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# EMCCTOGETHER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada



## Finding Rivers in the Desert

*"See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not  
perceive it?" His new things  
often spring up in the most  
difficult of circumstances!"  
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# FINDING RIVERS IN THE DESERT



A river is not  
the first thing you  
would expect to see in a desert!

It might even catch you off guard. But according to our theme text, that is just what we see God creating for His glory and to nourish His people—a fresh drink in the desert, that His people may proclaim His glory.

*“Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.”  
(Isaiah 43:18-19, NASB)*

The sovereign plan of God to ‘make a roadway in the wilderness and rivers in the desert’ is revealed in the larger context of encouragement to remember how He led His people out of Egypt and the deliverance they experienced from His hand. (Isaiah 43:15-17)

Remembering is a good thing (like when your family remembers your birthday)! It can be a source of comfort, strength and courage when we remember God’s impeccable track record in our lives. This is important because some of the places He leads us into require courage and faithfulness on our part.

However, having just recounted God’s salvation of the nation, He throws a curveball. “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.” (Isaiah 43:18) So do we remember the former things (Isaiah 46:9-10), or forget the former things?

We don’t forget who God is and how He has worked in our lives, but on the other hand, we don’t put God in a box

and say that He can only work that same way into our future. God is a creative God and is not to be confined to the same way of doing things on our behalf. “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” His ‘new things’ often spring up in the most difficult of circumstances!

I was hiking up Mount Indefatigable in Kananaskis country in Alberta, following the footsteps in the snow left by the previous hikers. It was springtime in the Rockies and mountain Crocuses were starting to bloom. Half way up the mountain I paused to catch my breath and noticed a crocus springing up in a previous hiker’s deep footprint. The crocus was about to bloom in 20 centimeters of snow and I almost missed it, almost stepped on this new thing springing up!

‘Will you not be aware of it?’ God says. When we stereotype our expectations of God to act on our behalf, we put Him in a box as though He is not able to do anything different. The consequences of this can often be us stepping on/over the new thing God has for us—totally unaware.

Through the prophet Isaiah, He confirms his passion for creativity and fresh new approaches to acts on our behalf and for His glory. The challenge is for us to ‘perceive it.’ He made a way through the sea (Is. 43:16) and now he is about to make a roadway in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert (43:19).

**Remembering what God has done for us stimulates gratitude and courage.**

**Perceiving the ‘new thing’ He is up to stimulates faith and hope.**

**And God says, the new thing is ‘for His glory.’**

We are created for the glory of God (Is. 43:7) who formed and made us. Rivers in the desert are for the glory of God, that we may proclaim His praise (Isaiah 43:21), and that we would be witnesses that He is our God, the Holy One of Israel, our Savior (Isaiah 43:3).

When we are in a tough space and in over our heads, we remember that God led us in, He will lead us through, and He will lead us out! And this is to His Glory!

Therefore, we follow God again into the new opportunities ahead with confidence, hope, and courage as we perceive the new things He is doing—which can often be counterintuitive—like seeing a nourishing river in a desert, which is for ‘the glory of God.’

*Lynn Dietz*

EMCC Regional Minister ■

# NEW EMCC CREDENTIALS

Jean Winker

Seven people have received new EMCC credentials since May, 2021. Some may be familiar to you and others have an EMCC credential for the first time and so their names are new. It can be a challenge getting to know each other in such a large and spread-out extended family as the EMCC. We hope these short bios will help.



## Jordan Cavanaugh - Ordained Minister, July 2021

Originally from Seattle, Washington, Jordan moved to Surrey, BC with his parents while he was in his teens. He enrolled at Prairie Bible College in Three Hills and after graduation in 2008 he began his first ministry position at CrossRoads Church in Red Deer, Alberta. Jordan and Julie are parents of three girls, aged 8, 5 and 3. He has used his gifts in the service of children, teens, young adults and their families. His current role is Pastor of Community Life and he works with small groups and mid-size communities. Jordan feels a call to the Ministry of Presence, and loves meeting with people of all ages, getting their stories, finding out what God is asking of them and praying with them to discern how the church can equip them.



## Rosemary Flaaten - Licensed Minister, July 2021

Rosemary is pursuing her Doctorate of Ministry in Leadership at Denver Seminary. Working as a free-lancer, she teaches at numerous Bible Colleges on the topics of leadership, sexuality, and spiritual formation, and is available as a spiritual director or life coach. A published author of two books, Rosemary also enjoys pulpit supply, conference speaking and teaching, and volunteering at her home church, Centre Street Church in Calgary. Rosemary and Norlee are parents of three grown children. As an EMCC Enrich Facilitator, Rosemary offers help for pastors and groups navigating the complexities of sexual and gender identity. Rosemary is passionate about church being a place where people feel like they are a family gathering together. A place where everyone has a voice around the table, men and women working side by side as a full reflection of what it means to rule together in the Kingdom.



