

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada

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TOGETHER ON THE WAY

Missionary Church of Nepal / SARA • Bethel EMC Hanna • Riverside EMC • Hope City Church • Punjabi Christian Fellowship • Abasaruzi Missionary Church • Lakeshore Missionary Church • Iglesia Misionera en Venezuela COMIVE • Hillcrest EMC • St. Clair EMC • Iglesia Evangélica Misionera de Ecuador • CrossRoads Church • Faith Community Church • Asian Missionary Church (Phillippine Islands) • Paisley Missionary Church • St. Paul's EMC Rosthern • Rocky Mountain College • Gormley Missionary Church • World Partners International • Healing Streams International • The Link • Bergen Missionary Church Fellowship • Ridgeview EMC • Rhema International Church • Immanuel Fellowship EMC • United Missionary Society (India) • Heartland Community Church • New Life Community Church • Hillside Church Mount Albert • Mississauga Chinese EMC • Church at the Mission • Zion EMC Didsbury • Almaguin Missionary Church • Emmanuel Bible College • Cornerstone Oromo Christians Mission Centre • Eau Claire EMC • Calvary Missionary Church • Kenaston EMC • Hillside Community Church • Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton • St Thomas EMC • Gospel Fire EMC • Mt. Pleasant EMC • Breslau EMC • Westbrook Community EMC • Faith EMC Kitchener • Living Stones • Rivers Edge Camp • Sudbury Chinese EMC • Cremona Country Fellowship • Vineland Missionary Church • Chestermere Christian Fellowship • Vulcan EMC • Evangel Community Ministries • Emmanuel EMC Holden • Callander Bay EMC • Lincoln Heights EMC • Richmond Faith Fellowship • Parkdale Grace Fellowship • Port Elgin EMC • Whispering Pines Camp • Salem EMC • Zion EMC New Sarepta • Oyen EMC • Dominion Chapel • Little Plume EMC • Cross Connection Church • McDougal Chapel • Tavistock Missionary Church • Preston Avenue Community Church • International African Partners (Kenya) • Romanian Baptist Church • First EMC Pembroke • Missionary Church Association (Sierra Leone) • Bonavista EMC • Palmerston EMC • Ethiopia Missionary Church • Café la Mosaïque • Listowel EMC • Bethany Community Church • Sarnia EMC • Mountain View EMC • Upper Thames Missionary Church • Iglesia Evangélica Misionera (Dominican Republic) • Calgary Christian Tamil Church • Markham Missionary Church • Missionary Church Incorporated (USA) • Powers Creek Community Church • Salem EMC • Bowden EMC • Whitewood EMC • Christian Family Worship Centre Scarborough • South Shore EMC • United Missionary Church of Africa (Nigeria) • Harvest New Life Christian Church • Grace EMC Killaloe • Bethel EMC Three Hills • Echo Lake Camp • ...

ABOUT THE COVER

The theme for the 2020 EMCC Regional Gatherings was set to be “Together on the Way”. The idea for the theme came primarily from two places:

1. The motto of the EMCC, as shown in our logo, is *Following Jesus Together*. It is the “together” part of who we are that we wanted to celebrate and promote.



Evangelical Missionary
Church of Canada
Following Jesus Together

2. During the 2019 General Assembly, it was communicated by President Kervin Raugust that we need to be more intentional about what it means to follow Jesus *together*. We have the Way of Jesus language, but this is not something that is to be practiced alone.

TOGETHER ON THE WAY

Joel Zantingh, World Partners Executive Director

I'm writing this from my home, away from the crowd. The streets are quiet. We are hearing of the 'State of Emergency' starting to affect many people. With all the daily changes affecting us and our societies, we might hear of and see a few negative behaviours which tear society down; things like selfishness, hoarding, fear. But we also see the kindness of people who are building up others; changing behaviours to prevent the spread of infection, helping or checking in on neighbours, being generous and thoughtful, kind and loving. Examples include a roof-top fitness trainer instructing people from separated balconies, the singing of the Italian National Anthem from balconies and windows of Italian homes, or the “caremongering” Facebook groups popping up across Canada.

Even as we postpone and cancel public events, we celebrate a common purpose with Jesus and one another

As you can see from the cover of this newsletter, we are made up of a variety of congregations, ministries, and international partners. The intention with this cover was to promote the upcoming Regional Gatherings. However, with the current situation in Canada, the Gatherings will not be happening in person. Rather, we are exploring alternative virtual ways to connect as a church family this spring.

I decided to keep the cover as a way to celebrate who we are and our ongoing desire to follow Jesus together, regardless of our ability to be together in person.

