

BAPTIST BEATS

March 27, 2020



Hello from Edmonton – I am in self-isolation until Sunday. I returned from Colombia where I was with Tearfund to see the work they are doing with refugees from Venezuela. Over two million have crossed the border into Colombia due to the massive breakdown of Venezuelan society. BGC Canada sent a donation last year to help feed and shelter the people. I was invited there to see how the work is going but I cut my trip short to dash back home before borders got worse. I have been housebound for almost two weeks now.

COVID 19 has upended our world. As of today, 53 Canadians have died from Coronavirus. I also read in MacLean's magazine that nearly two-thirds of Canadian households have lost work or anticipate losing work as a result of the outbreak. The scale of the damage wrought by the shutdown has become inescapable. Across Canada, employers have laid off workers amid efforts to stop the spread of the virus resulting in 929,000 Canadians filing new jobless claims last week.

Let me start by affirming that our confidence is in the Lord. I have been claiming Psalm 57:1: "Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your

wings until the disaster has passed." The Apostle John closely worked with Jesus during His earthly ministry. But when John was in isolation on Patmos he saw Christ in a new way. In that moment: "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.'" Revelation 1:17. Jesus calls us to courage and faith – not to give in to fear.

But let me ask you two pastoral and leadership questions to reflect on:

1. What is occupying your thoughts? "When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer." Psalm 94:19

The ministry strategy and spiritual vitality of every BGC leader will be tested in the short and long term

- Your personal piety and devotion to Christ has to be the priority – drink deeply from Scripture and commune with God in prayer for yourself and your people
- Are you modelling Christlikeness to your family and congregation?
- How are you offering pastoral care in time of loss, grief and possible bereavement
- If donations decrease, are you prepared for layoffs or reduced salary?
- How will this affect the mental health of your congregation – as well as yours?
- This health crisis is exposing our organizations – we see the good, strong elements as well as learning where we need to do better work
- You might think that holding virtual services will be a brief experience but what if it is 18 months before normalcy returns? <https://www.theatlantic.com/fa...>

2. What opportunities do you see in this time of upheaval?

This is the moment to lead with missional passion. Our tendencies are to either under or overreact in crisis. But what if we are entering a fundamental reset moment – how will we do church now? Are we on the edge of something new and different? There are methods we can adapt from the global church to help us. Many of us have prayed for God to awaken the Church and nation – this could be that moment. Innovation can be an exciting way for gospel proclamation beyond your church walls.

BGC Canada will be hosting a series of Zoom meetings in April for our leaders to talk about these and other matters. Please watch our website for times.

I am praying for your soul to be strengthened and your ministry to flourish in this time of crisis and opportunity.

Executive Director

Kevin Schular

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Schular". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

National BGCC Zoom Meetings



Dates: April 15 & 22, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM MDT

For all BGCC Pastors

[Link: https://zoom.us/j/568056791](https://zoom.us/j/568056791)

BGC is Better Together



tearfund

CANADA

Tearfund is the relief and development agency for BGC. Our Conference donated last year to help care for 2 million

refugees from Venezuela who migrated into Colombia



This mother and child walked 400 km to get to Colombia



These temporary houses are built on landfills so the ground is always shifting



Children in makeshift housing



This boy is 11 and has four younger brothers. He has never been to school. The teachers were not paid in Venezuela so all schools in his city closed



This church feeds 200 children every day - 20 at a time



Feeding programs have many benefits - nutrition for children, outreach for churches and mothers don't resort to prostitution to feed their children



Iodine drops purify water for refugee housing



Churches are serving the refugees with food, clothing and gospel proclamation



Look at makeshift water lines and electricity for refugee shelters

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

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
- For church resources please visit: 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.

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

CBS

Canadian Baptist Seminary

Canadian

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](#)

June 4-6, 2020

Celebration 2020

BGCC Board will soon make a decision on how to participate for Celebration 2020



Cedar Grove Baptist Church

Surrey, 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

Interesting Reads



The plague, coronavirus and Martin Luther – why they all matter now

Should Christian leaders flee in time of health crisis?



Leadership Deosn't Stop

Podcast from Patrick Lencioni on Leadership



Leading Beyond the Blizzard: Why Every Organization Is Now a Startup

The novel coronavirus is not just something for leaders to “get through” for a few days or weeks. Instead, we need to treat COVID-19 as an economic and cultural blizzard, winter, and beginning of a “little ice age” – a once-in-a-lifetime change that is likely to affect our lives and organizations for years.



ASK BOB: “Should we sing Hillsong or Bethel music if there are doctrinal differences with those churches?”

Some Canadian pastors closely monitor the music they are using in worship. I remember that the author of “It Is Well” drifted into wacky theology after he wrote the well-loved hymn. That hasn’t influenced me from singing this song with great joy and emotion as I meditate on the lyrics. Where do you land on this?

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.

Spiritual Formation

BGCC CHURCHES ARE COMMITTED TO DISCIPLE-MAKING.

7 Essentials of the BGCC