## Edith Green - Licensed Minister, July 2021

Edith has attended Bonavista EMC since she moved to Calgary for work following college. During her four children's formative years she was a stay-at-home mom. Edith's husband Florian died following heart surgery in 2010, leaving her with three at home in various stages of high school and post-secondary, and one recently married. Edith decided to pursue religious training, which had been a dream for many years. God opened doors and she completed a Spiritual Formation Degree at Carey Theological College in Vancouver. She re-entered the workforce as Church Administrator at Bonavista in 2013, and is now Executive Pastor, overseeing office and financial administration. An additional role that will give her opportunity to use her spiritual formation training is being developed. Helping people really know Jesus in a deep, soul-nourishing way is Edith's ministry passion.

### **Josh Jacob - Certified Minister, August 2021**

Josh was involved in Youth Ministry at Centre Street Church in Calgary for eight years before officially accepting a position in Youth Ministry and Grade School Coordination in 2019. After a time of fasting and prayer Josh and spouse Danae discerned this was the next step in God's call. He has learned a lot while working in this 50/50 split position and is currently in transition to a full-time position in Youth Ministry at CSC's newest campus, Bearspaw. Josh was born and raised in the Middle East and has lived in Calgary for 15 years. He and Danae have a young son and a newborn daughter. Josh is passionate about walking alongside youth through life stages, and helping them to find their purpose and identity in Christ.

### **Tracy Minke - Ordained Minister, May 2021**

Originally from the Seattle, Washington area, Tracy spent 10 years in community development and disaster management in East and Central Africa. While in Dadaab, Kenya she met Adam who was also responding to the Horn of Africa famine. Tracy left Africa and was pulled to Alberta first to serve as Pastor of Outreach Missions at CrossRoads Church in Red Deer and then to marry Adam. They are parents to Makena and hope to adopt. Along with being CrossRoads' Missions Pastor, Tracy also serves as a facilitator for Simply Mobilizing's Kairos Course, which inspires people to live on mission with God. Tracy serves as an Enrich Facilitator to help pastors and churches maximize their global engagement, and also on EMCC's National Board. Tracy is passionate about networking and loves connecting people to resources or each other to further them along as they pursue life on mission.

### **George Phiri - Licensed Minister, June 2021**

George Phiri is originally from Malawi and is a pastor at Living Waters Church International in Ottawa, Ontario. The congregation is African, from different backgrounds. Living Waters International is an organization with churches in many countries. It is their practice that the churches become established with long-serving denominations. A colleague recommended EMCC and an email introduction led to George's eventual Licensing. George and Chipiliro have two boys, ages 9 and 3. The couple serves together in the church; both preach, minister to needs, and Chipiliro helps in Sunday School. They have spent over half their lives in different countries. As such, they speak several languages and have learned to live and minister in a variety of contexts. George is passionate about sharing the gospel holistically; taking care of spiritual and emotional needs, giving practical assistance and guidance.

### **Glenn Runnalls - Licensed Minister, July 2021**

Glenn is Executive Pastor at Hillcrest EMC in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Previously, he enjoyed a 30-year career as teacher, developer, VP of Student Development and VP of Briercrest College and Seminary in Caronport, Saskatchewan. Glenn and Kathryn have two married sons. They moved to Medicine Hat when Glenn joined a tech start-up in the City. They began attending and using their gifts at Hillcrest and soon felt an affinity with the church and with EMCC. In time, he applied for the Executive Pastor position. Glenn is passionate about helping Hillcrest fulfill its mission to make disciples, giving everyone in their area the chance to meet Jesus. He sees himself as a steward of the church's resources, supports the preaching pastor and helps keep their mission front and centre by being strategic and intentional about where they put their attention and money so their mission will be sustainable now and in future. ■

# LOOK WHAT GOD CAN DO: THE STRENGTH OF COLLABORATION

Jean Winker

Pastor Jed Gorham and Pastor Jake Hron first met because they were the only two guys wearing a hat at an EMCC event. They were introduced to each other, immediately hit it off, and God took it from there. Only He knew the collaboration He would develop as other pieces dropped into place.

Jed is pastor at Eau Clair EMC, a small rural church three hours from Ottawa, and Jake ministers to an EMC congregation of about 200 in Vineland, ON, a suburban bedroom community between St. Catharines and Grimsby. The two churches are four and a half hours away from each other and the congregations are unknown to one another.

