

EMCC TOGETHER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada



Evangelical Missionary
Church of Canada
Following Jesus Together

Summer
2019

Assembly 2019: Lingering Effects

Kervin Raugust, EMCC President



Two months have passed since the gathering in Toronto of over 200 people, including EMCC missionaries, pastors, and church delegates. What lingers may be different for each person, but there are probably some commonalities.

I celebrate the delegate representation from 80 of our 137 churches. These delegates and guests tasted of the following six elements and experiences:

Anointed Worship! David Wilkinson of Waterloo, ON and team were catalysts in celebrating the beauty and goodness of our God.

Authoritative prayer! Dr. Pastor Deborah Olukoju of Immanuel Church in Winnipeg MB facilitated prayer through a variety of

invited pray-ers throughout the weekend and through designated prayer times including early morning prayer.

Hunger for a new beginning! Mr. Ryan Stockert of Thunder and Light Studios and three others shared testimonies at the Friday Celebration Dinner, illustrating what “Be a Neighbour” could look like for us EMCC-ers. Hunger drives us to satisfy our appetite!

EMCC as a turnaround organization! An important conversation happened on Saturday with reports from the EMCC National Office and an afternoon of discussing the question, “What does it mean to Follow Jesus Together?” The emphasis was on what togetherness looks like. Lively round table conversation brought to light behavioural concerns and ideas about how we might be able to cause an “upturn in our togetherness rating.” The best is yet to come!

A Spirit released shift! The Sunday morning Sacred Prayer Gathering gave opportunity for us to hear the voice of Jesus speak about, “What He wants us to turn from and what He wants us to turn toward.” Dozens of delegates responded by writing what they heard from Jesus on two large billboards. Throughout the 3.5 hours, we gave ourselves to worship, prayer, remembering our Lord in communion, scripture reading and hearing prophetic words of blessing. The shift happened at the end of the morning as credentialed ministers were anointed and commissioned for service when Regional Minister Claran Martin felt led of the Spirit to anoint ALL in the room. The scene was reminiscent of Pentecost when the

Holy Spirit was poured out on “ALL PEOPLE”. Anointed people become power-filled people who become “Good neighbours”. Thank you, Jesus, we are anointed unto a new beginning!

We like each other! How hard was it to get people to stop visiting during our “I See You Breaks.” We like being together!

Thanks to the 200+ people who were present in Toronto and thanks to you who participated in the live streaming of the Saturday sessions. Many are praying the lingering effect of Assembly will inspire all our EMCC-ers and our churches into new expressions of imitating Jesus’ way of being a good neighbour! ■

About this Newsletter

EMCC *Together* is a publication of the EMCC Communications department, intended for local church leaders and all who are interested in staying connected with the EMCC family.

Published quarterly, the goal of this publication is to emphasize how the EMCC family is Following Jesus *Together*. Our hope is that this will improve communications between churches, as well as from the EMCC National Office to the churches.

Although this first edition is a shortened version of future publications, I trust you will discover in these pages that our family is rich with examples of how we, each in our own unique way, are following Jesus together.

William Knelsen
EMCC Director of Communications



Read this newsletter at emcctogether.ca

Inquiries: communications@emcc.ca

Discovering Partners in Jesus' Mission

Joel Zantingh, EMCC World Partners Executive Director

World Partners staff recently connected with one of our Global South friends. Our friend shared with us about the mission work they've begun, and how others are enthusiastically getting on board, pooling their gifts and resources. Truly, they are followers of Jesus with a desire to make an impact, and see their community transformed.

Want to know what the dream is?

Together with a skilled team, they plan to operate a centre for women who need support either because of abuse, neglect, or excommunication. Together, they will affirm these women of their intrinsic worth, give them dignity, and provide a safe house for those who need shelter.

In my conversation, I discovered the alignment with what matters to us at World Partners and how EMCC is following Jesus together on mission in the world.

So, what challenges are they facing, and asking for assistance with?

In my conversation, I discovered alignment with what matters to us at World Partners.

They invite people like us to join them in prayer. They desire some specialized skills in trauma counselling training, resourcing for workers, some investment capital, but mostly, a relationship – walking the road together.

Who in our network has passion for these people, this country, these needs, and is open to partnering? World

Partners can assist Canadian followers of Jesus like you to connect with Global Partners who share and put into practice the way of Jesus!

If this resonates with you, let's talk. ■

Joel Zantingh can be contacted by email at jzantingh@emcc.ca.

Who We Are...

As partners in God's global Church, we share and practice the way of Jesus for personal and social vitality, development and renewal.

