



*PROCLAIMING JESUS CHRIST, MAKING DISCIPLES, GROWING HEALTHY CHURCHES*

## Fishing Today National Conference 2016

With just two weeks to go until our national conference in Halifax, our conference committee has been busy making plans for your arrival. We are looking forward to seeing all of you and we are praying that all of you will have a memorable time of fellowship and inspiration.

## Church of the Resurrection, St. Catharines, ON

We at the Church of the Resurrection wanted to take a moment to share with you a little about the ongoing Kingdom work that our little congregation has been called to in serving God in our community. On a regular Sunday church meeting at our little store front location in the heart of St. Catharines, we are usually 15 to 20 in number. But on an Ugly Mug Café night, which occurs every other Friday, we have anywhere from 60 to 80 people, of which I would say 15% are believers. Most are from the lower spectrum of income and on some form of government assistance and are thrilled that they have a place to come where they can enjoy good food and refreshments and play games at no cost to their already meager income.

Over the years we have formed a bond with many of them and have been given opportunities to pray and speak truth into their lives. The UGLY MUG CAFÉ gives us the opportunity to provide a safe, caring, loving environment for them to meet with friends and make new ones if they so choose. We make it known to them that we are available to pray for them or give Godly council should they feel the need. We are here to give out of the abundance of love that we ourselves have received from God. Jesus said, "Freely You Have Received, Freely Give". Our hope is that they will leave encouraged and strengthened to meet life's challenges with new hope.

Having the Café has given us opportunities to reinforce our friendship bonds by inviting them to our summer fest picnics, home B-B-Qs, Thanksgiving dinners, and Christmas breakfasts, all of which have had amazing turn outs. The gift of love is the greatest gift we can give to them as many have yet to feel they are truly loved and are not insignificant, as we too feel as a church body, though we may be small in number, but we are not insignificant in the eyes of God. God continues to show how great His power is, as He did with Gideon, through the powerless. To Him alone be the Glory.

We've appreciated your prayers for ongoing strength and provision that are lifted up to the throne room of God on our behalf (particularly the Hope C. C. Church in Victoria, B.C.) because as always the work is plentiful but the laborers are few. We count it all joy to be entrusted with such a precious group of people and trust that we are making a difference for the kingdom of God in the lives of some that would otherwise feel forgotten. God be with you all as He is with us, EMMANUEL.

Nancy Bond (elder)

### **Burdett Community Church, Burdett, AB**

This is our fifth women's conference and we are seeing an increase in attendance. Our decor had a hillbilly flavor with splashes of spring. Fran T. made sure we knew who we were chatting with as she supplied us all with name tags. Registration would not be complete without fresh coffee, muffins and listening to happy chatter around the tables.

Melinda did an excellent job of organizing the day's activities and keeping us all on track. Fran D.H. and Deb S. led us in worship as we united our voices in praise.

Ken Harder, of the male singing quartet *Lost and Found* was our guest speaker. He shared from his heart with humor and insight as he used his own marriage of 50+ years for a backdrop. Things go so much smoother when men and women realize they complement each other, and do not have to compete. He used humorous illustrations and gave us some real food for thought.

Our men's ministry served a delicious lunch of ham /buns /salads / topped with a chocolate-fruit fondue.

Our afternoon was dedicated to our younger women. Naomi shared a monologue –

Hannah Strandberg told us about *Twigz* which are African artifacts with a purpose – Seija Strandberg read the first chapter of her second book, *A Candyland Dream* – Makaylah Strandberg, accompanied by her sister Hannah, filled the sanctuary with song. Margie S. introduced her granddaughter Melanie Meuller. Melanie has just returned from her 4<sup>th</sup> mission trip to Rwanda. She shared with us about spending time with women that have very low self-esteem, and letting them know how worthy they are in God's eyes.

God's love and anointing filled the premises, as we saw our efforts come to fruition. These conferences just don't happen because we work so well together. Without prayer, they just would not happen. These conferences have a 2-fold mandate:

1. To bless the women of this community
2. To encourage the younger women to step into leadership roles.

Ineke Sytsma for Women's Ministry

Here are some pictures from our event.





