

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J 0R4

March 2017

An Opportunity Embraced by Darlene Eerkes

Early in November I was approached by a long-time friend and colleague to consider going with him to Ghana, Africa, as learning leaders through Edu Deo (a Canadian organization that provides Christian education training for international schools/partners). It was hard to contain my excitement with this possibility – *I have always wanted to go to Africa!* And, I was able to take Peter with me, although Peter's excitement with this adventure was less than mine. After getting all our shots, enduring a complicated Visa process, planning a five day conference for Christian school administrators and lead teachers of the International Needs Ghana (INGH) Christian Schools, we left Canada on January 17, 2017.

Our first two days in Africa were spent visiting Christian Schools: Amahia Christian School – just outside the capital city of Accra and Kpogede Christian School (near the town of Adidome) about 2.5 hours drive from Accra. The children were amazing – delightful. That is another whole story! Many of them have Canadian sponsors for their education and support that is needed for their families in these rural areas.

In Adidome, sixteen Christian education leaders came together, from three schools and the International needs administration, to spend a week learning how education can be Christ-centered in Christian schools. We shared our God stories and studied Ghanaian curriculum, using a Christ centered worldview approach that I have had the privilege to work with for over a decade. At the end of the conference, participants articulated a new vision for their schools: *"Shaping hearts, minds and hands through Christ-centered education to transform the world."* One man summed up a lot of the responses: ... *this Christ centered way of working with curriculum in the classroom will change our teaching. And, the "Lord of all things" learning will change the way we think about life with family, friends, relationships, politics, the environment, etc.* They expressed their deep joy and discovery with a new Christian education worldview that makes us active participants in bringing the Kingdom of God to Earth (as it is in Heaven). What a thrilling experience to be part of their faith journey!



So, in spite of power outages (really did need our flashlight), bathing from buckets (sometimes), toileting challenges, trickle/cold showers (when available), constantly ensuring that clean water is accessible and taking care to eat certain foods – I want to go back to Africa. I want to sing and worship with my African brothers and sisters. Wow – can they sing and dance! These participants believe their lives have been changed. I know my life has been changed by what I saw, heard and experienced in Ghana!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Think deeply.
Look outwards.
Love fiercely.
Be generous.*

In This Issue

- An Opportunity Embraced
- Glimpses of Ghana
- Nick & Becky Bauman Arrive in Nepal
- From our Minister
- Jackie Bannerman Arrives in Hungary

See another story about Ghana on page 2



Emmanuel Church, Many Kpongunor, Ghana

Glimpses of Ghana by Naomi Broni

We (Emmanuel and I) arrived in Ghana on January 15. As we stepped off the plane, all thoughts of snow and cold were gone. I was left with the excitement of seeing my family and friends.

My last visit was for my dad's burial rites. This visit was to celebrate the one year anniversary of dad's passing and to visit my mother, siblings, relatives and friends. We stayed mainly in Accra, Many Kpongunor, dad's hometown, and Nuaso my mother's hometown. The one year anniversary activities included attending a church service at Emmanuel Congregation, Many Kpongunor's branch of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

Not much has changed! There was heavy traffic on the roads, and the city was bustling with various activities. In addition to visiting with family and friends, we attended an engagement and wedding of one of my nieces and Emmanuel attended a funeral at Suhum, where he met some former students from more than 30 years ago.

One new thing on this visit was, the opportunity to meet with fellow Dayspring members Darlene and Peter Eerkes and their friend Elco. Due to our conflicting schedules, we briefly met at the airport on their way back to Canada. We drove around Accra; from Supreme Court buildings, through Bank of Ghana, Independence square, Osu Castle and finally to Ghana Parliament building. It was a hilarious trip with discussions on "stupid chicken" (you may need to ask Darlene for that story)!

Emmanuel and I left Accra on February 3. At the airport and in preparation for the boarding call, the lights went off, but a standby power generator kicked in just in time. At that time, I looked at Emmanuel and with a smile we both said it is time to go back home – we are done with "dumsor" (unexpected power interruptions in Ghanaian parlance)!

Nick & Becky Bauman Arrive in Nepal

Supported by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we will be spending 2 years seconded to the United Mission to Nepal. We will be spending the first 6 weeks in Kathmandu, doing a crash-course in Nepali, as well as general orientation, and thereafter we will be going to Tansen, a smaller town of 30K where we will be living for the next few years in a Christian community.

