

PRAIRIE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

September 28-29, 2012—South Calgary Chinese EFC

340—39 Ave SE, Calgary (403-243-2770)

Delegates please mail / email your registration to the Prairie District office by September 12. The following sessions are open to the public:

- Friday (3 p.m.) Dave Acree (EFCC Leadership Development Catalyst)
- Friday (7 p.m.) Charlie Worley (EFCC Church Planting Catalyst)
- Saturday (9 a.m.) Bill Taylor (EFCC Executive Director)

YOUTH EDGE 2012

November 2-4, 2012—Millar College of the Bible (Pambrun SK)

For details or to register, check out www.millarcollege.ca. Michael Ross Watson (WEC missionary living in England) will be the speaker, and Matt Smith from Michael's church will lead worship. Illusionist Lou Leventhal will be there, as well as Matt Wilkes from Canadian Youth Worker.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Plan now to attend and join the discussion with EFCC Executive Director Bill Taylor regarding the ordination of women in the EFCC.

- Lethbridge—November 15, 2012
- Calgary (date to be announced)
- Saskatoon (date to be announced)

PRAIRIE DISTRICT STAFF / SPOUSE RETREAT

February 10-12—Cypress Hills Resort Inn

Save the date and plan to be encouraged and refreshed with other staff members throughout the Prairie District!

DISTRICT FINANCIAL GIVING

Dear friends, thank you for your faithful giving for our corporate ministry we call the Prairie District family of churches. Your gifts are having an impact for God's work across the prairies and are expanding our ministries through Buffalo Narrows, Crowsnest Pass, and Chestermere. Remember, **Together Everyone Achieves More.**

Year to Date Giving \$97,182 Year to Date Budget \$102,000

September 30 marks our budget year. Your gift before that date is much appreciated. Gifts may be mailed to Mrs. Yvonne Ling
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Prairie District PROFILE

Fall 2012

Is your congregation an anxious congregation? Most of us would think about that question for a few moments and then reply "No, I don't think so; not really."

Over the summer I read a leadership book by Ken Thiessen entitled *The Anxious Congregation — manage your fear before it manages you*. It was not an easy or comfortable read, but a good, challenging read.

Thiessen contends that all congregations are, in fact, anxious. He declares that we are more driven by fear than faith, driven more by fear than love. Fear of how others will respond. Fear of how we will be perceived and received by others. Fear of the price we will have to pay to question or stand up to the status quo. Fear that we might lose face or be rejected in the context of church life. Fear that others might be upset and get angry. Fear of being wrong. Fear of being right. Fear of losing a source of livelihood (church staff).

Thiessen goes on to say that anxious congregations are fearful congregations. It is this fear that shapes most relationships and influences most decisions, oftentimes subconsciously or unconsciously. It is this fear that impacts and significantly hampers our ability to live out God's call to join Him in mission.

It seems to me that perhaps this propensity to fear is why the admonition "do not fear" or "do not be afraid" appears so often in Scripture.

Thiessen unpacks the answer to our fear and anxiety through his book, but he lands on one main concept. It comes from Mark 12:30-31 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

- Passionately pursuing a relationship with God.
- Passionately pursuing a relationship with other people.
- Loving God.
- Loving people.



...with a heart to serve



The Superintendent's View

I commend this challenging read and I commend the powerful commands of Jesus.

Tim Seim
Superintendent

DISTRICT PASTORAL CHANGES

Good Shepherd Community Church—Cut Knife SK

Lester and Rose Hansen have accepted the call to serve our church in Cut Knife, SK. Les received his training at Living Faith Bible College, and their last ministry was in Preeceville, SK. The Hansens have four married children.



EFC of Lethbridge

Warnesia Travasso, a recent graduate of Briercrest, was hired in August as Children's Ministries Director. After spending most of her life in Vancouver, she now considers the Prairies 'home.' She spent the past year as a worship ministries intern at Lethbridge EFC.

Regina EFC

Wayne and Shirley Josefson have been called to serve as pastor of Regina EFC. The Josefsons recently worked with Word of Life Canada at Bethel Bible College in Quebec. Wayne was the pastor of Chambly EFC (QC) for 19 years and also served as superintendent for the EFCC's Quebec District.



CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS (pray for one another)

- Calgary Chinese (English Ministries pastor)
- Northeast Calgary Chinese EFC (Cantonese pastor)
- South Calgary Chinese (Cantonese pastor)
- Delia Christian Fellowship (pastor)
- Foremost EFC (pastor)
- Manitou EFC, Neilburg SK (youth pastor)
- Bow Island EFC (youth pastor)
- Saskatoon EFC (youth pastor)

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Congratulations to our Prairie District churches celebrating significant anniversaries this fall. We praise God for many years of bringing His church to communities needing the Gospel.

Alberta

- Calgary Chinese EFC (35 years)
- Lethbridge EFC (50 years)

Saskatchewan

- Mont Nebo EFC (65 years)

SUMMER MISSIONS TRIPS

Several of our district church members or pastors travelled "beyond our borders" to minister this summer.

Pastor Jeff and Sandra Frostad (Enchant EFC) and Pastor Daniel and Karen Peters (Brooks EFC) participated in the EFCCM's European Conference near Zirc, Hungary.

As conference speaker, Daniel addressed the theme "Personal Character and Interpersonal Relationships" by examining the life of King David and how to respond to conflicts that arise with others. Jeff led the worship, and Sandra was involved in children's ministries. Both couples also ministered to and encouraged the EFCCM missionaries in various ways, and they considered it a real privilege to get better acquainted with and support these people who are faithfully answering God's call.

Following the conference Daniel and Karen travelled with K & L, a missionary couple from Brooks EFC, to their home in a Creative Access Country. This was an amazing opportunity to see where and how they live and minister. It is a difficult work in a difficult place and yet they delight in it. Jeff and Sandra visited other missionaries and friends throughout Europe who call Enchant EFC their home church, and they were able to see the home where Sandra lived while her father was stationed in Germany with the Canadian military.

Pastor Tim Hill (Champion EFC) and his wife, Miriam, went to Japan in July,

where they spent 18 days working at Torchbearers Japan, the Capernwray Bible School and conference centre in Yamanakako, south of Tokyo. They assisted with landscaping, repairs, cooking for conference groups, and helping with some equipment needs. They hope to return next year to teach a course at the Bible School.

South Calgary Chinese EFC sent two ministry teams:

New York: Seven members of the Cantonese congregation ministered to the Second EFC in Brooklyn, New York. The church and surrounding area is heavily populated with illegal Chinese immigrants who are working in extreme poverty. For 12 days, the team facilitated a VBS program and assisted with discipleship and leadership training. The team was mainly comprised of first language Chinese speakers who are in or nearing retirement.

Ukraine: Thirteen members of SCCEFC (English and Cantonese congregations) traveled to Ukraine for 14 days to continue developing their relationships with The House of Mercy (HOM). This is an annual short term missions partnership, and the church has been blessed to see many fruits from this partnership.

Taber EFC supported two individuals from their church:

Rebecca Oudman participated in a three-month summer internship with Students International, an organization involved in evangelism and community development in Magdalena, Guatemala. Rebecca was involved in media development, child sponsorship, children's ministry, and translating for international medical teams.

Abby Epp spent the month of July with MCC in South Africa. She worked with the Love of Christ orphanage, Project Gateway (local educational programs), and the Union of Refugee Women's/Children's Care Center.