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EMCC TOGETHER

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Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

Creatively Engaging our Communities for Jesus

"When we follow Jesus and depend on the Spirit of Jesus in our journey, we are never bound by the limitations of our circumstances or surroundings." (Page 1)

**Partnering with the
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PARTNERING WITH THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

Jeff Knott

Pope Francis was speaking better than he knew when he said that “we are not living an era of change but a change of era.” That claim was made more than six years ago in reference to the epochal cultural shift happening within our world and the challenges that brought to his faith community. Little did he know other seismic pressures would be unleashed in the form of a global pandemic making his comment even more descriptive of our current reality. Covid has left its mark on every sphere of life, leaving many with a deep sense of discomfort and dislocation. This “change of era” has not been kind to us. Isolation, constraints, and a growing sense of dread from multiple waves and variants has many of us doubting our capacity to endure this much longer.

When everything that can be shaken has been shaken (Heb. 12:26), it is very tempting to focus on what we have lost and our inability to manage life as we once did. With the endless news cycle constantly reinforcing the scarcity of options for personal autonomy, it is easy to see only limitations. We have all witnessed how restricted environments lead to restricted imaginations. The fruit of this decline is, for many, diminished hope and paralysis of possibilities.

The constant witness of scripture is that we serve a God who specializes in turning impossibles into possibles.

This might be one of the prevailing spirits of our age, but it should not

be so for a follower of Jesus. The constant witness of scripture is that we serve a God who specializes in turning impossibles into possibles. For example, in Matthew 19 Jesus invites a young man to give up his wealth and follow him. Unable to do so because of his great love for material possessions, the man goes away sorrowful. This prompts a teaching from Jesus to his disciples about the challenge an unhealthy attachment to wealth presents to discipleship. Entering the kingdom for a rich person is compared to a camel (the largest animal in Palestine) going through the eye of a needle. A clear impossibility reflected in the disciple’s rhetorical question, “Who then can be saved?” The obvious answer is no one. But thankfully, Jesus was not done with his instruction. He goes on to declare that humanly speaking it is impossible, “but with God all things are possible.”

Let’s appreciate the immediate context of this teaching applies to entering the kingdom, that is, receiving eternal life. But this truth also has implications for every other impossibility we face. When we follow Jesus and depend on the Spirit of Jesus in our journey, we are never bound by the limitations of our circumstances or surroundings. Remember, whatever sense of lack we may humanly perceive does not present an obstacle for the One who can make all things possible. In our own strength insurmountable restrictions and restraints abound, but in Christ we can do all things (Phil. 4:13) with the knowledge that our God “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work

within us.” (Eph. 3:20)

When we follow Jesus and depend on the Spirit of Jesus in our journey, we are never bound by the limitations of our circumstances or surroundings.

That is exceedingly good news when so much of our current focus is on what we can’t do. Why is that even a category for the follower of Jesus? If “His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness,” (2 Pet. 1:3) surely, we can challenge the scarcity thinking and famine of imagination that is starving our response to the possibilities of this hour. Yes, it is difficult to discern heaven’s purpose in this pandemic, but let us never doubt God’s agency. And yes, a “change of era” may result in a shift in the way we do church or order our lives, but it does not represent a change in God’s eternal mission to the world or his invitation for us to join Him in it.

Together let’s partner with the God of the impossible and share in His redeeming purposes for this generation.

Jeff Knott

Regional Minister ■

NEW EMCC CREDENTIALS

Jean Winker

Three people have received new EMCC credentials since September, 2021. We welcome them to the EMCC family. The short bios below serve as an introduction until you have opportunity to meet them on screen or in person.



Josh Wilhelm - Licensed Minister, October 2021

When Josh recommitted his life to Jesus at 19, he had one foot in and one foot out of the church.

"I was preparing to return to Conestoga College, Kitchener, when something spiritual inside me woke up. I clearly heard, 'Go to EBC, go to EBC,' and I knew God was speaking to me."

