

# BAPTIST BEATS

February 27, 2020



Hello from BC – I am in Langley for meetings with our Seminary and then presenting at the BCBC gathering on Saturday. As I look out the window, I see that the blackberries are starting to bloom. Not what we are seeing in Edmonton when I left home this morning!

This seems like a pivotal moment in Canada: Blockades, cancelled oilsands mega-projects, political leaders shifting blame, First nations in conflict with their community and each other. I read that some who are on the blockades are pulling nails and screws out of tires because irate farmers have dumped buckets of nails and screws on their gravel roads to make flat tires. But the roads lead to homes on reserves with unsafe drinking water and they have been dealing with 150 years of injustice. This is a time of great frustration and polarization.

Ray Baloun, a former member of Canadian Food Grains Banks that works with BGC in relief projects, wrote this last Saturday:

*"First, the farmers struggled with wet weather last harvest season, then African Swine fever in China killed hogs that reduced the need for Canadian feed (1/3 of the world's hogs died), then China got mad at us about arresting the Huawei lady and*

*stopped buying from us which created lower prices. Then Coronavirus has lowered prices more because of larger risks for sales and lower demand. Now, these blockades are something else. The grain trains are full and going nowhere. The grain terminals are all full and Viterra can't buy any more, but the farmers need to sell grain so they can buy inputs for the spring and manage cash flow and debt ... Yes, farmers are upset!"*

Bigger than this is what's happening in our country spiritually. As weekly church attendance in 2019 drops to around 11%, the spiritual vacuum in Canadian hearts is being filled by the enemy. SOGI and LGBTQ agendas are one symptom but the main issue is what we believe about the Bible and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Is it the inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God? Is Jesus Christ the God-Man who is the only way through which one can be redeemed and enter heaven? Sadly, these two historic tenets of evangelical Christianity are increasingly questioned by leaders and people in our nation.

A leader has many aspects to their role. When seeking to move a church or organization forward there are three main tasks:

- Define present reality
- Dream the future
- Design the path forward

This is where the BGC finds itself at this moment. I would invite you to be with us at Celebration in Surrey, BC on June 4-6, 2020. The theme of this meeting is REFRAAME. We are also at a pivotal moment in our Conference and your participation is very welcome and necessary!

There are a lot of opportunities in this season in Canada for being "vessels of hope". As we lead and talk with our people, Churches and leaders, let's not forget to be encouragers and be ready to lead

people to God's hope.

That means all of us. Let's not be complainers, but voices of hope and encouragement.

Executive Director

**Kevin Schular**



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**June 4-6, 2020**

## **Celebration 2020**

*Theme: Reframe*

*Cedar Grove Baptist Church  
Surry, BC*

*Cost: \$199/person*

**Presenters at Celebration:**



### **David Macfarlane**

David Arrol Macfarlane has a passion for Jesus and loves to see Canadians come to Christ and grow in their faith! David has addressed thousands of people at events, outreaches, conferences, and in churches around the world and across Canada over the past 35 years and seen a huge response to the gospel. David has appeared on numerous television shows like the 700 Club; 100 Huntley Street; It's a New Day, plus numerous radio programs.

### **Heather Card**

Heather's keen desire is to call Christians around the board tables of churches and Christian ministries to integrate biblical theology and practice. Heather is the former Chief Operating Officer at the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (2004 - 2014) and prior to that enjoyed a fulfilling career in municipal finance. She has over 15 years of board experience both at her local church and in Christian ministry. She has served in a variety of roles including board chair.





### **Rick Hiemstra**

Rick Hiemstra is Director of Research and Media Relations at the EFC. Prior to assuming these roles he served as the Director of the Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism. Rick speaks on Canadian church and cultural trends, including the new Young Adult Transition Research about faith and the crucial year after high school.



### **Mel Fehr**



### **Curt Johnson**

How do pastors and boards understand their roles and serve together to advance the mission of the local church? Mel and Curt are Pastor/Board Chair at Ellerslie Road Baptist in Edmonton. They will speak out of their shared experiences to give guidance to our leaders in this crucial part of pastoral ministry

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## **2020 Leadership Summit**

Did you miss 2020 Leadership Summit this year? Here's some pics to show you some of what you missed.