Where We're headed...

Learning with, connecting and mobilizing people to adaptively participate in Jesus' mission everywhere.

Engaging the Local Church in the EMCC Family

Pastor James Graham, Lipton EMC



Reflections on the immediate impact of the 2019 EMCC General Assembly.

I signed up for *Deeper: Hearing God's Voice*, anticipating a workshop on listening prayer. I discovered a Biblically-based, thought-provoking, practical introduction to the prophetic. When given opportunity to share a prophetic word it was astounding to see God speak so specifically through me into the life of someone I did not know. I am grateful to

EMCC leadership for their pursuit of this teaching, and to Joshua Hoffert, facilitator and instructor.

Later, William Knelsen presented the image of "two houses." This resonated deeply with me as I could clearly see a divide between east and west, founded in politics, economics, and social perceptions. We have a fantastic denomination – an incredible family, founded in Christ – and yet we allow the world to impact the unity we are called to enjoy in Christ.

How can I help my church engage more fully in the EMCC family? God reminded me of a church that sends out yearly emails asking how they can pray for us. Each week since Assembly I have sat in my office and looked up contact information for two EMCC churches, one in the west and one in the east. I have called the pastors and asked how our church can pray for theirs, and how I can pray for the pastors and their families.

It may seem small, insignificant even, but in that moment, as we laugh, share, and pray together, we, as pastors are reminded that we are part of something bigger. Each Sunday our church prays for these churches and is reminded that our congregation is part of something bigger. We are working to remove walls...to create "one house." ■

EMCC Finances

The following information is given to provide you with a perspective on the current financial status of the EMCC General Fund and World Partners budgets.

The financial statements indicate that income is insufficient to meet our projected budgetary expenses. Therefore, definitive action has been taken to reduce expenditures. Budget reductions have occurred in the following areas: Staff, Ministry Travel and Office Rental. Other reductions are pending.

We continue to trust our Lord Jesus to provide the stewardship wisdom needed in this turn around season.

EMCC - General Fund as of May 31, 2019

2019 Approved Budget	1,350,000
*Common Cause - Church Giving	352,300
Total Income	410,474
Total Expenses	543,938
Shortfall	(133,464)
*Income from 80 EMCC churches, 12 individuals and other organizations	

World Partners as of May 31, 2019

2019 Approved Budget	1,043,740
Total Income	360,425
Total Expense	439,000
Shortfall	(78,575)

Opportunities to Gather

Pastor Development Days

Alberta	September 16-18, 2019
BC	September 23-25, 2019
Ontario - Toronto	October 5, 2019
Ontario - Collingwood	October 7-8, 2019

Additional information regarding the Pastor Development Days will be provided to you by your Regional Minister.

Pastor and Spouse Retreats

Banff	January 17-19, 2020
Niagara Falls	January 31-February 2, 2020

Regional Gatherings

Ontario	April 17-19, 2020
Alberta	April 24-26, 2020

A Note Regarding Next Generations Ministry

It is our desire to participate in some form of discipling of our next generations in the Way of Jesus.

To this end, President Kervin Raugust has reached out to youth leaders across Canada to come together this summer for continued discussion on how EMCC churches can engage with youth in a collaborative way.

Updates will be provided via email, and in this newsletter, as progress is made.



Monday Night Evangelism

We meet to worship, pray, then hit the streets with the Gospel of Jesus.

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT,

regardless of holidays or weather, upwards of 40 people disperse and make their way to five set locations in the City of Calgary. First they have met together and spent an hour in worship, training and prayer. Monday Night Evangelism is a ministry of Centre Street Church, but is not solely confined to people from CSC. Over the 17 years the ministry has been running, God has drawn men, women and young people to join them. Currently there are approximately 80 people on the evangelism team, from 12 area churches. A motorhome transports

to God for opportunities He presents to engage others in spiritual conversations. Sometimes these are 'one time only' opportunities to bless individuals and invite them to follow Jesus. In these cases, the results are known only to God. But often the same people return again and again and relationships are built and lives are changed. For some, even when they are off the street and living further away, a Monday night location has become their 'church' and they become regulars. Val, from CSC, has been leading the group for 7 years. She says they are not looking only for team members who have the gift of evangelism. Rather they are looking for people who will, in simple

equipment, Bibles, and some chairs to each location. Team members at each site sing worship songs as a crowd gathers, preach a short gospel message or someone shares a brief testimony.

Following this, free pizza slices and hot chocolate are on offer and the team is alert, listening

obedience, answer God's call to everyone to preach the good news and make disciples.

