

### **From Pastor Greg's Heart ~ Asking our Fathers to Be Engaged**

Joyfully I have been a father since 1992. It was the same year the Toronto Blue Jays won their first World Series. Are you chuckling with me? Becoming a father was most definitely by far the more exciting event for me.

When you consider the male brain, as some have tried, men like to compartmentalize things and sometimes put things into neat tidy mental boxes. They can retrieve memories from these boxes in association with other events that were important to them. Years ago, we had a marriage seminar at our church, and we comically discovered from our presenters that men also have a "nothing box." In other words, there is a place where most men just don't concern themselves with anything and just go on autopilot. This is quite different than the female brain where most women thread their thinking and doing through relationships and connections. Their thought patterns can look like spaghetti all intermingled and connected.

How does this all relate to being a father? Fathers tend to be more action and goal-oriented for their children while mothers want them to be emotionally and relationally balanced. Godly fathers are also concerned about their child's mental, emotional and relational development, but having their child succeed in education, career and financial stability can be equally gratifying. Fathers want to help meet these needs and goals, but if they are in their nothing box, they sometimes need to be asked to be engaged.

God the Father loves when His children seek Him out and ask Him for help and direction. I believe many godly fathers are the same. Have you heard fathers say this to their children, "I had no clue you needed help! Why didn't you just come and ask me?"

Jesus taught His disciples in **Matthew 7:7-11**, *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"* NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®

Godly fathers want the best for their children, and they will be present when they're not in their nothing box. Wives be patient with your husbands, and children keep asking your fathers for help because when fathers do connect, they will hit those home runs. God bless our fathers and give them awareness to be godly leaders in the home.

## **Bits and Bites:**

**1) Reopening for Church Services** – The elders are happy to report that in our province’s “Road Map to Reopening Ontario” we are allowed to have 15% capacity in the church building and have outdoor services with capacity limited to permit physical distancing of 2 metres. You can click this website for more details <https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario>.

It has been decided that we will continue to livestream during Step 1 for the morning service. The 15% capacity will include family members of those who are serving on the worship team and the AV team. On the evening of **Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> we will have our first outdoor service** (open to everyone) at Kevin and Bethany Hannah’s place at 6:30 p.m. We will hopefully have eight outdoor evening services in total this summer. Our secretary Anne will be sending more details about the outdoor service schedule once we have our in-house speakers and hosts confirmed.

Our Sunday evening outdoor services will be similar to the ones we enjoyed previous to 2020. You will be asked to bring a lawn chair and abide by the regular COVID protocol. Unfortunately, we will not be able to service tasty treats until we enter into Step 3 when larger outdoor social gatherings are permitted with food.

**Our Sunday morning worship services** are available online through livestreaming at 10 a.m. by going to <https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryBibleChurchSF/> If a pop-up window should appear asking you to login to Facebook, look for the phrase at the bottom – **Not Now** - and click it to be able to visit the site without a Facebook account. When we enter into Step 2, we will let you know about the RSVP for the morning service.

**2) Judy Nicholas welcome to Calvary Bible Church membership!** On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> Judy Nicholas signed our membership covenant agreeing to live out her faith in Jesus Christ in fellowship with us. She was surrounded in prayer and welcomed by elder chair Mike Roy. Membership includes supporting God’s work at Calvary Bible through prayer, giving and serving as the LORD leads. It also involves being committed in making disciples of Jesus Christ in partnership with the leadership and members of our church who exist to fulfill Jesus’s Great Commission to the Church (Matthew 28:18-20). Judy, we appreciate your many years of faithful service already. God bless you in covenanting with us.

**3) A farewell blessing to Pastor Jake & Ruth Giesbrecht!** We want to wish Jake and Ruth God’s blessing as they move to New Brunswick to live close to their son David and family. Thank you, Jake and Ruth, for the way you embraced our church family and encouraged us toward building relationships with the purpose of discipling our brothers and sisters to a greater love for Christ and maturity in obeying God’s Word.

Jake's service on the Missions and Outreach ministry team was much appreciated. We are also grateful for the times you provided pulpit supply. Your challenge toward leadership development will remain with us. The Lord bless you and keep you until we meet again!

**4) Elders and Stewards met this past Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.** The leaders of our church met face to face for their first meeting of the year. Pastor Greg gave a devotional meditation from Ephesians 4:1-16 emphasizing Paul's urgent call to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received." There was good sharing about how we need to support each other in these times through the Holy Spirit's desire for unity. The call to maturity and fullness in Christ must be paramount for the whole church body. The realities of stress and fewer volunteers to do the work (when permissible) must be covered in prayer. Here are some short notes from each ministry....

**Administration (Kendall Loewen)** – Giving continues to suffice for the amount being spent. A more detailed financial report is available by contacting our secretary, Anne. Thank you for your faithfulness here!

