

February 17, 2017

Baptist Beats
THE HEART BEAT
of the BGCC



Interesting Reads

National Board Meeting
February 27-28, 2017

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. What a joy is ours to be in the service of Christ and His Church! I am so thankful to be His child and that He called me into the ministry. I am praying for you this week and trust you will have a powerful season of ministry.

This past week I was in BC to attend a retreat for our BCBC pastors and board meetings at ACTS seminary and Regents meeting. Weather in BC changed all those plans! Sometimes life is frustrating! I had a lot of material to present and I was disappointed when weather led to cancellations.

I did make it to one planned event though. C2C was holding their annual Multiply conference in Vancouver. It fit perfectly between the other meetings I had scheduled. As a bonus, my son was able to attend the conference as well. He is an Associate Pastor in Winnipeg and we shared a hotel room for two nights. How sweet to go to the sessions together and then discuss and pray over what we heard and felt God doing in our hearts. C2C has a compelling vision for church planting in Canada and the BGC is partnering with them to see more congregations established in our country.

Jeff Vanderstelt said something at Multiply that especially challenged me: "If you have a vision to build a big church your vision is too small. If your vision is what you can figure out on your own then it is too small. Vision should focus on God's glory." He used the text from Habakkuk 2:14, "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters cover the sea."

That has been my prayer since stepping into the role of Executive Director. I have a God-sized vision for our Conference and our impact in Canada and the world. Let's pray, serve and spend our lives for Him!

Interesting Reads

1. Here is the list from Preaching magazine - some I agree

with, others I've never heard of. Who would be on yours? [The 25 most influential preachers.](#)

2. Here is a synopsis of Lee Beach's book on the state of the Canadian church. Good data! [The Church in Exile](#)
 3. Are you keeping up with where "being spiritual" is headed? There are good links on this page [All About Spirituality](#)
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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/>

Worship at BGCS Retreat in January



Kevin with Adel & Layla Masoud, Director's of the Middle East Friendship Centre on Missions Sunday at Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Surrey, BC



Middle East Friendship Centre



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 Essential 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:

Spiritual Formation:

BGCC churches are committed to disciple-making. As the outworking of fulfilling Christ's Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20), this is the essence of our reason for existence. We exist to see Christ fully formed in the lives of all those God entrusts to our spiritual care. The Gospel is the "power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" (Ro 1:16), so that "they might be conformed to the image of His Son." (8:29)

Last month I was in Kolkata, India and my wife and I visited the church William Carey planted two hundred years ago. His famous quote has been placed over the door of his church and it is still valid today.



[Brief bio of William Carey – the first Baptist missionary](#)



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