

September 2, 2011

Dear friends,

Greetings in Christ on this Labour Day weekend.

Recently, my three sons and I travelled to Manning Park, where we climbed Mount Frosty. The hike was 22k, to an elevation 2408 metres (a 1200 metre climb over 11k). One more thing off my "bucket list!" Though it is late in the season, due to the cold spring, the meadows were still very much in bloom. It was special to share this experience with my sons.



As a pastor, I always face the fall with mixed feelings. It is sad to think that any opportunity for camping is over for another year. The days are getting shorter and the flowers are going to seed. On the other hand, it is good to be back into a routine. At church, it is also good to see people back after summer excursions - *and if we are honest, it is sometimes a relief, as people sometimes "transition" over summer.*

Fall is also a time of opportunity. As I communicate with churches, I learn of plans for every program from Alpha to Divorce Recovery, and trust that each of these will provide opportunity to share of hope in Christ.

Our tendency is also to "get busy" in this season, and soon, any benefit we have received from time off over the summer seems a very distant memory. I trust that we can all find a rhythm and pace ourselves in such a way that ministry is truly from the overflow of our hearts. We are all aware that many people can administer a church or provide skillful leadership, but this has little to do with spiritual leadership. As Oswald Chambers reminds us (Aug 30):

### *Usefulness or Relationship?*

*Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven —Luke 10:20*

*Jesus Christ is saying here, "Don't rejoice in your successful service for Me, but rejoice because of your right relationship with Me." The trap you may fall into in Christian work is to rejoice in successful service— rejoicing in the fact that God has used you. Yet you will never be able to measure fully what God will do through you if you have a right-standing relationship with Jesus Christ. If you keep your relationship right with Him, then regardless of your circumstances or whoever you encounter each day, He will continue to pour "rivers of living water" through you ([John 7:38](#)). And it is actually by His mercy that He does not let you know it. Once you have the right relationship with God through salvation and sanctification, remember that whatever your circumstances may be, you have been placed in them by God. And God uses the reaction of your life to your circumstances to fulfill His purpose, as long as you continue to "walk in the light as He is in the light" ([1 John 1:7](#)).*

*Our tendency today is to put the emphasis on service. Beware of the people who make their request for help on the basis of someone's usefulness. If you make usefulness the test, then Jesus Christ was the greatest failure who ever lived. For the saint, direction and guidance come from God Himself, not some measure of that saint's usefulness. It is the work that God does through us that counts, not what we do for Him. All that our Lord gives His attention to in a person's life is that person's relationship with God— something of great value to His Father. Jesus is "bringing many sons to glory . . ." ([Hebrews 2:10](#)).*

Please join me in praying for:

1. **Denominational meetings next week.** This next week brings National Ministries Team and District Superintendent's Council meetings. We value your prayers, as we seek the Lord's guidance in church planting and in serving our churches.
2. **Ray Chang, a church planter from the EFCA was here last weekend.** We had several meetings with various pastors, and we are trusting God to provide a church planter, who can apprentice with Ray before planting an international church in our region.
3. **We have been praying for Pastor and Mrs. Ha, and establishing a Mandarin Church plant in our region.** Please pray for us, as we seek the Lord in putting this together.
4. **Pastoral Searches:**
  - **Fort Langley** Please continue to pray for all through the search process for a lead pastor, and also for a youth pastor.
  - **Langley EFC** is seeking a campus pastor for the anticipated launch of a second campus in the months ahead.
  - **Sointula Community Church** has invited Ben and Anna Crumback to candidate as their pastor. They hope to come to visit and candidate at Sointula in the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>.
5. Please continue to pray for **Tami (Mark) Johnson**, who began chemotherapy and radiation on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
6. Please pray for **Ken and Nova Strom**. Nova has had a long struggle with arthritis, and is on the waiting list for hip replacement surgery.
7. Please pray for **Rob and Karina Barber**, of Mission EFC, as they study French as part of their preparation for ministry in Madagascar with Mission Aviation Fellowship. They are currently in Quebec language school.

May God bless you, and others through you this weekend!

In Jesus,

Rob  
LPD superintendent

*"By God's grace, we are committed to encourage and resource our growing family of churches to reflect Jesus Christ."*