

# BAPTIST BEATS

June 25, 2020



Hello from Edmonton – I hope you are well. Our staff in the National Office is praying for you and trust that this summer will be full of good things from God! I want to encourage you in your ministry. You have been faithful over the last 100 days since COVID restrictions were put in place. We are going to overcome, not because we're so clever or resolute but because the grace of God is at work in and through us.

Are you ready for what's coming later this year? What upheaval will you and the people you pastor face as COVID continues to affect every aspect of Canadian society? From the most recent issue of MacLeans magazine we read:

*"Canada is enduring an economic crisis on a grim scale, with more than three million out of work and the unemployment rate at 13.7 per cent. The emergency response from governments and central banks has been historic, in both speed and scale. Ottawa and the provinces have so far deployed in excess of \$300 billion in direct and indirect spending as the economy was put into deep freeze, including payments to workers, wage subsidies for businesses, loans and tax deferrals. As astonishing as those dollar figures are, they are but the first step in what is certain to be a gruelling and costly rebuild. With provinces slowly lifting emergency restrictions that were put in place to tame the spread of COVID-19, economists, business leaders and lobbyists are eyeing the stimulus measures that will inevitably follow."*

Gary Taitinger wrote this to the pastors in his district and I totally concur: "Whether online or with physical meetings we need to make sure we are not focused on survival but on being outbound once again. We need to ramp up themes like invitational culture and bringer dynamic. We need preaching that provide answers from the Bible to the questions that people are asking at this time. Alpha, salvation

invitations, small groups where members brings non-church friends – that’s got to characterize our way forward more than our mode of meeting whether virtual or physical.”

God is going to use you! This has been a long season of uncertainty and “new normal” but now is the time to be innovative and bold as you lead your people. Economic, social or health crises will not prevent Christ from building His church.

BE ENCOURAGED!

Executive Director

**Kevin Schular**



## Racial Tensions



### **rac-ism**

1. prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

RACIAL TENSIONS – seems to be resurgent. The shooting and police assault of aboriginals and then new Canadians being shot following a routine police call have dominated the news here. Across the border, I am stunned to see incidents of police being assaulted and also the brutality of some officers. The protests, rioting and looting that stem from race-related issues are deeply troubling.

Visiting in those homes on Saturday and then coming by with the bus on Sunday was where I really discovered the effects of racial inequality. I learned from listening to people who had to live this reality. They helped me see how racial inequality impacted their lives, families, jobs and futures.

When we watch news about an aboriginal woman in New Brunswick or another

black man being unjustly taken out, whether by gun or by knee, there is no way that I can comprehend the thoughts and feelings that run deeply through my friend's veins, or the generations of those before them. As peaceful protesters (rioters not included here) have taken to the streets, and numerous narratives attempt to shape our sightlines, what might God be trying to say to His Church?

Dave Buehring writes: "Because the Church has not yet fully and honestly addressed the issue of racism, the world is angry, hurting, and stuck, having no real solutions to pin their hopes on. The reality is until white and black followers of Jesus look to be proactive in our own hearts and with our hands, nothing will really change. We must realign our lives through repentance, and consider what is happening in our culture through a scriptural lens. It is in the scriptures that God reveals His character, so we see what He is really like, and know how He really feels about things. It is there that we learn His ways, so we know how to reflect Him and wisely navigate the waters of our turbulent times. It is there that we capture what the culture of the Kingdom of God is like: where every man and woman is uniquely valued; lives are freely laid down for each other; and the redemptive might of God's hand takes the greatest historical relational divide of Jews and Gentiles, and out of two, creates "one new man!" (Ephesians 2:11-22)."

The church is where God's justice can be displayed to the world. The church is an alternative community that can champion justice. The Lord disapproves when people treat another race as if they are less valuable to Him. His Son died for that sin so that every ethnicity can be a part of His Kingdom.



## **BGCC AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of BGC Canada was held via Zoom on June 9. We wished we could have been together in person but on the digital call, we actually were able to have our largest ever participation by our churches. There were 67 churches and 123 people registered as delegates. The Conference adopted a budget with the understanding that it may need revision in the fall. COVID could affect the giving to our churches which then may affect the revenue for the National office. Kevin Schular was affirmed for another 5-year term as Executive Director. BGC- Central Canada entered into full connection

with BGC National and BGC Alberta adopted a MOU to test a similar relationship for the next two years. Full notes, powerpoints and annual meeting booklet are available on request.



*Laura Schular leading Zoom meeting with BGC women.*

Laura Schular will be hosting a monthly Zoom meeting for BGC Women. Anyone in our conference is invited to join the call. Please see the BGC Women Facebook group or email [laura@schular.ca](mailto:laura@schular.ca) for details to connect. The next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, July 14.



## **Tearfund – Rise Up! Challenge**

New this year is the **RISE UP! Challenge – a virtual mountain climb to help raise money for COVID-19 relief efforts in East Africa.** It is a fun event where participants select one of 7 mountains to climb and raise funds in the process. Climbs are done daily for a month using the stairs in their home or outside.

You can learn more here: <https://tearfund.ca/riseup/>

We have a Facebook Group for the challenge: [Here](#)

Read more

## Thank you Roger Helland



Roger Helland is retiring as District Minister of BGC in Alberta this summer. Roger and Gail served this district for 13 years. He will continue to be involved in theological education, writing and promoting spiritual renewal. His passion for revival and prayer has been an inspiration to me and many others. Best wishes on your continued ministry!

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

# CBS

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## Interesting Reads



### **Opinion: Creating the country we want for future generations**

People are imagining how Canada will emerge after the pandemic. What can you dream for your church and the BGC?



### **60 per cent of fathers feel closer to their kids due to lockdown measures: study**

One positive arising from COVID



### **Canada needs a plan to rebuild itself. Let the transformation begin.**

What's the economic future for Canada? This article speculates on the tough road ahead for our nation. As you read, think about parallels in transforming how we "do" church.



### **COVID-19 Insurance and Risk-Management Checklist**

CCCC provides a checklist for Insurance and Risk-Management. How is your church doing?

## 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.



**MULTIPLYING FAITH COMMUNITIES**

**BGCC CHURCHES STRIVE TO MULTIPLY THEIR MINISTRY THROUGH CHURCH  
PLANTING AND OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.**

7 Essentials of the BGCC

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