

November 23, 2016

Baptist Beats

THE HEART BEAT

of the BGCC



Welcome Christa
Eisbrenner - Director of
Women's Ministry

Church Planting in Atlantic
Canada

God Stories

Interesting Reads

School of Orientation
April 24-26, 2016

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

Donations



Kevin Schular, Executive Director

Hello from Edmonton. I trust your life and ministry are being blessed abundantly. These are great days to be alive and serving the Lord!

This has been a busy and productive autumn for me. My travels have taken me to Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Saskatchewan, Lower Mainland and around Alberta. I am encouraged to see our churches reaching their communities. Children, youth and family ministry is having the greatest observable impact everywhere across our Conference.

Our BGCC vision is: "Building a network of churches that make disciples who live and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in their communities, Canada and the nations." I have been praying over this vision and God has directed my attention to the first phrase, **"building a network of churches"**.

I asked the Lord to give me a 360° perspective of our Conference. I sensed direction from God to connect our churches in a Canada-wide prayer initiative and a giving model to provide funds for the BGC's varied ministries. As I mulled that over, I sensed God's leading to build a strategy on that 360 number.

The idea for this campaign was birthed in prayer and discussion with our pastors and people from coast to coast.

What if God raised up 360:

- **People** in our BGC churches to
- **Pray** 360 seconds every day for BGC ministries – the national office will send out prayer requests weekly to guide the prayer times.
- **Provide** support of \$360/year to the national office – one dollar a day to help fund missions, church planting, outreach, etc.
- **Promote** the BGC in their local church – gently encourage their church to support BGC missions, attend annual conferences or have a BGC speaker.

Please pray with me as we implement this strategy. Watch for upcoming media presentation to communicate this to our Conference.

Welcome Director of Women's Ministry - Christa Eisbrenner



I am very pleased to announce the hiring of Christa Eisbrenner. I have known Christa for 15 years and her life and ministry are a testimony of faithfulness and love for the Lord and His work.

Christa grew up in a godly home on a farm outside of Leduc, AB. She felt a call to global missions as a teenager and went on to complete a Bachelor of Christian Studies from North American Baptist College and a Master of Arts in Muslim Studies from Columbia Biblical Seminary. Christa spent 16 years doing evangelism and church planting among Muslims in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America and returned to Canada in 2013. For the past six years she has been on leadership with Lifesprings International (who use the School of Women in Ministry materials internationally).

Recently she has worked with the children of a local Arabic speaking church, facilitated English as a Second Language at her church and taught Understanding Islam at Taylor Seminary in Edmonton. Christa has a strong desire to see those who don't know Jesus come to a saving faith in Him and for those in the church to grow in depth and compassion. Christa loved being single until her late 30s and is now a wife, stepmom of three beautiful girls and is in the process of adopting an adorable two year old girl. Christa will be working out of the BGC National Office in Edmonton on Wednesdays.

Church Planting in Atlantic Canada - Rob Laidlaw

One of our goals as a denomination is to plant more churches across this great land of ours. I was in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia earlier this month at Lifebridge Community Church with Rob Laidlaw. This pastor is preparing to start another church in the Halifax region in the community of Eastern Passage. Rob and Julie, his wife, drove me around the area and shared their heart for this region. It is a bold, God-honoring vision to see several BGC churches planted in the next decade.

I also met with the leaders at Lifebridge. They are fully engaged with Rob in this mission. I was impressed by their understanding of the vision and their commitment to seeing the body of Christ and the BGC expand in this needy area.

Rob is resigning as Lead Pastor at Lifebridge. A new pastor is candidating and could be in place early in 2017. After a few weeks of overlapping ministry, Rob will launch the church plant in Eastern Passage. Lifebridge has committed to 1/3 of Rob's support as he moves into this church planting role.

BGCC is thankful to be partnering with Rob and Julie Laidlaw in this church planting mission. Would you consider putting the Laidlaw's in your mission budget for 2017? If each BGC church did something then together we could fully back this work!

Please read the [attached letter](#) and let the Lord guide you as you plan your giving.

Blessings,
Kevin

God Stories

Shabbat Shel Shalom Messianic Fellowship - Abbotsford, BC A Church Plant Of BCBC & BGC Canada

Shalom from Pastor Murray Archibald! Please pray for four individuals for their Mikveh (baptism) in identification with Yeshua HaMashiackh (Jesus, the Christ) that took place on November 19th.

It was great to see how the children rushed right up to the baptistry to see these be immersed in water!



Living Water International Fellowship - Montreal, QC

Pastor Rene Saquing of Living Water International Fellowship in Montreal requests prayer for Joshua Guingab. Joshua is the son of Fidel and Lori Guingab and older brother of Rachel. Joshua is 15 years old and has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. Thank you for lifting up this family during this difficult time.

Interesting Reads

1. [Stop Snacking on 'Scripture McNuggets'](#)
 2. [Our Evangelical Neighbours – A Catholic Reflection on Evangelical Christianity](#)
 3. [Missed opportunities for leaders](#)
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