

FALL 2020

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EMCCTOGETHER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

A CHURCH IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD





EMCC CONNECTED ACROSS THE GLOBE

Jean Winker

To deepen connections and bring encouragement to all, EMCC World Partners brought together a range of voices in Global Mission participation: Global Workers (Missionaries), Partners and other EMCC people on mission where they live. This unique opportunity via Zoom took place on Aug 13 and was a time to share stories and pray for regions of the Globe. Others participated by watching the live-streamed event.

Joel Zantingh and Nicole Jones-Qandah, from EMCC World Partners, co-hosted and introduced an array of personnel, and reminded them, "You are prayed for at this time." Workers shared a little about their ministries, the effect of COVID in their respective countries and told of God at work in the midst of it. Some on the call were from sensitive countries and for their safety names will not be mentioned here. All spoke of hardship, and in some cases dire circumstances in their countries, but also of heightened opportunities for service and the gospel message. In many countries the daily struggle for food is a reality and people are focused on survival.

We were privileged to have with us Global Workers and Partners representing Europe and Russia; East Asia; Mainland South East Asia; Middle East, North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; Mexico, Central and South America; Canada, USA and Oceania.

Breakout Groups representing regions of the world afforded rich times of sharing and prayer. Technology seemed to fade into the background engendering a sense of being together

in one place. What a blessing! In the 2nd Breakout Group, segment regions were combined, allowing those working in closer proximity, some of whom had never met, to talk and encourage each other, resolving to speak again.

So many comments stood out, and despite the pandemic, over and over we heard that God is at work. Here are just a few:

"Even though so many things have stopped, God has not stopped."

"There are new and continuing opportunities and He is definitely at work."

"We have been dispersed in a new way. Now there is a church in every neighbourhood."

"Fruit is coming through."

"While the global pandemic is causing a great deal of suffering and challenges, there are opportunities in the challenge. In South Africa there is an awakening of millions of people trying to sort out how to use the resources that God has given to meet the daily need that they didn't have before COVID."

"Our suffering is our blessing. Through suffering we see the Lord moving, see him providing, see Him bring resources. See Him opening doors." This believer, the only woman with a permit to travel to those who

are isolated, visited over 120 families. One person said: "thank you for the food, but we are blessed that we're not forgotten."

"God is teaching us to be servants through this hard time, to love, come together. There is a lot of work, workers are few. We need more people to come."

From another sensitive country there came the report of Christian families across the country now studying God's Word, praying together and encouraging one another in their homes. This leader reported that they had been praying about how to get families to embrace their homes as the primary place of discipleship, and God has done it.

It was indeed a rare privilege to hear from these servant-hearted leaders from around the globe and to catch a glimpse of God's loving heart for the nations. ■

Sign up for the EMCC World Partners **Prayer Bulletin** or other communications at worldpartners.emcc.ca/contact

Through This Together is an opportunity to join the response in countries where the EMCC has Global Partners by contributing funds for use in the fight against COVID-19. You can donate to our Humanitarian Assistance Fund by visiting emcc.ca/projects/through-this-together

SUMMER MINISTRY AT VERITY CHURCH

Jean Winker

In early March 2020, after months of planning, prayer, and occasional opportunities to spend time together, the EMCC congregations from Evangel Community, Kitchener, and Lincoln Heights, Waterloo met for the first time as the new church plant called Verity Community Church.

Immediately following this first week of celebration together, COVID-19 forced an end to in-person services. Despite this challenge to forming closer relationships, and becoming known in their neighbourhood, this new congregation has worked hard this summer to get to know one another, and to show the love of Jesus in their community.

They began to consider how they could serve during COVID. "It's important to get people out of their own heads during the situation we're in," says new Associate Pastor, Nathan Weber. "We wanted to provide opportunities for the community of Verity to bond, to learn how to serve others together, and to raise our profile in the neighbourhood." Several creative ideas rose to the surface.

KRAFT DINNER

The first goal for the new church was simple: Buy KD. One of the hot ticket items that fly off the shelf at food banks happens to be Kraft Dinner. So, Verity supported the Salvation Army's food drive by collecting and donating over 1,100 boxes of Kraft Dinner!

GIFT CARDS FOR FRONT-LINE WORKERS

A few members already serve as Chaplains and leaders at a local retirement residence. In an effort to bless and thank the 50 residence staff, Verity leadership sent the word out, asking the congregation for donations for \$5 Tim Horton's gift cards. The gift cards would be accompanied by a hand-written thank you letter from Verity. The cards kept on coming, and they raised enough for every staff member



to get 3 gift cards each, with more than enough left over to give to their own Front-Line workers in their congregation. Standing outside the building because of the lockdown, Verity delivered the gifts to the manager, along with some key staff representatives, who received them with heartfelt gratitude.

