



Serving Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta

# Evangelical Free Church of Canada

## PRAIRIE PROFILE

strengthening pastors encouraging leaders developing churches



Superintendent Rob & Cherise Cave

Summer 2019

### Words

In 1 Corinthians 1:17, the apostle Paul said, "For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."

Words. I've been thinking lately how easily words seem to come to some people and not to others. Some people can't stop talking. Their lives are continual TED talks—no notes, just an ongoing monologue that seems to go on perpetually. Other people seem to have an invisible barrier in their mind that prevents the right words from ever showing up...until a frustrating amount of time has passed, making it impossible to defend or explain themselves. They never seem to be able to find the right words at the right time.

It's interesting to me that when the apostle Paul shared the gospel, he wanted people to be captivated more with the power of the resurrected, present Christ—and His life-changing work on the cross—than he did with delivering a finely crafted work of gospel art. Eloquent wisdom has a place, but it's not to take centre stage in gospel presentation.

In 1 Cor. 2:4 Paul elaborates, "...and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

When was the last time you argued someone into the Kingdom? What decibel level did you need to hit before someone submitted to your line of reasoning and changed their mind about how they viewed Jesus? How... many...times...did you keep saying the same thing over and over and over before someone decided to change the direction their life was going?

When we share the gospel with people, how many of us actually expect there to be a demonstration of the Spirit's power? What would that even look like? Healing? Repentance? Tears of joy, regret, hope?

I wonder where the power went in our words and in our witness. Where is the Holy Spirit involved in our gospel presentations? Could it be that our lack of desire to share the good news is mainly because we don't think we're wise enough or eloquent enough or loud enough or persistent enough?

Paul seemed to think that the work of gospel sharing was a supernatural work, demonstrated by the power of the Holy Spirit. Words were only the vessels through which the Spirit moved. What kind of words? Simple words. Humble words. Ordinary words.

Maybe we shouldn't worry about what words we use, but instead pray that the Holy Spirit will move powerfully through them.

### district news

#### 50 Years of Ministry at Elim EFC

On April 28, Bill and Sarah Dyck were honored for their half century of service as the pastor of Elim EFC in Fosston, SK! Bill's ministry has also included service on the national EFCC board, the Prairie District board, the district Trust Foundation, and a local Bible camp, as well as many community endeavours.



#### Medicine Hat

Greg Stephenson and his wife, Traci, began serving in April as the pastor of the EFC of Medicine Hat. Greg was in pastoral ministry in California for 20 years and recently spent eight years in church planting and Bible college leadership in New Zealand. Greg and Traci have a 19 year old son who is studying business in New Zealand.



#### Our Deepest Sympathies...

...to the family of Shirley Josefson on the passing of her husband, Wayne, on June 17. Since 2012, Wayne was the pastor of the EFC of Regina, and he also served on the Prairie District board for several years. Wayne first began ministry in the EFCC movement in the mid-1980s in Quebec. We are thankful to God for Wayne and Shirley's faithful service over many years, and our prayers are with the family and church.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

#### District Conference 2019

Hosted by the EFC of Meadow Lake in Saskatchewan

October 18-20

#### Calgary—New Life EFC

Pastor Elijah Lee retired at the end of May, and he and his wife Sarah will be moving to the U.S. Stephen Pit Fung Kwok and his wife Pat Ling began their interim pastoral ministry at New Life EFC on June 1.

#### Vauxhall

Bethel EFC celebrated their 75th anniversary on Sunday, June 2 with a special morning service, a community concert, and the opening of a 75-year-old time capsule! Five former pastors—Pete Unger, Harold Reimer, Dan Doerksen, Daniel Chege and Ken Easterbrook—spoke on God's faithfulness over the years.

#### Pastoral Searches

Pray for the following churches who are in the process of looking for their next pastor:

- Good Shepherd (Cut Knife SK)
- Saskatoon EFC
- Manitou EFC (Neilburg SK)
- Delia Christian Fellowship
- Cornerstone (Picture Butte) associate pastor
- South Calgary Chinese

### Finances

August 1, 2018—May 31, 2019  
 Equal Shares Budget \$104,000.00  
 Equal Shares Giving \$ 88,827.04  
**Below budget \$ 15,172.96**

Equal Shares (district donations) are \$5 per member per month (\$60 per member per year).

#### Send all gifts to financial secretary:

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