



# STRONGER TOGETHER

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CANADA COVENANT

ONE-DAY REGIONAL GATHERING &  
120<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 4, 2024

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ANNUAL REPORT

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To the churches, pastors,  
leaders, and partners of the  
Canada Covenant.

**Thank you.**

For the year that is past and all that is to come,  
God, we give you thanks.

TOGETHER, WE  
**START AND STRENGTHEN  
CHURCHES,**

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**SERVE AND SUPPORT  
PASTORS AND LEADERS,**

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**ACROSS CANADA AND  
AROUND THE WORLD.**



# PRESIDENT / SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

As we gather for our Annual Meeting, to connect, to celebrate, to pray, to give thanks, to look forward and back - my prayer is that we continue to experience clarity of God's call on our lives and our community. Over the last year, the Canada Covenant staff, team, and board have been intentionally seeking the Spirit's leading for our next steps.

Throughout this journey, I've been reminded of the curious clarity that emerges for Paul and Silas as they sought to live on mission. In Acts 16 we read:

*Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. (vv 6-8 nit)*

A couple questions quickly rise. What do you mean, "the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching."? Why would the Spirit of Jesus "not allow them to go there"?

In days marked by confusion, uncertainty, opposition, and unexpected disappointment... in moments when we may be tempted to retreat, retrench, be anxious, or operate out of scarcity mentality... it is encouraging to find in the Biblical narrative countless expressions of renewed clarity, fruitfulness, mission and ministry that emerge from seasons of ambiguity... and find new hope.

Describing Paul's ongoing journey, Luke writes:

*That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there. (w 9-10 nit)*

**Wait, the Canada Covenant's new vision is to go to Greece?** Not quite. But like Paul and Silas, we believe we are being called to MOVE FORWARD in and on mission. As Jesus

followers, we are invited to move forward with Jesus in God's renewing work - for the sake of towns, cities, provinces, nation, and world. More than ever, we see the need to encourage pastors, leaders, and churches towards health and life across Canada and around the world.

A year ago, I wrote, *We see: churches pursuing health but struggling, lack of volunteers and leaders with capacity and heart to serve, young people who are disengaging from the local church, and pastors who are working hard but who are weary. Personally, I continue to see churches, pastors, and leaders who are feeling exhausted, anxious, and alone.* Today, we continue to see the reality of this struggle, but over the last 6 months, increasing signs of recalibration, renewal, promise, and new life. We believe now is the time to MOVE FORWARD as disciples, churches, and as a movement to address these needs and so many more.

A year ago, we launched "Moving Forward", a simple discussion guide for churches to evaluate health and identify areas for celebration and change in pursuit of the vibrant life of faith and mission God invites his people to. **What would happen if we applied this same directional invitation to the Canada Covenant as a whole?**

We would see:

- + Churches and individuals moving **UPWARD** in prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit, inspired by Gospel rich preaching and worship, and marked by greater expression of hope and joy.
- + Churches and individuals moving **INWARD** through increased emphasis on discipleship, growing engagement and service, and expressions of welcome, hospitality, and community.
- + Churches and individuals moving **OUTWARD** with greater missional urgency as they care for their neighbours and neighbourhood, pursue broader partnerships with Mission Friends, and are intentional in living out Jesus's call to share the good news.
- + Churches and individuals moving **FORWARD** towards organizational maturity through clarity of call and identity, healthy leadership culture, and increased organizational integrity.

We believe this vision is our Macedonia. Please join us in praying for ongoing clarity and courage as we MOVE FORWARD together.

God promises to build his Church. He longs for more people to come to know him and nothing will thwart his plans for the good news of the gospel to spread across our country and around the world. It's happening.

In the past year, we saw: growing trends of health and life, renewed exploration of church planting and interest from prospective church planters, Encounter (Mississauga, ON) and Stonehouse (Steinbach, MB) completed their appropriations cycles and continue to grow into their mission, 6 churches receiving formal consultation and coaching, ongoing global engagement and investment, 4 interns across our churches and increased efforts to invest in next generation leadership, increased participation at Headwaters Discipleship School, life and health at our 3 camps, numerous retreats and opportunities for connection and encouragement, pastoral vacancies filled, care offered to pastors and their families... and so much more.

I am grateful for our willingness to try new things. While we have previously held our annual meeting at two sites, our 2 year experiment with a one day regional gathering at 6 sites, represents a major shift that offers both opportunity and loss. Our prayer is that while we are not "all together", we will be Stronger Together. The next two years will provide us the opportunity to encourage greater regional partnership, strengthen relationships in proximity, and increase attendance, access, and affordability. Please pray in advance for our time together!

Lastly, I am grateful for the generosity of churches and individuals across our movement. Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness. Thank you for expressions of generosity that continue to fuel our shared mission and ministry. I am grateful for you and pray that you will see and experience our sense of moving forward - together. The Canada Covenant Team remains committed to doing anything and everything we can to serve, support, and connect you. We remain committed to joining with you and the Spirit to catalyze new expressions of God's Kingdom in Canada and around the world. I am grateful to be on the journey with you.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership!



Glenn Peterson

President/Superintendent, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada



MARCH 2024

## *Dear Friends in the Canada Conference,*

Greetings and grace to you all as you gather in Jesus's name to celebrate what God has done within your conference this season.

**As you join in worship and the business tasks before you, I hope and pray that you will experience the gift of being united in mission and the blessing of being present to one another. I look forward to hearing more of how God has been doing immeasurably more through you.**

### **A few of the many areas where I continue to experience God's faithfulness:**

**Prayer:** Our Covenant Offices team continues to lean in to prayer. Each of our staff teams has been praying for one of our 11 conferences. The President's Office team has been curating a monthly prayer email being sent out to anyone who would like to subscribe, and we have been delighted to receive prayer requests as well as hear stories of how God is answering prayer throughout the Covenant. If you would like to join this list, please visit [covchurch.org/now](https://covchurch.org/now). I hope you will continue to find these monthly prayer emails an encouraging resource. Our 3StrandStrong collaboration in mission (local church, regional conference, and denominational team) is strengthened through our steadfast prayers.

**Presence:** My travel schedule takes me many places where I get to see God's people engaged in God's mission. This year I have worshiped in many different settings and languages and have met with numerous groups of people. I am grateful to see how **the good news of Jesus is reaching people everywhere!** I plan to continue to visit and celebrate with local churches, pastors, and leaders, as well as our global partners in each of the regions where God is working through the Covenant. What a joy and privilege to experience the diversity of the kingdom of heaven.

**Pivot:** This word seemed to encapsulate how ministries redefined their approach to local church life at the beginning of the pandemic. As we re-engage a post-pandemic ministry model, the Covenant's denominational staff is also in a place of pivoting through the beginning stages of our reorganization. This year we began a multi-phased "return to office" approach as we continue to restructure. Please pray with us and for us as we assess our structure, systems, and methods of delivering resources to better serve our local churches and conferences. We all have a wonderful opportunity to re-imagine ways to reach people with God's love.