He thought EBC was in another province and had already signed a lease in Kitchener. Imagine his shock when he discovered his apartment was just 7 kilometers away from Emmanuel. He graduated in 2015, with a Bachelor of Religious Education.

Josh met Katrina at EBC and they married after graduation. Encouraged by a mentor to pursue further training, they moved to Vancouver where Josh attended Regent College. He worked in Regent's bookstore while studying, and graduated with a Master's in Theological Studies. In spring of 2021, Josh applied for the pastor role at Mindemoya Church on Manitoulin Island, Ontario and entered EMCC's credentialing process. Josh and Katrina arrived at Mindemoya in July and are settling into life and ministry on the Island. Josh is the sole pastor at this church of approximately 100 people and is learning the rhythms of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, leadership development, and administration.

Josh's spiritual gifts are teaching and encouragement and he is passionate about helping people grow in their knowledge of, and commitment to following Jesus.

SAVE THE DATE:

EMCC 2022 Regional Gathering - ONLINE, April 23rd

Due to constantly changing Public Health guidelines, instead of hosting two Regional Gatherings in person, one in the east and one in the west, we will host one online experience this year on April 23rd. Our invitation to churches and pastors is to gather in "watch parties" in your regions as you are able. Please watch our social media accounts (@emccnational) and your email for details in the upcoming weeks.

Les Harms - Licensed Minister - October 2021

Les Harms became the pastor at Athabasca MC Fellowship during the pandemic, in September 2020. He and his wife Tanis are working at creating ways to connect, while playing by the ever-changing Covid rules.

The couple and their two girls relocated to the small community of Athabasca from Sexsmith, AB where Les had graduated from Peace River Bible institute with a BRE with a Pastoral major. Les was raised in a Christian home and has been a Jesus follower since he was very young. He's worked in a variety of occupations, his most recent as a Peace Officer in the County of Grande Prairie. He came to realize that his answers when trying to articulate his faith were poor. He loves to learn and took some online courses. With Tanis' encouragement, he decided to enroll at PRBI, get a degree, and see what would unfold.

In his 4th year God made it clear. "My biggest fear was preaching, but the pastor where I was interning graciously allowed me to preach often, and through the exploratory process of internship God settled His call to ministry for me."

Involved in all aspects of pastoring, it is becoming clearer that gifts of preaching and teaching are developing. Also, a love for pastoring/shepherding.

Les is passionate about helping people understand the Word of God so they can live it in obedience, share it with joy, and clearly articulate it to those around them.

Michael Clark - Licensed Minister, September 2021

A believer since age four, Michael felt a call to ministry at 12. "There is nothing else I see myself doing. I feel this is what the Lord wants me to do."

In July, Michael and Cynthia moved from Etzikon, AB (90 km southwest of Medicine Hat) to the Holden, Alberta area (an hour East of Edmonton). They are the new pastoral couple at Emmanuel EMC since July 25. Previously, Michael was a pastor serving with the Evangelical Free denomination and his Biblical education was at Living Faith Bible School in Caroline, Alberta. Emmanuel is a country church, and Michael is focusing on visiting the church families, and they volunteer at the museum and help others through Meals on Wheels. His ministry passion is to love God and love people, and he really enjoys connecting one on one. Possessing the spiritual gifts of hospitality, service, and encouragement, it is a joy for him to be serving a congregation that places high value on relationships.

Currently, Michael is pastoring at three-quarter time and is in the certificate program at Briercreech Seminary, seeking to earn a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Someday Michael hopes to be a pastoral counsellor.



THE ANSWERS

Jean Winker

Donna Schultz, Interim Pastor at Grace Church, Port Hope, was startled as she looked back through her journal and read her own recorded prayer, 'God, just have people start calling the church.' Seven months later, He had done just that.