About a year into the pandemic Jed found himself researching YouTube videos for ideas to improve the videos he was making. He came across a suggestion to collaborate with another church. Right away he thought of Jake. They had been watching each other's videos and Jed thought, "Hey, this would be a great opportunity for us and at the same time we can build each other's churches." Jed messaged Jake, and learned that that very morning Jake had been thinking of, and praying for him and the Eau Claire Church. "I don't think that was an accident," says Jake.

As they talked they felt keenly that this was something God wanted them to do and that it was important to do it. It was an opportunity to build a bridge between the two congregations and for each pastor to build into the other church in an area of his complementary strength. "There are two things we are uniquely passionate about. Jed is passionate about evangelism, and I'm passionate

about discipling," says Jake. "An excellent partnership."

Jake has been actively discipling for just over four years. "Jesus says, 'all authority is mine -therefore make disciples.' If you haven't taught any or baptized any, this is a problem of disobedience. Once I understood that startling truth, it radically changed my ministry," says Jake. He is currently discipling two men and in the church they are seeing discipleship happening to the sixth generation.

Jed shares that we tend to over-complicate evangelism instead of just asking, 'What do I know and can I share it with somebody else?' And, "Don't try to do it like someone else, do it like you. Just be yourself."

Commenting on each other's strengths, Jake says, "I want to bring Jed's evangelistic fervor to my church," and Jed says, "I want my congregation to know that everyone can be a discipler; Jesus gave the ability to everyone."

After they chose these two topics for their videos another piece fell neatly into place. A third person, Matt, who is an elder at the Vineland church, went to EBC with Jed. Matt became the moderator for the videos. The format was simple and unscripted. Matt would pose a question about the video topic and the pastor whose strength it was responded and comments were invited from the other pastor. The first video is an introduction, the second and third cover evangelism and discipleship respectively. After the three videos were completed they did not feel done, and so created one more. Video four features a disciple from

each congregation talking about their discipleship/evangelistic training and their experiences applying what they're learning as they disciple others.

These engaging, practical, and insightful videos will be launched at the Eau Claire and Vineland churches during sermon times beginning in October. Jed and Jake do not know if there will be more videos to come, but are praying that these four will create a bond between the churches and a sense of knowing they are not alone but a part of a massive global movement.

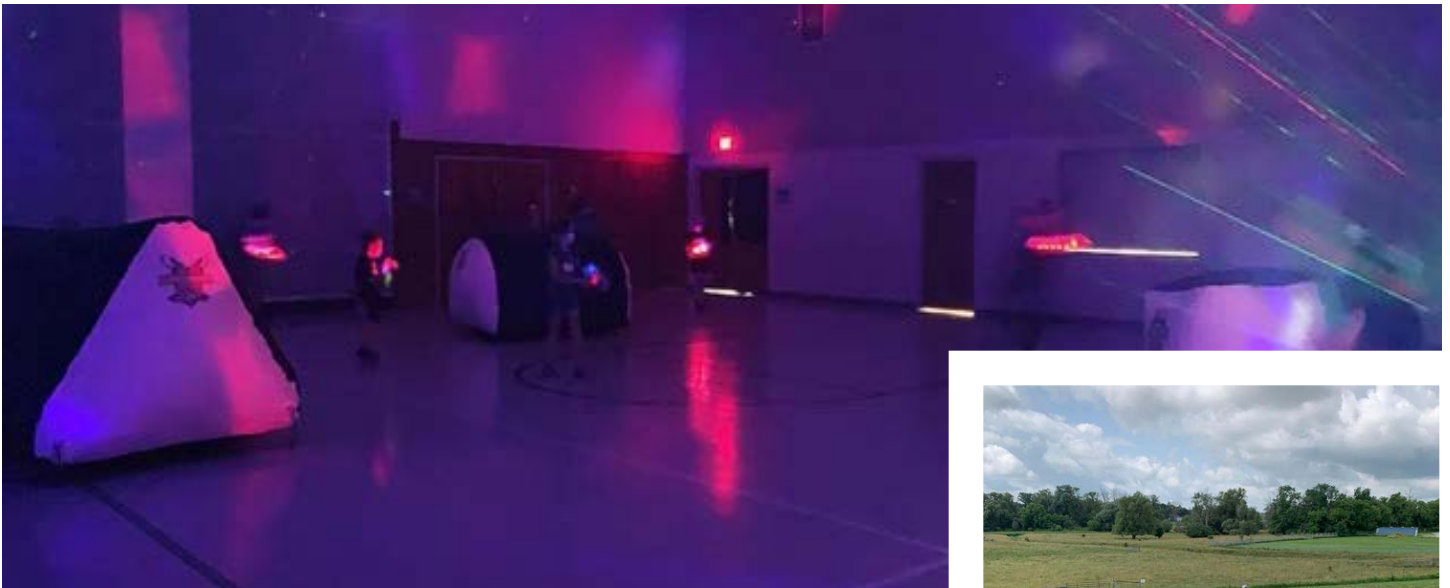
Jake reflects, "Sometimes we get into a silo-type feeling, my flock, my ministry. We have some awareness of what's going on, but there are other pastors out there with great wisdom."

