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March 16, 2017

Baptist Beats
THE HEART BEAT
of the BGCC



Interesting Reads

School of Orientation
April 24-26, 2017

National Celebration
Camp Nakamun, AB
June 22-24, 2017

Donations



Have you heard about our 360 Strategy? BGC360.CA



Kevin Schular, Executive Director

Hello from Edmonton. Thanks for your faithful ministry in your area of His vineyard! I am praying for you and trust that this upcoming Easter season will be marked with salvation decisions, baptisms and renewal.

Spring is the season of growth in Canada. As I travel and talk with our leaders, many confide of weariness and even emptiness in their hearts and ministry. The demands of being a pastor can be draining. We long for the Spirit to bring refreshment. May each of us personally, and our Conference as a whole, know the Lord in His fullness.

Canada is marking our 150th anniversary in 2017. All across the country there will be events focusing on this special year. Our BGCC National Celebration will embrace this theme as we focus on a line from our national anthem that says: "O Canada, we stand on guard for thee".

The inscription on the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill is from Psalm 72: "He shall have dominion from sea to sea". Canada has a Christian heritage but that is no longer a high value in our society. Recent laws authorizing assisted suicide and the proposed legalization of marijuana remind that godly wisdom is not a priority in Ottawa.

Instead of only lamenting the downward decline, let's come together in June to explore ways to truly "be on guard" for our wonderful nation. The longing in our hearts is to see God glorified in Canada.

My firm belief is that the local church is the Lord's plan for modelling righteousness and being His light to the world. Each BGC congregation should be the expression of Christ in our communities. Our Celebration will focus on prayer, church health and practical ways to impact our region where we minister.

I warmly invite you to be with us in June at Camp Nakamun in Alberta!

Interesting Reads

1. How have you taught the Trinity? It's St. Patrick's Day. Watch this short cartoon clip and see if you have used any of these descriptions. [St. Patrick's Bad Analogies](#)
2. National Post [Donald Trump, An Answer to Prayer](#)
3. Theologically Conservative Churches more likely to grow [Anglican Journal](#)

National Celebration

You are invited to Alberta June 22-24 for the Annual Meeting of the BGCC. We are gathering at Camp Nakamun, which is a church conference center about 45 minutes west of Edmonton. You can choose to stay in the lodge, cabins or bring your trailer or tent. There will be activities for children as well as an Amazing Race for delegates who want to compete. Of course we will be doing the business of the BGCC and enjoying time together as a Conference family. Here is a link for Camp: <http://www.campnakamun.com/>

Montreal Pastor's Meeting on March 4, 2017



Pastor Augustin Jusme and family. He is pastor at Eglise Evangelique Sinai in Montreal. I had the joy of preaching there on March 5!



I was thankful to be at the anniversary service for Église Évangélique Mont des Oliviers in Montreal on March 5. Pastor Emmanuel Jean Denis planted this work nine years ago. BGCC helped him with church planting support. Emmanuel has a full time career as an Aircraft Engineer at Bombardier but also has seen his congregation grow to 90 people on an average Sunday. The church celebrated their anniversary with five baptisms and 17 new members. What a tremendous blessing!



Pastor Emmanuel and wife, Lena



Worship team at Anniversary Service



Budget Planning

As you prepare your church budget for 2017, please consider National Office in your planning. As the incoming Executive Director, I was astonished to learn that in 2015, 30% of our churches did not contribute to the BGCC! (2016 will likely be in a similar range) This is much different from other churches I have served in, where supporting national / district denominational offices was a responsibility that was joyfully embraced. I recognize that some of these are new churches or ethnic congregations and have more immediate needs. However, to build a strong national team we need our churches to partner with us in tangible

ways. This is where our faithful, established churches can also bless our denomination by giving well until others can pick up their share. May the Lord guide you in your budget planning for 2017!

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.

<http://bgc.ca/about-us/7-essentials>

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

Leadership Development:

We need to train up the next generation of pastors and leaders. We need help with our leadership at the local level.

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