

THOUGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT GUY

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UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

My Schedule—I am in Smithers, as we finish packing up our house and prepare to hand over the keys to the new owners next week. After EFCC meetings in Langley in early May, I plan to be back in the District on May 7.

New Ministerial Gatherings—

- Children's Ministry Pastors/Workers May 25 at Brooks EFC
- Pastors of Chinese Churches May 26 at South Calgary CEFC
Contact me for more information!

2022 Evangelical Free Church of Canada AGM—June 4 (online)

Register soon: <https://www.efccm.ca/wordpress/efcc-virtual-agm-2022/>

Benevolence Fund—to give to EFCCM work in Ukraine and elsewhere: www.efccm.ca/wordpress/donate/benevolence-fund/

WHAT I'M LEARNING...

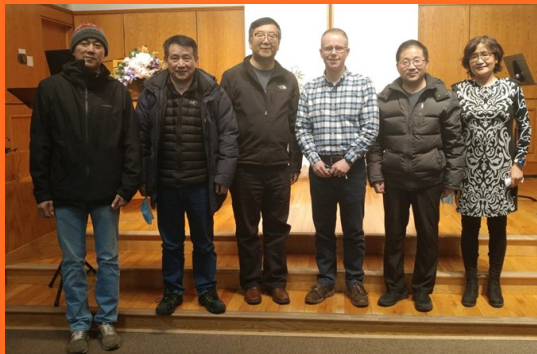
This morning in my devotions, I was reading 2 Timothy 2. In this intimate letter written by an imprisoned Paul to the younger Timothy, Paul is encouraging Timothy to persevere in his calling to follow and proclaim Jesus Christ. Verse 8 jumped out to me: **"Always remember that Jesus Christ, a descendant of King David, was raised from the dead. This is the Good News I preach."**

Over the years I've seen that we can fall into a tendency to keep Christ's Resurrection confined to Easter Sunday and to funeral sermons. We tend to be pretty good at remembering the Cross, but without the Resurrection we wouldn't have much to say about the Cross.

I love what Paul reminds Timothy, and us: **"Always remember that Jesus Christ...was raised from the dead."** We serve a risen Saviour, Lord and King! The New Testament has so much to say about this Good News: The Resurrection declares Jesus to be the Son of God (Romans 1:4); Jesus' Resurrection assures us of our own resurrection; Death has been defeated (1 Corinthians 15); Jesus is our living high priest who enables us to approach the throne of God (Hebrews 4:14-16); Jesus' Resurrection is the basis of our justification (Romans 4:25). Jesus' Resurrection gives us hope, and the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead is still at work in us—the Church—today!

This is Good News which must not be confined to a few days of the year! As we sang in our Easter service this past Sunday: **"Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free; Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me; You have broken every chain; There's salvation in your name; Jesus Christ, my living hope."** Jesus Christ has been resurrected from the dead! This is Good News for every day!

CHURCH OF THE WEEK— NEW LIFE EFC, CALGARY



Here is Pastor William Yansong Xu (third from left) and part of the Deacon Board. They share these praises and prayer requests:

1. Thank God! The theme of this year for our church is "Look to Christ, Build Home" and the goal of discipleship is "Be grateful for everything and lead one (family/person) to church." May the Lord lead and remind brothers and sisters often. May God bless our church.
2. Praise Lord! On Easter Sunday, six brothers and sisters were baptized and proclaimed to be children of God. May God protect them, make the weak strong, lead in their spiritual life, bless their family, keep their children walking in the grace of the Lord and never stray from it.
3. Chinese and English worship and children's Sunday schools have resumed physically. May God be with us, guide us, care for us, and protect us! May God lead everyone to actively participate in the physical worship services and Sunday school for youth and children! May the Lord bless our Sunday School (for adults) which has four classes normally, attracting more brothers and sisters to participate.
4. May God protect and lead the English ministry! May God send a suitable English-speaking pastor to lead the youth ministry among us as soon as possible.
5. May the Lord bless our fellowship, attracting more brothers and sisters and seekers to participate!
6. Pray for God to protect and lead all Sunday sermons, giving strength and wisdom to pastors weekly!
7. Pray for the deacon board. May God support each deacon and their family so they can devote themselves to the work of the Lord by God's grace, be faithful to the entrustment of the living, stick to their duties, manage God's church well, and be faithful and good stewards.

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QUESTION CORNER

When people come to your services or other church gatherings, are they hearing the Good News?