Thank you for endeavoring in Jesus's name to be the good news. May all glory be to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

*In awe of what God has already done and what he will do!*

**Tammy Swanson-Draheim**, PRESIDENT, EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

# LEADERSHIP BOARD

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**Sarah Pascoe Enns**

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Church Planting Team Leader



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Church Planting Catalyst



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**Shane Pearsall**

Operations Consultant

# START — AND — STRENGTHEN CHURCHES

REPORTS FROM CHURCHES + CHURCH PLANTING





# GREEN TIMBERS COVENANT CHURCH

SURREY, BC



There was a lot of looking backwards for Green Timbers Covenant Church in 2023! We spent time remembering what God has been doing here since 1973. Yet 2023 was not just about the past because we were “celebrating the past 50 years in order to prepare for the next 50 years.” The GTCC story began well before 1973, but the church was birthed when a group of people with Covenant backgrounds connected with a fellowship group of Mennonites who were meeting at the corner of 88th and 142A in Surrey. People with names like Peterson, Ellingson and Josephson were soon building relationships and sharing dreams of a future with Jonsons, Dycks and Koops. From the beginning the church DNA was friendly, diverse, and committed to making disciples. Over the years, GTCC has lived into that DNA by welcoming Chimanukas, Jubikilas, and Ndioms; Sung and Fwus; and Nalliahs and Iwanskis amongst many others.

We had our 50th Anniversary Celebration over the weekend of June 3 and 4. Paul Lessard, a product of our church, was our featured guest. The weekend included the Global 6K with World Vision, an “Appy Hour” evening of story and song, and Sunday morning worship followed by a BBQ. We had video greetings from our former pastors and visits during the year long celebration by Neil Josephson, Rob Peterson, Jeff Anderson, Vi Fullerton and ECC President Tammy Swanson Draheim.

A Trellis Grant helped transform the anniversary into a disciple building endeavour. We hosted three working weekends celebrating that welcoming, diverse, disciple building DNA and sought ways to build on that. Weekend conversations were led by Peter Sung sharing about the “Post Church-Church,” Tim Keener on a “community on mission together,” and Liz Mosbo Verhage on “discipleship.”

Our ministry theme for the year was “Letting our Light Shine” from Matthew 5 and we realized that an important part of that is finding a rhythm of rest and renewal. With that in mind we entered a “Sabbatical Season” in the fall and sent Pastor Andy on a three-month ministry leave. We are thankful for Pastor Michel and others from the church who stepped up to cover the Sunday morning leadership and preaching along with a few guests.

Pastor Andy Sebanc



# NELSON COVENANT CHURCH

NELSON, BC



Nelson Covenant Church is delighted to present its annual report for the “Start and Strengthen Churches” section of the ECCC’s Annual General Meeting. As a host site, we are privileged to share our journey of growth, renewal, and dedication to serving our community.

**Fellowship/Community:** 2023 was a year where we saw a renewed interest in (re)building community and cultivating deeper Christian fellowship. Throughout the past year, we have witnessed a flourishing bond among our members. Through various gatherings, events, and small groups, we have worked hard to foster an environment where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and loved.

**Prayer and Discernment for the Future:** With new challenges coming into view regarding our current facility, our Site Leadership Team has begun to pray and ponder options. Our congregation has been invited to seek God’s guidance and discernment for the future direction of our church mission and how best to align that with our current facility challenges. One thing I’ve been especially thankful for is the insistence by our church that we prioritize mission and ministry before secondary concerns which might distract us from keeping first things first.

**Worship and the Word:** Our Sunday mornings are built around a time of simple worship and expository preaching. This year our ongoing study of 1 Corinthians has provided us with valuable insights into what it means to be the church in a hostile culture. We have delved deep into understanding the challenges and opportunities presented to us as followers of Christ in today’s world. This exploration has equipped us with the wisdom and discernment to engage with our surrounding culture effectively while remaining true to our faith. We recognize the transformative power of encountering God through heartfelt worship and the faithful exposition of Scripture. These pillars serve as the foundation upon which all our ministries are built.

**Serving, Giving, and Carrying One Another’s Burdens:** As a community of believers, we are committed to serving one another, giving generously, and bearing each other’s burdens. Through various outreach programs, ministry initiatives, and acts of compassion, I’ve been so pleased by the way so many within our church have—often quietly and without fanfare—demonstrated Christ’s love in tangible ways to those in need within our church family and beyond.

**New Faces and Baptisms:** The past year has seen an influx of new faces into our congregation, bringing with them fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and a renewed sense of vitality. We are overjoyed to report two baptisms of young men who made serious decisions for Christ, and the palpable desire I sense from so many to invest in growing intentionally and holistically in their faith. On any given Sunday the church is full of those exploring faith, new to faith, and veterans in the faith. And there’s an eagerness to learn from and with each other.

**Young Families Returning:** One of the most encouraging trends we have observed is the return of young families to our church. This demographic, once sparse due to the pandemic and its after-effects, has seen a resurgence. We are all so heartened to welcome these families into meaningful fellowship and discipleship opportunities.

**Renewed Identity Post-Pandemic:** All of these changes and challenges have invited us to revisit and reconsider our mission and vision. While in the early stages, it has been exciting to begin praying and thinking through what ministry values, priorities, and practices may need to be (re)formed as we respond to all of these changes, growth areas, and challenges. I am excited to help our church move forward by God’s grace into a future with God-given strength, vision, purpose, passion, courage, and faith.

**Youth and Worship Coordinators:** The appointment of new youth and worship coordinators has injected fresh energy and vision into these core ministries. Their leadership has sparked increased volunteerism and participation of teens and young adults across all ministry areas, propelling us forward with great momentum and anticipation for what lies ahead.

As I reflect on 2023, it occurs to me that Nelson Covenant Church stands on the threshold of a new chapter of ministry filled with hope, promise, and possibility. We are immensely grateful for God’s faithfulness throughout the past year and eagerly anticipate the continued growth and impact of our ministry in the days to come. As we look to the future with confidence and conviction, we remain steadfast in our commitment to glory of God and be a blessing to each other and our broader Nelson community!

Thank you for the opportunity to share our report.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff Strong

# COMMONS CHURCH

CALGARY, AB



I want to start by expressing my gratitude for an incredible 2023. It really felt like we were able to turn a new corner and begin dreaming about the future again. And that's exciting because 2024 will bring with it our tenth anniversary!

In 2023, we saw increased participation in Groups and Courses across Commons and that interest told us that the community was looking to make new friends and build connections with more depth. In fact, in our fall in-seat survey, those who told us they participated in a small group were 14% more likely to say they were "making steady forward progress" in their spiritual growth. That's encouraging! So, we are working hard to facilitate more of these types of opportunities. One of these initiatives was our new Pop-Up Commons experiment, where we showed up in a new neighbourhood for a month of dinners and conversations. We imagine these popping up throughout the year in new areas of the city, one more way to meet some new friends and neighbours.

In 2023, we also relaunched our 7PM service with a distinct focus on community interaction. Sitting at tables instead of rows and adding question-and-response to the end of our sermons has been a lot of fun, and we plan to double down on this format in 2024.

