new mill". I am pretty sure I have never met either of them.

We have been finding some great customers. Not many big ones, in fact most are so small you wonder if it is worth it sometimes. But there are some really neat men, and their families, who are starting to buy our product. There are days when I am invited in for tea or food 3 or 4 times. The Ethnic Minority people are excellent at hospitality!

Business is interesting... great fun, and big headaches,

sometimes all at the same time. Since we (finally) got our production license in November, we have been working very hard at marketing our products. We had our grand opening on Nov 22, and it appears as though now we may be getting some traction. We are still a ways off from hitting the breakeven point, but December, our first full month, was pretty strong, and it appears that January, despite a slow first week, will easily eclipse December's sales. All of our customers so far are Ethnic Minority folks, and many are seeing financial benefits from using our product. There are certain pressures, including the pressure to sell on credit, which keeps us on our toes. And having factory employees with limited education makes figuring how many kgs of X goes into 2 tonnes when the instruction paper just has how much is in 1 tonne, quite the ordeal. And living in a society where trust is hard to find makes selling with integrity a challenge too. "They won't believe us anyways, so we have no choice but to exaggerate our product's benefits" said our business manager. Hmm. And buying good quality ingredients can be tough...try throwing out \$20,000 worth of useless raw material because it was mixed with manure by the supplier to get the protein up. Ouch! But all these things are opportunities to share Truth and light, and to speak LIFE! Having a strong business allows us to be here in the first place. We look to make a difference, in all the places He leads us to.

Tel: (780) 438-9127
Toll Free: 1 (844) 438-9127
Fax: (780) 435-2478
Email: Office@bgc.ca

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#201, 8315 Davies Road, NW
Edmonton, T6E 4N3
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