



**“COASTAL INSPIRATION.”**

*Dear friends,*

It's time for our LPD Pastor and Staff Cruise on **Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>!**

Once again, I invite you to invest a day with your colleagues and brothers and sisters in ministry. Just as believers do not flourish apart from fellowship with others in church, so pastors and church leaders will not flourish apart from fellowship with other pastors and leaders. In research for my dissertation, such fellowship is seen to be a key factor towards healthy and long-term ministry.



**OUR CREW ON OUR LAST CRUISE**

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. *You need this, and your colleagues need you!*

***Here's the plan:***

On Tuesday, May 28<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.

**The major goal of the day** is our fellowship, prayer and encouragement together. We will have time as a group, where we will be updated on **our denomination's revised proposal for credentialing and ordination for ministry personnel**. We will also provide opportunity to meet with pastors in affinity groups (Youth/ Island/ Mainland/Chinese/Church Planting), to hear stories and to enjoy an informal cup of coffee with colleagues.

*(Please see over for travel and booking info.)*

***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 Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</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). ***Islanders, please plan to arrive at the Duke Point terminal by 9:45 AM, to catch the 10:15 AM ferry. Mainlanders, please plan to meet at the Tsawwassen Terminal by 12:15 PM! We will gather at the foot passenger entrance. Fares are approximately \$15.65 per person each way (includes Nanaimo Port Fee and fuel surcharge). Mainlanders, we have booked a group fare of \$13.40 per person (includes Nanaimo Port Fee and fuel surcharge) each way. Please have exact fare ready for Josephine. (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 Christ's family,

Rob

*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).*