With the Kensington building stretched to capacity again and with three services every Sunday already, we are looking to expand soon. We have put ourselves on a path to plant a new parish or church in the next five years. Some exciting steps are already unfolding, and for that, we are both grateful and excited.

At the same time, we continued to refine our online presence, making minor adjustments to the Livestream but focusing on building out our podcast and YouTube channels with additional content. We even recently passed the 5,000 subscriber mark on YouTube.

We also saw strong financial support throughout the year and that generosity put us in a place to be generous, increasing our support to partners and raising our Advent Campaign goals to new heights. In 2023, just over 15% of our resources went out our doors to causes locally and globally.

Finally, in 2024, we are looking forward to our 10th anniversary! We have big plans for that weekend, and we have booked the Jack Singer Auditorium in Calgary to host one large anniversary service. It's going to be a lot of fun and you can find more info at [www.commonst10.info](http://www.commonst10.info).

Pastor Jeremy Duncan



# COLLEGE PARK COVENANT CHURCH

SASKATOON, SK



We have been experiencing a new surge of vibrancy and a greater sense of thriving as a church body this year! Sometimes it is difficult to put a finger on exactly where this thriving comes from but we sense it is the movement of the Spirit which blows where it pleases!

A few areas that we are sensing the Spirit's wind:

**Intercultural Diversity:** We have seen many new people come and be incorporated into our church family over the last two years. And so many of these individuals and families are from all over the world! What a joy and blessing this is as we are made richer through diversity of experience, perspective and outlook. We are very excited by this incredible gift of a growing intercultural community. Children and youth have seen more and varied volunteers ministering to them. Our friend groups are expanding and are more colourful!

**Scripture Engagement:** In the last several years, our community has been leaning into the Revised Common Lectionary so that our Sunday worship, teaching, & preaching is guided by a set of 4 scriptures - OT, Psalm, NT, and Gospel reading. The way these passage comment on one another is deepening our engagement in scripture and helping to disciple us as people of the word.

Every month, for communion Sundays, we have an intergenerational service when the children help Pastor Kirsten teach and illustrate the scriptures. These are humorous and anticipated times of learning and growing together. We have also been practicing the occasional 'discussion Sunday' when we gather around tables and discuss scripture together rather than one person presenting a sermon.

**Growth Groups:** Over the last couple of years, a growing group of us have been meeting monthly as a Reconciliation Learning Group. We are exploring how our childhood and adulthood learning has perhaps been biased and has shaped how we approach others especially those of us who are European decent settlers.

This year, among other small groups in our congregation, a small gathering has been coming together to practice Centering Prayer. This is growing and stretching us in the ancient Christian practice of silence and solitude.

**Centered Set People:** Ethnic diversity is not the only diversity we encounter in our church body. We continue to be a people who have a great deal of diversity in theological understandings and church (or no-church) backgrounds. A very helpful part of our growing clarity has been in recognizing that we are centered (of course on Jesus) but also on the affirmative answer to the question: "Can I live in authentic Christian community with others who land differently on the issue of \_\_\_\_\_?" (You fill in the blank with any number of secondary theological issues.) We are doing our best to live into this united-in-Christ place even though it can be both gloriously sweet and gloriously messy!

Pastor Kirsten Waldschmidt



# FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

WINNIPEG, MB



## 2023 in Review

I will do my best to give you a birds eye view of what FCC Winnipeg is like today if you have no reference point.

If you were to come to worship with us on a Sunday morning, you would make your way to the neighbourhood of West Fort Garry and walk up to a small mid-century brick church building on Windermere Avenue with not near enough windows! As you walk in, you'd find a newly renovated sanctuary with 150 purple chairs that match the purple curtains marking both sides of the stage... that's a lot of purple for one church!

But more importantly you'd meet a group of saints that call Winnipeg, MB and its surrounding area home. You'd see (and hear!) upwards of 40 children roaming, colouring, and likely fidgeting as we make our way through the hour we gather to worship our risen Saviour. You would notice there is a sizable number of baby boomers (now senior citizens), a group that has been faithful to this church for many years and now inherit a new role as "grandparents" in our midst. You would find most every age in between, with bigger populations of the 30's-40's age range as well as Youth aged teens.

Throughout the week you could participate in things like growth classes on such subjects as fasting, reading the whole of scripture, and listening to just name a few. You would be invited to participate in semi-monthly scripture reading groups (an homage to our forefathers and mothers) who meet in homes and simply read scripture together and ask what it means for our lives. You could embark with a group that looks specifically on what disciple-making means at home. There would be ample opportunities to just share in life around backyard firepits, city patios, and of course watching the Blue Bombers win and the Winnipeg Jets maybe win (depending on the night!).

If you were with us in 2023, you would have been able to experience an all-church retreat alongside our fellow Covenant Church sisters and brothers from Holy Community Covenant Church (Pastor Gavin Jensen) and Stonehouse Covenant Church (Pastor Shannon Johnson Friesen). We called this simply "Jesus Retreat." We experienced shared life in Jesus for a few days together and were greatly encouraged.

Like all communities, you'd experience shared grief as people become ill with new unwanted diagnoses, folks lose jobs, couples experience deep relational struggle, and some experiencing bodily death. We at FCC experienced all these things in 2023 as we do each year and expect to in the coming years.

But as we were reminded a few weeks ago when the community had a chance to share in Sunday worship, this is a place where undoubtedly God is center, life is abundant, and grace is experienced. We are not perfect, but we worship a perfect God who is our head shepherd. As we continue to follow him we know we will be okay, no matter what our external circumstances look like.

God has been faithful to our little community for now 30 years, and in the words of a popular modern worship song, "why would he fail now...? He won't!"

Pastor Cody Anderson

# ENCOUNTER COVENANT CHURCH

MISSISSAUGA, ON



***“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*** (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Encounter Covenant Church will be turning 5 this November. Similar to what I've heard from many other church planters, I would never have come close to scripting this journey. As I was asked to share an update on Encounter, the above verse came to mind. As I look back over the past year and beyond, learning the tension filled process of choosing to trust in the LORD with all my heart rather than my own understanding is the best way to summarize Encounter's journey.

By the end of 2022, our finances were looking really scary and it was a cause of great tension for our leadership. The deficit we were projecting was far more than what we could conceive of covering. Despite my own fears and worries, God again reminded me to focus on the original vision he placed on my heart when I first planted Encounter – “focus on discipling those I send you, and I will take care of the rest.”

Beginning January 2023, we moved to a new location and secured a morning slot. We had an influx of people come through our doors that month and 12 joined a discipleship class I was leading. By the time we hit March, we had new momentum, were surprised to see our deficit fall by about 70%, and I was reminded again why my priority is always to trust in the LORD's lead over my own understanding.



Early spring, an opportunity came our way as our leadership team was asked whether we'd consider a merge with Avenue Community Church. To be completely honest, my first reaction was, 'thank you, but no'. I was completely exhausted. The past 4 years had taken a toll on every part of me and I really didn't have anything left in the tank to take on such a delicate and complex process. To make a long story short, both communities agreed to journey through a 5 month feasibility process. At our final town hall meeting when our feasibility team presented their work, a member asked me, “we now know all this information and have an idea of what this would look like, but I want to know what you, as our pastor, desires from this?”