CANADA DAY JAZZ

Verity's church building is the building that used to be Lincoln Heights. It has a great location, where many people walk and drive by. It also has a large parking lot, an ideal space for an outdoor celebration of Canada Day. Being careful to follow safety guidelines, Verity decorated their space and prepared to meet the neighborhood. They set up a drive-through area and handed out free sparklers to all the kids, and a card that introduced the church and asked the question, "How can we serve you?" A man in the congregation is part of "Uptown Sound", a jazz band, and it was great to have the band performing in the parking lot. People brought lawn chairs, and some in nearby buildings were seen to open their windows to enjoy the music during this 3-hour free jazz concert.

In mid-August, Verity once again opened their doors for in-person worship services. This new church plant is already off to a good start and they are excited about serving the Lord and their community together. Pastor Nathan puts this forward: "We want the community to know that we love them and want to serve them with the love of Jesus. If they are attracted by our love, they will be open to the truth of the gospel." ■



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Nicole Jones-Qandah

Over the past few years, EMCC has engaged the invitation that Indigenous friends, neighbours, scholars, and theologians have given to consider the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

We are grateful for those in our constituency who have actively engaged and served among Indigenous communities for years. Building upon the momentum and example of others, World Partners welcomes

As a follower of Jesus, and a member of the EMCC family, we invite you to take part in an opportunity to meaningfully engage with the history of Canada's relationship to Indigenous peoples.

the opportunity to hold space for these continued conversations on behalf of the EMCC.

Orange Shirt Day is a time for reflection. For all people, it annually marks the impact of Residential Schools upon Indigenous peoples. For followers of Jesus in particular, it reminds us to also consider how the church can lose its way and ultimately work against our call to be agents of healing and restoration in the world.

With the posture of a learner, World Partners is joining with you to read, pray, and learn from the leaders within our midst actively pursuing the process of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples across Canada. Prayerful reflections will be in your inbox later this month with links to resources, and action steps ahead of September 30th.

We are looking forward to learning and listening alongside you.

Please sign up to receive our direct mail updates at worldpartners.emcc.ca/contact. See more about [Orange Shirt Day here](#). Mark your calendars to collectively observe the impact of Residential schools upon Indigenous peoples, lamenting together the church's involvement, and imagining a new way of walking together with Indigenous peoples of Canada. ■

photo courtesy of orangeshirtday.org



EMCC FINANCIAL UPDATE

EMCC General Fund as of August 2020

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2020 Revised Budget: | \$1,028,285 |
| Common Cause Contributions Received: | \$559,811 |
| Total Income Received: | \$613,928 |
| Total Expenses: | \$662,225 |

World Partners as of August 2020

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2020 Revised Budget: | \$980,000 |
| Total Income Received: | \$525,552 |
| Total Expenses: | \$645,076 |

Thank you for your continued financial support!
Donate online at emcc.ca/donate.

WAY OF JESUS

NOT JUST ANOTHER TOOL

Jean Winker

When Pastor Steve Schaufele attended an intensive Way of Jesus training in Kitchener, Ontario in June 2017 he hoped he'd come away with something that would assist his church back in Okotoks, Alberta. He got more than he expected. "It was the most life-giving, impactful conference/retreat I had ever attended in my years as a pastor", says Steve. "I arrived thinking of it as a tool, but at the intensive I realized that first and foremost it was about how I was relating to the Lord, about my own faith walk."

Steve flew home, and, in God's perfect timing, just two days later he began a scheduled two month sabbatical. "My wife, Jessica, and I had already been talking about Way of Jesus since back in 2016, as we were aware of this emphasis in our denominational family. Now, with a stretch of time at home, each day we went over one of the 7 WOJ markers with our 4 kids, aged 16, 12, 10, and 9. We wanted them to understand,

and know "this is what mom and dad are doing."

Steve had already been developing a discipleship model for the church, but after being introduced to Woj by Regional Minister Brian Archer, he decided to work with it instead, and ordered a supply of Woj cards to hand out as a simple summary of what it looks like to follow Jesus.

Back at the church after the sabbatical Steve began more intentionally to weave the Woj markers throughout the life of the church and in materials intended for visitors. In a summer series, each sermon concluded with the marker that tied in, and then there were opportunities to respond. Church welcome packets carry an explanation of the Way of Jesus and one of the wallet cards. They've developed an 8 week class suitable for new people and others interested in membership, where each week they discuss a different aspect of Woj.

"We want people to know why it's good to follow Jesus."

