

June 29, 2012

Good Friday morning friends, *Thanks for joining me for five minutes to update you on news and items of prayer and praise for our Lower Pacific District family.* I trust that you have had a good week and are looking forward to Sunday, which is also Canada Day.

With public schools winding up this week, we now enter the season of vacations, visitors and flexible schedules. It is hard to have an elders or staff meeting with all in attendance, and it is not a good time of year to introduce a sermon series on a book of the Bible. Summer, however, does bring some special opportunities for ministry. Here are a few:

- * **R.S.V.P. Sermon Series.** While we might prefer preaching sermon series, there is also a place for "one off" messages. There are no doubt people in your church who hope that one day you will preach on a certain subject, so why not use summer to ask for requests? I would probably never have preached on "what Does the Bible Say About Dinosaurs?" if I had not run an R.S.V.P. Series. By allowing your people to sign up for requests, you might be able to put together a useful week-by-week series that could be a real encouragement to your people.
- * **Visiting Churches** while on vacation, or visiting a district church plant in the afternoon. By checking our district website <http://www.lpd-efcc.ca/> you can find the addresses and service times of district churches and church plants.
- * **Take a prayer walk** through your neighbourhood. When we drive, we tend to see stop signs and traffic lights. When we walk, we notice homes and people. When you walk down your street and pray for your neighbours, please think of the observations of Canada Census. As you pass by ten homes in our region, three homes might be occupied by Christians - Protestant, Catholic or not affiliated. Three homes may be occupied by people who adhere to other religions. Four or more homes will be occupied by people who, while they might profess to be "spiritual," have no identification with any religion at all. Take time to see people; to pray for people; and to ask God to rekindle you passion to reach out to lost people. Wasn't that a large part of our sense of calling to ministry? We are not here to "run" churches. We are here, by God's grace, to make a grow disciples of Christ.
- * **Take time to read** - the Word and also books that will stretch you in ministry and in relating to our changing mission field.
- * **Take time for your family!** As Karen and I prepare to head away on a couple of weeks vacation, we look forward to spending a few days with our son Jon, his wife Jackie and their children/our grandchildren Erin and Amy. I miss loading up our four children and heading for the mountains or out to sea! Now vacations are a time for refreshment and renewal - with Karen, and I trust that we will return having had special time together, and refreshed to serve you and our Lord. While away, we will celebrate our 33rd anniversary—the years go quickly, and Karen and I are blessed with many precious memories.

Please join me in praying for:

- ◆ **Jesus Is Our Salvation Church**, as they have stepped out in faith in calling **Pastor Emmanuel (Noel) Macasaet** to serve their Chilliwack Campus as a church planting pastor.
- ◆ **Stephen Leung** and team, as they ready to launch "**Grace Evangelical Free Church.**"
- ◆ **Philip and Grace Yung**, as they, ANACEFC, the LPD, the EFCC and Ambassador Church (an EFCA Church in Brea California, where Philip and Grace will train in a residency program, in preparation to launch an Multi-Ethnic English-Speaking Church in our region.

- ◆ **Johnston Heights Church** has begun its process of transition. Pastor Phil Harris is the team leader though this time, and we are thankful for the coming alongside ministry of Daryl Busby and Larry Schrag on Sundays. Please pray for the church as they journey towards God's best for the future.
- ◆ **Vancouver Chinese EFC** in pastoral transitions:
 - ⇒ For **Pastor Rebecca Ip and her husband, Pastor James**, as they prepare to move/return to Hong Kong, where Rebecca will be ministering as a part of a church ministry team. We are thankful for Rebecca's faithful ministry at Vancouver Chinese EFC, and pray for God to guide their steps and be glorified in their lives and ministry.
 - ⇒ For **Dan and Sharon Williams**, as they are candidating at VCEFC, as an Associate Pastor to lead the English Congregation of the church. The church has three services/congregations in one church - Cantonese, Mandarin and English.
- ◆ For **Karen and me**, as we head off on a couple of weeks vacation. It has been a busy season, and we look forward to time together and time with the Lord. I plan to return to the LPD Office on Monday, June 16, and will be praying for you and your church.
- ◆ For summer outreaches and mission trips through district churches. **Tim, Emily and Miriam Stewart** headed off to Russia, with EFCCM on Wednesday for a month of ministry with a team of ESL teachers, and other teams will be both coming and going over the summer months.

Please also remember the LPD in your church budgets and personal giving. We are pleased to share what we have with these new works of God and more, and the opportunities are stretching us!

May God bless you and your ministry this weekend!

In Jesus,

Rob