**Building and Property (Phil Hogan)** – Our elevator remains inoperable because it still requires TSSA approval. Georgina MacIntosh is taking a leave of absence as our custodian as she undergoes knee replacements.

**Care and Body Life (Mel Coker)** – It is important to stay connected in these times. Our seniors and shut ins are being called. There is still a need to fill the freezer with meals for people in our church who have undergone surgeries and requests from the community. The prayer chain has been busy with requests. More prayers for our people are appreciated.

**Children's Ministries (Kelly Reynolds and Heidi Wills)** – Our insurance now covers volunteers in cases of abuse allegations. Our Plan to Protect policy and training has been accepted by our insurer. Lord willing there will be a VBS from Tuesday, August 3 to Friday, August 6 for our church kids only. AWANA Cubs for the fall is being considered by Commander Lynda Bourne. Stay tuned!

**Discipleship** – Mike Roy cast the vision for our church leaders and church body to be actively involved in making disciples through building relationships with believers who want to grow in faith. This is not a program. It is a commission from Christ to all of us. Discipleship must remain simple by using God's Word and knowing how to handle it properly. If you want to be in a discipleship relationship, please contact Pastor Greg at 613-283-6474 or contact one of our elders.

**Mission & Outreach** – All is on track in supporting our missionaries. There is no new request for missionary support. Sunday August 22 will be a prayer emphasis for university/college students through Power 2 Change.

**Worship (Bethany Hannah)** – Two worship teams continue to do the work of five teams in our past. A number of volunteers have stepped up (including our youth) to help with livestreaming, sound, and PowerPoint. Tim Dunning is leaving at the end of August. He will be greatly missed.

**Youth (Dan Noel)** – Our Calvary Youth meetings on Thursdays have met an important need during COVID. The last meeting will be this Thursday before summer break. The youth are currently raising funds for Atwell Pregnancy Options Centre with a goal of \$500. Also, the youth have been bringing in non-perishable food items for the Smiths Falls Foodbank. Please continue to pray for our youth to grow in their faith in Christ, get a better handle on God's Word and reach their peers for Christ.

**5) A Traffic Light for Vaccines powered by Grace.** At a recent AGC Ministry Leaders Gathering at Trinity Bible Church in Osgoode our Regional Director Tom Lambshead used a traffic light analogy to represent where people in our churches are at when it comes to COVID related issues especially with vaccines. This is how I (Pastor Greg) extrapolate this metaphor...there are people who are "Red" and will not get vaccinated for biblical, personal or health reasons. There are those who are "Green" and have or will be vaccinated for biblical, personal or health reasons. Then there are those who are "Yellow" and may or may not be vaccinated as they wait for more information.

The elders would like to ask you to exercise grace when we reopen our church for service gatherings. All red, green and yellow people will be welcome to attend with COVID protocol in place. We would love to see you for the sake of worshipping God, fellowship, loving one another and serving Jesus together.

**6) AGC President Bill Allan's Message re: Kamloops residential school discovery**  
Here is an excerpt from his message...Dear AGC family, The AGC is deeply saddened by the recent discovery of the remains of 215 children on the grounds at the Kamloops Residential School. This is a horrific loss of life and there are no adequate words to express our feelings or grief at this tragedy...We grieve with our First Nations brothers and sisters. We stand alongside you in your pain, and we pray with you for true healing and reconciliation that can only and ultimately be found in Jesus...John 11:35 gives us these simple words: Jesus wept. Upon arriving at the scene of His friend's death, Jesus wept. He had compassion, He identified with those that grieved, He hurt with them. We need to do the same...I want to encourage all our AGC family to listen, to lament with, and to walk alongside those of our First Nations Peoples that grieve this senseless loss, to pray for true reconciliation, and to actively engage in making that reconciliation a reality.

## **Prayer Corner**

- 1) Pray for Dianna Robertson and Madeline Hawe who are both recovering from their hip surgeries. Pray that God will bless them with a full recovery and future mobility without pain.
- 2) Pray for Georgina MacIntosh as she is scheduled for her first knee replacement on June 25. Pray for all to go well with a good recovery.
- 3) Pray for Debby Hunter as she recovers from a broken foot.
- 4) Francine Hill will be visiting her oncologist soon for final plans for a lumpectomy to remove the cancerous lump. Pray for the surgery to happen soon. Thank the LORD for Francine's unwavering trust in the LORD in this time.
- 5) Pray for our AGC National Conference this Saturday, June 19 starting at 3 p.m. You can watch the worship, message by Dr. Michael Pawelke (President of Briercrest Bible College and Seminary) and update from President Bill Allan on YouTube at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTZ-RLZQMu8>