I couldn't answer that question and decided to take 3 days off to seek God's direction through solitude. During that time, God reminded me of a conversation with one of the leaders from Avenue. He said, “Our leaders and members really want to be discipled, and we hope you will do it.” This is when God reminded me of the first thing He told me when planting Encounter – ‘to disciple anyone He sent me’ – only this time it was an entire community!

The vote passed for both congregations in mid-November 2023 and Avenue and Encounter merged to become one community beginning January 2024. We are still in the early process working things out, but we have clearly seen God's hand in all of this and continue to seek His unfolding plan for our community. Oh, and by the way... that leader who asked for discipleship... he and his wife were one of the first to register for discipleship this year! I am so grateful to all involved in this process – P.Glenn, P.Jason, P.Rob (ECCC leadership) for their mentoring and guidance, staff and leaders from both communities (they are faithful troopers!), P.John Cho for planting and pastoring Avenue and entrusting this community to me, and God's shepherding of me and Encounter Covenant Church.

P. Eddy Lee



# CHURCH PLANTING REPORT

## CHURCH PLANTING AS FAMILY

### From One Generation to the Next

Every church was once a church plant - including your congregation. How? Simply because followers of Jesus faithfully pursued the biblical calling:

***“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done... so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.”***  
(Psalm 78: 4b, 6-7)

Our church planting efforts are truly at their best when flowing from this **robust and rooted family dynamic**. For the Canada Covenant this is exemplified by:

- fervent **Prayer**
- faithful **Mission Giving**
- **Discipling & Releasing Leaders**

Through your shared church planting efforts, we can celebrate and forge ahead with:

### 1. Canada Church Planting Team actively deployed:

- a. Jason Charles, Catalyst West
- b. Gavin Jensen, Catalyst Prairies
- c. Jason Condon, with additional “catalyst” focus on GTA/Southern Ont/East
- d. all working closely with Glenn Peterson, and the overall mission and vision for Canada Covenant

### 2. NEW Internship Program successfully piloted:

- a. led by Jason Charles, from our Church Planting Team
- b. focused on emerging church leaders, discerning and refining their vocational callings, addressing the three developmental growth areas of Spiritual Depth, Emotional Health, and Leadership Capacity
- c. serving all of our Churches, and integral to ongoing church planting leadership development.
- d. Interested? Rounds Two & Three now in planning stages, taking applications from potential host churches and interns

### 3. Growing Partnerships with “Friends of the Family”

across Canada (and the US), through growing kingdom collaborations with key individuals and organizations





#### 4. Replenished & Expanding Pipeline & Ecosystem:

particularly significant post-Covid...

- a. **2-3 new Church Planting Covenant Agreements** slated for 2024, which mark the "official" launch of a Canada Covenant Church Plant
- b. **2-4 Church Planter Candidates** in various stages of the Assessment Process
- c. **Significantly increased "farming" & "fishing"** through scouting, referrals, collaborations, conversations, and partnership
- d. Well on-track for our **Planting Goal of 7.5% per year** – a very meaningful healthy missional metric that doesn't merely avoid decline (~3%/yr) or stagnation (~5%/yr), but accomplishes genuine, sustainable growth

#### What Next?

So what's our Biggest Current Need? To lean into **Church Planting as a Family**, "so the next generation would know [and] put their trust in God".

While the goal of **"every church a Parent, Partner, or Plant"** is understandably aspirational... we're actually called to **make it real**. As you read and reflect on all God has done, is doing, and will do, **please consider and commit** to one or more of the following:

#### PRAY

**Partner in Prayer:** We need contending and intercessory prayer for this work of church planting, our team, and the women and men planting for Jesus' plentiful harvest. Gavin Jensen, from our Church Planting Team, along with Rob Peterson, lead some of these related efforts with our Pastors each month.

#### INVEST

**Invest Resources:** as we rise to the new challenges and opportunities in our "nearby mission fields", we're committed to wise and sustainable funding development. There is always an "above and beyond" need that pays incredible kingdom dividends when cheerfully sacrificed and released. Regular Mission Giving & the Multiply Campaign are two key avenues.

#### JOIN IN

**Join a Project:** Whether as a Parent/Partner Church or individually as a Launch Team member, "short-term missionary", or key supporter. It's not enough to "fans", we're called to be Family.

#### Interested?

Already Committed?! Please contact Jason Condon, our Church Planting Team Leader via email, text, or call:

**email:** [jason.condon@covchurch.ca](mailto:jason.condon@covchurch.ca)  
**call/text:** 585.259.7984  
**or schedule a time:**  
[www.jasoncondon.com/connect](http://www.jasoncondon.com/connect)



# **SERVE — AND — SUPPORT PASTORS & LEADERS**

REPORTS FROM CAMPS + TRELIS FOUNDATION





# THE HARBOUR

## RIONDEL, BC

A friend recently told me that if you can make it past the 3 year mark in launching a new enterprise, generally you have a good chance of 'making it'. I don't know if that's based on any evidence, or more of a gut feeling. But 3 years ago, in March of 2021, we were signing the purchase agreement to purchase this incredible piece of property from the Presbyterian Churches of the Kootenays.

Since then, we've launched multiple new initiatives. Headwaters Discipleship, Ro Neighbourhood Coffee, Retreats, catering, and the list goes on and on.

We've improved our facilities - adding four season capability to almost every building on the property. This has allowed us to start our season earlier and run later each year. We are tending to, and improving our facilities. Just this past spring, we took on caring for the main retreat centre (as we call it - Perrin Lodge). Painting, re-staining all the beams. Replacing the light fixtures. Updating the place to a more modern standard.

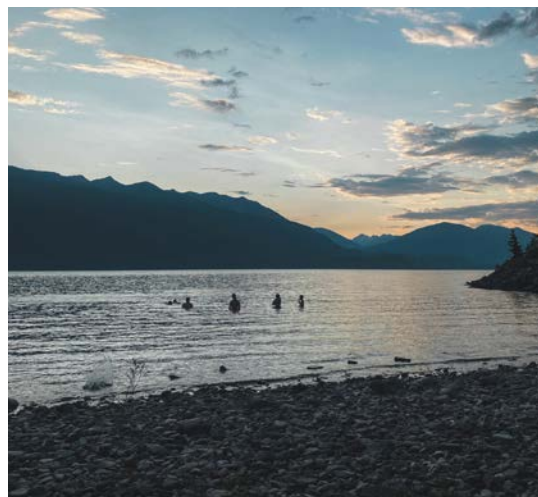
We hosted over 750 people at the Harbour this past year. 4,158 plates of food were catered (between Rental catering and Headwaters), and we hosted 13 different offseason groups.

Headwaters saw us hosting 6 young adults for the months of May and June last year. A personal highlight for us was seeing 2 of these young adults move on into internship opportunities within the covenant church to further be developed as leaders within the church.