It started one day in November 2020 when the admin assistant at Grace Church, Port Hope, Ontario answered the phone. On the line was a young woman who had accepted Jesus earlier that year and wanted to be baptized. Church buildings had been closed so she hadn't been able to come to services. It turned out that she had attended Sunday School at Grace as a child. Now, churches were open again and Donna arranged to meet her after the service. As Donna was talking with her, she indicated she had been in touch with a second young woman who had just come back to the Lord and was attending Grace church with her boyfriend. She had attended the church a few years in her teens and just starting attending Grace again after it opened up in September. The two women had been acquainted in school but did not know each other well. That was about to change; God has His ways. As the conversation progressed, Donna felt led to ask if they would like to do a Bible Study with her.

Later, as Donna was telling Sr. Pastor Jeff Knott about this, they talked about what would be a good place to start. "How about Alpha?" said Pastor Jeff. Donna recalled that another young man associated with the church was away at College. Since Alpha was going to be online she contacted him, and he also was interested. And so, they began in November with four young, eager new believers.

In January, a friend of one of the young women got in touch saying she just committed her life to Christ but had no church. Could her friend recommend one? She also joined the

Alpha group, which Pastor Donna affectionately called the 'A' Team. They completed Alpha together. None of them had been baptized and were all enthusiastic about taking this step. "Never before had I seen people so excited about baptism," says Pastor Donna. They planned for Easter Sunday in 2021, but just days before, word came that the churches had to close down once again. They were baptized on Good Friday instead, each one giving clear testimony of vibrant faith in Jesus.

As church services continue, whether in-person or online, Pastor Donna is meeting with the group, discipling them using thematic Bible studies that speak to expressed needs. Last winter when groups meeting indoors was prohibited, they met outdoors in the snow, huddled around campfires, talking about Jesus. Covid is no hindrance to God's ongoing work in open hearts. Before one new Bible Study topic was about to begin, Pastor Donna's husband struck up a conversation with a young man in a parking lot. He subsequently joined the group too.

A few have moved away, but a core group of the young 20-somethings has remained and is helping out at church where they now attend and continue to be disciplined. They are inviting friends for an in-person round of Alpha and although they have no takers for this yet, friends have expressed interest in the on-line Alpha. Online has two advantages: First, distance from the church is no hindrance, and two, it is less intimidating

for people not comfortable in the physical church setting. Leaders are finding that participants are less shy about sharing when they attend from the comfort of their own personal space.

Pastor Donna emphasizes how important it is to have an expectant heart when we pray. How often do we present our request and then go away and forget about it before the answer comes? Or how often do we give up?

“We have an amazing God. This was really all Him. We did no campaigning. When God brings people, He does an amazing job. Hungry hearts showed up wanting to know Him.”

The congregation at Grace, Port Hope continues to do their part, praying for and loving the new believers. ■

For those considering Online Alpha, visit their website at alphacanada.org/alpha-online/ Although Donna is a Pastor, no special training is required to facilitate an Alpha Course. The website provides good instruction for leaders and offers questions to discuss after the videos. Pastor Donna's group even found a way to build in the refreshment time, usually a part of in-person Alpha Groups. They simply decided on a particular snack for the following session, each bought their own and enjoyed it together online.

Q&A WITH PASTORS: FALL PASTORS' RETREATS REFLECTIONS

Jean Winker

The theme at EMCC's Pastors' Retreats was "Press Pause." Our thanks to the following pastors for taking time to reflect on what their retreat experience meant to them: Sam Devine, *Albright*, Winnipeg, MB; Graham Gaessler, *Faith*, Wasaga Beach, ON; Heinz Janzen, *New Life*, Stony Plain, AB; Conrad Neudorf, *Bear Creek*, Surrey, BC; Sunday Olukoju, *Immanuel*, Winnipeg, MB; and Nathan Schultz, *Upper Thames*, Mitchell, ON.



What was the atmosphere like at the retreat this year?