You will read in this newsletter articles that have been written with our current reality in mind. Some of the articles that we originally intended to publish in this edition will appear at a later date and online at emccotogether.ca.

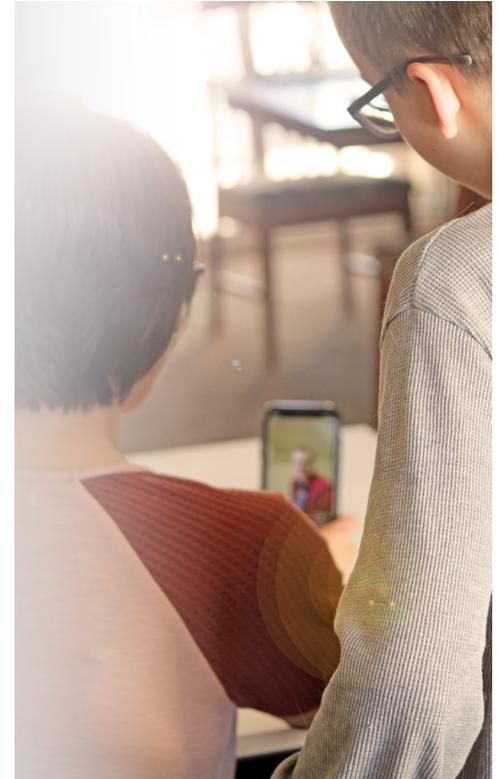
that affirms, whether in the same room or in self-isolation, we are “Together on the Way” as a Church desiring to live life like Jesus, for Jesus, and in the power of His Spirit.

As followers of Jesus, and as members of the “Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada”, we have a recognition that our story – yours and mine, is not merely a human story, but also a Divine one. We don't need to create a false sense of what unites us, but we get to keep and cherish that which God provides for our unity in his Great Commission call. Together with the Global Body of Christ, we live for our King, welcoming the gifts of all the parts of the Body, the Global Church.

In Ephesians 4, the Apostle's interest is for Jewish and non-Jewish followers of Jesus to honour a unity that is God-given, a faith that is shared, a way of life that is committed to one cause – to follow Jesus together in the world, from

While we adjust to a different way of being together, I encourage you to go through the list on the cover of this newsletter. Pray for these groups of people. May the Spirit of Jesus unite us as we continue to carry out the calling God has given us as the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada.

William Knelsen
EMCC Director of Communications



very different cultural vantage points, and from very different backgrounds. Right now, we see a different kind of “difference”, that of our opinion and faith responses in light of Covid-19. But underneath those differences is our common bond as members of one household.

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3 (NIVUK)*

While giving space for one another's differences, we make a declaration that there is One Lord, One faith, one new birth (see Ephesians 4:4-6).

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REPRESENTING JESUS IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

Lynn Dietz, EMCC Regional Minister

We might also lay down pride, ethnocentrism, xenophobia, or selfishness. Rather than only seeing the work of the Church through the ways we've grown accustomed to experiencing them, we focus instead on our common calling, our common cause. When Ephesians 4 gets to verse 16, we read further about our unity in the whole Body of Christ as held together mysteriously by the Spirit, connecting all the parts:

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:16 NIVUK

We not only have a God-given unity, but are held together, with all the parts of the Body, by the Spirit of God as well. This enables the growing and building up of one whole Church, as we operate and work from our common identity and purpose in Jesus' Community. This keeps us humble, welcoming the gifts of every member as contributing to the whole. It keeps us mindful to bless and encourage each other in doing our part.

Jesus prayed that we might be one.

...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
John 17:21 NIVUK

Even though we experience separation from others right now, we embrace being Together on the Way. We have a story to live, and a song to sing. Let the Way of Jesus be experienced in your public sphere today. We uphold Jesus' cause in our lives, with gratitude, with allegiance to keep Jesus in the center of our view, allowing His unity of purpose to be lived out in our homes, our networks, our neighbourhoods, and our world. ■



As I write this note, I am in self-isolation in my home for the next 14 days as I have just returned from out of country while doing some Disciple-Making training in the US. We received news of the need for self-isolation while we were abroad. I am now settling into my new normal for this period of time in our current situation.

It is important that we all take the necessary precautions that Health Canada and the Provincial Health Ministers are recommending and requiring of us to help slow the spread of the virus in our communities. This helps the elderly and most vulnerable among us, which is always on the heart of God.

Having said that, it is also important that we hear another voice speak into our hearts from Isaiah 41:8-10:

But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

In this text, we see that God has invited us into a relationship with Him, equipped us as servants and empowers us with His very presence to face whatever fears we may have. He also sends us out to represent Him to a broken and hurting world. As one article I read yesterday puts it: "Christianity has been handling epidemics for 2000 years. Practical theology says care, sacrifice, and community are as vital as ever." May God be glorified through the attitudes, behaviours and character responses of His kids in the season that is now upon us.

