

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.

With Easter, it has been a short week *and with just as much to do.* (In ministry, there is both an upside and a downside to long weekends).

Post-Easter can also bring a bit of a let-down. We can go from the joy of, "He is risen," last Sunday, to perhaps wondering, "who has risen" on Sundays ahead. With spring, we now face church attendance being impacted by the reality of better weather, travel and spring sports.

Attendance, however, is impacted by more than seasons of weather. There are also seasons of life when people are more prone to drop out of church, and other reasons that reflect poorly on the church's failure to live out the message that is proclaimed.

I attach links to two articles on this Friday morning. The first is, "**Ten Surprising Reasons Our Kids leave Church.**"

<http://www.churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-articles/166129-marc-solas-10-surprising-reasons-our-kids-leave-church.html?p=1>

Often, churches seek to respond to challenges of declining attendance by offering a "better" worship experience and to better serve the people of the congregation, or "consumers." This leads us to the second article. In this, Eugene Peterson contrasts the "**Jesus Way**" of doing church with the "**American Way.**" In this, I think that he speaks to the argument of the first article. One's experience with church really has much less to do with program than with the reality of living for Christ in the context of Christian community. <http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-how-to/153576-eugene-peterson-the-jesus-way-vs-the-american-way.html>

I invite you to read these, and to consider their relevance and challenge to us, as we serve in this post-Easter season. Your comments are welcome!

God sightings and prayer:

- * *We praise God for Easter Services and events. Langley EFC reports **six people receiving Christ** as Saviour and Lord, as well as a number of rededications, and Fort Langley EFC celebrated a number of baptisms.*
- * *We rejoice with **Jake and Laura Hron**, on the safe arrival of their **daughter Zoe** on Monday, April 1, a sister for Isaiah. Congratulations Jake and Laura!*
- * *Please pray for **Philip and Grace Yung**, as they seek the Lord to build a support team and lay a foundation for a multi-ethnic church plant.*
- * *Please pray for Senior Pastor searches at **Vancouver Chinese EFC** and **Burnaby Chinese EFC.***
- * *Pray for **Jake and Laura Hron**, **Mike and Amy Lewis** and **Tim and Jodi West**, and for other pastors in transition. May God clearly lead and guide!*

⇒ **May 6-10 - EFCC Church Planting Boot Camp** at ACTS Seminary. This is a great week for all who have an interest in church planting as planter, as a host or mother church or as a part of a church planting team. This can also be taken for credit at TWS/ACTS. Please see the brochure at: <https://acts.twu.ca/about/cpbc-brochure2013a.pdf>

⇒ **EFCC Theological Summit, May 14 & 15** at Okotoks EFC, Okotoks, AB. The theme is "**Men and Women in Ministry.**" Please see attachment! **If you require transportation, please contact Rob Stewart—There is carpooling available.**

⇒ **Tuesday, May 28. LPD Pastor and Staff Cruise.** Please set this day aside for a day with your colleagues and friends in the Lower Pacific District from both the Mainland and the Islands. Watch for details in the weeks ahead.

May God bless and keep you through this weekend .

In Jesus,

Rob and Karen

Have you checked out the **LPD on Facebook**? We invite you to become a friend. Just click on the icon, and watch for updates!