We are putting the finishing touches on adding a pottery studio to our property, as we take the first steps towards launching our artist collective, the "wild goose collective". We are very excited to be moving in this direction.

We have so much to be thankful for, and so much to look forward to. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Jess & Mark Hagan



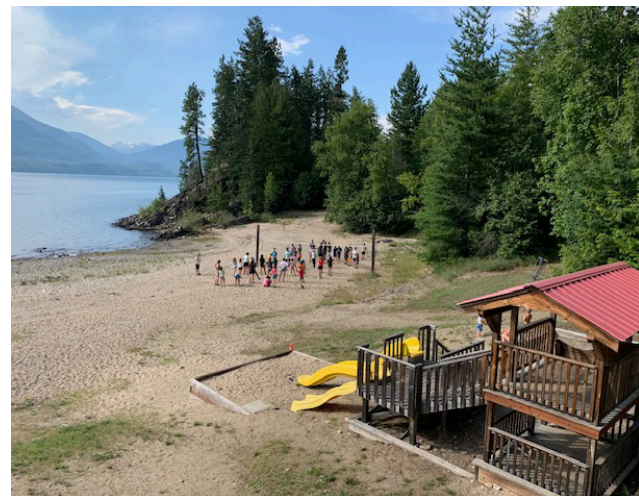


# KOOTENAY COVENANT BIBLE CAMP

RIONDEL, BC

KCBC, Kootenay Covenant Bible Camp, is a thriving camp ministry in the Kootnays of British Columbia. It is a week long summer camp for kids ages 8-12. It is held at The Harbour Camp property on the east shore of Kootenay Lake and is a joint ministry of the Nelson, Balfour, Junction and Erickson Covenant Churches. We have a number of adult volunteers who give a week of their summer to serve in the key staff positions as well a number of Youth and Young Adults who serve as cabin leaders and mentors. We have teaching and worship times twice a day and fill the rest of the time showing God's love through swimming, canoeing, hiking, archery, arts and crafts, drama, frisbee golf and wide games, to name just a few of the activities! Please visit [kbcamp.org](http://kbcamp.org) for more information.

Kerry Marsland



**SCAN ME!**

TO WATCH  
THE KCBC  
PROMO VIDEO



# COVENANT BAY BIBLE CAMP

PIGEON LAKE, AB

Covenant Bay exists to promote a growing relationship with Jesus, and we are so pleased with what God is doing in our midst. After several difficult years since 2020, we are finally poised to exceed metrics in rentals and registrations in 2019. During this time, the generosity of donors and foundations has underpinned Covenant Bay's operations. What metrics do not tell you is what God is doing in the lives of young people.

One mom received a phone call from a friend. She explained that while she is glad that her daughter is reading her bible at night and has a "relationship with God," she was a little lost in how to support her daughter.

Every summer, roughly half of campers do not have a relationship with Jesus. Each of them is invited to explore what that looks like and how to navigate life at home as a Christian.

We count it a privilege to be part of the ECCC and invite you to join us in praying for campers across our denomination. Thanks for all you do in God's Kingdom!

Jon Drebert, Executive Director



# COVENANT HEIGHTS BIBLE CAMP

CLEAR LAKE, MB

We have lots to be thankful for at Covenant Heights! Our 2023 season started with two work weekends where we tackled the usual cobweb cleaning and tidying of all the buildings. We had a dedicated group of people put a lot of sweat equity into a new tin roof on our dining hall. From the generous work of many hands, we were able to complete some much needed maintenance on cabin doors and other such things this past year.

Our camps started with an intensely hot weather weekend for Family Camp. We welcomed several new families, and in the end, the kids almost outnumbered the adults. This was cool to see! We continued with a great group of Teen campers. Squirt Camp (for our littlest campers) was a high energy, one-night introduction for these mostly first-time campers. Our Fall Retreat for grades 7 - 12 was held at camp in September and was also very well attended. Norquay Covenant hosted Snow Days, our winter retreat, with many kids and leaders making the trip out from Manitoba to attend.

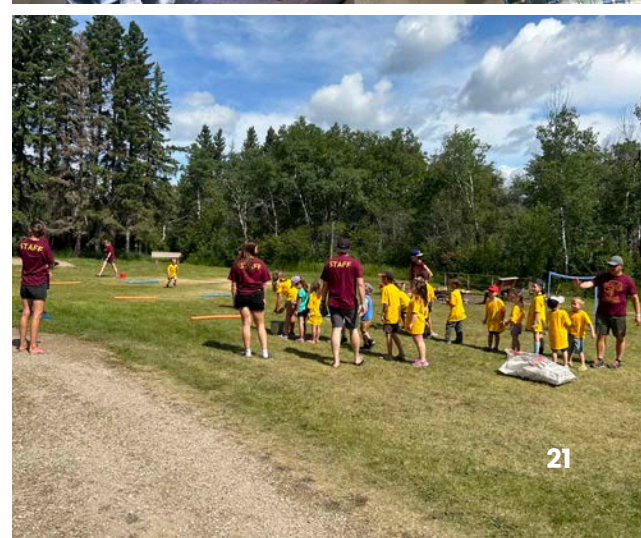
We are encouraged to see campers returning year after year and inviting new friends into a life of knowing who God is and who He made them to be.

We are ever grateful for the steadfast commitment of all our member churches and the value you have placed on maintaining and faithfully supporting with generous gifts the work and ministry of Covenant Heights Bible Camp. Your faithful service in preparing the camp for a summer of ministry by sending leaders, directors, speakers, nurses, counsellors, lifeguards, cooks and campers alike, is a gift of love.

If you live in the region, consider being a part of the camp experience this summer. We would love to have you visit us in Clear Lake Manitoba! We also welcome your prayers as we prepare for the summer ahead.

Feel free to stay in touch and see what we are up to at [www.covenantheightsbiblecamp.com](http://www.covenantheightsbiblecamp.com)

Hali Wilson, Camp Coordinator



# TRELLIS FOUNDATION REPORT

## A LEGACY OF COVENANT BIBLE COLLEGE

In the spring and fall of 2023 Trellis awarded **13 Discipleship Grants to Canadian Covenant churches and ministries** for these initiatives to make and deepen disciples of Jesus Christ:

**Headwaters Discipleship**, an immersive school of the heart for young adults at The Harbour At Riondel, for their second year in May-June, led by Wild Goose Collective on the shores of Kootenay Lake.

**Zoe Toronto Ministries**, for their Greenhouse equipping program for young adults in downtown Toronto to live in an intimate biblical community together for the summer while serving their city doing outreach work.

**The Worship Project**, for their discipleship retreats for worship leaders and pastors, and for scholarships to help Covenanters attend.

**Holy Community Covenant Church**, for their "Disciple-Making at Home" group and retreat this fall, equipping parents to disciple their children.

**Malmö Covenant Church**, for their youth discipleship worker who's participating in ECCC's Multiply leadership development program.

**Erickson Covenant Church**, for two weeks of Vacation Bible School last summer.

**Encounter Covenant Church**, for their Alpha retreat and for emerging leaders who facilitated their Encountering God Discipleship retreat.