**"We are partners, fellow-sojourners. Size of church doesn't matter. There is so much strength to be found in connecting our churches."**

"Wouldn't it be great if we could partner across the country," says Jed. "We never know what resources various churches may have. We can help each other fill the gaps."

"Partner with another church and you'll be blessed," says Jake.

"Many of us go to our Camps and to EMCC events and make a connection there," says Jed. "Don't let it fade. Carry it to the next level. For us, it just started with hats and look what God can do." ■



# WE CAN HELP WITH THAT

Jean Winker



Plattsville EMC loves to bless their community. A few years back they discovered there were no summer camps or other programs in operation for kids. With the heightened need for daycare in the summertime this was a real need. "We realized we could do something about that", says Pastor Tim Clayton. They decided to run a day camp.

Except for last summer when COVID made it impossible, each year they have hired staff, developed their own program according to the gifts and abilities of the current staff, and hosted children for fun-filled,

fast-paced day camp, running from 8:30-4:30 on weekdays. For those parents who needed it, there has been the option of dropping kids off an hour early and picking them up an hour after each day's program ended. Plattsville, Ontario is a small community of under 1500, and is a bedroom community for those who work in nearby larger centres.

This year they filled their available spaces and ran five weeks of summer day camp. They purchased four 20x40 tents and set them up in the parking lot. They divided the kids into cohorts and they rotated from tent

to tent for crafts, theme activities, an imagination station and sports.

Government grants helped the church hire summer students, and over the course of five weeks 160 kids enjoyed themselves this year, with the help of a team of fourteen staff made up of students, church staff and others from the church. "Our primary goal is to meet the community's childcare need," says Pastor Tim. "We talked about Jesus and invited someone who works with YFC to help, but it was not a VBS."

As they have consistently met this childcare need over several years, now people are calling the church before summer to find out the dates and sign their kids up. Each fall the church plans a fun family event and invites all the families whose children came to day camp. Lots of families show up, clearly comfortable attending an event run by a church. "We want to be building a bridge for those who may be considering investigating faith in Jesus and what church is all about." This year in late September there will be laser tag, a food truck with poutine (yum), and other surprises. ■



# TRAVELLING THE RIVER TOGETHER - World Partners

Jean Winker



Rob and Sharlene Dilts have been walking alongside the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation for nine years in the unceded traditional lands of the Algonquin peoples. The community is home to between 400-450 people. It is next to the hamlet of Golden Lake, where Rob and Sharlene live, and approximately 3000 indigenous people live in the County.

From the time of their arrival, Rob and Sharlene have deliberately adopted the posture of learners. "We are still constantly learning, which is good," says Rob. "We are cautious to never come in like we have all the answers. Historically it has been, 'do things our way, this is how you do it.'"

As part of the healing from traumas inflicted through past and continued policies, many communities are working to revitalize their traditional culture and languages. Many followers of Jesus are learning to express themselves in worship in ways that reflect their culture and forms, in essence, their hearts and spirit, rejecting the settler forms that were often forced upon them.

For the past four years the Dilts' have been directors at a summer camp called Pinaaz-Zibi Maamawi, which means Travelling the River Together. As Directors, they help with planning,

training storytellers and volunteers, and do their best to see that things run smoothly during Camp. Rob and a community culture and language instructor chose the camp name and developed the camp concept. The goal is that the young people attending will learn to travel well together with the Creator, celebrating culture in peace, friendship, and goodwill. Pinaaz-i Zibi Maamawi was presented with a Friendship Belt, a covenant in pictures between Pinaaz-i Zibi Maamawi and three First Nation People Groups and settlers to work together through camp and in community.

The Camp is primarily for indigenous children, but all are welcome and the children of non-indigenous staff often come. It runs for one week and is broken up between two age groups, 7-11 and 12-16. It is oriented around an indigenous worldview, culture and traditions and is a great opportunity for young people to learn and be immersed in their culture, and for others in attendance to learn more about indigenous culture and traditions. Even language is taught since many parents are no longer fluent due to the effect of Residential Schools and the Reserve system so are unable to pass it down to their children. A highlight of this summer's Camp was the presence of a Community Grandmother who first joined them at the past Pinaaz-i Zibi Maamawi Winter Christmas Gathering, bringing her wisdom and traditional crafts skills. In a matriarchal society, it was an honour to have her leadership. "It was also



a highlight to watch her work with a young girl, helping her make a pair of moccasins," says Sharlene. "The girl was so excited and happy to be at the Camp."

