

EMCC TOGETHER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

Winter
2019

The Wonder of Jesus

President Kervin Raugust

A newly born baby stirs the heart of its mother, "What will become of you, dear child?" It was this question which caused Greene and Lowry to write the song titled, "Mary Did You Know?" A portion of the lyrics goes like this:

Mary did you know that your baby boy will
one day walk on water?
Mary did you know your baby boy will save
our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come
to make you new?
And this child that you've delivered will
soon deliver you.

The question posed to Mary in this song prompts us to consider the question, "What do we know about Jesus?" With the birth of

Jesus, a gift came from our heavenly Father. His gift is the opportunity for humankind to see His love made visible. Visible love is tangible. This kind of love can be seen, heard and felt. Tangible love makes God real!

One of my desires for us is that we hear and act on Jesus' words when He said, "This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, the fruit of love showing yourselves to be My disciples." (John 15:8 -12) The Christmas season gives us opportunity to "show off" the love of God.

When Mary delivered Jesus as her baby boy, she had an inkling that he was different. Her inkling caused her to ponder what she had heard from the angel of God and what she was experiencing in the stable. I have a hunch her wondering over time turned into worship! Perhaps it will be so for us this Christmas season!

Visioning EMCC's Ministry to Next Generation Leaders

In November, a group of EMCC leaders of young adult, youth and children's ministries from across Canada spent a profitable few days with members of the National Team.

The event was called the Now Generation Summit, named for the recognition that young adults, youth, and children are valued participants in the health of our churches currently, and not just in the future.

The purpose of the Summit was to discuss the role, responsibility and relationship of the EMCC National Team to local EMCC churches in regards to ministry across all generations, particularly young adults, youth and children.

Participants imagined together what an effective relationship would look like, as well as resources that could be developed on the Enrich platform for ministry leaders. The group also began to lay the groundwork for a reproducible model that would network ministry leaders for group training and interaction.



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Further work must be done, but a good and encouraging start has been made. A Now Generation Guiding Coalition is being formed, with leadership coming from within our EMCC Churches, as well as representation from the EMCC National Team. The Coalition is planning to begin meeting regularly in early 2020. Your prayers for them as they discern the way forward would be most appreciated.

Note: Mike Wasyluk facilitated the conversations during the Summit. Mike is a part time Youth Pastor at Country Hills EMC in Kitchener, ON and is also a consultant in the area of next generation ministries. His experience in mediation, workshops and guiding people through the visioning process was incredibly valuable. ■



Read and share the articles from this newsletter at emcctogether.ca

Inquiries: communications@emcc.ca

A Global Mindset at Christmas

Joel Zantingh, World Partners Executive Director

Every advent season and Christmas presents us with a chance to reflect about God's love for all people. The Prophet Isaiah foretold of the light to the Gentiles coming from Israel. Simeon exclaimed when the newborn Jesus was presented in the Temple:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32)



Our Partner Church Christmas Celebration, Nepal

Blockland at Prospect EMC

Jean Winker, EMCC Together Editor

"I can't thank you enough for providing this good time for my family", said one mom. Prospect EMC, in Colborne, Ontario recently hosted a successful, 9-4 pm family event that brought 25 children and their parents to the church for fun and laughter. "We wanted to plan something that wasn't 'too churchy,'" said Sylvia Sonneveld. "We wanted something that would be fun for everyone and would give us the chance to say to parents 'we're here for you'."

They called their event 'Blockland' and modeled the day on a similar event held by another church in another city. Since there was a connection between that church



The good news has reached us, and is extending to people across the Globe at an unprecedented rate. What could you do during Advent to remember Jesus' mission everywhere?

Seek

Allow Jesus' love and light for all the nations to illumine your heart. What people and countries come to mind? Pray, and reflect on anything God may be asking you to do.

Learn

EMCC has Global Family in more than 20 countries. Did you know that in Nepal, despite opposition, Advent and Christmas is the most important time of year for introducing people to Jesus? Our Global Partner Chat Series continues in January, where you can learn, ask questions, and pray with both Teodora Dobre in Romania and Tej Rokka in Nepal directly. Visit emcc.ca/events for more information.

Bless

We are able to participate in Jesus' Global Mission everywhere, including right where we live. What would be different if I welcomed the strangers, loved Muslims,

and Sylvia and her husband Leonard, the pastoral couple at Prospect, they were able to make arrangements to borrow a substantial collection of Lego blocks, in all its vivid colours and sizes. They advertised on Facebook, with posters, and on their sign out front.

Colborne is a small town of approximately 2000. They are a downtown church that people can walk to, but even so, one family drove 25 miles to come. Prospect EMC has approximately 40 adults. The congregation got on board and really embraced this event and worked hard to pull it all together.