**Lighthouse Community Church's** marriage retreat and women's retreat.

Plus many **discipleship projects through the ECCC**, including the Multiply leadership development program for pastoral interns, and the Israel/Palestine study tour.

In 2023 the Trellis Foundation made some adjustments to our staffing. We divided Steve Waldschmidt's role into two portfolios. Steve is now our Program Advocate, primarily working with applicants through the grant process. We then hired Katie Matheson to fulfill the Administrator role. We are grateful for the work of Brandi Bobee as our outgoing bookkeeper. Fortunately, Katie will also take on our bookkeeping duties.

Discipleship Grants became available in 2014, and in these 10 years over \$630,000 has been disbursed for more than 125 initiatives, including CBC Legacy Scholarships and Graduate Bursaries awarded since 2009. Visit [trellisfoundation.ca/stories](https://trellisfoundation.ca/stories) to read more about biblical, intentional and innovative discipleship initiatives funded by Trellis.

For students and young adults who are considering

post-secondary options, check out our directory of discipleship schools and gap-year programs: [trellisfoundation.ca/discipleship-education-directory](https://trellisfoundation.ca/discipleship-education-directory).

The Trellis fund's investments were affected by market volatility in 2023 but they've weathered the ups and downs, thanks to QV Investors' management. Overall portfolio performance as of Feb. 29, 2024 was 6.27% since inception, with the fund balance growing from \$1.6 million in 2014 to just over \$1.98 million, even after disbursing 3.5% each year (as CRA requires for public foundations).

Would you like to help your community apply for a Discipleship Grant? What disciple-deepening initiative is Jesus growing in your church? Let's get that seedling off the ground! Apply for a grant or make a donation at: [trellisfoundation.ca](https://trellisfoundation.ca).

Phil Adkins, Chair



# CLERGY TRANSITIONS

<b>Erik Davis</b>	<i>From: Lake Ridge Community, Youth (Chestermere, AB)</i>
<b>David Ewing</b>	<i>To: Malmo Mission Covenant, Youth Discipleship (Malmo, AB)</i>
<b>Bill Gardner</b>	<i>From: Canada Institute of Linguistics (Toronto, ON)</i> <i>To: Retirement</i>
<b>Rob Goertz</b>	<i>To: Rosebud Church, Co-Pastor (Rosebud, AB)</i>
<b>Renita Hamm</b>	<i>To: Rosebud Church, Co-Pastor (Rosebud, AB)</i>
<b>Jesse Lerch</b>	<i>From: The Junction (South Slokan, BC)</i>
<b>Rick Penner</b>	<i>From: Nelson Covenant Church (Nelson, BC)</i> <i>To: Lighthouse Community Church, Lead Pastor (Sarnia, ON)</i>
<b>Glenn Ronson</b>	<i>From: Lighthouse Community Church, Interim (Sarnia, ON)</i> <i>To: Lighthouse Community Church, Associate Pastor (Sarnia, ON)</i>
<b>Katy Turgeon</b>	<i>From: Norquay Covenant Church, Intern (Norquay, SK)</i> <i>To: Norquay Covenant Church, Associate Pastor (Norquay, SK)</i>
<b>Natasha Westerhoud</b>	<i>From: Faith Covenant Church (Breton, AB)</i>

# CBC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## Alexa Olson

Norquay, SK  
Briercrest College and Seminary,  
Christian Ministry (Biblical Studies)

## Jacinda Kauenhofen

Chestermere, AB  
Headwaters Discipleship Program

## CBC LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

The Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada has a long history of supporting discipleship of young adults. After the closure of Covenant Bible College (CBC) in 2007, endowment funds were passed on to the ECCC via Trellis Foundation to continue granting scholarships for students pursuing discipleship education.

The CBC Legacy Scholarship program has assisted over 90 students with scholarships to participate in discipleship education programs around the world, with a total of \$45,500 distributed.



**SCAN ME!**  
TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT CBC  
SCHOLARSHIPS

# ACROSS CANADA — AND — AROUND THE WORLD

REPORTS FROM GLOBAL PARTNERS + PERSONNEL





# CONGO

We are excited to announce our renewed partnership with Covenant Kids Congo, powered by World Vision, in Canada!

Ten years ago, 250 Canadian Covenanters said yes to partnering with a ministry that brings hope, education, and the love of Christ to children in the DR Congo.

**The impact of the partnership on the communities in DR Congo has been immeasurably more than we could imagine and we look forward to seeing how God will continue to lead into the future.**

## JOIN US IN PRAYER

We are honored to be included in the rhythm of weekly prayer emails. We are also included in the Serve Globally prayer calendar. For updated requests, contact our team or these resources.

## PARTICIPATE IN CHOSEN

Through Chosen, a new initiative reversing the traditional sponsorship model, a child is empowered to choose his or her own sponsor. Emmanuel Covenant in Surrey, BC, hosted the first ever Chosen in the Canadian Covenant?

## HOST A GLOBAL 6K

Six kilometers is the average distance a person in the majority world walks for water. This June, create a team with your church, or community to walk together to raise funds for clean water in DR Congo.

Contact our team to learn more.



**COVENANTKIDS**  
*Congo* powered by  
World Vision

+1 224-935-0221

[LYNDSLEY.WATSON@COVCHURCH.ORG](mailto:LYNDSLEY.WATSON@COVCHURCH.ORG)

LYNDSLEY WATSON, CKC MINISTRY SPECIALIST



**WILL YOU  
JOIN US?**



# ECUADOR

Serving in Ecuador is a part of the ECCC global engagement vision as we continue to be part of the movement of being the present-day hands and feet of Jesus. This past November Natasha Westerhoud led the ECCC Ecuador team which consisted of 5 individuals from 4 different Covenant churches across Canada.

The team had the opportunity to join in on what God was already doing in Ecuador, as they partnered with the Ecuador Covenant Church, Iglesia del Pacto Evangelico La Hermosa and The Santiago Partnership. Pastor Fransico Ascanta from the Pacto Evangelico Church welcomed us as we served along side them laying the flooring in their new community bakery, which is located on the church's property.

We worked together all week and with many donations from our Canadian friends we were able to finish the bakery. The bakery continues to do well as it serves the community with fair pricing on wonderful breads and pastries, and all the profits are invested back into the church.

We also had the opportunity to host a VBS with just over 100 children who attended daily. These children are sponsored by the Compassion program and a few times a week the children come to the church for snacks and a bible story. We also spent our time with the church family by participating in their church services, sharing a message of hope and worshiping in English and Spanish! Our time ended by being invited to witness four baptisms and celebrating Pastor Francisco during Pastor Appreciation Sunday!

Our 10-day Adventure trip also included our continued work with The Santiago Partnership. This included a tour of the medical clinic and the Forever Flowers self sustaining program. We also had the opportunity to spend time at the Home for At Risk Children providing a time of games and sharing for the 25 children who are currently staying there. The opportunity to meet the Woman of SUMAK and to hear some of their stories of healing from domestic abuse, helped us to understand the importance of the continued work that the Santiago Partnership has to offer to the people of Ecuador.

