



Serving Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta

Evangelical Free Church of Canada

PRAIRIE PROFILE

strengthening pastors encouraging leaders developing churches



Superintendent Rob & Cherise Cave

Spring 2019

Marionette Christianity

A marionette is a puppet controlled by strings or wires. The movement of the marionette is controlled, limited, directed by the one who is dictating the movements.

Perhaps you've been given something by someone (a responsibility, opportunity, or financial gift) and you've felt like a marionette. You can't see the strings, but you've felt them: expectations that you must now do things in a particular way or that you now owe something in return.

Now there's nothing wrong with expectations as long as they are reasonable, clear and understood. God grants us the gift of salvation through His Son, but also expects certain things from us—that we will continue to choose Him and love Him and seek to make His Kingdom priorities our own. That's completely reasonable.

He won't "make" us do the good He desires us to do. He won't make us live out the Kingdom realities we have been granted through our relationship with Jesus. That is our responsibility—to choose to walk in step with His Spirit—making choices that line up with the grace we have already received in Christ and continue to receive.

My question is this: what if you feel you have spiritual "strings" attached to your walk with God? Strings that limit your freedom to be who God has called you to be, maybe because of the presence of sin in your

life, or maybe because of a legalistic spirit that others have placed on you—that you have to do something in a way that they think you should do it. What do you do?

In Galatians 5:1, the apostle Paul says "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." The freedom for which Christ set us free isn't about doing what we want, when we want, how we want. It's about the freedom to worship Him, serve Him, rest in Him and enjoy Him.

When Paul says that we are to "stand firm," he's calling us to be rooted and established in the freedom Christ secured for us through His death and resurrection. We have been re-created in Christ with a freedom to serve Him and His purposes. He has called us and set us apart from the world of sin and from the world of religiosity that limits our ability to be who Christ has called and gifted us to be.

The world doesn't need more marionettes, it needs uniquely fashioned and gifted followers of Jesus who express the heart and character of the One who has set them free. Cut the strings of religiosity and sin and be who Christ has uniquely created and gifted you to be.

The Church of Jesus Christ needs you to be who Christ has created you to be. And so does this world. Cut the strings. Be free.

district news

Lethbridge

Following an internship position at the EFC of Lethbridge last year, Matthew Pauls has been hired as the director of elementary ministries. His role began on January 2. Matt is a graduate of Briercrest College, where he studied theology and served on the student government.



Pastor's Orientation

Eighteen pastors across the Prairie District have been invited to the biennial EFCC Orientation for new staff, to be held on May 15 at Okotoks EFC. This day-long session provides a great opportunity for those new to the EFCC to meet district and national personnel and to learn more about the heritage, ethos, vision and services of the EFCC movement. Attendance is also a requirement for EFCC credentialing.

EFCC Theology Conference

May 16 and 17 will see over 100 pastors and lay leaders gather at Okotoks EFC for the 2019 EFCC theology conference. This year's guest speaker is well-known author Scot McKnight, professor of New Testament at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Illinois. The focus will be "Gospel of Substance; Church of Differents."

Vauxhall

Bethel EFC is celebrating their 75th anniversary! Sunday, June 2 will include a special morning service, a community concert, and the opening of a 75-year-old time capsule! Mark your calendar and contact the church for more details closer to the date: bethelfree@gmail.com

Staff / Spouse Retreat

The Inn at Cypress Hills once again provided a relaxing and beautiful location for the annual district retreat for ministry staff. Thirty people gathered for the two-night retreat where Dan Nicholson spoke on the seasons of life.



announced as Lashburn Community Church but has been changed to Meadow Lake).

District Conference 2019

The annual district conference will be hosted by the EFC of Meadow Lake in northern Saskatchewan, October 18-20. (Note: the location was previously

Beauty in Simplicity

Alberta Ladies' Retreat

<https://efcladiesretreat.wixsite.com/sabc>

April 5-7, 2019

Southern Alberta Bible Camp

Guest Speaker: Donna Carter from Straight Talk Ministries \$185 (full weekend) \$100 (Saturday only) Register by March 25!

Women from Bethel EFC (Vauxhall) and Enchant EFC are planning this event and can be reached at ladiesretreat2019@gmail.com



Finances

August 1, 2018—February 28, 2019
Equal Shares Budget \$ 72,800.00
Equal Shares Giving \$ 59,702.04
Below budget \$ 13,097.96

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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