

# THOUGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT GUY



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## UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Equal Shares—

Thank you for reminding your church board and treasurer about Prairie District support (Equal Shares) \$5 per member per month (\$60 per member per year). All financial gifts can be sent to

Rachel Hawthorn  
Box 807  
Nobleford AB T0L 1S0

### Prairie District Staff & Spouse

**Retreat**—March 5-7, 2023 at the Resort at Cypress Hills (SK). More information coming soon...make note of the dates and plan to attend!

## WHAT I'M LEARNING...

Unexpectedly, Christmas this year has become a juxtaposition for me. As my wife and I look forward to some of our children coming home for Christmas, as we look forward to our first experience of having a daughter bring her fiancé home for Christmas, as we decorate our home and plan to attend local Christmas events, we received news that my stepfather died this past Friday.

So now the joy and expectancy of the Christmas season has been juxtaposed next to my mother's grief and the process of walking with her through the handling of the estate. A week that was planned to feature some slowing down has now become a week of travel to BC with numerous appointments. The celebration of the birth of Christ is juxtaposed to the death of my mother's husband of 28 years.

But is this really an unexpected juxtaposition? At Christmas—and throughout the rest of the year—our culture prefers to leave Jesus in the manger. But the testimony of Scripture, even the accounts of Jesus' birth, always look forward to the purpose of His coming. The good news of great joy is that a Savior has been born. His name will be Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. Old man Simeon revealed to Mary that Jesus would be opposed by many. The birth of Jesus always anticipates His redeeming death for us.

Hebrews 2 explains the gracious and loving purposes behind the incarnation of God the Son. May these words encourage you, as they encourage me: **"Because God's children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying..."**

**"Therefore, it was necessary for Him to be made in every respect like us, His brothers and sisters, so that He could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then He could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested"**

(Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-18 NLT).

## QUESTION CORNER

What are you most thankful for, this Christmas season?

*I'd love to hear your answers!*  
Send them to  
trevor.brawdy@pdefcc.ca

## CHURCH OF THE WEEK BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH (VAUXHALL)



Board member Ray Snaith writes:

**Praise God** for the incredible turn out for the community Snowflake Frolic. More than 200 people visited the church for gourmet hot chocolate, games or just to sit by the fire (outside) and visit. Together with two other churches from Vauxhall, a live Nativity Scene was created in the town park with kids and animals playing the parts. It was a wonderful way to connect with our community.

**Prayer** We are thankful for our new pastoral couple, Scott and Shannon Crawford. Please pray that they will be able to sell their house in Cut Knife, SK and make the move to Vauxhall to begin their ministry at our church and in the Vauxhall community. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leadership team as they continue to serve during this time of waiting.

