DISTRICT DIARIES

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A STREET MISSION OF LOVE AND HOPE

Although it may be hard for most of us to understand homelessness...
We can ALL understand hopelessness.

The Old Strathcona Street Mission carries a growing reputation as people who, in the spirit of Jesus, walk alongside those struggling with hopelessness on the streets and shelters in Old Strathcona. Our approach is not built on programs or quick fixes—it is grounded in mutually vulnerable relationships. We believe change begins with trust, respect, and the willingness to share life, not just resources.

Daily, we spend time with our homeless neighbors: listening to their stories, sharing our own, and allowing God to weave genuine friendships between us. This journey is never one-directional. As we extend compassion, we also receive wisdom and resilience in return.

Many of our friends begin to experience shifts in purpose and behavior through the power of friendship and the reality of Jesus' love. Time and again, we are privileged to see people move from hopelessness to HOPE.

The mission is based out of Knox EFC, whose location in Old Strathcona strengthens this partnership and supports outreach ministries that help bring light and hope directly into the neighborhood.

To contact Aaron or Dennis call or text 780 716 9448 or 780 934 6942, or for more information about this mission of love, please visit thestreetmission.org.

Aaron Cranton

Aaron leads with Christlike humility, building bridges of love, respect, and community service - illustrating deep love and respect for all.

Dennis Fruck

Dennis's quiet strength and compassion reveal Christ's love through actions more powerful than words, touching hearts deeply.

APD Financial Report For the Month Ended August 31, 2025

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

General Receipts	Actual	Budget	Variance
Monthly	3,739	10,000	(6,261)
Year-to-Date	100,254	110,000	(9,746)
General Fund Balance/(Deficit)	(4,873)		

Longing

October 2025

I hadn't thought about my grade school friends or the locations we hung out at for years. Driving through the town where I grew up brought those memories all back in a flood. The one that surprised me the most was the sudden awakening of an intense longing for the local mom and pop burger and shake drive in. The memories of connection with friends and family that revolve around that place have an important place in my formation.

I'm thinking about longings because I was reading about the longing that the apostle Paul felt for the believers in Thessalonica. "Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us." (1Thes 2:17-18)

Have I ever "tried again and again" to meet with Christians in another place from another church? Have you? It is clear that Paul placed a high value on face-to-face contact. It was much more difficult and expensive to travel in those days than it is now, yet he made every effort to visit the Christian brothers and sisters he knew and loved. I am the last person to dismiss the value of information tech that helps us all communicate. The value of tech is an augment, rather than a replacement, for real in person relationship. My experience traveling from church to church around the district tells me that you have fully embraced the value of meeting in person in your church buildings, homes, and communities. But I'm talking about something that goes beyond this. The longing to know our fellow believers in other places is something that the apostle Paul expressed in many of his letters.

Continued

CALENDAR

APD CONFERENCE: October 24-25 at Bezanson Community Church. Our guest speaker is Darrin Hotte. Visit our APD website to register. *(See inside).*

APD CHURCHES: Feel free to advertise your public events here. Email us your details at: office@albertaparklanddistrict.ca - and we'll help spread the word. We can also highlight events on our website.

*Want to **donate** to the APD?*

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Mail us a check (address on reverse)

Go to albertaparklanddistrict.ca and click the DONATE button

I remember a time when I would attend five APD and EFCC gatherings every year (District Conference, National Conference, Pastor's and wives retreat, National Ministerial meetings, and APD men's retreat). All of these gatherings were well attended, and I got to know many people across the EFCC within just a few years. I don't know what happened to us all between then and now but I feel an intense longing for those gatherings. It would be nice to go back in time and have a milkshake with my family but that is not possible. It would also be nice to gather with everyone from across the APD and EFCC several times a year. I wonder if this would be possible. Do you long to be together with your brothers and sisters as well? Do we long for this with enough intensity to try again and again to make it happen?

By Marvin Penner

Interested in serving?

Consider the APD Board!

Email Tim at apdmensministry@gmail.com to learn about the nomination and election process. Elections will be held in October during our Annual Conference.

APD 2025

Annual Conference

Join us in Bezanson, AB, Oct 24–25 for our annual conference with guest speaker Darrin Hotte, conflict mediator, as he shares insights on…

Engaging Conflict in the Church

Conflict is unavoidable in the life of the church—but it doesn't have to be destructive. In this engaging and practical keynote series, conflict resolution specialist Darrin Hotte will help us reframe conflict not as a failure, but as an opportunity for growth, clarity, and Kingdom witness. Through biblical insight, real-life experience, and practical tools, we'll explore why conflict erupts in Christian communities, what's often going on beneath the surface, and how to engage with courage and clarity. Some of the topics include:

- The 6 Causes of Conflict
- Benefits of Conflict
- Christian Culture's Conflict Problem
- The Role of Emotion
- Iceberg Model of Conflict Needs

Whether you're currently navigating difficult conversations or simply seeking to build a healthier church culture, these sessions will equip you to better lead with wisdom, compassion, and hope. Sessions will include teaching, reflection, and Q&A.

For more info or registration details scan the code or visit our website. Also, check out our promo VIDEO!

New Bell Tower and Steeple

GRACE GOSPEL CHAPEL

Hello everyone! It has been an exciting year at Grace Gospel Chapel, and we are thrilled to share just a couple of highlights from this time.

Recently, we completed a project that has been in the works for some time. Our church wanted a bell and steeple both to signal where we are, and call people in to worship. We wanted our steeple to be seen from the highway, even at night, so a great deal of planning was involved.

The project included the construction of the steeple and refurbishing of the bell, which Marvin Penner found and transported to us. Roy McCarty spearheaded the work on this and spent countless hours bringing it to fruition. The steeple and bell were raised this spring, and both are a resounding success. The children in our congregation enjoy taking turns ringing the bell every Sunday.

Along with our new bell tower and steeple, we added a new sign, which signifies to everyone what we believe!

Our church family hosted a community barbecue to celebrate the completion of this project, and many people came out to join us. Throughout the year, we offer a variety of activities as part of our ongoing outreach to the community.

Community Barbeque

Grace Gospel Chapel is a vibrant church with parishioners dedicated to the unity of our church, the well-being of our members, and to furthering God's Kingdom on earth.

Despite our differences with our National Board our work goes on and many wonderful things are happening!

Our New Sign

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To receive our *District Diaries* publication directly, please scan the QR code or click the 'subscribe' button on our home page at www.albertaparklanddistrict.ca

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