It was a time of fellowship and encouragement. (*Sam Devine, MB*)

It was a time of reconnecting. So good to be together. In person is 'less-business-y.' (*Graham Gaessler, ON*)

For me, personally, it refreshed my spirit. (*Heinz Janzen, AB*)

It was great, friendly, and restful. (*Sunday Olukoju, MB*)

People were happy to see each other. It was nice to walk into a full room. I took our new Associate Pastor, Brian Smith. He started just the day before the retreat. (*Nathan Schultz, ON*)

What were your take-aways, concerning the overall message?

I appreciated that it wasn't just an information download by leadership. They came and sat with us and shared their hearts, as opposed to coming in with a posture of "we have the answers." This made our time together even more special. John Cressman streamed in and spent time sharing vision. He spoke about four compass points: multiplication, engagement, future readiness, character--it all came with such specificity. This resonated with us. It wasn't by chance. It brought a sense of alignment. We thought about what it means in our own context. (*Sam Devine, MB*)

I really appreciated Ellen Krahn's workshop. She talked about spending time in quiet with Jesus. It aligned

with where God's been speaking with me. I especially appreciated the permission to quiet my mind, and the perspective that when you get distracted, it is a positive opportunity to re-engage with Jesus. (*Graham Gaessler, ON*)

It re-affirmed that we are a collective, I felt this in the sessions, during communion & prayer together. Appreciated hearing from John Cressman and Brian Archer. The topic rejuvenated my soul. I went away knowing I am not alone. I left with more questions still, and some solace, some resolve to know it's going to be ok. (*Heinz Janzen, AB*)

We talked with Lynn Dietz about practical things pastors are going through, all the new responsibilities as a result of uncertain times. Plans that may change in two days. Trying to comply with all the rules. Lynn

reminded us that we are responsible to take care of ourselves. Know when to say, "I need a break," and then line it up, and take it. He also reminded us to concentrate on our relationship with God and don't let that slip because that's when the enemy can get in. Nicole Jones-Qandah was also there. It was good to see what's happening in World Partners, the direction, future plans, and goals. Also, it was good to hear from John Cressman who joined online and shared direction for the denomination with a continuing focus on discipleship and following Jesus. *(Conrad Neudorf, BC)*

The message was great as it focused on rest, renewal, and self-care. *(Sunday Olukoju, MB)*

I sat in on Simon Beadle's breakout. I appreciated how real he was. He talked about the importance of staying focused. We talked about the importance of not letting social media, or hobbies, etc., encroach on time working with people. When I work more efficiently, then rest time is more restful, because I am satisfied with what I've done. *(Nathan Schultz, ON)*

What were your take-aways, relationship-wise?

The message tacitly covered deep relationships – but could go deeper

in this area, particularly in balancing the relationships of a pastor's family and ministry. *(Sunday Olukoju, MB)*

Hearing from our sister church was helpful. It is easy to feel isolated, but no, we are in this together. Struggles are across the board. This was a personal encouragement to me. *(Sam Devine, MB)*

On Monday night, I got to connect with someone with whom I had a previous connection. On Tuesday, I had opportunity to chat with someone who had just gone through certification. It was good to have the chance to connect more personally. We shared our pastoral stories. *(Graham Gaessler, ON)*

There was an opportunity to go on a hike with a colleague where we poured out to each other. It was good for our bodies and the conversation was good for our souls. I led a breakout. We were able to talk about the struggles, shed some tears. We listened as each one shared and then prayed over them. *(Heinz Janzen, AB)*

Everyone has the same stories. You feel alone, but you're not. You can get to thinking: maybe we're losing people, maybe it's my fault, but no. Communion was special. We prayed for each other. A prophetic word. We also had fun. We played golf, and we had great conversations over dinner.

Everything was so meaningful. *(Conrad Neudorf, BC)*

On a hike, I had a chance to talk to a bunch of other pastors. It was unhurried, unforced, natural. It was refreshing. There were no expectations, that was restful in itself. *(Nathan Schultz, ON)*

What did you hear God saying to you, during this time away with your ministry colleagues?