Nick will be working as a surgeon-teacher there, supported by 2 other experienced general surgeons, one Nepali, and one from the UK. He will be teaching and supporting surgical-residents, as well as general practitioner-residents. (www.tansenhospital.org.np)

The children will be going to school from 9 until 1 in Tansen with a few other expat children (it will be like 'homeschooling' except taught by an experienced teacher), and will get to experience a different way of living – perhaps to counter some of the effects of influenza.

Becky has as-of-yet not committed to any particular assignment officially, but will be focusing initially on making sure that the children especially have "landed" and feel stable as our family undergoes this new transition. There are opportunities for her as an Occupational Therapist at the UMN 170 bed hospital, but I also know that she finds joy interacting with people in their own home environments.

In our tradition the biblical story offers the enticement of a God who offers new beginnings – the option of a fresh start. We wish you all the best of new beginnings that a New Year has to offer, and thank you for your prayers as we try to live faithfully into this new adventure.

(from PCCconnect)



Dr. Nick & Becky Bauman

FROM OUR MINISTER



Heinrich Grosskopf



Dayspring at Worship: Communion by Intinction (every other month)

A Gospel that Surprises

At Dayspring Church we strive to be current and reasonably progressive in the way we do things. This has really been part of our identity from the start in 1969.

Does this mean we make changes to be “with it,” simply for the sake of being on the cutting edge? I would daresay “no” we don’t move forward just to be in step with the rest of the world. We want to make a difference, but we do also want to be faithful to our roots of being part of the reformed tradition.

At the General Assembly our Presbyterian Church in Canada adopted a “strategic plan” and this starts out with the following mission statement: “As a Reformed church, we rely on the truth and inspiration of Scriptures for God’s guidance into the future — a future that we approach with wonder and anticipation, knowing God is with us.”

Therefore, when we approach the season of Lent, we do it with a measure of careful anticipation that the mystery of God will speak to us. This dimension of being careful and even vigilant and discerning, allows us to not have “down pat” answers for everything that exists. The theme for the messages on Sundays is “A gospel that surprises...” and I do have this challenge to each of us as we read this reflection: Let us be open to the notion that things aren’t all cut and dry and readily figured out.

When the apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians, there are a few verses that bring me to a halt: “I pray that, according to the riches of (God’s) glory, (God) may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16-19, NRSV)

Let us allow God to draw us closer so that we may indeed be filled with all the fullness of God during this Easter Season, always willing to be open and, if necessary, to be changed in the ways we think and believe.

Heinrich



Greetings from Hungary: Jackie Bannerman

Hello! My name is Jackie Bannerman and I am a PCC young adult intern working in Budapest for 8 months with the Reformed Church of Hungary. I spend the majority of my time working at Kalunba, the RCH's refugee ministry implementing organization. So far I have started teaching English to refugees and translating for those coming from French-speaking African countries. I also spend some time at the national church office where I help with communications projects, such as coordinating with international delegates for the Starpoint Festival this summer. In addition, I spend two afternoons a week at an after school program for Roma youth, where I lead activities and English programming.

I was fortunate enough to join Glynis Williams and Ian Ross-McDonald on a trip to Debrecen last week, where we celebrated 500 years since the Reformation with many other international guests. We enjoyed a beautiful service in the Great Reformed Church in Debrecen and learned about the Reformation's lasting impact on Hungary. We then went just across the Hungarian border to Ukraine, where we learned from the Bishop of the Sub-Carpathian Reformed Church and PCC partners David and Anna Pándy-Szekeres about their work with Roma people. We caught a glimpse of the extreme poverty they live in while visiting a high school and primary school for Roma children.

During my short time here, I have already learned a lot about the struggles refugees in Hungary face due to the government's removal of social assistance and their discrimination from the general public. I am also learning about the discrimination of Roma people and how, even though they are marginalized, they are still generally more accepted and supported than refugees in Hungarian society. I am learning about the extreme privilege I have in comparison to many of the people I work with simply because of where I was born and what language I grew up speaking. It has only been a few weeks, so I am looking forward to what I will learn and how I will grow by the end of my time here.

(from PCConnect)

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SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Darlene Eerkes

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

Bill Davis	Walters Munde
Jane de Caen	Nick Nation
John Carr	Stanley Ngwa
Ingrid Dukhedin-Lalla	Laura Patterson-Fortin
Peter Eerkes	Fortin
Carina Grosskopf	Todd Shipman
Sam Jaikaran	Darleen Springstein
Gina Kottke	Heather Tansem

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn Vaughan

Youth Coordinator: Shane Johnson

Worship Arts Coordinator
Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

Pianist: Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

Alternate Pianist
Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.
(Education)

Administrative Assistant: Linda
Custodians: Lindsey & Jim Matthew