A warm and welcoming congregation, they talk a lot about Jesus at Foothills Community. A new 8 week course helps participants figure out what it means to love their neighbours and how to practically live this out. "It is our mission to follow Jesus as individuals, and to help each other follow Jesus. And then to show that following Jesus leads to loving our neighbours and city. This will make us life-long leaders." The church vision is to someday see a neighbourhood church in every neighbourhood of the Foothills of Alberta. "We want each person to see their neighbourhood as a mission field. It is our job to support people as they reach their neighbourhood." ■

Foothills Community Church, in Okotoks, was planted in 2006 and Steve was called as pastor in 2011. The church had been independent for about 3 years when Steve contacted Lynn Dietz, who connected him with Brian Archer. In 2015 he was ordained by EMCC and that same year the congregation voted in favour of applying to become a Full Member EMCC church. Of EMCC Steve says, "It feels like we're home."

wayofjesus.ca

7 MARKERS OF FOLLOWING JESUS



His Life

I have begun following Jesus, and am depending on the Spirit of Jesus in my journey.



His Mission

I am being sent by Jesus to bless others and invite them to follow Him.



His Character

I am becoming like Jesus in my attitudes, behaviours, and character.



His Love

I am learning to love God and love others.



His Teachings

I am learning the teachings of Jesus.



His Disciplers

I am helping someone and someone is helping me to be a reproducing follower of Jesus.



His Community

I am participating in a community of followers of Jesus on mission to the world.

CAMPS NAVIGATING THROUGH CHANGE

Jean Winker

Phone calls to each of our Partner Camps revealed, as expected, that ministries pivoted to meet COVID restrictions, all doing their best to provide the highest level of service they could for those who were able to come, and in a couple of cases, for those they reached remotely.

As fall begins, our Camps need our prayers as they finish the season and begin to prepare, by faith, for the fall, and next year's programming, staff and finances.

CHARIS CAMP, CHILLIWACK, BC

Charis was closed to Campers this summer. A bright spot was that they were able to re-open their brand new coffee shop, Cedar and Moss. Only a 10-minute drive from Chilliwack, the shop was well-received by the community and enabled them to pay a staff member.



Charis is a year round camp. Executive Director, Darren Duncalfe says they intend to do everything they can to remain open and connected with people through this fall and winter. To comply with restrictions, and for viability, the Camp is able to welcome groups of 20-50, for retreats, reunions, or meetings. To see how the Camp will apply additional safety measures, and to register a group, please visit their website. The current financial situation is fragile and most of the staff remains laid off. Your prayers would be appreciated.

chariscamp.com

RIVERS EDGE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTRE, CREMONA, AB

Rivers Edge was able to serve close to 700 people through 'Day Camp and Camping Cubed', which was a program of activities offered daily to families camping on site. It was enjoyed by those who took part and the Camp was able to hire some students, with the help of the CSJ grant, along with regular staff for July and August. They ran their annual Leaders in Training where 15-18 year-olds come to learn leadership skills.

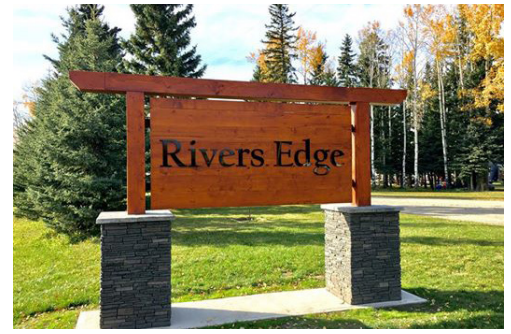
A real highlight this year was the baptism of 12 LITs in late August. At the end of September the Camp will begin a 'pause of onsite activity.' They hope to resume in January. Only an hour from Calgary, guest groups are the main revenue stream in the off-season consisting of mostly schools and church groups; however, schools can't take groups for overnights from Sept 2020-June 2021 and Alberta Health Services has limited overnight groups to single families per accommodation which is not something Rivers Edge is able to accommodate.

Interim Exec. Director, Terry McKenna asks for prayer for the staff, most of whom will be laid off at the end of Sept, and also for a safe and allowable way to conduct their annual major fundraiser, 'A Cowboy Country Christmas', held on site in December. "We value each of our constituent churches and appreciate all your giving and support thus far," says Terry. "We ask for your prayers for our staff and for the future of Rivers Edge Camp, that God's plan be fulfilled."

riversedgecamp.org

WHISPERING PINES CAMP: ELKWATER, AB

At Whispering Pines this summer about 40 families camped in tents, RVs or cabins and availed themselves of 'Do It Yourself Family Camp.' With crafts, self-led devotionals, and activity suggestions for each day, this was a success. "Although it has been a challenging year to do ministry, God is still drawing people closer to himself," says Camp Director Denver Knodel. He was thinking of a woman who came for a day with her daughter. She said she was not really open to religion, but that her daughter liked it, and so... could they come back



again next year?

