

BAPTIST BEATS



August 26, 2021



Hello -

I hope you are doing well as this August winds down. Did you have time to relax and regroup over the summer? I did a lot of fishing, walking and reading books on First Nations issues and the Bonhoeffer biography. Laura and I were able to fly to the US to visit our daughter and my sister. We came home with a negative Covid test and we

were thankful for some time away in another environment.

This has been an eventful summer! Western Canada has seen extreme heat, drought and thick smoke from forest fires. Tension from the discovery of unmarked graves at residential school sites and the debacle in Afghanistan have dominated the news. Inflation is raising prices in the grocery store, gas stations and other goods and services.

We continue to deal with the changing provincial health guidelines on grappling with Covid and its variants. There is growing evidence of physical, mental, and emotional toll due to Covid. (Please read the article below on the dismal effect Covid is having in Canada) As a result, have some Canadian Christians decided that physical gathering at church is not important? We will know more when September arrives but many of our BGC pastors are not sure where some of their congregation is. They are not attending online or in-person and are not responding to emails or texts. Let's pray for one another as we enter a new season of church life!

Now we find ourselves in a federal election campaign as well. Canada is a pluralistic society and Bible-believers are often offside with our culture on issues like euthanasia, prostitution, legalized cannabis, and LGBTQ. We are made to feel un-Canadian if don't have the same values as the majority hold to. If the current government is re-elected with a majority we may face similar challenges like the summer student grant issue from 2017.

Christians are historically nonconformist – going back to the book of Acts

where the apostles declared to the authorities “We ought to obey God rather than men.” We can and should participate in the public square and collaborate with others for the good of our society. We are called to love our neighbors and bless our communities in Jesus’ name. He “went around doing good” (Acts 10:38) whether the people believed in Him or not. There is often hostility or bewilderment to our evangelical positions - but people are still looking for truth!

This fall BGC wants to continue our monthly Zoom meetings for our pastors and leaders. Our goal is to resource you so that you can lead well in this season. Below you will find a survey on what time is best for your schedule. It may not be possible to schedule these Zoom meetings when it fits for everyone but we try our best to follow the guidance from the survey.

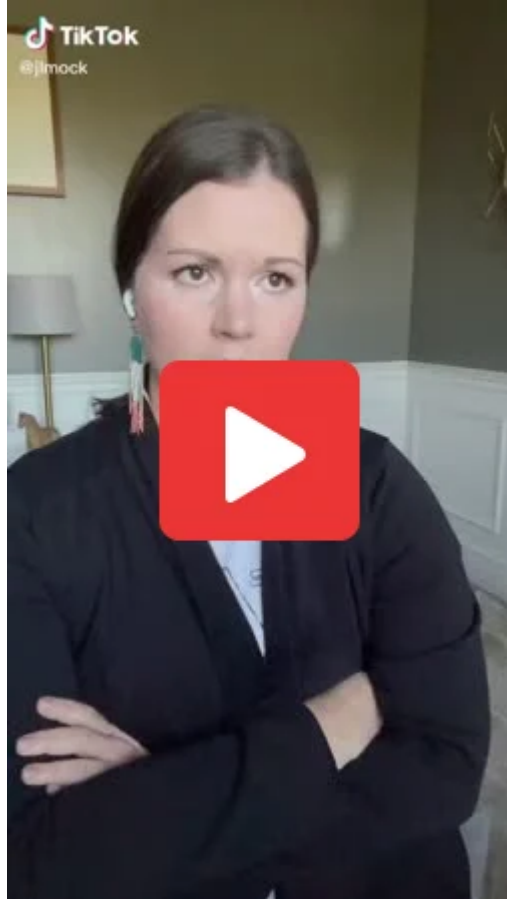
And please know you are loved and prayed for! I met on Zoom today with our district ministers and we prayed for you all. The staff here in Edmonton and I pray for you all regularly as do many prayer partners across the BGC. If you would like to be on the BGC weekly prayer team please contact Josh in the office. Here is [this week’s prayer page](#) so you can see what is involved.

Executive Director

Kevin Schular



It's All Faith



Which of the options below work best for you?

We are hoping for as much engagement as possible from all across the BGC in the monthly Zoom calls. In order to do so, we wanted to ask which of the following times listed below work well for you?

Tuesday morning

Wednesday morning (currently)

Thursday morning

Submit

Canadian Baptist Seminary



Please pray for this new degree to make a kingdom impact in training leaders for Canada and the world.

Interesting Reads



Federal Election Resources

What can your church talk about during the federal election?



'Blackness in Canada' report reveals 78 per cent of Black people believe racism is a 'severe' problem in Canada

Racism in Canada - this poll, sponsored by progressive York University, found that minorities experience racism most in interactions with police, accessing healthcare and at the workplace. How can BGC and your church be a light for Christian grace and equality?



Christopher Columbus and the Doctrine of Discovery - 5 Things to Know

Christians desire to make meaningful contributions to reconciliation in Canada. Who owns the land has become central to this process. Do you know why First Nations want us to give "their" land back? This short article gives you an overview of their perspective.



Overdoses, alcohol-related deaths increased in Canadians under 65 during pandemic: StatCan

Dismal stats on Covid-related news in Canada

Seven Essentials of the BGCC

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. We highlight one Essential in each issue of Baptist Beats

Functional Organizational Structures

BGCC Develop and operate within a structure that brings out the best from our partnership with each other – regionally, nationally and beyond.

[7 Essentials of the BGCC](#)

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