

# THOUGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT GUY

## UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**My Schedule**—I am back in the District now. Please pray for our family as we are apart for a number of weeks and as we move into our new home at the end of June.

**New Ministerial Gatherings**—*contact me for more information!*

- Youth Pastors/Workers  
May 25 at Brooks EFC (10AM)
- Children's Ministry Pastors/Workers  
May 25 at Brooks EFC (1PM)
- Pastors of Chinese Churches  
May 26 at South Calgary CEFC (10:30AM)
- Saskatchewan Ministerial  
June 13 at Saskatoon EFC (Noon)

**2022 Evangelical Free Church of Canada AGM**—June 4 (online)  
*Register today!* <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/](http://www.efccm.ca/wordpress/donate/benevolence-fund/)

**EFCC Statement on Gender & Human Sexuality**—<https://efcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Statement-on-Gender-and-Human-Sexuality-May-2022-1.pdf>

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## WHAT I'M LEARNING...

This week I visited Ambrose University in Calgary to meet with university president Gordon Smith. Dr. Smith is going to be the speaker at our District Conference in Medicine Hat on October 14 and 15, addressing how we can live as faithful followers of Christ in this changing culture. I wanted to meet Dr. Smith in person to talk about conference and get to know him. At the end of the conversation, he gave me a couple of his books. One of them—*Teach Us To Pray*—has been speaking to me in recent days.

In the book Dr. Smith invites us to recalibrate ourselves through praying those first words of the Lord's Prayer: "**Your Kingdom come.**" In praying these words, we remember Who is King, and this enables us to regain a proper perspective on life and circumstances and events.

And what I've been spending a lot of time meditating on is the emphasis in his book on praying and practicing thanksgiving. Thanksgiving to God is commanded throughout Scripture and modeled throughout as well. Thanksgiving re-orientes us to the fact that God loves us and He provides for us. Everything we have, we've received from Him.

And thanksgiving is the right corrective to the tendency to words and actions and attitudes of complaint and entitlement and ingratitude. These are so prevalent in our culture, and they surface all too often in my own heart as well.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Paul writes, "**Be thankful in all circumstances...**" As children of God through faith in Christ, we have so much to be thankful for! As Dr. Smith writes, "*God is good, and his love endures forever. Everything in the Christian life presumes this fundamental conviction and point of departure: the goodness of God. God is on our side; God is for us and not against us; indeed, God is good.*"

## CHURCH OF THE WEEK MANITOU EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH



Clifford Scott, Manitou EFC (Neilburg, SK) Board Secretary, writes:

*We praise the Lord for the wonderful spirit of unity He has brought to our church. We are having great fellowship and congregational participation in the ministry. We're thankful for some new families who are fellowshiping with us.*

*Pray for our Constitution Revision Committee as they update our constitution. Also for the Spirit's working in our community as we seek to reach men and women with the gospel.*

## QUESTION CORNER

What does **giving thanks in all circumstances** look like in your life?