Covid has changed a lot of things. The mission remains the same. I am encouraged to keep going. *(Sam Devine, MB)*

I need to help people learn to pray more holistically. Create some opportunities for people to encounter Jesus in a contemplative way. *(Graham Gaessler, ON)*

"I'm proud of you for keeping on." *(Heinz Janzen, AB)*

Press pause. To survive you've got to take better care of yourself. I'm setting up a home gym. *(Conrad Neudorf, BC)*

I need to be sure to set aside unhurried time to be with our new associate pastor. *(Nathan Schultz, ON)* ■



HELPING NEW BELIEVERS BECOME DISCIPLES

Jean Winker

A recent conversation with Pastor Daniel Wallace turned up three stories of God at work at Harmony Community Church in Winchester, Ontario.

WELCOME PASTOR DAN

When Pastor Dan accepted the invitation to become Pastor at Harmony Community Church in 2020, God used a few words of welcome displayed on the church's outdoor sign as a stepping stone to salvation and as an open door to disciple-making.

"A man driving by noticed the church's welcome announcement on our outside sign, and wondered if this new pastor was the Daniel Wallace he worked with 10 years ago. He called the church to find out. Sure enough, it was."

Dealing with personal problems, the man reached out to Dan. "I need to give my life to God. Can we talk?"

Now a new believer, God is slowly restoring his life, and he has brought along others in need of God's restoration. Together he and Pastor Dan led one friend to Christ and this new believer is being disciplined by them.

"I have been deeply encouraged to see Jesus transforming broken lives," says Pastor Dan. "My passion is to lead people into the arms of Jesus and help others do the same."

ALPHA FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

"God has been faithful during the pandemic as we've been able to use technology as a tool in discipleship and outreach," says Pastor Dan Wallace.

To continue to connect with others, they decided to host an online Alpha group. They promoted it using personal invitations from members of one of their home groups. The core group of 5 or 6 added to their numbers in this way. They watched the Alpha videos together. Alpha provides questions for the discussion times that follow the videos.

"One person dedicated their life to Christ at the end of a video. When he was invited, he indicated that he wanted to increase his understanding of God. We prayed that God would use Alpha to open eyes, and He did." Two who attended the online video sessions have stayed and become a regular part of the homegroup.

As mentioned by others regarding online Alpha, Pastor Daniel noted that people seemed quite at ease sharing from the comfort of their own homes. "Were it not for the pandemic, we may never have tried Alpha online, and I do not know if the man who got saved would have attended in-person."

FINDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THROUGH ZOOM

Although Zoom meetings cannot replace gathering together in-person, God in his sovereignty has been able to move. Because of provincial restrictions, Pastor Dan decided to offer prayer meeting in-person and online. Offering prayer online extended the church's reach beyond those who regularly attended the Wednesday evening meetings. A young woman, new in her faith but with no Christian connections was invited by Pastor Dan to join the weekly online prayer meeting. She did not have transportation, but did have the Internet. Daniel and his wife Candice have since had several Zoom calls with this young believer and she has become a regular at the Wednesday evening Zoom prayer meetings.

"I thank God for technology that allows us to aid in the work of discipleship."

RETIRED: NOW WHAT?

Jean Winker

Several of our EMCC pastors have retired since General Assembly in May 2021. We hope you will enjoy reading about their ministries and their plans now that they have arrived at retirement. (Note: If you are an EMCC minister retired since Assembly 2021 and haven't been contacted about this, please send a message to communications@emcc.ca. We would love to feature you in our next newsletter!)