With the help of the Canada Summer Jobs grant, the Dilts' hired a teenager from the community as a summer student. She has volunteered at camp before and was a big help with administration and Camp planning. Rob and Sharlene were able to mentor her and give her opportunity to take some online workshops for extra training and professional development. Along with the benefits of having the help of a summer student, this opportunity provides employment in an area where unemployment is a common issue. Rob and Sharlene would like to continue this process every summer.

On August 27 to 29 Rob was able to accompany Community members on a Walk for Joe. This 100-kilometer

walk was organized by the sisters and brothers of a young 13-year-old boy from the community who tragically lost his life while frantically trying to get home after running away from a residential school in Brantford in 1968. While crossing a train yard after a day and night of running alone, he was hit by a train. The news reported only that a trespasser was killed and all his grieving mother received by way of identification was the blue shirt she had given him, and a closed coffin. The walk was to ceremonially bring Joey's spirit home, back to his people. "For me, says Rob, it was an opportunity to feel a little bit of what they went through, just trying to get home, and it was a chance to hear the experiences of some of the walkers and to empathize with the survivors." When they got back to Golden Lake, around 200 from the community joined in for the final leg of the journey which ended at an old cemetery in the community where Joey was laid to rest so long ago.

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. It is a day marked annually to remember and honour the thousands of children forcibly taken to residential schools and to recognize the legacy of these institutions.

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"I have a responsibility to be a part of the healing and to represent the church in the harms that were done against indigenous children in the name of the church. I believe it is the responsibility of us all." - Rob Dilts  
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*\*Rob and Sharlene are EMCC Global Workers. ■*

## ROB'S SUGGESTIONS TO LEARN, CONNECT & MOBILIZE AROUND RECONCILIATION

- Learn about Orange Shirt Day, visit [worldpartners.emcc.ca/orangeshirtday](http://worldpartners.emcc.ca/orangeshirtday) to see last year's reflections from EMCC leaders and sign up to receive updates for this year's reflection.
- Go to [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca) and learn on whose land you are living, worshipping or working. Look up the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), and read its 94 Calls to Action.
- Remember that repentance in Scripture is changing the way you think and act. We need to change and look at others as being made in the image of the Creator. Regardless of their wealth, the colour of their skin, their language, their traditions or forms, they were made in the image of the Creator. May we exhibit a changed heart toward indigenous peoples.
- Get involved. Go to an Orange Shirt presentation or a vigil on September 30th. Listen and lament with those who continue to hurt and grieve this trauma.
- Come alongside, as a listener, and join the struggle for justice in solidarity.
- Check out Truth & Reconciliation, #48 in the declarations. It is directed at churches. See what your church can do to fulfill it.
- If you need help, we are happy to point people in the right direction to find answers. Contact us at [worldpartners.emcc.ca](http://worldpartners.emcc.ca)





# SOURCING FROM WITHIN: DISCIPLING AND TRAINING INTERNS

Jean Winker

The leadership at McDougal Chapel in Sundre, Alberta, recognized they needed a second pastor but before they began their search, Covid arrived, and with it, a change in direction. With the uncertainty swirling through the early months of the pandemic, the leadership wasn't sure the congregation would be able to provide for an additional pastoral family. As they prayed and pondered, a previously considered idea resurfaced. This marked the beginning of McDougal Chapel's shift to an intern program that has so far resulted in two paid interns meeting ministry needs at the church while being intentionally disciplined.

**"We asked ourselves, 'What would it look like if we invested in our own people? How would it happen?'"** says Pastor Kent Janz. That was the starting point. And in terms of succession, he says, "If we are doing our job, our disciples will eventually take over our spots."

"We've used the pandemic to actively begin the shift from a church that likes the idea of discipleship to becoming one that has a discipleship culture," says Kent. They had already done the advance work, creating a hybrid from 3DM Community Learning and Way of Jesus training. Kent himself had travelled to Phoenix for the 3DM training and attended a five-

day intensive Way of Jesus training in Kitchener. He spent one and a half years learning to be a disciple himself and then spent a year discipling the church elders and governing board. "This was foundational," he says. "The discipleship model was already visible in the church two or three years before we launched our intern program."

Before they began searching for interns to disciple and train, they defined the requirements. First and foremost, they wanted people with a desire to be following Jesus and growing in their faith walk. They didn't need to be polished Jesus followers, but had to be local, commit to being disciplined for an agreed-upon length of time, have an agreed-upon role or ministry in the church, and be willing to set goals and then be accountable for accepting help to reach those goals. It was also a given that the intern/disciple would make another disciple so the chain would be unbroken.

"We were looking for character first, competence second. We knew it would be messy, but we would assume the messiness," says Kent. "It is essential, at the outset, to very clearly define the disciples' roles. Then build a discipleship experience tailored to their gifting and agreed-upon time commitment. We crafted

an application, stepped out with the opportunity, and the response was there. We ended up with two intern/disciples."