About 20 from the church shared in the advance preparations and in carrying out this free event for their community. The walls were transformed to the vibrant block colours using plastic tablecloths from Dollarama. More of the colourful tablecloths brightened each table where the blocks were piled in huge mounds according to colour. Children chose the colours they wanted to use and took them back to the area where they were building with their parents. (cont. on page 3)

or supported New Canadians? We have a calling to help others experience the blessing of God revealed through us! What if we became known as persons of peace or safety, or a friend to the lonely? Is there room at your table?

Give

Look for opportunities to share with others the resources God has given you. Recently, this call to live the values of Jesus was recorded in our Global Partner Chat with Shane D'Souza, who is the Vice President of United Missionary Society in India.

Shane was asked, "what is the solution for poverty in India?" He brought it back to this: "If I am going to be a part of eradicating poverty, I will need to personally sacrifice what I have."

Consider sharing your resources with EMCC Global Partners and Workers. Visit emcc.ca/engage/give for a list of giving opportunities.

This advent and Christmas, celebrate with World Partners that Jesus our King invites us to participate in revealing His goodness to the world. ■



EMCC Financial Update as of Nov. 30, 2019

General Fund

2019 Budget	1,350,000
Common Cause Giving	814,313
Total Income	868,823
Total Expenses	1,048,280
Shortfall	(179,457)

World Partners

2019 Budget	1,043,740
Total Income	770,028
Total Expense	926,321
Shortfall	(156,293)

To make a donation to the Common Cause Fund, visit emcc.ca/donate



Regional Gatherings

April 16-18 at Country Hills Church in Kitchener, ON
April 23-25 at CrossRoads Church in Red Deer, AB

All tables held a pre-made sample, such as a car, to prime creativity. Church volunteers sat at each table ready to help build whatever the children and parents had in mind. In addition to the building blocks, a few other games were on hand, such as Plino; and the always popular face painting was another hit. There were prizes every half hour, and free snacks for everyone. Outside, other church volunteers were keeping watch over the kids using the bouncy castle, rented for the day.

Everyone who came from the community that day arrived as strangers and left knowing some people at Prospect EMC. Not being satisfied with having one successful event this fall, the church was already in preparations for an upcoming teen event.

As churches striving to meet and serve our communities, getting ideas from other churches, and sometimes even borrowing materials, makes outreach efforts possible that might otherwise be out of financial reach. Even if finances are not a deal-breaker, sharing ideas and resources is simply good stewardship and presents myriad opportunities to help one another make a difference where we live. ■

House of Prayer for All Nations

Jean Winker, EMCC Together Editor

"If you are living incarnationally, practicing the presence of God should make a difference, right? It should alter the places where we live and work and play." This was Kathy Elliott's response when asked what House of Prayer for All Nations is all about.

In 2007 Tim and Kathy Elliott and a steering committee "launched a church, not a building". They are a church in their neighbourhood, without buildings, or programs or most of the trappings associated with today's evangelical church structure. Their Core Practices are to 'Be Good News', 'Proclaim Good News', 'Partner for the Good News', 'Gather Around the Good News', and 'Grow Around the Good News: Multiplying Churches.' They meet together in homes for worship, but much of this 'church' happens out on the street, in community gardens, community centres, one another's homes or yards, and in local coffee shops.

They are in Kitchener, ON in four neighbourhoods, currently with two house churches. Families who call HOP their church are responsible (cont. on page 4)

Camp and Church Helping Each Other

Jean Winker, EMCC Together Editor

We hear of local churches assisting Camps with volunteer service. Often, without this help, funds would be lacking to complete necessary maintenance and improvements.

It is a little more unusual to hear of Camps helping the local church. That is exactly what happened between Charis Camp and Cross Connection Church in November of 2017.

Early on a Wednesday morning church leadership were awakened with news no one wants to hear. During the night a fire that had begun outside the back of the church spread to the building and began to burn between the walls. Firefighters had arrived on scene and were able to get it



under control quickly, but the extent of the damage was not immediately known. The sanctuary suffered extensive smoke damage, and water damage was an additional concern. During the day as word spread through the scattered congregation, people did not know what this was going to mean for the future of their building. It was a confusing time, and the congregation had no place to come together to support one another through this crisis.

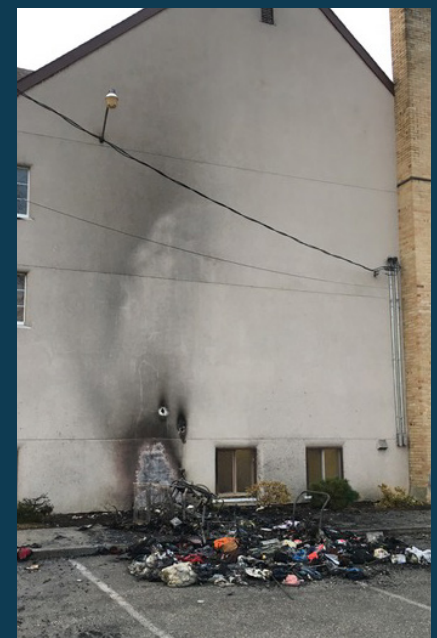
It was soon apparent that there was also no place to hold their upcoming Sunday service. It was then that the Camp Director, Darren Duncalfe, who himself attends Cross Connection, stepped up and offered the Camp as a meeting place. "Just come", he said. "We'll have everything ready for you". And he offered the space for as long as they needed it. On Sunday morning the congregation gathered together at the Camp to worship and to hear what lay ahead. "The Camp gave us a safe place to reconnect as a church body", says Doug Lemna, former board chair. "It was an act of compassion and care at an uncertain time in the life of our church."