The ECCC team had a chance to meet the staff and engage with the children and families to better understand the needs of the people of Ecuador. **60% of children in Ecuador live in poverty as addiction and abuse are at an all time high and the needs are great.** The Santiago partnership offers care for at risk children as well as providing medical care for the medically underprivileged.

It is a privilege to be a part of this global engagement vision as we continue to be part of the movement of being the present-day hands and feet of Jesus. **Will you consider joining us on our next Ecuador Trip?**



ECUADOR  
ADVENTURE 2024

NOVEMBER 15 - 24



**SCAN ME!**  
FOR DETAILS  
ABOUT THE 2024  
ADVENTURE

# HAITI

Thank you for bringing hope with Here 4 Haiti this year. As we reflect on the yearly campaign we want to thank you for everything you've read, watched and donated. **You showed up in 2023 big time!**

## You helped raise \$115,590.

When you invest in leaders, food and medicine, you help create opportunities and transform communities. And because of you – people like Madame Mark and Pastor Dorsinville in Haiti see the unbelievable generosity of strangers in Canada who share their hard-earned funds for the Sarepta Project. **Over 160 children were fed weekly, and more than that, children's nutrition was made a priority thanks to you, this will help support their brain development.** This could not be done without the creative leadership of Ysmanette and Pastor Dugee. It's lifesaving medical care for over 1600 patients struggling with diabetes and more than 5400 individuals with other conditions receiving the medical expertise of Dr. Manno's Clinic Sante 2000 thanks to you. Plus, more than 14 ponds and farmers in the community of Haute Limbe created sustainable food sources and product to sell because of the educational leadership from Valerie and Jeff. Your impact reaches far beyond mere provisions. It brings hope, joy, and a sense of security to our neighbors in Haiti.

This year, a few of our Haiti Canadian Team (Pastor Kirsten Waldschmidt, Evan Dewald and Tara Linsley) plus three young people visited Haiti. It's been quite a while since we've had the chance to travel and meet face-to-face with the remarkable leaders and people we serve and support in Haiti. For our Canadian team, this trip was more than just a visit; it was a chance to strengthen the bonds we've built with the incredible leaders in Haiti.

**Haiti continues to deal with escalating tensions with countrywide protests and violence.** The situation is volatile, and the nation needs our prayers. Despite the challenging situation, the dedicated leaders in the North (in Haut Limbe) report that they are safe and committed to continuing our projects as best they can. Although the North is safer from violence the intensity of the situation has affected the economy putting strain on access to food, medicine and fuel. For example, a bottle of Coke (glass) that was recently 10 cents, is now \$4 USD. The safety, health, and well-being of our friends in Haiti are our primary concerns. Please pray for our friends in Haiti, for the leaders, projects and people they serve as well as for the people as a whole.

As we look forward to 2024, The ECCC remains committed to supporting these projects and partnerships in Haiti. **The leaders have big goals for 2024 and so do we of raising \$90,000.** And what if their goals became yours? You can be part of this story. Below are 4 ways to get involved:

1. Join the Facebook Group #here4haiti
2. Sign up for the #here4haiti newsletter
3. Host a fundraiser in your community:  
Connect with us for ideas and to get personalized fundraising support in strategy and materials
4. Donate – start monthly!

We are profoundly grateful for all your support.



**SCAN ME!**  
TO LEARN MORE,  
GET INVOLVED,  
AND GIVE

# KERNELS OF HOPE

Kernels of Hope was blessed with very good yields across the Prairies in 2023! We are Blessed so that we can bless others!

Dry weather was great for quality! The crop roots had to work hard and in the end most places had enough subsoil moisture to fill bins farmers hadn't even used in years! The Van Burgstedens near Melfort, SK had their best Kernels crop ever! The Borleys near Minnedosa, MB sowed their last Crop as they have sold the farm but are happy to know that the proceeds from their fields over the years will live long in the lives of so many in Ethiopia.

We again worked through Tearfund Canada and the Canadian Food Grains Bank and matching funds from the Canadian Government to connect with people in the Wolaita region of Ethiopia to enable them to plant successful crops with Conservation Farming. They learn through the local churches how to choose crop types that don't need consistent rain and by using mulch and cover crops they are able to mitigate many of the extreme weather conditions that appear so often these days!

Many Farmers there are now able to produce more crop than their family needs for food each year. Storage problems in Canada and Ethiopia are dealt with differently but for the same reasons. Marketing all your crop at once usually isn't possible and often doesn't get you the best value! PICS bags are being distributed to store the crop. Multilayered bags keep the insects and pests out and keep the quality in!

This allows for the amalgamation of bags of crops to go to market a couple of months after the main harvest providing timely nutrition for the buyers and better returns to the farmers! Farmers can then provide much more for their family's wellbeing and future.

Bereket of Terepeza Development Association has gone one step further this year by developing tree seedling greenhouses to regreen the Wolaita district. By the end of the year approximately one and half million Avocado, papaya and coffee seedlings along with forest tree seedlings will be distributed, planted and nurtured in this part of Ethiopia. These provide great nutrition and slow down erosion while creating cooler areas of micro climates and they provide a practical means for the churches to bless their neighbors.

If you would like to be a virtual or real farmer with Kernels in 2024 by paying for some of the inputs please write a cheque to ECCC (Kernels) or donate online at the ECCC website ... Growing in so many good ways !

Ray Baloun the Grain Guy



# MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

We continue to celebrate our stories of partnership with ministries across the MENA (Middle East - North Africa) region, and with those who are serving tirelessly to embody the peace and love of Christ in their midst. In the last year this region has been rocked by horrific events that add complexity to this already complex region; from devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria to the horror of war in Israel/Palestine. We continue to come alongside partners to support those in desperate need of aid and encouragement, as well as those committed to peacemaking. Please continue to pray for our siblings in Christ as they serve their neighbours and seek to be the hands and feet and light of Christ in deeply challenging circumstances.

Also in the past year the ECCC has been continuing to re-engage with the region in other significant ways. Jeff Anderson led a group of 7 on a discipleship-oriented journey to better understand the 'other' in Egypt. Eric Hedberg and I (Sally) led our first Israel/Palestine study tour after many postponements due to Covid-19. Our group traveled to holy sites throughout Israel and Palestine, met with ministry partners like our friends at Bethlehem Bible College, spent time in worship and prayer together and were challenged by what we saw and experienced. There were many powerful moments as we heard stories from those whose voices are often left out of the narrative. **Our next trip will be May 2025 and we would love for you to join us!** In the current climate of conflict, Christians being on the ground and present with our siblings in Christ is more important than ever.

We ask for your continued prayers for the important work in this region and for the days ahead as we seek to clarify and refine our vision for ECCC partnerships.