Discipleship huddles, two hours a week of mentoring over the better part of a year, have deepened relationships as they've talked about where God has brought their attention since the previous week and what they are doing about it.

Kent is helping one learn to preach and provides input to both as they learn by doing in various ministries. One has enrolled in Rocky Mountain College's Realize Program, which offers a Bachelor's degree, entirely online. "I love these guys," says Kent. "We are doing life together."

"This is a pattern we will continue to practice," says Kent. "We can see God's hand in it. Three interns are now set to begin the process of growing and learning and serving. Two are new, and one is returning from last year. Before we began the intern program, we thought, 'Wouldn't it be amazing if we came out of the pandemic stronger than when we came in?' **Throughout Covid, our focus has remained on following Jesus and disciple-making. We've seen growth, baptisms, new people, and the church's ministry needs being met.**" ■

# WHAT'S NEW AT OUR BIBLE COLLEGES?

Jean Winker

EMCC is blessed to have not one, but two Bible Colleges giving their all to provide discipleship, mentoring and high-quality training for the leaders of tomorrow. Emmanuel Bible College and Rocky Mountain Bible College are here to serve. The updates below provide a glimpse into what is new and noteworthy at our two schools.

## Emmanuel Bible College Update

EBC faculty and staff welcomed students back to the classroom this September for the first time since March 2020. EBC is committed to providing an on-campus experience where students can gather together to learn, build relationships, and foster local community connections. However, they are aware that not all students are able, or feel comfortable attending in-person classes yet. To meet the needs of as many as possible, the College has made changes. Now students can all attend classes at the same time, some seated in a Campus classroom, while others join virtually. This pivot is a positive change flowing from Covid realities. Another plus is being able to 'bring in' guest speakers to enhance learning without the prohibitive expense of travel. Renovations in the beautiful Edna Pridham building have created a large chapel/event space that can seat 200 within the redesigned library space.

EBC President, Neil Cudney, would like to hear from the local EMCC churches. "How can we support the work you are doing?" he asks. He also looks forward to invitations to speak at local churches.



Edna Pridham Library

Neil is excited to announce an Enhanced New Student Bursary in the 2021/22 academic year. In some circumstances, this bursary help could actually cover the entire cost of tuition. "There is significant financial help available that can greatly reduce the cost of tuition," says Neil. This comes from a generous, anonymous donor who desires to remove financial barriers to ministry training so that future leaders in missions and pastoral ministry can focus on their studies and graduate without accumulating huge debt. In another recent development—again thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor—all new monthly donors will have their donation matched for the next four years! One-time gifts will also be matched. The donor has a heart to see future leadership challenges met in our churches. To help EBC continue to provide quality, respected training, you are invited to contribute to their Many Hands campaign. Their goal is to gain 150 new monthly donors. Your monthly support will help ensure that Emmanuel Bible College thrives into the future, preparing the next generation of leaders.

[www.emmanuelbiblecollege.ca](http://www.emmanuelbiblecollege.ca)

## Rocky Mountain College Update

RMC is thankful that God has blessed them with continued enrolment growth this past year. In February they took another step forward on their strategic plan when they launched REALIZE, their accredited, competency-based education model. REALIZE focuses on students mastering a group of pre-approved outcomes in their local ministry context as they work at their own pace. REALIZE offers certificates, diplomas, and Bachelor of Arts degrees.

Applicants to REALIZE must already be serving in a ministry context as their supervisor acts as their ministry coach. Students are coached, assessed, and graded in their local ministry setting by their ministry coach, local mentor, and an RMC faculty member. All three must agree on all the grades granted in each course. The purpose of this group is to foster the student's confidence, hone necessary leadership skills, and achieve a more meaningful life. All learning activities and assessments are centered around the student's personal and ministry context. Students will gain practical experience in their own community and, upon graduation, they have a portfolio of ministry skills along with a highly respected and accredited program. Similar to RMC's Pathways model, all the courses as well as the library are accessible to students 24/7.



REALIZE is ideal for people already serving in ministry but lacking formal training, as well as in life situations where further education must be not only flexible but suited to their context. RMC is pleased that REALIZE is a highly relational model of learning. "A large part of education has always been relational," says President Kerry Belt, "and when I visit a student in their local learning context I see they are getting strong relationships where they are studying."

RMC has bursaries for EMCC students. Visit RMC's website to read more about REALIZE & Pathways. [www.rockymountaincollege.ca](http://www.rockymountaincollege.ca)

# SUMMER AT OUR CAMPS

Jean Winker

It is a delight to report that all six of our Camps enjoyed a good summer of ministry. Although not yet quite 'normal,' and most overnight children's camps were still not possible, the need for modified programming brought creative innovation, and some of the changes will be keepers.