It turned out that the congregation was

back in their building the next week. Charis Camp has continued to bless the church, and not only through the Camp programs and events they offer. Cross Connection is a congregation of approximately 100 people. Having a good youth group is one of their priorities. Charis loaned one of their employees, Pastor Marty Bennett, on a part time basis to fill this need. While continuing to work for the Camp, Pastor Bennett has remained with the church working with Youth and Young Adults.

Cross Connection Church in Chilliwack, BC, and the nearby Charis Camp have had a long association. The congregation formed in 1941 and moved to their current location in 1948, and the Camp began operations in 1947. Only a 20-30-minute drive from the church property, it has felt like the Camp is in

the Church's backyard. As such, from its inception the Camp has benefitted from volunteer labour as people from the church have made their way to the beautiful campground to assist with maintenance and projects. Over the years, hundreds of children, youth and families from Cross Connection have come and been blessed and challenged by the camp programs and special events. ■



for their own neighbourhoods – to meet their neighbors where they're at, friend them, pray for them, gather them together, and share Jesus with them. They purposely keep the more formal aspects of the church simple so there is little expense involved. When HOP meets together for worship it is also a 'recharging time', preparing one another to go back into their neighbourhoods, as the church, the people of God. Their worship time has a flexible schedule to meet people's needs. They begin with a shared meal and afterwards, employing collaborative leading, they get into the Scriptures. Their Core Values are to be Intentional, Incarnational, Intergenerational and Intercultural and this is reflected in the makeup of HOP as people of varying ages and stages and nationalities mingle together as the body of Christ. Over

the years people have come to Christ, been disciples and have been sent out to be the church in their neighbourhoods. HOP recognizes strategic partnership with church and community programs can be helpful and have met this need by partnering with others in the vicinity, and this is working well for them.

A difficult aspect of ministry for HOP is dealing with the sometimes transitory nature of neighbourhoods as it can be difficult to replace individuals who have been highly involved. That is one of the reasons Glenn Gibson coined HOP as a 2-winged bird: it can migrate and respond to its context. They think of themselves like a 2-winged bird – a parish network of simple churches who live out their faith by the way they live in their neighbourhood AND an inter-cultural training network.

Having been on this journey themselves for many years, Tim and Kathy are eager to help followers of Jesus who want to use the way they live, work and play to transform their communities. "People do not want to come together just to be informed. They are looking for transformative learning", says Kathy. With this in mind, Tim and Kathy have developed a Journey Team module to coach people as they practice a lifestyle-integrated approach. Module participants journey together, sharing learning and their own community engagement journey as they live out the Core Practices of House of Prayer. For information about this opportunity for transformative learning, and how to register, contact hopforallnations@execulink.com. Tim and Kathy are both licensed with EMCC and Kathy is also an EMCC ordained minister. ■

Partnering to Help Neighbours in Need

Story provided by Jedediah Gorham, Pastor at Eau Claire EMC

The congregation of Eau Claire EMC, near Mattawa, ON, and the Township of Calvin Firefighters partnered to bring new hope and some cheer into the lives of a community family who lost their home to a fire in October. The church decided to use their annual Christmas Banquet at the Calvin Community Centre as a fundraiser. The organizers quickly realized that with the Community Centre's capacity being only about 120, they would need two seatings for dinner. A couple of Mattawa musicians, along with Dane and Winter Gorham from the church provided the evening's music.

The night overflowed with God's blessings. Over 200 people from Calvin township and surrounding towns came out for the dinner. The event was a success, from the organization of the event, to smooth and efficient food service, down to the church and community volunteers working side by side in and out of the kitchen. Best of all they were able to present a sizeable cash donation, and many personal envelopes given to encourage the family.

Pastor Jed Gorham took a few minutes to talk about both the Grinch, and the Gospel just prior to the serving of a ham and turkey dinner



with all the trimmings. In telling about the evening he said the following: "There were lots of great conversations and questions asked about who we are and what we believed as a church. The whole church team had a chance to share a bit of the answer. We did what Jesus asked us to; we helped our neighbours, and were a blessing together as we partnered with others in our community." Pastor Jed went on to point out that this event was not an end, but only a beginning. "We're asking the Holy Spirit to lead and equip us. We look forward to seeing what God brings us in the way of community involvement and relationship building. Overall, our prayer is that Christ will be revealed through the entire Body of Christ as we follow Jesus together." ■



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