



Serving Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta

## Evangelical Free Church of Canada

# PRAIRIE PROFILE

strengthening pastors encouraging leaders developing churches



Spring 2017

Superintendent Rob & Cherise Cave

At the age of 66, Pastor Tim Keller recently announced that on July 1 of this year he will be retiring from his preaching and leadership responsibilities at Christ Redeemer Church in New York City. And though Christ Redeemer has grown to be a megachurch of 5,000 under Keller's pastoral leadership, seeking to maintain those numbers under one "church banner" is not the vision of the leadership at Christ Redeemer.

The transition that is soon to take place follows a vision plan Redeemer set in place back in 1997, to raise up pastors and leadership who would create sustainable churches which would not require someone like Tim Keller — someone who had his degree of gifts, intelligence, etc. — to carry on the ministry. "This is not primarily a succession plan," Kathy Keller said. "It is a vision for not being a megachurch."

If you have an opinion on how large a church can or should be, you are not alone. But if you are more concerned with being effective as a church in reaching your community, your particular culture with the gospel, then you are concerned about the right thing.

Tim Keller has said, "The gospel is a living force, always sending and giving — and as I am sent in a new way now, so is every member of Redeemer, to love and serve this great city."

If the gospel is a "living force, always sending and giving," then

shouldn't each of us be open to being sent in a way determined by God's Spirit? I wonder if many of the problems we encounter personally and our churches encounter collectively are because we focus far more on receiving what the gospel has for us, rather than delivering to others what the gospel has for them. We are eager to receive but are slow to go — to be sent — in order that the gospel might continue to impact those around us. Maybe what we are missing is the vision to see our part in the sustaining work of the gospel.

How open are you to being redirected to a "new ministry," to a "new opportunity" where you can continue to make an impact for Christ and deliver the gospel news about Jesus to those who have yet to hear or who have yet to respond?

### Pray for Pastoral Searches

#### Saskatchewan

- Big River
- Buffalo Narrows
- Meadow Lake
- Manitou EFC, Neilburg
- Osler

#### Alberta

- Compass Fellowship—Crownsnest Pass
- Delia Christian Fellowship
- Enchant
- Foremost
- Orion

## Celebrating 100 years!

June 24-25, 2017



The longest serving Evangelical Free Church in Canada is celebrating one hundred years of ministry!

The Evangelical Free Church of Enchant invites you to join them as they give glory to God for the lives that have been impacted in their community, across Canada, and around the world.

**Saturday, June 24**  
**Roast Beef Dinner @ 5:30pm**

**Register before June 1**  
**by calling Abbey @ 403-792-3908**

Sunday, June 25  
Pancake Breakfast, Worship Service, and Lunch

**Save the Date**  
2017 Prairie District Conference  
October 13-15 ~ EFC of Medicine Hat

### Financial Update

October 1, 2016—February 28, 2017

Equal Shares Budget \$51,375.00  
Equal Shares Giving \$53,084.62

**Thank you for your faithful giving!**

Equal Shares for the district are  
\$5 per member per month  
(\$60 per member per year)

Send all gifts to financial secretary

**Rachel Hawthorn**  
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## DISTRICT NEWS

**GraceLife, Calgary**  
Garth Plampling was called to serve as pastor last July. Both he and his wife, Cara, are excited to disciple believers and bring the gospel to South Calgary. Please pray for the church and elders, who want to have a heart for the lost as Jesus commands.



**Saskatoon**  
Rob Pearce has served as bi-vocational pastor since October. Prior to that he worked at a special care

home and at Saskatoon First Nations Alliance Church, in addition to missions work in Africa. He and his wife, Twyla, are certified marriage mentors and have two daughters.

### New Life, Calgary

Elijah Lee began as senior pastor on December 1, returning to New Life EFC after ministering there 18 years ago. Since then, he has served several churches in Canada and the U.S. He and his wife, Sarah, have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and a grandson.



### Staff / Spouse Retreat

Thirty-one people gathered at Cypress Hills Resort for a refreshing time of encouragement and fellowship in a beautiful wintery setting. Blayne Banting from Briercrest Seminary was the guest speaker.



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