## **Charis Camp, Chilliwack, BC**

Submitted by Darren Duncalfe,  
Executive Director

This past summer Charis Camp was able to host two weeks of day camps and a week of family camp. Overnight camps in B.C. still face a daunting amount of protocols and with only a skeletal staff it was something they couldn't realistically do. All camps had a theme verse of "Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you." Because of late notice regarding government grants, they only had a few days and a few people to pull together what normally takes a team and a few months to make happen. Their summer staff were *amazing*; without them camp would not have happened. The core team of volunteers, Chad and Robert, with Sara, Andrew and Jocelyn on program and Facilities, sacrificed greatly to keep the rest of the team focused and doing a great job. Without them, they would not have been able to facilitate the summer grant student team.

Unfortunately, August saw the continued trend of canceled groups and confusion regarding government mandates and expectations. It has been a difficult year and as they look back thinking what could have been done differently, it's easy to

forget that they were trying to make decisions based on assurances that "it's only for a couple more weeks." Now as we face an uncertain fall season they are buoyed by the fact that a significant part of the donations that have kept them going have come from people under thirty who have been impacted by camp and are now giving back. As well, they have a fairly full calendar. Your prayers that groups will follow through would be appreciated. Donations can be made at [www.chariscamp.com](http://www.chariscamp.com).



## **Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre, Cremona, Alberta**

From Family Camps to Day Camps for Kids, and even some kids' overnight camps, there were good times of ministry, fun, and relaxation at Rivers Edge Camp this summer. "It was a real joy for staff to welcome children for overnight camp as restrictions let up," says Interim Executive Director, Terry McKenna. New at Camp was the café and grill, a place to order food any time of the day and eat it inside or out. Alongside the regular camp dining room meals, this gave additional meal choices. It was wildly successful with frequent line ups. A mini donut machine and hot donut sundaes were also popular. These new ways of serving food were put in place because of COVID distancing regulations. "We will do this again and

are making plans to have the café grill available for groups who come for retreats," says Terry. Another keeper from this year is extra weekends of Family Camp to make this experience accessible for more people.

Rivers Edge is currently taking bookings for the fall. See [riversedgecamp.org](http://riversedgecamp.org). New Executive Director, Andrew Fitch, will begin mid-September. Terry will continue as Director of Finance/CFO.



## **Whispering Pines Camp, Elkwater, Alberta**

This summer, Whispering Pines Camp hosted five weeks of Family Camp. Three of these weeks included meals, whereas the other two weeks were a traditional camping trip, but included camp activities, programing and daily devotional and worship times. They were grateful to have the help of 5 summer students, hired with the help of government grants. The majority of activities were held outdoors and families enjoyed the beach, took part in crafts, activities such as climbing wall, pellet guns, archery, an escape room, treasure hunts, listened to speakers and music, and relaxed around the campfires with friends.

Denver Knodel, Executive Director, hopes to continue to add a couple of

extra Family Camp weekends again next year, interspersed with regular camps. They will encourage churches in the area to share a camp-planned weekend for an opportunity to meet others in the family of God and grow together. He also noted the benefits of families coming to camp together. "It was a bonding time for families. Since parents and kids were doing things together it may make it easier to have further conversations about faith at home," he says. Whispering Pines Camp is a year-round camp and is open for retreats. See more at [whisperingpinescamp.ca](http://whisperingpinescamp.ca).



### Echo Lake Bible Camp, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan

Leaders in Training sessions for 13-18 year-olds ran simultaneously with Kids' Day Camp which was great for the kids and good experience for the young leaders. Day Camp was new this year and was planned as an alternative to overnight camps before regulations were in place. This gave opportunity to reach local families who typically don't attend overnight camp. Feedback was positive so a Day Camp may be included in ELBC's summer line up moving forward, along with the return of overnight camps. Partway through the summer all Covid restrictions were dropped, and normal operations resumed.

A YWAM group, whose ministry trip overseas was cancelled due to Covid, came to the Camp instead and helped at Kids' Day Camp and the summer work bee. Mostly youth came for the work bee and beautiful wood salvaged from an old cabin was repurposed into wainscoting in the dining room. A ceremony to honor a very special Camp supporter couple was a highlight of Family Camp. They

had been bringing their horses to camp for over 35 years for horse rides at Kids and Family camps. "Next year we are planning for a normal summer, but it is important to have a Plan B," says Monique Strachan, Co-Exec Dir. "Sometimes there has to be a catalyst for things to change. We need to take these opportunities to do what God is asking of us."