RICH KOPANKE
Retired Oct 31, 2021
from Faith EMC, Kitchener

Rich and Inge are back in the city where they began ministry at Cross Connection EMC, Chilliwack, BC in 1981. The church was called Zion then. After 5 years at Zion, Rich served three more churches; Albright in Winnipeg (2 years), Faith in Richmond (9 years), and finally 24 years at Faith in Kitchener. A week after their house sold in Kitchener this summer, they bought a home in Chilliwack, arriving July 30.

"God put this together," says Rich. "We know we are in the right place."

Of their 40 years in pastoral ministry, Rich says, "We loved it. My biggest joy

is to see people light up about God. And to see those who many years ago were youths, and are now solid leaders. How gracious it was of God to let us be part of that."

A FEW QUESTIONS FOR RICH:

What piece of advice would you offer to young pastors?

Pull together some solid people, in, or outside of the church who can guide. Someone you can trust, who will be a mentor, a sounding board.

What word of advice do you have for a pastor a few years from retirement?

If at all possible, have a succession plan and groom your successor. Accept him for who he is. We did this at Faith, and it helped get a good fit for the church.

Share a valuable leadership lesson you learned.

The importance of trying to see things through other people's eyes. Get to know people, listen to their stories and what's going on in their lives. Only then can you begin to understand the struggles they have, what they are dealing with. Otherwise it's easy to jump to wrong conclusions.

Rich and Inge are practicing hospitality with their neighbours, asking themselves, "How can I be Christ in this situation?" Not just meals, but on the lookout for opportunities to lend a hand, drop off some yeast buns or soup.

Rich may be found in his new workshop, building furniture, reading the stack of books that has been waiting, or he and Inge may be away, visiting family, or travelling around BC in their van.

"I have my pastoral skills, gifts. We are waiting on God to show us what's next."



CLARAN MARTIN
Retired August 15, 2021
EMCC Regional Minister

"I enjoyed every place I was called and every ministry season. They were all great fits for me," says Claran. "And I expect that this retirement season will also be fruitful and fun."

Before becoming one of EMCC's Regional Ministers, Claran pastored three Ontario congregations. He began in 1981 at Bethel, Lion's Head and went on to serve at Palmerston EMC in 1984, and then to Hanover MC in 1992.

In 2008 he accepted an invitation to become a Regional Minister. "I was ready for a change and looked forward to caring, coaching, and resourcing our EMCC pastors. At first, it was challenging to make the shift from working with people I connected with face-to-face on a weekly basis to caring for people spread across the whole province. I

really enjoyed working with devoted pastors who were ready for change and were keen to take their next steps of action."

Claran's biggest joy in ministry has come in this last four years, since being trained in disciple-making by 3D Movements. This organization 'exists to put Jesus-Shaped discipleship and mission back into the hands of everyday people.'

"My investment in discipling other pastors and people has been the most fulfilling," says Claran. "At present, I am still actively participating in two Disciple-Making Huddles with EMCC Pastors."

A FEW QUESTIONS FOR CLARAN:

Share a valuable leadership lesson you learned.

1. Work with whom you've got. Be content with that.

2. It's all about healthy relationships. Me trusting people; people trusting me. It is important to learn to quickly forgive and let go. Unfortunately, so much tension persists because people don't forgive as we have been forgiven.

What piece of advice would you offer young pastors?

Make disciples who make disciples. Spend more time training others, don't try to do it all yourself.

What would you say to pastors a few years out from retirement?

Raise up the next generation. Invest in others, and in your replacements. Ignite passion in others – they will carry some of your passion into the future. This is life-giving. Avoid coasting. Finish well.

Claran and Adriana continue to live in Hanover, Ontario. They retired together and immediately headed out the door for a ten-week road trip, spending time with their adult kids and families in Manitoba and British Columbia.

"We have a window of opportunity right now and we want to use it to invest in our children and grandchildren."

Other enjoyable pursuits are walking and hiking, biking and kayaking, cross-country and downhill skiing, traveling and learning.

