

Prairie District PROFILE

Winter 2013

What often plagues us in our lives and in our churches is what James Emery White has called “the culture of complacency” in his book, *The Church in an Age of Crisis* (Baker Press).

Most of us would say “I am anything but complacent.” That’s the problem. No one thinks they are complacent. White offers five signs that you might be more complacent than you think.



*Superintendent
Tim & Lynn Seim*

1. Far Too Easily Satisfied: When you are complacent, you are easily satisfied with minor achievements.
2. Quick to Make Excuses: When you are complacent, you are quick to offer all kinds of reasons about “why that wouldn’t work.” Challenges become obstacles, obstacles become barriers, and barriers are allowed to become excuses.
3. Never Enough Time: When you are complacent, there is the veneer of activity and busyness, but it is seldom strategic. Our time is spent doing what we enjoy or what gives us the most strokes, but again, not spent strategically.
4. No Longer Teachable: When you are complacent, you resist being challenged. There is a refusal to be open and to rethink where we are at and how we have done things.
5. Content with Early Success: When you are complacent, you rest in a measure of success and it proves to be enough. The question is “What now? What’s next?”

So have you settled into being complacent of late? Maybe now you know. And that’s a good thing.

Merry Christmas from the Prairie District! The office will be closed from Dec 20 through Jan 1.

Jacqui Morris Tim & Lynn

DISTRICT NEWS

South Calgary Chinese EFC

Hugh and Claire Fraser have come to the English congregation to lead a transitional ministry. The Frasers have led numerous transitional ministries through Outreach Canada, and they served with Monterey Park EFC (Calgary) in a similar role.



South Calgary Chinese EFC celebrated their 25th anniversary on September 13.

Manitou EFC—Neilburg SK

Brett Dafoe began October 1 as associate pastor of youth. He grew up attending Brooks EFC and working with youth at the church and at Southern Alberta Bible Camp. Currently Brett is completing a BA degree in youth ministry from Prairie Bible College. He and Ashleigh have been married two years and just welcomed a baby boy into their family!

DATES TO NOTE

- January 24-26** Men’s Retreat @ Southern Alberta Bible Camp
Register at www.sabc.ca
- February 4-5** Ed Stetzer @ West Portal Alliance Church, Saskatoon SK
Register by email: jared@jaredsiebert.com
- February 5** Pastoral Renewal Day @ Knox EFC, Edmonton with Lee Eclow, p pastor and author of *Pastoral Graces: Reflections on the Care of Souls*. Register by phone 780-518-0232 or www.refreshministries.org
- February 7-8** Prairie District Board Meeting @ Mount Olive EFC, Three Hills
- February 26** *Pastor as Risk Taker* Conference @ Ambrose University College, Calgary with speakers Mark Buchanan (associate professor of pastoral theology at Ambrose) and Darrell Johnson (preaching pastor at First Baptist Church, Vancouver)
- March 9-11** Prairie District Staff/Spouse Retreat @ The Resort at Cypress Hills Resilient Ministry” with Dave and Julie Acree. Registration material coming soon.
- March 21-23** Prairie District Women’s Retreat (Alberta) @ Southern Alberta Bible Camp / “Celebrate the Seasons: A Time for Everything” with Phyllis Bennett, director of the women’s center for ministry at Western Seminary, Portland, OR.

Send all gifts to our financial secretary:
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“Evangelism is not selling Jesus, closing the deal; it is sharing small “L” life so that we may have the opportunity to share capital “L” life.”
(Pete Briscoe)

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Unity. Charity. Jesus Christ.

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

- Calgary Chinese EFC (English pastor, youth pastor)
- South Calgary Chinese EFC (associate English pastor)
- Delia Christian Fellowship (pastor)
- Good Shepherd Community Church, Cut Knife, SK (pastor)