More info at [www.elbc.co](http://www.elbc.co)



### Camp Mishewah, Killaloe, Ontario

The summer season at Mishewah ran with modified programming. Campers at the 4 weeks of Family Camp enjoyed outdoor services, campfires, and the option to purchase take-out meals from the kitchen. At the waterfront families swam, canoed, kayaked, and sailed. There was a full team guarding the waterfront, however, to give families more opportunity to enjoy the beach, signs were posted letting people know they were responsible for the safety of themselves & their family during the hours not covered by lifeguards. This worked well and gave many more hours every day for fun on the beach and in the water.

On-site Kids Camp was a 'no go' this year, and *Mish in a Box* was sent to homes instead. These kits contained everything needed for Bible lessons, activities, and crafts for an online 5-day camp program. Mishewah was a-buzz with campers in cabins, lakeside suites, RVs, and tents during unstructured time in August. "A highlight this summer," says Managing Director Jeanette Balzer, "was the baptism of two of our staff in the lake." The Camp will close for the season at end of September.

Plans for their Jubilee Weekend are

underway, a Homecoming that will celebrate 50 years of ministry since the Camp was purchased by the Missionary Church in 1972. See Camp info at [mishewah.ecmcamps.ca](http://mishewah.ecmcamps.ca).

### Stayner Camp, Stayner, Ontario

It was a positive summer. Unstructured camping was followed by Family Camp "Reimagined," held over the August long weekend and then a second week at the beginning of August. Although they were unable to hold Kids' Camps again this year, Family Camps focused on whole families doing things together. Going forward, Managing Director Kyle Moore says, "We may change the look of Family Camp a little. Not what it is, but how we do it." Worship has always been in the tabernacle but this year they were out in the field in the beauty of nature. They built an amphitheatre and held an *Under the Stars* café with music. After serving up waffles with fruit and ice cream, Kyle's daughter, Madeleine, sang and played guitar accompanied by her friend Charissa on keyboard. This summer, the Camp was approached by a church with four campuses about holding outdoor Sunday services on their property. It was a great partnership, and Family Campers also attended. "We will be continuing to look at all our programs with a broader view, thinking outside the box," says Kyle.

Next year they will refashion Arts Camp under the guidance of Steve & Trish Preston of Funtastical Studios. A partnership with Scripture Union will bring stronger Bible and sports elements. Stayner Camp is year-round and open to retreats. See [stayner.ecmcamps.ca](http://stayner.ecmcamps.ca) ■



# CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE CHURCH

Jean Winker

What life will be like in the post-Covid reality is a big topic everywhere we go. In a recent conversation with Grover Bradford, one of our credentialed ministers, he shared some of the things he is hearing. He has been connecting with pastors and asking the question, "What is next; relationally, and community wise? And, are you as confused as the rest of us?"

As the reality continues to sink in that things in our churches may never return to what they were before, Grover notes peoples' reactions seem to fall into three broad categories:

## 1. THE EARLY ADAPTOR TYPE

those who see new potential for what is to come.

## 2. THE CONFUSED

those who don't know what they are supposed to feel and are reacting with a mixture of fear, confusion, and a little excitement.

## 3. THE FEARFUL

A few who are living in fear of what the future may hold.

"Covid has flipped the church on its head," says Grover. "Now, it is more than ever apparent that the church is people, not buildings and programs. When the pandemic struck and programs shut down and buildings had to close, people could no longer depend on programs to bolster their faith. They have had to figure out their faith on their own."

Sadly, Grover reports that not all were up to the challenge and some have shelved their faith altogether. Others are holding out hope that all will return to the way things were.

Nevertheless, there are also inspiring stories being told. Even though they suffered loss, dark days, and in some cases saw what had been defining them slip away, many have come through it all finding that having Jesus made all the difference. One person said, "I am better than ever before."

Conversations have it that we are in the midst of transformational change in the church. "Whether the masses will return, we do not know. The forms in use for the last 50-60 years may disappear and the use of technology is here to stay." Of the future, Grover reminds us,

**"In spite of our current challenges as the church we are to remain as Kingdom people driven by the hope Jesus gives."**

"I am 100% excited for the future of the church, but we may not recognize it," he goes on to say. He speculates that in time, the church may become more like the early church, more marginal, deeply involved in community development and working to alleviate the societal ills of the day.

All of this leaves us with questions we cannot answer. Despite the size of our church, or our personal situation, God is still on mission, as He has always been. He will involve us if we are willing. And, if we find ourselves in a difficult spot, as Lynn Dietz affirmed in the lead article in this newsletter, *Finding Rivers in the Desert*: "God has led us in, He will lead us through and He will lead us out! And this is to His Glory!"

*Editor's Note: Grover Bradford is an Ordained Minister with The EMCC serving as a Pastor in a Christian Academy in Calgary. ■*

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