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October 30, 2019

Baptist Beats

THE HEART BEAT

of the BGCC



Upcoming Events:

National Week of Prayer
Jan 5-11, 2020

2020 Leadership Summit
Feb 20-23, 2020
Cochrane, AB

Celebration AGM
June 4-6, 2020
Surrey, BC

Donations



Hello from Montreal - I am here with leaders from various denominations and the topic is "Evangelicalism in Canada: Past, Present and Future." Evangelicals in Canada often get branded with nicknames or outright misrepresented in the media. The recent election in Canada saw strong criticism of candidates holding evangelical positions on abortion, assisted suicide and LGBTQ issues.

"Evangelical" as a term is under scrutiny now more than ever. Do you self-identify as evangelical? It's not always simple to define what evangelicalism is. Bebbington's well-known [quadrilateral](#) outlined 4 aspects of evangelicalism: The necessity of personal conversion, the centrality of the Bible, the Cross of Christ, and good works at home and around the globe. It started as a subset within Protestantism. But it has endured for three centuries and today is a growing, dynamic spiritual force in the world.

Our rich history goes back to the Moravians and the Great Awakening in the days of Whitefield, Edwards and the Wesleys. They saw themselves in continuity with the early church. The emphasis was on conversion, revival and true heartfelt religion. The movement was international and interdenominational in its roots and continues that way today. All agreed in the essential of gospel proclamation so missions became a priority. There was also social impact as evangelicals advocated the repeal of slavery, care for the poor and prison reform.

Also to know God's presence is a key aspect of evangelicalism. To have a living faith - not just assent to a creed. This produced devotion to Christ that led to sacrificial service in the darkest places on earth. We are a dynamic spiritual movement - more than doctrinal precision but centred on the "life of God in the soul of man".

However, now some Christians are asking: Should we change the name? Some authors like Scott McKnight advocate that we bury the name "evangelical".

Survey polls show that the great majority of Canadians do not approve of President Trump. However, he currently enjoys strong support by evangelicals in the US and that association affects us negatively in Canada. These US evangelicals are predominantly white, don't often attend church, but believe in God, America and have unequivocal support for Trump.

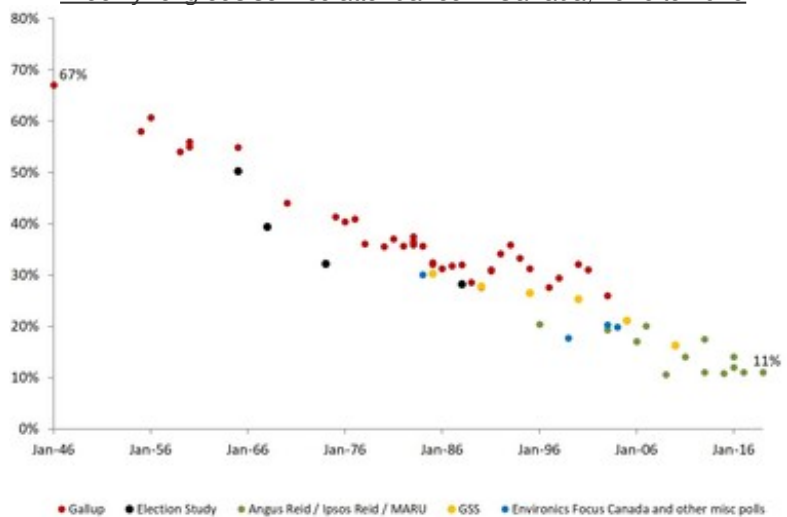
I cherish the way the gospel came to me through my evangelical roots. I do not want to give up that name because of unfavorable connections elsewhere. We have to be willing to be misunderstood for the sake of the gospel. We can't avoid censure of the world or be embarrassed to stand for fear of the culture.

The BGC has to be anchored in true Christianity. We have to choose our identification. There doesn't appear to be a good alternative name for who we are - so we face a long term project to identify ourselves to our Canadian people. Let's focus on Christlikeness in our character, works and gospel proclamation. Canada needs Jesus and we have this moment to make a difference for Him.

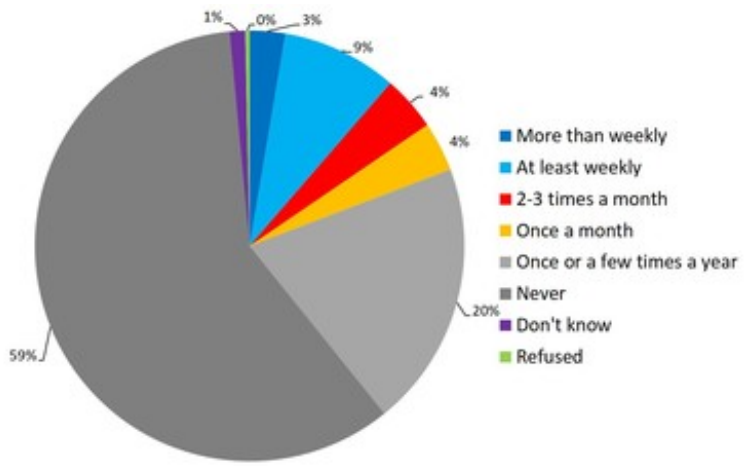
Kevin Schular
Executive Director

Below are the most recent data about church attendance in Canada. The first circle graph is for all Canadians and the second is for those who self-identify as evangelical.

