



August 2024

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Fundraising

Coronation EFC is rebuilding after the fire that destroyed their building last September.



To find out more or to help support their fundraising efforts please visit:

coronationevangelicalfreechurch.com/online-giving.

ONE FEAR

What are you afraid of? I have become convinced that this question is important for our spiritual maturity. The dispute that made me aware of how often competing fears cause conflict was this; am I more afraid of sickness and death or government overreach? After spending months seeking to remain unified when even I could not answer this question, I began to see how often competing fears lead to conflict. Fear of wasting money vs fear of missing mission opportunities. Fear of damaged reputation vs fear of moral compromise. Fear of losing young people vs fear of rapid change.

Fear is not the best place from which to make decisions. In fact, fear is clearly not among the emotions that emanate from the presence of the Holy Spirit. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Tim. 1:7). When I think about fearlessness the Bible story that first comes to mind is the account of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the fiery furnace (Dan. 3:1-25). Thee three men are held up as heroes of faith. They prove to be wise in the ways of living faithfully in a hostile environment. They had a lot of good reason to be afraid:

- Nebuchadnezzar was powerful beyond imagination.
- The high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and provincial officials were all aligned with Nebuchadnezzar.
- Their disobedience was public.
- They were from a minority cultural group.
- The threatened punishment was severe.
- People from their own professional peer group told on them
- The king was in a rage.
- The punishment was made even more severe.

I don't know about you, but I think I would excuse a fear reaction for

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CALENDAR

APD District Conference - October 25-26 @ EFC of Erskine. The guest speaker is Kelly Steffen who is the Program Director and Professor of Youth and Pastoral Ministry at Prairie College in Three Hills.

Further information and registration details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars with this important date.

APD Financial Report For the Month Ended May 31, 2024

Please note, donations can be made through e-transfer to: giving@albertaparklanddistrict.ca

<u>General Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Monthly	5,756	9,858	-4,102
Year-to-Date	65,119	78,867	-13,748
General Fund Balance/(Deficit)	-19,428		

Want to **donate** to the APD?

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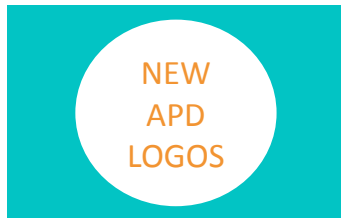
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any one of these threats. But this is not what happened. These men of faith responded with , "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if He doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up". It is clear that they did not fear the king, but that they did fear the Lord, a demonstration that, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom".

What are you afraid of? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were able to avoid worshipping a political idol because they only had one fear. They feared the Lord their God and nothing else, not even King Nebuchadnezzar. We humans tend to bend a knee to what we are afraid of. Another way to say this is, "you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father'". (Rom 8:15). But, "The LORD delivers and vindicates me! I fear no one! The LORD protects my life! I am afraid of no one!" (Ps 27:1)

So...what are you afraid of?

Marvin Penner



Does your church have a "good news" story that would make a great short video? Put it on film and share it with us, or contact the APD office to get help.

Scan the code to view this video featuring the Clairmont Community Church.



FEATURED CHURCH



EAGLESHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH

I have been asked to submit a write-up about Eglesham Community Church.

Eglesham is a small hamlet of about 125 people, located in a farming area in the Peace Country, half-way between Grande Prairie and Peace River. Industries in our area include farming and oil field work. Close to 110 people consider Eglesham Community Church their home church, most of them coming from farms near Eglesham.

My wife, Barb, and I came to pastor this church in 1995. I had in mind we would be here 3 years or so but we loved our church and community and are now approaching retirement at the end of August, after 29 years of having the privilege of serving with our church family. In that time we have fellowshipped with three generations of many families. What a blessing and joy it has been to watch children through the stages from birth to elementary school, to youth groups, to baptism, to college to marriage and then starting the cycle over again with children of their own.

We have been blessed with something of a baby boom the past 10 years and have 25 children under the age of 10 who attend. It has been very satisfying to see busy couples with young children take on leadership roles in our church in recent

years. Youth groups have been key ministries of our church, drawing many children and young people from the community. Many in our congregation are quite active in various other community events and organizations as well.

How would I briefly describe the people of our church? Hard working, fun loving, serious about their faith, conservative, generous and willing to help and serve. In the years we've been in Eglesham and of the things I am most grateful for is the sense that our church family truly is family. As with any family there can occasionally be misunderstandings and hurt feelings, but for the most part people of our congregation love to fellowship together, many staying on Sundays for an hour or so after the service visiting. We have walked through many highs and lows, joys and grief over the years. When I reflect on how our church family comes together during significant times I am reminded of Romans 12:15: "Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep."

A couple of recent accomplishments of our church include the revision of our constitution. A committee of 11 people met regularly for about a year and a half seeking the mind of the Lord for our church, carefully and prayerfully considering the various articles of our constitution and by-laws, doing so with careful consideration in a spirit of cooperation and we actually enjoyed the process. And earlier in the spring a number of men got together over three warm days to replace our church's shingles with tin. What a blessing it is when members of a church family are willing to give and serve the Lord and one another.

Our church would be grateful to know that other churches in the APD will be praying for us as our search committee leads in the search of our next pastor. Personally, I am looking forward to seeing who the Lord will choose to bless by bringing him to serve as pastor of our church community.

Thank you for allowing me to express my gratitude for our congregation.

Dave Squires

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