Here's what some of the participants had to say this year.

*"Christa's session on guilt, shame, and fear was very relatable for me. Fear and shame are things I've held onto for a long time subconsciously and I need to give these things to God."*



*"I learned that it is important for us not to just focus on bringing people to the gospel but put the effort in the new believers and in disciplining them. We have to put the investment in our young people because they are the future of our church."*



*"[I loved} Everything from the food, to leadership, the message, the team who organized it, the open table discussions, the worship team, the dedication and commitment of people who came. Truly a motivation to continue in persevering Gods ministry."*



*"Holistic gospel; gives a different perspective of the gospel than my own perspective, it complements and solidifies my love for the gospel."*

April 21-22, 2019

## School of Orientation

Are you a new Pastor or will you be having new Pastoral staff coming in the next few months?  
School of Orientation is coming up soon. Talk to your District Minister to get an invite.

## BGC Leadership Training with Converge





# 5000 Venezuelans are fleeing their country every day

and YOU'RE NOT HEARING ABOUT IT

Venezuelan refugees are abandoning their homes in order to survive. So far, the world has been silent.

There must be something we can do!

Find out more at:  
[www.tearfund.ca](http://www.tearfund.ca)

Venezuela's inflation rate has skyrocketed 53 million percent\*

9 out of 10 people are trapped in starvation

64% of people have lost 25 lbs, on average, due to malnutrition

5.3 million are expected to flee the country by end of 2019

**tearfund**

\*since 2016

## Venezuelan Refugee Crisis



Masses of Venezuelan refugees continue to flee their homes, desperate to escape starvation, violence, and disease. Tearfund is working with local pastors and churches in the port city of Barranquilla to provide food to families, daily cooked meals for children, and emotional and spiritual support. We desperately need Canadian churches to come alongside these men and women.

- For more information on the crisis please visit: [www.tearfund.ca/vencrisis](http://www.tearfund.ca/vencrisis)
- For church resources please visit: [www.tearfund.ca/venezuelaresou...](http://www.tearfund.ca/venezuelaresou...)

***In March, Kevin Schular is traveling with Tearfund to Colombia. Over three million Venezuelans have crossed the border to escape conditions in their country. Tearfund is providing relief and spiritual help. BGC has donated to this initiative.***

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## Kuwait for Christ

BGC has a ministry in BC to new Canadians from Muslim Arabic background. Adel and Layla also have an amazing internet ministry which goes into Arab lands. This is ministry worthy of your church's support!



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**Are you ready to go deeper in your  
theological training?**

**CBS**

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**Canadian Baptist Seminary**

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Baptist Seminary is ready to serve you in two powerful ways:

- Attend classes on campus at Langley, BC.
- Enroll in our competency-based format and study within the context of the local church and godly mentors.

Either choice leads you to an accredited M.A., M.Div or D.Min degree. Contact CBS today and begin preparing for deeper spiritual formation and greater ministry effectiveness.

[More Info](#)

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# Interesting Reads



## 10 Plagues That Are Hitting Our Planet Simultaneously

All of a sudden, really crazy things are starting to happen all over the world.



## Letter From the CCCC to the Mayor of Calgary

A letter from CCCC to the Mayor of Calgary RE: Conversion Therapy



## Interview with Wuhan Pastor

Go to the link below to hear a translated interview with a pastor in Wuhan, China. It is humbling and encouraging to hear what Christians are doing in Wuhan in response to this terrible coronavirus epidemic. Let us pray for the Christians in China and that God will use this crisis to bring many to saving faith in Jesus Christ.



## National Planning Letter

A letter from the National Board planning for the future.

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# Seven Essentials of the BGC

Our motto and mission:

*"A Network of Churches that make disciples  
who live and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their Communities,  
throughout Canada, and out to the Nations."*

Together, we have identified seven essential areas where God is at work among our church families. These seven areas are also critical to the future growth and health of our churches.

7 Essentials of the BGCC

We will highlight one Essential in each issue of Baptist Beats.

## Church Care

*BGCC churches love, care and support one another as we serve God together.*

7 Essentials of the BGCC

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