Claran continues to listen to the Holy Spirit, praying and asking, "What do you want me to do?" It will take more processing to define our retirement season, but it still feels ok to be slowed down a little bit. "But, I am delighted that my identity and purpose are clear: I am a follower of Jesus--employed or not. My purpose is to help others follow Jesus too."



GRAHAM BURKHART
Retired Sept 12, 2021
from Bethel EMC, New Dundee

Reflecting on his 42 years of pastoral ministry, Graham says, "I always had good people to work with, and witnessing the Lord at work in people's lives has been my greatest joy in ministry. I never viewed pastoral service as a career. It is a calling, and retirement isn't the end of that calling or service."

Graham and Laurie were pastoral couple at three EMC churches, beginning in 1979: Aylmer, St. Thomas, and Bethel, New Dundee. Graham retired three days after marking twenty-five years at Bethel.

Pastoral service and academic work ran together through many years as Graham undertook graduate studies. These studies included courses at what was then Ontario Theological Seminary (now Tyndale Seminary) from 1980 - 1982; course work for the MA program in Christian Thought at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) in Deerfield Illinois, in Systematic Theology and Philosophy of Religion from 1983 - 1986; a return

to OTS for a year of Hebrew Exegesis and Grammar study in 1992; German, Latin, and Formal Logic at the University of Waterloo from 1992 - 1993; thesis supervision by a member of the theological faculty in Oxford UK through the Graduate Theological Foundation leading to the Master of Theology degree in 2009; and the completion of a PhD in 2017 from the University of Manchester after research supervision at the affiliated college, Nazarene Theological College and successfully defending a thesis entitled; A RESPONSE TO OPEN THEISM through consideration of the theism of James Arminius: With special attention to his ideas of Foreknowledge and Foreordination. These academic opportunities were facilitated by study leave granted by the Aylmer and the New Dundee congregations.

Pastoral service and volunteer denominational work also ran together. In 1983 Graham was appointed to the Constitution Commission of The Missionary Church Inc. and worked with denominational Bylaws, Policy & Procedure, and Statement of Faith. When The Missionary Church of

Canada separated organizationally from The Missionary Church Inc., Graham began service with the Constitution Commission of The Missionary Church of Canada. He was part of the team that negotiated the merger between The Evangelical Church in Canada and The Missionary Church of Canada. He served as chair of the Constitution Commission until he resigned the position in 2015. The last major Bylaw project was at the time when the districts were wrapped into the National organization. Although usually remembered for his Bylaw work, the Statement of Faith part was the aspect he actually enjoyed, and he believed to have enduring value.

Graham and Laurie are looking forward to the next chapter with opportunities to help pastors think better theologically about great Biblical doctrines and think biblically about the issues of the day. Graham anticipates publishing a book, Arminius and the Open Future which will delve into the doctrine of God on the subject of divine election and the question of human free will.

"The book will publish my doctoral research in a more readable form, suitable for Bible College students, pastors, and anyone willing to think through aspects of the doctrine of God."

He also intends to launch a website, thinkingbiblically.today early in 2022. It will address various topics that confront us and will seek to differentiate between a familiar or preferential understanding, and a genuine biblical understanding. ■



UNEXPECTED CHANGES OPEN NEW DOORS: DAN & ANNE-MARIE CHAPPLE, WORLD PARTNERS

Jean Winker & Nicole Jones-Qandah

When Global Workers Dan and Anne-Marie Chapple learned of their Covid-mandated return to Canada from Mexico in March 2020, they were less than enthusiastic.

“At the time, we didn’t want to come,” says Dan. “But in retrospect we realize we needed to be here. It has been a good move for our family, and is opening diverse opportunities for ministry to global workers and to other ministries in Southern Ontario. We are also anticipating a multiplication in the numbers of pastors training others, and being trained, in Mexico. I am working online with three nationals who will take oversight of the classes and much of the ministry I was responsible for.”

