

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

April 21, 2017

Good Friday morning friends, Thanks for joining me for five minutes to update you on items of prayer and praise for our Lower Pacific District family.

What's God Up To In Our LPD Family? Serving Sally - in the Name of Jesus!

On Thursday, I had the opportunity to meet with Island pastors and church leaders, as we conducted a workshop on implementing the **new BC Societies Act** in our churches. It was a joy to be with our island friends at this event, hosted by **Rick and Sandy McAllister** at **Wildwood Community Church**, and organized by our LPD Island Church Liaison, **Ben (Anna) Crumback** of **Sointula Community Church**.

While there, it was great to catch up, and to learn what God is doing in various churches. I was particularly struck by the story of **Joel and Ingrid Chiri**, who pastor **The Rock Christian Fellowship** in **Ladysmith**. Their story is an example and encouragement to us all! Joel writes:

Sally was a street person that attended the Rock (so to speak). She lived in a shack near the Church with no bath and little water. She was banned from the grocery store, liquor store, various restaurants. She was only allowed into the Eagle's Hall because of the Rock. She would come and get coffee and a little food. She would always leave when the Church started until one night 'Gord' another street person that professes Christ, and came to the meetings, asked her "Sally are you going to stay for Church or just eat and run away again?" She told him to shut up but started staying for parts of the service. She would get her coffee and a little food, then go for a few minutes, then come and sit in the service again. As people got to know her she warmed up to us and would tease or joke a little. Recently, she came and got her coffee and a little food and left as usual. On her return, she collapsed at the door and died.

The Rock has doctors and nurses that attend and they tried to revive her but failed. We decided the little street lady should be remembered and we planned a memorial. Her memorial turned into a wonderful community outreach with between 100 and 120 people attending. Person after person came forward to tell what she meant to them or how they had tried to share Jesus with her. Many said if an unwanted person could find a Church that wanted to remember her they wanted to attend that kind of Church. The Rock in reaching out to her had an opportunity to reach out to a large portion of the entire community. Whether people liked her or not they thought the Rock was great to remember someone like her. We found out that Sally was almost 75 years old and we found some of her family living on the Island. We contacted them and they tearfully attended the memorial. One lady from the Rock who plays various instruments said, Sally, had asked: "if she paid her would she play Amazing Grace on the violin for her." She said, of course, no charge. The first song of the memorial was Sally's favorite Amazing Grace. **Thanks for your ministry in the Name of Jesus in Ladysmith, people of the Rock!**



Your partnership with our Lower Pacific District and church plants through prayer and finances is appreciated. Thank you! **Gifts can now be made via PayPal to LPD or to Church Planting Projects through our LPD Website.** Please check "Donate" on the LPD website main page and under the "Designated Gifts" tab to donate to church plants. <http://www.lpd-efcc.ca/>

Please Pray for: Jesus is Our Salvation Church - our LPD Church of the Week.

Pray also for:

- **Evans and Donnae Hundermark** and family, as they prepare to transition from **Mountain View Church** towards **Foremost EFC** at the end of May, and for the church leadership and family, as they too prepare for transition.
- **Phil Harris, Dave Penner, Neil Bassingthwaighte**, and the team that has left for a short-term mission to the Philippines. This is an extension of the EFCC "Revitalize" and includes team members from several churches in the EFCC.
- **Our LPD Board** - **Randy Lemke** (Chair), **Charles Labun** (Vice Chair), **Patrick Chan** (Director of Property and Finance), **Steve Sharpe** (Director of Church Planting and Development), **Tim Stewart** (Innovative Ministries), **Ben Crumback** (Island Church Liaison), **Anthony Yeung** (Chinese Church Liaison) - and me.
- **Christ Community Church**, in their pastoral search.
- **New Westminster EFC**, as **Ralph and Karen Hardy** serve as interim pastor.
- **Dan and Erico Wu**, who have been called to serve at **Burnaby Chinese EFC** as pastor of English Ministries.
- **Dan Nicholson**, our EFCC Leadership Catalyst, who is undergoing a treatment for cancer.
- **Quadra Island Bible Church**, in their time of pastoral transition and for **transitional pastor, Christian Klaue**.
- **Nori and Shelly Anderson**, as they transition from their church planting ministry in in Port Alberni.
- **Steveston/South Richmond**. Pray for the leadership team of **Steve and Gillian Sharpe, Allen and Hannah Chang, and Daniel and Joyce Wong**, as they prayerfully prepare for this in the months ahead.

Jesus Is Our Salvation Church
Surrey, BC

Prayer:
~ Direction for the Youth
~ Meeting with Rob Stewart & the leadership team
~ For God's guidance with the leadership & where JIOS Church is heading in the future
~ For the Surrey Harvest Movement (May 2, 2017) (they are teaming up with Johnston Heights Church)

Praise:
~For the time spent on the topics of Apologetics & on the Trials & Testing that strengthens our faith

Upcoming Dates:

- **LPD Pastors and Staff Cruise - Wednesday, May 31 - please mark your calendars.**

May God bless and keep you through this weekend and through the week ahead!

In Jesus,

Rob and Karen