### **Crossroads Congregational Church, Gander, NF**

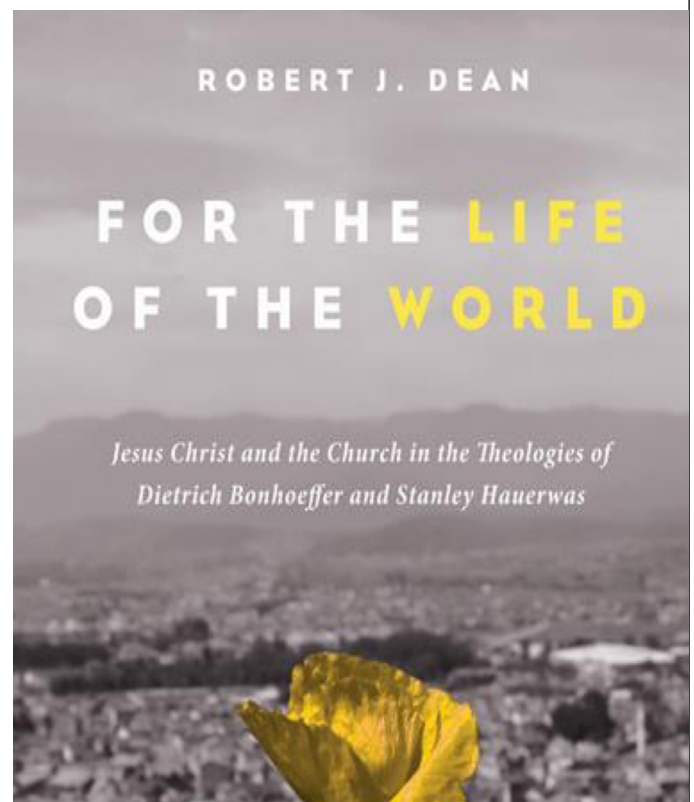
On April 9th we held a fundraiser for one of our congregation member's charity. Happy Feet supplies sandals for needy children in the Philippines. We raised over \$700.00 from hosting a Soup for Sandals event inviting the community to become involved. Over 80 people attended, with many of them not connected to the church and a reporter from the local newspaper, The Gander Beacon, came and interviewed myself and Meng Pilapil, our church member.

We have begun a senior's ministry in the local Golden Legion Manor. A time of sharing, singing, and teaching of the Word on the second Thursday of every month. Attendance has been good and we are hoping that it will be a way to connect people with Christ, who may not attend church on a regular basis, or would not normally attend church. Here are some pictures.

Pastor Murray Langdon



**Congratulations to Dr. Robert Dean who  
has just published his first book!** Robert teaches at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto.



## Hosanna House

Hosanna House Fellowship "A 4C's Home Mission Church" in Saskatoon, SK. has been embracing the nations of the world and the changing demographic in our city. "It's all God's children singing. Glory, glory, hallelujah, He reigns". This past fall we visited a couple of church plants (African Anglican Mission, First Nation Congregation/PAOC) and had a Filipino church planter as a quest speaker hoping to be a support and encouragement to the body of Christ in our city.

Sunday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at our monthly Agape Service, John Zubowic shared with our congregation his experiences as an ESL Teacher/Missionary in China. John's presentation was entitled "A light in the Darkness". He taught us (children & adults) a few Chinese greetings (happy new year and good day). A few days after my 5-year-old granddaughter wished her daycare worker who is from China a happy Chinese new year in Mandarin and received a big hug.

Over the Easter break we were able to send 8 of our children to a five-day overnight camp operated by the Salvation Army. One of our young adults, Darwin Mercer was able to serve as a camp counsellor and Pastors Carol, Rodney and ministry volunteer, Shelley MacKenzie were able to drop by during the day to help and share this week with our 8 campers.

At our April 10<sup>st</sup> Agape Service, Peter & Shelley Christiansen and daughter shared with our congregation their mission experience in South Sudan & Uganda with YWAM. We were blessed to have 12 children and 15 adults attend, first time visitors/guests included Jackie Bragg who co-pastor's Saskatoon Chinese Christian Church in Saskatoon and church member Yan Yun, his wife and children.

Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> at our monthly Agape Service, Gloria Barrett-Wasyilkowsk shared with our congregation her recent short term mission experience in India this past March. She along with a group of 9 other ladies from the Neighbourhood church (PAOC) in Saskatoon worked with a ministry called Jewels in a Crown. This ministry works with women and children in the Red light district. Those in attendance at our Agape service were encouraged to pray for the children and adults touched by this ministry. We were blessed to have 10 children and 15 adults attend, first time visitors included a father of Muslim background and his 3 children.

The first Sunday in June we were guests at the Indo-Canadian Christian Worship fellowship where we enjoyed an India meal and a service in Hindi, Tamil, & English. Seven attended from our fellowship.

At our June 12<sup>th</sup> Agape Service, pastoral leader Shadi Saleh, from the Arabic Church of Saskatoon shared

his testimony and about his church/ministry. We are in dialogue about providing a children's ministry for their Saturday night gathering. He is originally from Jordan arriving in Canada about five years ago. We were blessed to have 18 attend 7 children and 11 adults.

We have had a half dozen young adults, that have been attending our monthly agape meals/bible studies recently. We have a number of children attending our Tuesday Seekers in Sneakers after-school club from various ethnic backgrounds (Filipino, Ethiopian, European and Cree/Dakota heritage). "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world." What a blessing to be ministering in our nation at a time as this when the nations of world have arrived at our doorstep.

Pastor Rodney Mercer