MINISTRY EXPANSION IN LATIN AMERICA

On the horizon for the Chapples, is an expanded World Partners assignment involving the National Churches in Latin America: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Mexico. Still in the planning stages, the intent is to work alongside with Keith and Ruth-Anne Elliott to grow relationships and find strategic ways that the Canadian Church can be involved helping to strengthen and equip the churches in Latin America.

“We want this to be mutually beneficial across the countries. We will also be working with their leadership to identify how the Latin American Churches can impact the Canadian Church.”

Speaking more about reciprocity, Dan

says, “The Latin American Church has a lot to offer. In future, I’d like to take pastors and other key people from the Canadian Church with me to see what they are doing there, and then come home to encourage and inspire others. I think it would be refreshing for Canadians to see their level of commitment to ministry. Most of the pastors are bi-vocational, and don’t make enough money to live on. They are there solely because God has called them. It is a tremendous reminder of why we do what we do. Not for the job; it’s for the Kingdom, service to the Lord.”

Dan relates a story of a church in Ecuador serving their community

COVID’s toll in Ecuador meant money was useless in some areas for a period of time. The citizens in one town needed to trade with one another to obtain food. The problem

was, they didn't trust each other. In response, the local church started a bartering trade market and soon became the Centre for trade in the community. The citizens trusted that they wouldn't get cheated at church. By helping in this way, congregation members built relationships with people who would never have come into the church under any other circumstances.

Changes to Pastoral Training in Mexico

Dan and Ann-Marie Chapple have been World Partners Global Workers serving in Mexico for 19 years. At the invitation of the National Church, Dan has implemented a training program used all over Latin America to facilitate classes for bi-vocational pastors in dire need of biblical knowledge and ministry skills. Most have rudimentary education. Besides overseeing the training, Dan often travelled to their homes to talk about ministry, chatting about practical matters, and theology. Anne-Marie has served in a supportive role, often at home with their children while Dan travelled.

"I enjoyed connecting with pastors' wives, being a listening ear, and praying for them," says Anne-Marie.

"If we were still there, we'd be doing things the same way, but eventually one person can't do it all. Now,

I'm working with three men, all of whom have been going through the training material with me. Each will be responsible for overseeing the classes in their area, and will start new groups."

Dan works with them online, mentoring and discipling them, and providing pastoral care. "I am praying they will build relationships with the other pastors in their areas, and be seen, not as powerful leaders, but as servants, and that they will serve and equip the church."

Dan will still be somewhat involved, but wants to hand over as much as he can to them. "This shift to nationals overseeing the classes will allow us to train more workers and reach more areas. And it is healthy for them to grow in their leadership capabilities."

MINISTRY IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

MissionPREP

Dan and Anne-Marie are excited about new ministries God is opening to them. Since returning they have been active in MissionPREP, an organization that helps to equip, care for, and debrief missionary families for more than 50 mission agencies. MissionPREP offers three programs, Dan and Anne-Marie have been involved in all three doing producing, teaching and debriefing. The necessity of holding MissionPREP

online has brought some advantages that will remain part of how things are done in the future. People will be able to do some pre-reading before they come for in-person sessions, and do the follow-up portion after the in-person sessions are over. "Participants will be able to connect over a much longer timeframe, extending the benefit."

Anne Marie was named Assistant Co-Director of the children. She co-directed the children's program, and helped put it online. "I have a growing passion for MKs, being one myself, and our own kids as well."

Ministry to Spanish-Speaking Migrant Workers

Dan has just recently discovered another exciting avenue of ministry. At the invitation of a man who runs a ministry to Spanish-speaking migrant workers on farms, Dan has twice visited farms where groups of men meet on Saturdays or Sundays for help with English, and a time of Bible Study and prayer. On Dan's second visit, this time to four farms, nine men accepted Christ after the Bible study that day! On return visits the new believers will be discipled. It is unknown what will be the extent of this ministry for Dan, but the opportunities seem endless. There are many thousands of Latin American migrant workers employed on Ontario farms. ■

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