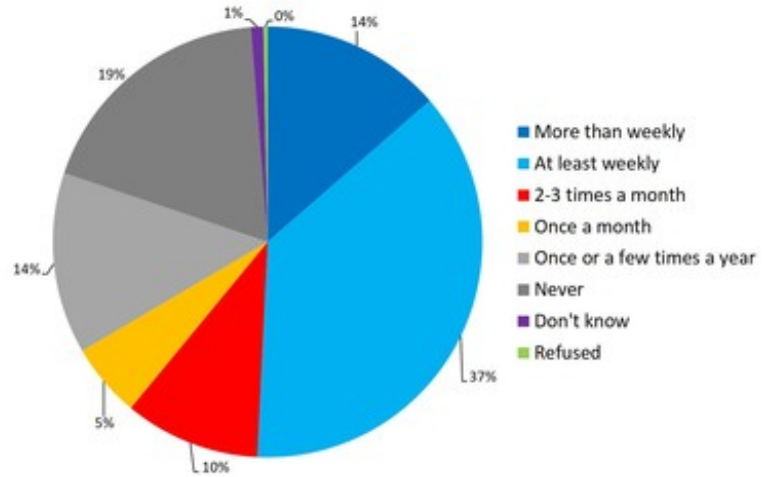
Weekly religious service attendance in Canada, 1946 to 2019



Religious service attendance for all Canadians, 2019



Religious service attendance for current evangelical affiliates, 2019



Shabbat Shel Shalom Messianic Fellowship



Winnipeg Punjabi Church at Summer Event



Kevin met with Haitian Pastors in Montreal



L to R: Antoine, Josue, Kevin, Mesene, Emmanuel, Jusme, Jean-Robert and Bethy

BGCA District Minister Roger Helland leading ordination service for Pastor Johnston Pablo



Lansdowne Chinese Baptist Church



Here are some pics from BGC mission to train house church leaders. We have two videos of IDT that can be viewed if you request. Contact [Josh](#) for access.







Something small can be
mighty in God's hands...



Available to churches any Sunday from Sept 2019 to June 2020, the event will inspire your congregation and show them how God is working in the lives of the poor throughout the world in remarkable ways through the local church.

The theme this year is **Less Is More**, emphasizing how God can take what we have and use it in miraculous ways to bring about His Kingdom on Earth.

You will receive a package which includes everything you need to need to run a Sunday morning, including:

- a full sermon with illustrations
- a PPT, video
- bulletin Inserts
- take-away 5-week devotional.

To learn more and book a Sunday please visit us [here](#)

BGCC National Board Meeting





The BGC Board wants to promote graduate education among our pastors. At the Board meeting last week we voted to support our pastors and leaders at \$100/month for their first year of graduate studies at Master or Doctoral level at a BGC approved seminary. Please contact the [BGC office](#) for more information.



Are you ready to go deeper in your theological training? Canadian Baptist Seminary is ready to serve you in two powerful ways:

- Attend classes on campus at Langley, BC.
- Enroll in our competency-based format and study within the context of the local church and godly mentors

Either choice leads you to an accredited M.A., M.Div or D.Min degree
Contact CBS today and begin preparing for deeper spiritual formation and greater ministry effectiveness

<https://canadianbaptistseminary.com/>

Interesting Reads

1. **This article focuses on the real-life challenges of ministry and how it affects pastors - [Article](#)**
2. **The Word of God is always under attack from secular and religious commentators. Where do you stand on inerrancy? This article restates the evangelical position and calls attention to current attacks - [Article](#)**
3. **If you looked at the graphs on church attendance above you realize these are serious times for the Canadian church. We need a deep work of the Spirit of God in our hearts as leaders. But we also can learn from some basic truths about church growth. This article helps us understand what**

obstacles we have that prevent us from reaching into our culture - [Article](#)

4. **Why should anyone be interested in the New Testament?**
Watch this 12-minute video where N.T. Wright and Michael Bird discuss the importance of the New Testament - [Video](#)
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Seven Essentials of the BGC

Our motto and mission: "A Network of Churches that make disciples who live and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their Communities, throughout Canada, and out to the Nations." Together, we have identified seven essential areas where God is at work among our church families. These seven areas are also critical to the future growth and health of our churches.

[7 Essentials of the BGCC](#)

We will highlight one Essential in each issue of Baptist Beats.

Harmonious, Functional Organizational Structures

BGCC develop and operate within a structure that brings out the best from our partnership with each other - regionally, nationally and beyond.

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