Jim Denison wrote in his blog:

One of the ways God wants to redeem this crisis is by showing us how much

we need Him. But the Lord also wants to redeem it by showing us how much we need each other. It is difficult to make sacrifices that don't seem necessary at the time. If (Canada) were Italy and huge numbers of us were sick and dying we would obviously see the need for social distancing and other sacrifices for the common good. However, to keep their experience from becoming ours, we must act as if it were. The key is to reframe personal sacrifice as service to others.

Source: <https://www.denisonforum.org>

I just got off a Zoom call with the BC EMCC pastors as we focused on this text of Isaiah 41:8-10, where we talked about the voices in our culture saying:

1. "Be afraid: lots of us could die!" (and for those who are older and immune-compromised, this is a particularly pointed and possible reality for them);
2. "Don't be afraid – we will all get through this" (this second voice does work to a point, as we all work to "flatten the curve").

But there is the third voice from God saying, "So do not fear, for I am with you!" It was a great time of sharing and hearing from the Holy Spirit as we face the challenging time at hand. It was also good to share the peace of Christ with each other in our journey this day.

And so, may the peace that passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May His peace be the sentinel over your heart that keeps you from worry and fear, and the sentinel over your mind that keeps you from doubt and self-reliance.

Blessings to you all during these challenging days, and may you be salt, light and leaven to your hurting and fearful communities. For, we have the spiritual confidence from our Heavenly Father to live and lead in a pandemic plagued world (Is. 41:10). ■

A CONVICTION TO WALK TOGETHER

Joel Zantingh, World Partners Executive Director
Nicole Jones-Qandah, World Partners Assistant Director

Growing a partnership across cultures is challenging, but deeply rewarding. For many years, our Albright Church in Winnipeg has been connected with the Church in a remote area of Gens de Nantes (GDN), Haiti. But when Joey, Lindsey and Lorna travelled to Haiti in November with World Partners facilitators, and sat in a listening posture with Richard, Mis. Ketely, Herlynda, Hernso, Emmanuel, and Sammy, something amazing happened.

“The hope they have is so contagious”, Joey reflected. “The GDN friends filled the wall with post-it notes, accounting for all the ways God has resourced them to be a blessing to their communities.”

Some of the deepest learnings came from shared Biblical reflections on resource-mobilization. Adding to the listing of God-given gifts, talents and resources, the chance to meditate together on scripture rooted the remaining conversations.

Responding to the miraculous story of the oil that did not run dry for the widow (2 Kings 4:1-7), and the challenge of trusting provision by seeking first God’s Kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:30-44), the group wrestled with their own perceived needs and resources, and how they would allow Jesus to interact with them (like the widow and the disciples) to apply these insights. The team sought to connect God’s vision for GDN’s future with the realities of community life facing each leader.



Dr. Emmanuel:

“It is funny for me, that while I am living in GDN, I needed a team from Canada to help me identify what resources are here, knowing time is a resource... and some of the things we are dreaming for, make me understand that can be reality - vision can come true, hope [in our] partnerships can last, [and that we, as] leaders from GDN, [can] learn to live like brothers and sisters.”

One GDN leader remarked, “God can solve the problem of the [shortage of physical] resources, and provide when we use what we have been given to meet the needs of others.”

When we work from this posture of everyone being resourced by God as our Source of all-sufficiency, we grow in our sense of mutuality, as we see what each person brings to the table. It’s not the amounts, but our equal value as receivers and givers in God’s [Kingdom] work.

This is an amazing gift, to constantly ask how the resources, strengths and gifts of our global partners might bring fresh challenge, inspiration, and hope for us as we serve Jesus where He has placed us.

So what are you going to do with this information?

Reflect

- How can we learn from the resilient hope of our Haitian brothers and sisters, and apply it to our participation in Jesus’ mission?
- How can we bring the whole Gospel (everything good that Jesus showed us and all we’ve been given to share), so we might join Him in bringing transformation to our neighbourhoods?



Learn



Connect



Mobilize

Invite Us Into Your Journey

- World Partners facilitates this connection and is so pleased to see this mutual learning opening up. As we see our role in collaboration with the global church, we encourage you to interact and engage in a way that promotes how God has already been working and motivating followers of Jesus to invest in their communities.
- We would love to journey with you as you consider how God might be nudging you and those around you to connect with the global church and the communities nearest you. ■



EMCC TOGETHER

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