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November 21, 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

School of Orientation
April 21-22, 2019
Edmonton, AB

Celebration AGM
June 4-6, 2020
Surrey, BC

Donations



Hello from Edmonton – I hope you are well and living faithfully for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Hey – company is coming! Christmas is the peak season when unchurched or nominal attendees think of visiting a place of worship. Are you ready for company? Don't just settle for telling the story the same way but cover it with prayer, put creative thought and Spirit-boldness into your Christmas events.

What is the reach of a pastor's influence? The world has us on the defensive – claiming that religion has no place in the public sphere. Solid research has been done on the impact of Evangelical Christianity and the ripple effect of our congregations in Canada. Secular, peer-reviewed documents on the benefit of religion in Canada have been presented to the Senate in Ottawa. The BC Humanist Association wanted advancement of religion removed as a charitable purpose. The CCCC intervened in the court case as well as others. The conclusion was that there is a tangible benefit to the public with the advancement of religion.

Churches bless Canada by proclaiming the Word of God, but also in more ways than first thought:

- Activates pro-social attitudes & behaviour. The committed churchgoer is much more likely to have more concern for social issues. Secular ethics does advocate the same things but Christianity prioritizes this.
- Better personal outcomes - Religion promotes responsible life choices and improved health. Christian teaching leads to good citizens, care for others, and acting for the common good.
- Tangible community benefits – Christian people serve the public and care for people. The committed churchgoer is not likely to commit crimes, overdose on drugs or stress the welfare system.
- Tangible benefits for the public at large – evangelicals give to their churches but also generously support secular charities more than the average citizen.

How can we measure the socio-economic impact of churches? Have you heard of Halo Canada? Go to their website www.haloproject.ca for more stats and research on the “halo effect”. Since 2016 they have studied 80 Canadian churches. Research shows that for every \$1 donated, the value to the community is \$3.68. People come to worship, then go out to eat, buy gas or groceries, etc. There are 21,249 places of worship in Canada and the stats show a \$15billion impact on local economies near the place of worship. This is helpful data for you if seeking re-zoning permits. We have to speak the language that city hall understands.

Pastors – serve the Lord with powerful purpose and Holy Spirit discernment in these days! We are praying for you in the national office and are ready to serve you and your church.

Kevin Schular
Executive Director



BGC has been holding a leadership summit for our young adults since 2003. We target the teaching for those age 18-30. Singles or married are welcome.

The next 2020 is coming up in February and will be at Cochrane, Alberta.

Please look at the website and encourage your people to attend. If you get behind it there is a greater likelihood of their participation!

<http://2020summit.bgc.ca/>

The Role of Women In Ministry

Earlier this month our office sent out a survey on the topic of the role of women in ministry. This question was raised at our national board meeting in October and the consensus was that we should poll our leaders across the Conference. Thanks to all who responded by completing the survey and adding their perspective. Please open the [attachment](#) to see the results and then read the comments from other BGC pastors on this topic.



Venezuelan Refugee Crisis Masses of Venezuelan refugees continue to flee their homes, desperate to escape starvation, violence, and disease. Tearfund is working with local pastors and churches in the port city of Barranquilla to provide food to families, daily cooked meals for children, and emotional and spiritual support. We desperately need Canadian churches to come alongside these men and women.

- For more information on the crisis please visit: www.tearfund.ca/vencrisis
 - For church resources please visit: www.tearfund.ca/venezuela-resources/
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Greetings From Canadian Baptist Seminary

Dear Friend of CBS

I hope you are well. I am glad to greet you on behalf of Canadian Baptist Seminary and am excited to tell you that there is renewal happening in our school.

Please open the video link (picture) for a short message from myself and our Academic Dean, Dr Bernard Mukwavi about these new initiatives and the opportunity for a matching donor grant from a generous supporter. This generous donor has offered to match all donations made between now and Dec 31, 2019, up to \$25,000.



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. **Do you demonstrate these characteristics of leaders? - [Article](#)**
2. **The importance of a good culture with your church staff and key leaders - [Article](#)**
3. **We have been grieving the loss of two family members this year. the Grief Share ministry has been a comfort. How do you deal with death and how are you leading your congregation to grieve well? - [Article](#)**

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.

Multiplying Faith Communities

BGCC churches strive to multiply their ministry through church planting and other innovative approaches.

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