Denver is grateful that supporters have been faithfully giving and God laid it on the heart of some who were able to give very generously, all of which is a tremendous help when much of the usual revenue stream is dry. With some of these funds they were able to complete several much needed maintenance projects. Whispering Pines is a year-round camp, but as is true for all, faces restrictions as they enter the fall months. They have 10 cabins and so can host 10 families for overnight stays, and currently only families may stay together in the same accommodations. A few smaller churches are registered to come up for a day.



In December and January they will begin to get ready for summer programming. "We may need to pivot how we do ministry and come up with new options that are more resilient." Denver asks for prayer that they may hear God's voice as to what to plan for next year.

whisperingpinescamp.ca

ECHO LAKE BIBLE CAMP, FORT QU'APPELLE, SK

At Echo Lake Bible Camp they are thankful for an excellent response to their volunteer work bee camp, SERVE@ELBC. Over the course of three weeks, sixty-six volunteers made their way to the Camp. They painted several buildings, replaced flooring, and took care of a host of odds and ends that had been waiting for attention. They also sent out 25 'Camp-in-a-Box' packages to kid



campers this summer. Seventy people attended Camp Sunday on July 26, an annual service open to the community, and which is their biggest fundraiser, and these donations were much appreciated.

On September 15 they will launch another fundraiser. It is through donations that they are able to fund ongoing operations and future programming. As fall approaches, ELBC is expecting a few family groups who will stay in their year-round facility and prepare their own meals. They have had some cancellations, and are taking reservations. Echo Lake is usually busy from August-November and February-June hosting groups from supporting churches, local schools and the community. It is not yet clear if summer camp will be possible in 2021.

"We praise God for providing miraculously through this difficult season," says, Exec Director, Monique Strachan. "Donations are coming in. We are praying that the province will firm up the overnight camp regulations for 2021 as soon as possible so we can plan well for the upcoming camp season."

elbc.ca

CAMP MISHEWAH, KILLALOE, ON

At Camp Mishewah they were much busier than they expected. They opened campsites, cabins and lakeside suites, and lots of people left home to enjoy the Camp for a few days or weeks. Since all overnight Youth Camp programs and traditional Family Camp had been cancelled, food costs and payroll were minimal and the financial burden was lessened.

They did an online version of camp for kids, complete with a fun kit, which they dubbed, 'Mish-in-a-Box.' The program team volunteered their time and packed 77 pizza boxes, full of items for an at home 5-day camp experience. It



included tuck items, s'more kit, Bible, activity booklet, stickers, tuque, t-shirt, water bottle, devotions and craft supplies. Each registered child received their box, either by courier or hand-delivery. When this virtual camp began, every day there was an online chapel message.

Mish-in-a-Box was a great success, and lots of positive feedback and photos poured in. Three young and eager maintenance staff did a fantastic job of all the onsite work and they were the only staff at Mishewah this summer, joining Managing Directors Jeanette and Steve Balzer. Quite a number of volunteers came throughout the summer to help with various tasks and were a huge encouragement to the staff team, getting many jobs done that otherwise would have had to wait until another year. Camp Mishewah is not winterized so the doors will close for the season after a few more small groups and seasonal trailer owners enjoy the facilities for the month of September. Jeanette and Steve would appreciate your prayers for the planning team as they prepare for next year's summer season. In January

they will be in high gear, making programming and staffing decisions.

campmishewah.ca

STAYNER CAMP AND CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTRE, STAYNER, ON

At Stayner Camp this summer they were busier than normal in respect to camping, trailers and cottage rentals, as people, eager for a taste of summer, arrived on site. Correspondingly, revenues were higher than expected. Even so, with the cancellation of 5+ months of programs and retreats for overnight guests, finances are still a challenge. Some extra help came their way by means of a few individuals who needed short term accommodations.

A couple of empty cabins were available and this was a win-win as the rent was very affordable, and the extra income helped the Camp. The Lodge is taking registrations for retreats of up to 15-25 people staying overnight, depending on the type of retreat and social bubbles. For those wishing to come for a day retreat, current legislation allows for 30 people. Whether the Camp will remain open after Thanksgiving is uncertain at this point, although they normally host retreats throughout the winter months.



This was Managing Director, Kyle Moore's first summer at the Camp and it was a good experience, getting to know people and the ministry. A few times when Kyle felt in 'slightly over his head,' God helped him through, leaving Kyle with the message, "It's not what you can or can't do, it's what I want to do through you." "I felt God leading me to a deeper level of trusting Him", says Kyle. Please pray for God's wisdom as they make decisions and begin planning summer programming in January. Additionally, the tabernacle needs a new roof.

stayner.ecmcamps.ca

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