

Prairie District PROFILE

Summer 2013

A friend and great ministry leader, Cam Taylor, wrote in an *Outreach Canada* letter about the Five Main Enemies of Unity. I quote from Cam's letter:

One of the internal enemies that can tear a congregation apart and wreck morale is the lack of unity. Paul calls us to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph 4:3). Unity is a bi-product of cultivating the right behaviours while removing destructive behavioural patterns.

The five enemies of unity you must fight continually:

1. **Poor communication**—this is when the right hand (congregation) doesn't know what the left hand (leadership team) is doing. Explain the game plan often; practice listening.
2. **Gossip**—poor communication teamed with gossip will damage God's work. "Gossip is when a negative is discussed with anyone who can't fix the problem" (Dave Ramsey). Teach people the danger of gossip.
3. **Unresolved disagreements**—a disagreement is not positive or negative. What makes it negative is the way people respond to it. Practice love and respect.
4. **A lack of shared purpose**—shared purpose is critical for unity. A shared purpose must be communicated and embraced by the congregation. Communicate clearly and repeatedly.
5. **Sanctioned incompetence**—people will become de-motivated when working with someone who won't or can't do their job. Set clear expectations and provide regular feedback.

It isn't just the leaders' job to keep the unity, but the job of the whole body for the call to unity. Keep fighting, but for unity.



*Superintendent
Tim & Lynn Seim*

Tim Seim

Structure eats strategy for lunch.

Dale Burke

Highly recommended by Tim:

www.ruralchurchpastorsnetwork.com

Prairie District

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DATES TO NOTE

September 27—29

Identity Youth Conference (EFC of Lethbridge)
www.identityyouthconference.ca

October 18—20

Prairie District Conference
Southern Alberta Bible Camp (one hour north of Lethbridge)
Theme—*Christian Camps Change Lives*

Week of October 21 to 25

The Life of the Rural Pastor: Making Ends Meet
(Staying in rural ministry when it doesn't make much "cents")
www.ruralchurchpastorsnetwork.com
Various locations and dates

PASTORAL TRANSITIONS

Okotoks EFC

Graeme and Sarena Rattray will be completing eight years of worship ministry leadership in Okotoks at the end of June. The Rattrays are moving to Thailand to serve with EFCCM. Well done, Graeme and Sarena and family. Chelsea Bustin has completed a two-year internship in worship ministries. She and her husband, Eric, are heading to Ukraine for the EFCCM Summer English Institute in July.

Mount Olive EFC—Three Hills

Norm and Karen Koop have completed six years in an associate pastoral role and have now left their staff position in the church. Pray for God's next ministry for the Koops. Thanks to Norm and Karen and their service in the district.

EFC of Lethbridge

The congregation is saying farewell to three staff members over the summer: Sid Koop has served as minister for peer ministries for nine years; Jeremiah Radvanszky was the director of creative programming since 2008; and Teresa Nihill is stepping down as director of preschool ministries after two years. Thanks to these faithful servants for their ministry.



Photo by Meyen Hertzsprung

New Life Chinese EFC—Calgary

Evan Hertzsprung began his role as youth pastor in April. Evan and Meyen have been married for 28 years and have a teenage daughter, two married children, and a granddaughter. Evan has BA degrees in Sociology and Philosophy and an MDiv from Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary.

South Calgary Chinese EFC

Tony Wong has been called to the position of Associate Cantonese Pastor. Originally from Hong Kong, he holds degrees from the University of Toronto and Tyndale Seminary. Tony and his wife, Graf, most recently served at Richmond (BC) Chinese EFC.



ORDINATION

Congratulations to Kenny Wong, his wife, Helen, and the congregation at South Calgary Chinese EFC on the ordination service for Pastor Kenny on April 28!



Photo by Randy Kwok

THE STORY IN DELIA

Delia Christian Fellowship is using *The Story* as a powerful church-wide experience during the sermon, the evening service, and Sunday School. Carefully selected verses from Genesis through Revelation are organized chronologically to help people understand God's story and how their stories intersect with it. *The Story* originated at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas with pastors Randy Frazee and Max Lucado. www.thestory.com

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO PRAY FOR DISTRICT CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORAL LEADERSHIP:

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



Unity. Charity. Jesus Christ