



Serving Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta

# Evangelical Free Church of Canada

## PRAIRIE PROFILE

strengthening pastors encouraging leaders developing churches



Superintendent Rob & Cherise Cave

Fall 2018

### May Jesus Live In You

*pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith* (Ephesians 3:16-17a).

Salvation was never Paul's end goal for the lost...it was a necessary beginning, but it was just a beginning. He prayed that God would grant them His strength so that the risen Lord Jesus would be evident in their lives. Life can be hard and unpredictable. Do you have the kind of faith—that rich and abiding faith—that reveals that the risen Lord Jesus is living and active in your life?

We work hard in our churches to help people and to encourage and challenge and resource them so that they would have enough—enough wisdom or courage or boldness to prepare them for whatever they might face in their lives. And that's not bad, But it's just not enough. Paul wanted them to clear space in their hearts so that Jesus would have the freedom to be Jesus in their lives. And their reality is the same as ours—they needed Jesus to come alive in their lives. They needed to have the faith to believe that who Jesus was and what Jesus wanted was the very best for them, regardless if they understood or agreed with what was going on in their lives. If they had the strength to endure difficult times it wasn't because they were strong, but because Jesus was strong IN them. If they had any wisdom or insight into His Word that helped people understand who He was and what He accomplished on the cross

for them, it was because He was dwelling IN them through this deep and abiding faith. If Jesus lives IN us, what is it that we lack to overcome obstacles in our lives? What do we lack in regards to strength if He who overcame sin, death and the grave lives IN us? If we lack wisdom and Jesus is really alive IN us, then don't we have access to His ways? Ways and understanding that are beyond our ways?

I pray that your faith in Jesus would grow, that you would long for the risen Lord of Heaven to dwell...to settle IN your heart space...to take root IN your heart through faith. I can only imagine how special that prayer must have been to the Ephesian church – that Paul would want them to experience the fullness of God in Christ, dwelling IN them.

### Send your ministry staff

to the Prairie District  
Staff & Spouse Retreat  
at the Resort at Cypress Hills

March 3-5, 2019

These days away to rest and reflect with other pastoral staff will have a lasting impact in the life, health and ministry of those who serve your church! Dan Nicholson (EFCC Leadership Catalyst) and his wife, June, will join us as guest speaker. Registration info has been sent to your church!



## district news



### Three Hills

Wayne Nelson began serving Mount Olive EFC as worship pastor on August 1. Wayne is married to Lydia and they have four adult children.

### Lethbridge

Geoff Heth will begin on February 1 as lead pastor. He has been a pastor for 25 years, most recently serving at RockPointe Church in Calgary, and he is completing a Doctor of Ministry at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Geoff loves playing and watching sports, reading, and travelling with his wife, Janel, and four adult children.



### Closure

After ten years in Calgary, GraceLife Church held its final service on Sunday, November 4. A year ago they moved the church to the Monterey Park area and saw significant inroads into the community, but several key people left for family reasons and there were not enough workers to sustain the church. Pray for Pastor Garth and Cara Plamping as they seek God's direction for their next ministry.

### Farewells

A few pastoral staff members have recently transitioned. We are thankful for their service in our district churches and wish them God's best in their next season:

- Claire Chang (South Calgary Chinese EFC)
- Raymond Lai (South Calgary Chinese EFC)
- Alexandre Nascimento (First EFC, Calgary)
- Rob Pearce (Saskatoon EFC)
- Matt Round (EFC of Medicine Hat)
- Amy Vetter (EFC of Lethbridge)
- Shirley Wu (South Calgary Chinese EFC)

## Finances

August 1—October 31, 2018  
 Equal Shares Budget \$31,200.00  
 Equal Shares Giving \$20,666.98  
*Below budget \$10,533.02*

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

Send all gifts to financial secretary  
**Rachel Hawthorn** [registrations@sabc.ca](mailto:registrations@sabc.ca)  
c/o SABC, Box 99, Lomond AB T0L 1G0

### District Conference Highlights

Over 75 people traveled from across southern Alberta and Saskatchewan to gather at First EFC in Calgary in mid-October for the annual District Conference. The church provided amazing hospitality for our time together, even sharing their lead pastor, Jaime Cisterna, as conference speaker. His messages on being a slave of Jesus Christ, *Set Apart for the Gospel*, was the number one highlight for conference attendees.

EFCC Executive Director Bill Taylor and Okotoks EFC Senior Pastor George Budd provided breakout sessions focusing on culture and EFCC structure, respectively. Another highlight was the panel of youth pastors (Brett McCoy, Taber; Kenton Barkman, Three Hills; Levi Fraser, Lethbridge; and Chris Young, Okotoks) who openly shared their challenges and perspectives on ministry to young people.

Here's how conference attendees answered the question "What did you find encouraging / informative /

refreshing about this year's conference?"

- To be more focused, more in prayer
- Messages. Also meeting different people from churches, especially over meals
- The focus on spreading the gospel
- A local host church pastor's enthusiastic heart for God, His Word, and Church (*conference messages are available at [www.pdfcc.ca](http://www.pdfcc.ca)*)
- Fellowship; hearing the panel of youth pastors
- The youth pastors were terrific and are the future of our church
- The chance to catch up with others within the district
- Hearing about what is happening in our district with other churches and being reminded that we are part of a bigger family and not as isolated as we may at times feel.

*Next year's conference: Oct 18-20 (location to be determined).*