Sally Carlson  
*On behalf of the ECCC MENA Team (Jeff Anderson, Eric Hedberg, Sally Carlson, Glenn Peterson)*



ISRAEL/PALESTINE  
STUDY TOUR 2025

MAY 21 - 30, 2025



**SCAN ME!**  
FOR DETAILS  
ABOUT THE 2025  
STUDY TOUR





# ALASKA

## MARC & ANGELA LANTZ

It's been six years since we said "yes" to the call to serve in Alaska. We remain grateful for the ways the ECCC continues to support us. Even though we can't be with you in person this year, we look forward to hearing how God is at work in your midst.

This past year, our ministry has involved a stronger emphasis on serving our local church (MatSu Covenant) through a pastoral transition. We are thankful that John and Sheree Meader answered that call, moved up from Minnesota, and began serving in January. I (Marc) chaired the search committee and also offered to help the Meaders with their big move. My father and I drove their Uhaul truck on the 5,000km trip in December. Angela continues to serve on church council, and she also helped our church re-launch its Sunday School ministries. She teaches elementary class, and I help teach our youth Confirmation class. Many ECC churches in Alaska wait years before they can call a pastor, so we are thankful for the ways the congregation rallied to expand our ministries this year.

I (Marc) continue to serve as Associate Director for Amundsen Educational Center. The school year wraps up May 9th, and our students and staff need prayer to finish well. We had to dismiss 3 of our 5 students recently for behavioral conduct violations. It was a crushing blow to see their progress halted by poor decision-making. Please pray that they will choose to seek help from other ministries so they can overcome their struggles. We are thankful that 2 of our students have stayed the course and are on pace to finish both project homes. More significantly, these 2 students also became Christians last Fall, and they are excited to learn more about being a disciple of Christ. As they complete this year's training, we pray they will continue to grow in their faith by seeking out Christian community wherever they go.

Please pray for a healthy "partnership in the gospel" between the various ministries serving across Alaska. There are many obstacles that keep us from working together. Pray for the courage to overcome the challenges and for the hope of Christ to spread as we share resources and encourage one another.

Thank you, our beloved ECCC family, for your ongoing prayer and support.

Marc and Angela Lantz

## PARTNER WITH MARC & ANGELA

Select the "Global - Alaska" fund



**SCAN ME!**

TO GIVING VIA  
CANADA HELPS



# NORTHEAST ASIA

JAMIE KIM

This year began with two significant events, one in Texas and the other in Bundang, Korea. The one in Texas was a gathering of about fifty friends and their children who have journeyed with Reah International for anywhere between ten to twenty years. These are friends who have gone into North Korea to teach English, worked alongside farmers to replenish the barren land, or taken a vision trip to see the people and the landscape. Most of them are also friends who led North Korea prayer groups in cities all over North America. In contrast, the gathering in South Korea was for young adults who were at first indifferent toward North Korea, 120 young adults who came to learn and then made a commitment toward praying for and engaging North Korea. Another significance of Texas was that within the gathering was the Formations Discipleship where ten Fellows, four mentors, and three faculty are involved in a holistic discipleship. In the Formations there are two Argentinians, two Brazilians, one Filipino American, one Nigerian American, three Korean Americans, three Korean Canadians, one Jamaican American and four Caucasian Americans engaged in a weekly one-year discipleship. The program consists of five courses on personal, relational, spiritual, cultural, and vocational formations based on Christ-centered unity paradigm. Christ-centered unity is a holistic understanding of the gospel based on loving God in a relationship that transforms us into the image of Jesus, loving our neighbor in justice that is inclusive of those in the margins, and loving God's creation in compassionate stewardship. The goal of Formations is the discipleship of diverse, unified, and healthy body of Christ of next generation of young leaders for North Korea and beyond.

All of this is moving the body of Christ into preparing for a great harvest that will surely come to North Korea. The Great Harvest 2027 is described in the following website: [www.GreatHarvest2027.com](http://www.GreatHarvest2027.com), and is fueled by Empower conferences scheduled in Korea for 2025 and 2027.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for a great harvest in North Korea and that the global body of Christ will be ready in diversity, unity, and in health by 2027.
2. Pray for Empower 2025 and 2027 in South Korea and Empower 2026 in Brazil and Argentina.
3. Pray that we will be able to take young and established leaders from around the world into North Korea for a vision trip in 2027.

**PARTNER WITH JAMIE**

Select the **"Global - Northeast Asia"** fund



**SCAN ME!**

FOR  
GIVING DETAILS

# UNITED KINGDOM

## ROBERT RIFE

### Rife with Life – Serving in Edinburgh, Scotland

Hello dear friends, we are the Rifes. I (Rob) was born and raised in Calgary. Rae was born in Wales but grew up in Calgary. It was there we met and married in 1988. We have two grown sons, one in Calgary, the other in Yakima, Washington. And we are proud to serve as a tentmaker couple with Serve Globally in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Rae works for Surgeon's Quarter Travel, helping medical and dental surgeons travel the globe assisting, training, and, specifically, adjudicating accreditation exams. Her gifts are very much as a marketplace faith-conversationalist enjoying relationships with co-workers and colleagues drawn to Jesus through her effervescence and authenticity. She's a born evangelist!

My time is spent acting as a chaplain of sorts, kind of like a pastor-at-large, to and among the addiction recovery community. I serve at the intersection of creativity/imagination, faith/formation, and addiction/recovery.



Helping others pursue  
a Christ-centred  
**SOBRIETY**

◆ Edinburgh ◆ Online



What that looks like in real terms is a lot of time spent in redemptive conversations both locally and by Zoom with others like me learning to live Spirit-led lives of sobriety. The various ministry events and partnerships in which I'm involved coalesce in what I call the Creative Recovery Initiative. This involves many events and relationships of an imaginative-contemplative nature designed to help others like me to navigate their journey toward wholeness from addiction/alcoholism. It is also the title of a new video series by the same name. Stay tuned for more of those!

Much of our ministry is rooted in a partnership with St. James Scottish Episcopal Church, a collective deeply committed to community engagement, Christian formation, arts & imagination, and recovery. We engage together in our shared journey toward sobriety in creative and spiritually transformative ways.

We've been so grateful to see the growing and positive response to our Siloam contemplative recovery event. It's gone from a monthly to a weekly occurrence! Also, I have loved acting as a spiritual guide and mentor to those pursuing a life of sobriety who are thirsty to know more about the life, teaching, and example of Jesus Christ.

This has been a tiring but rewarding year full of triumphs and tragedies among those we serve. One of my recovery friends recently took her own life. Sadly, these stories are not uncommon among addict-alcoholics. However, through it all, in our stories we keep seeing Jesus everywhere. We are so deeply grateful to all who support us. Now, what we need more than ever is for still others to come alongside us in prayer and as financial partners so that this ministry can have an even more solid and lasting foundation.

Ceud Mile Fáilte (a hundred thousand welcomes)!

## PARTNER WITH ROBERT

Select the "Global - Great Britain" fund



**SCAN ME!**  
FOR  
GIVING DETAILS



To view additional documents for the  
120th Annual General Meeting,  
please visit the webpage below:

**[covchurch.ca/annual-general-meeting](https://covchurch.ca/annual-general-meeting)**





The Evangelical Covenant  
Church of Canada

[COVCHURCH.CA](http://COVCHURCH.CA)