

THOUGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT GUY



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January 26, 2022

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff & Spouse Retreat—there are couples, individuals, and young families planning to attend our retreat in Cypress Hills, March 6-8! Register soon (<https://form.jotform.com/92835638617267>) and book your accommodations with the Resort (<https://resortatcypresshills.ca>). Details at www.pdefcc.ca

EFCC Annual Reporting—48 of our Prairie District's 74 ministry staff personnel have completed their Annual Report for the Ministerial Standing Committee! If you haven't yet, please do it today: <https://www.efccm.ca/wordpress/aboutus/learn-about-the-efcc/efcc-credentialing/mscreport/>

My Schedule—I'll be in the District until February 7, and then working from my home in Smithers for three weeks. My plan is to be back in the District, February 28 to April 4.

Credentialing Status—During my time back in Smithers, I plan to contact District pastors about their Credentialing or Ordination status. One of the goals for the Prairie District Board is to increase the number of credentialed pastors/ministry staff in the District.

WHAT I'M LEARNING...

I've been spending some time in Philippians this week, and the other day I was reading in chapter 3. Paul is warning the church about false teachers who are trying to compel the new believers to keep the Law of Moses to be saved. And so, in Philippians 3:3, Paul says this: "We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort...."

"We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us." We need Christ's death and resurrection to be saved, and we need Christ's death and resurrection to live the faithful life of following Jesus. To paraphrase Tim Keller, "The only thing I contribute to my salvation is the sin that makes it necessary."

Too often in life and ministry, I've been tempted—and succumbed to the temptation—to rely on what I do and what I've done. My focus gets distracted from Christ and His work and glory, onto my own. And I become a glory-thief, attempting to steal even just a little bit of the glory that belongs to Jesus and trying to pickpocket some for me. For salvation, for life, for ministry, I need Jesus and all that He's accomplished for me. As the old hymn declares, "I Need Thee Every Hour."

May you be encouraged by pondering this phrase: "**We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us.**"

CHURCH OF THE WEEK

The First Church of God is not a Prairie District church (yet), however Tim Seim, Bill Attwood and I met with Mbukana Galy and some of their leadership and families this week to build relationship and hear their story and heart for



ministry. Please pray for Mbukana and this new church as they meet in NE Calgary and seek to share the gospel with Congolese immigrants and also to whomever the Lord leads their way. Pray for our District as we seek how we can support them.

QUESTION CORNER

What could it look like for your church to have a different language/ethnic congregation meet (even be planted) in your church building?