The following vignette received from Val is but one of many examples of God's leading in an actual conversation. It highlights for each of us the importance of ongoing prayer for those who are not yet following Jesus, as it illustrates God's delight in using obedient servants of His to answer those prayers. With God, there are no random encounters.

"We walked back to the motorhome and a young man came up and asked if there was any pizza. I was able to give him a muffin. I asked if I could pray for him. I could smell alcohol on his breath but he was very coherent and not drunk. Through our conversation I found out that he struggled with alcohol and drugs. He was staying at the Drop-In Centre but had not been there long and had never been homeless before. His parents died when he was 13

and he was raised by his grandparents. His grandma prayed for him. I then knew there was a spiritual war over his soul, and that I got to be an answer to her prayers. He asked for prayer for her as she was struggling with

stage 4 cancer. He knew there was a God and took Him very seriously. He was very ashamed that he had been drinking and to have me pray for him in that state. I assured him God wanted him to come as he was. I prayed for him and he was very thankful.

continued on page 4



I told him to make a decision about who he was going to serve, and to think about if alcohol and drugs were going to be his master. I told him God had so many plans

*I told him
God had so
many plans
for him,
but he had
to make a
decision...*

for him, but he had to make a decision. He agreed with me and said he did not like who he was. I did not want him to make any decisions in that moment as I did not know how much he had been drinking. I wanted him to think about it and I pray he will remember my words. I urged him to read a Bible and gave him one. I could see God's potential for him...how exciting it will be when he fully surrenders to God."

As would be expected, this ministry is not without opposition. The team faces both natural and demonic opposition, but they continue undaunted in the strength of the Lord who sends them out and goes with them. ■

EMCC TOGETHER

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Special thanks to all contributors and the EMCC National Team for contributions and editorial support.

The Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada is a registered Canadian charity. Gifts in support of the EMCC can be made online: emcc.ca/donate.



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Summer Camp: A Safe Haven

Camping ministries have long been a central ministry of EMCC, serving as an expression of our local churches' commitment to discipling people of all ages. Across Canada, we have six camps located in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Charis Camp, Chilliwack, BC

chariscamp.com



Although the scenery is breathtaking, campers and Summer Staff say it's the relationships that make this place truly unique. This Summer's theme is *Follow Me as I Follow Christ*. One longtime camper, now leader, put it this way, "This place has been my safe haven and has truly been a place where I have found Jesus and have learned to be a leader, a follower, and how to disciple." We pray that that this legacy of discipleship will continue, one life, one story at a time! We are praising Jesus for all the workers he has faithfully sent to the harvest, as all of our Summer Volunteer positions have been filled!

Whispering Pines Camp, Medicine Hat, AB

whisperingpinescamp.ca

Our prayer is that we would be given the strength to preach the good news of Jesus Christ with boldness, as we ought to (Eph 6:20). And we ask for prayer for the advancement of this gospel (Phil 1:12); that it would find a lodging in the hearts of many campers this year. We also pray that the camp would be a safe haven for them, no matter what kind of needs they have (spiritual, emotional, mental, etc.). Prayer requests for Whispering Pines include the need for more long-term, committed financial partners, a few more mature Christian summer staff, especially cabin leaders and nurses, and for our building campaign for new bathrooms and a much-needed expansion of our seating in the dining hall.



Rivers Edge Camp, Cremona, AB

riversedgecamp.org

We are praising God for meeting all of our staffing needs for the summer! It is our desire that God would prepare the hearts of all campers, and the speakers who will talk about Perservance (Galatians 6:9). We pray that God will prepare the hearts of our summer staff to guide campers to a new or growing relationship with Jesus Christ. And, that God will provide additional financial support to achieve a fourth consecutive year of camp surpluses. Please join us in praying for a minimum surplus of \$25,000. We are seeking 100 monthly donors at \$40 per month to join our Visionary Leaders program.



Camp Mishewah, Killaloe, ON

campsishewah.ca

Our prayer is that, at Camp Mishewah, people will find rest and relaxation, but most importantly, they will have significant encounters with Jesus and lives will be changed. May those who step on the grounds who do not know Jesus see Him in the camp staff and volunteers. We want to have an impact on neighbours, service people, delivery folks, etc. Pray for good health & safety for all staff and guests and for a few more more lifeguards. We are short on waterfront staff.

Editor's Note: Although we do not have reports from Echo Lake Camp (Fort QuAppelle, SK) and Stayner Camp (Stayner, ON), please keep them in your prayers throughout the summer as well, and check our future newsletters for ongoing reports from our camps.