

Prairie District PROFILE

Spring 2013



**Superintendent
Tim & Lynn Seim**

Transition has been on my mind lately. I pray about it, read about it, and talk about it with people who are smarter than me. Honestly, I am not very experienced with transitioning a ministry. When the Lord led us out of our first pastoral ministry in Abbotsford, BC, we had a good transition for that work, but it was really due to the grace and mercy of the Lord because we had no transition plan. God called dear friends, Dean and Betty Ann Johnson, to step into the ministry, and the Lord truly blessed that transition.

Our move then took us to a great ministry in Lethbridge, AB where we experienced 20 years of life-building ministry. Then it was time for another transition, but this time we sought the Lord for a strong plan, and the elders and staff at the EFC of Lethbridge did truly great work in leading that change. Again, the Lord called dear friends, Ian and Connie Lawson, to serve there, and that released us to transition into the Prairie District role.

One author I am reading states that "succession is the second most important need in every ministry." He also says when it comes to ministry transition, leaders often stop leading. Why is that? The answer proposed is fear:

- Afraid that if we talk about transition, we might put the idea into someone's head and make it more likely to happen
- Afraid that we will create a lame duck situation in which effective ministry becomes impossible
- Afraid that the transitional discussion will have unintended consequences we cannot manage
- Afraid others won't engage in the discussion and we will go it alone

Your Prairie District Board is actively seeking to lead a healthy transition for myself and the role of District Superintendent over the next 2-1/2 years. A healthy transition is one that enables a ministry to move forward into the next phase of its external and internal development with a new leader. We are all players in this transition, but please do commit to pray for those giving strategic key leadership to our future ministry.

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

- Calgary Chinese EFC (English pastor, youth pastor)
- Monterey Park EFC, Calgary (pastor)
- Northeast Calgary Chinese EFC (pastor)
- South Calgary Chinese EFC (Cantonese pastor, associate English pastor)
- Delia Christian Fellowship (pastor)
- Manitou EFC, Neilburg SK (youth pastor)
- EFC of Medicine Hat (pastor)
- Okotoks EFC (worship pastor)

PRAIRIE DISTRICT STAFF / SPOUSE RETREAT

Our annual retreat was held in February at the extra beautiful Cypress Hills Resort. Lyndon Wall from Refresh Ministries brought God's Word to our hearts. We recommend Refresh Ministries for your staff retreats or leadership times.



ETZIKOM EFC/ORION EFC

Congratulations to Pastor George Mills (pictured here with his wife, Tara, and Tim and Lynn Seim) on completing his EFCC ordination. An ordination service was held on January 20, 2013.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Hugh and Fay Stewart have finished their ministry at Medicine Hat EFC. Pray for the search for God's next servant to join the work.

Brian and Colleen Corr have just begun their pastoral ministry in Foremost, AB. The Corrs are from Ireland and have studied in Canada at Prairie Bible College and Briercrest Seminary. They have been involved in ministry in both Ireland and Canada and have three adult children.



Enoch and Andrea Gray have finished their youth ministry at Calgary Chinese EFC. Pray for the Grays in their next steps, as well as for the church's search.

Malcolm and Sharon Peterson have resigned from their pastoral role at Monterey Park EFC. Malcolm will finish up on April 29, 2013. Pray for the Peterson's next steps and for the congregation as well.

DATES TO NOTE

- March 22—24** Southern Alberta Spring Ladies Retreat (SABC) "Flapping Chickens and Soaring Eagles: How to Handle Life" Speaker: Connie Cavanaugh. Questions? Contact Joyce Johnson dejohnson@gmail.com or 403-654-2863.
- April 21** EFCC Home Office Sunday (offering)
- May 6—10** EFCC Church Planting Boot Camp (Langley BC) Details at www.efcc.ca
- May 14—15** EFCC Theological Summit (Okotoks EFC) Register at www.efcc.ca (\$100). Pre-Session on Monday, May 13 (\$10).
- May 28—30** Canadian Council of Christian Charities Advancing Stewardship II training course (Calgary) Early bird reg by April 26. www.cccc.org
- May 30—June 2** SABC Ride for a Reason (Banff to SABC) www.rideforareason.ca
- October 18—20** Prairie District Conference at Southern Alberta Bible Camp

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