

*Dear friends,*

Greetings from the LPD family,

**It's time for our LPD Pastor and Staff Cruise on **Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**!**

Once again, I invite you to take a day out to invest with your colleagues and brothers and sisters in ministry. I know that spring can be a busy time of year, as ministries wind up for the season, graduation and laying a foundation for fall before everyone heads off for the summer. Perhaps, this is all the more reason to invest a day in fellowship and prayer with your colleagues in ministry.



**OUR CRUISE SHIP, THE "COASTAL INSPIRATION."**

**BC Ferries will kindly open the 5<sup>th</sup> deck "flex lounge" for our exclusive use on this "Super C Class" ferry**

As many of you have experienced, the cruise provides for a day together for LPD pastors, ministry staff and colleagues in the EFCC. It is a day out of the office, a day for investing in developing deeper relationships among co-workers in ministry - relationships that will sustain us in the days ahead. Since our last cruise in November, several of our "crew" have entered times of transition in life and ministry. Some others have, "signed on," as you have been called to pastoral positions. Welcome, Lorin Bergen and Randy Taylor (Fort Langley), Tim Stewart (New Westminster) and Tim West (Langley/Clayton Campus). Come and meet your new co-workers in ministry. ***I invite you to invest this day in your colleagues and in your own ministry and walk with God. You need this, and your colleagues need you!***

***Here's the plan. Please note the schedule below.***

On **Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**, I am trusting that Island pastors and staff can meet at Duke Point (Nanaimo) and travel together on the 10:15 AM ferry to Tsawwassen. At Tsawwassen, mainland pastors and staff will join us for the 12:45 PM return trip to Duke Point (Nanaimo). This will give both island and lower mainland pastors and staff more than two hours together individually, as well as a valuable couple of hours as a whole group. Mainlanders will then return to Tsawwassen on the 3:15 PM sailing.

***While major goal of the day is our fellowship and encouragement together, on this cruise, will also introduce consider, "An Ordination Proposal,"*** as introduced by the EFCC Ministerial Standing Committee and EFCC Board of Directors. This will be discussed at our July EFCC National Conference, and we welcome open discussion, questions and your input on this.

***Come prepared to both learn and contribute to our discussion.***

***(Please see over)***

***You can prepare for this day by:***

- several pastors will be prepared to share highlights of what God is doing in their lives and ministry. You will have opportunity to share as well. How can others pray for you? What is God laying on your heart these days?
- **praying** for the churches, co-workers and communities of our district. **Encouraging** nearby Free Church pastors and staff to attend our cruise, and perhaps car pool with them.
- **giving prayerful consideration** to what God is laying on your heart for life and ministry in the days ahead.

Lower mainland pastors, **please RSVP by Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**, to Rob Stewart or Josephine at the LPD office (604-582-1925), and Island pastors, please RSVP by the same date to Tom Hilchie (our LPD Island Liaison) at Parkdale Church (250-382-7513). **Please plan to arrive at the Tsawwassen terminal by 12:15 PM! We will gather at the foot passenger entrance.** ***Fares*** are \$15.75 per person each way (includes Nanaimo Port Fee and fuel surcharge). Mainlanders, we have booked a group fare of \$13.55 per person (includes Nanaimo Port Fee and fuel surcharge) each way. Please have **exact fare** ready for Josephine (she has been trained by Dawn to collect!). (Islanders, we can book a group fare for you as well - if we have 16 passengers signed up one week in advance).

For those who are in multi-staff churches, please pass this note on to other staff members, just in case they were missed. It would be good to see all church staff, children's, worship, youth, associate, and senior pastors together. Also, some of you have asked about inviting your spouse along. They are welcome to attend as well. **We are all in the same boat!**

Thanks for your help in this. May God use this Cruise in a special way. Please give me a call if you need more info or if I can be of assistance.

In the family,

Rob Stewart

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds .Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24,25).*