

Word from Pastor Don: Distraction Not a Trivial Matter

When we gather together, within the circle of people called the church, and do or say things that misdirect the life, worship, and service that the church is to be involved in, what does this say about ourselves? Whether or not we justify our actions or words based on higher principles of theology, we still have to look at the fact that the church is the body of Christ and we are not being the blessing to it that we need to be in praying for it and encouraging it to simply move forward in service.

Several years ago, I was working with a large organization where I was responsible for training and supervising large numbers of personnel. As it happens, our organization rotated in new leadership from time to time and our region received a new director. Without lengthy evaluation, I'll just say that the new man was in "deeper water than he knew how to swim in." As he splashed around in the water, he grabbed multiple people and almost drowned them all for he was doing everything he could to show that he "understood" the needs of this new region and could manage it well. His ego and

hunger to show himself capable, without daring to ask for assistance in understanding his surroundings, resulted in many personnel "surrendering" from ministry roles that they had spent years developing.

Just as there is no perfect business, company, or organization, no perfect local church exists. Our challenge, as one of those imperfect churches, is to remain a blessing in supporting and praying that God will guide our hearts to avoid pride, harmful attitudes, and actions that distract us from enjoying our service to the Father! May we offer our time, our money, and our energies in service without expectation that we ever actually "get what we deserve" for that would be a sad day for any of us! Spending energy blaming others or complaining about the inadequacies of our imperfect church can take away our "joy in Christ" while our world truly is full of people who need to know Jesus! May we focus less on ourselves and more on Him. (John 3:30)

Prayer Items

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

—Isaiah 53:5

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

—John 13:35

"Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?" —Acts 2:8

Church Family/Congregation

1. Praise God for His faithfulness, love, mercy, grace and protection for the last 46 years and years to come.
2. Praise God for the faithful service of all pastors, leaders, church staff and active members of VCBC.
3. Pray for provision of one CC pastor and one EC youth pastor and more EC deacons.
4. Pray for healing for those with a health problem, strength and energy for their caregivers.
5. Pray for salvation for seekers among us.

Congregational Life/Youth Ministry

1. Praise God for the team's great effort organizing Summer Conference, BBQ, Christmas Celebration and other events.
2. Praise God for the faithfulness of previous youth/leaders of EDGE.
3. Pray for provision of more new youth leaders for the coming year.

Worship Ministry

1. Praise God for the faithfulness of the team leading us into true worship through hymns every Sunday.
2. Praise God for their great effort practicing weekly.
3. Pray for provision of more new members joining the team.

Social Ministry

1. Pray for God's choice of a federal government that adheres to Christian principles. Pray that more people will vote in the October federal election.
2. Pray for provision of a second vehicle, a computer, basketball set and some gymnastic equipment for Breakthrough ministry.
3. Pray for provision of financial need for ICC.

sunday worship at vcbc

27 September 2015

9:30AM English
Worship Service

www.vcbc.bc.ca/english



Sunday Worship Service.
Photo credit: Chris Cheung

Order of Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 130:1-4

Praise & Worship

*This is Amazing Grace,
Forever Reign,
Majesty (Here I Am)*

Sharing of Community Life

Tithes & Offering

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Scripture Passage & Message

Malachi 3

**Be a Good Boy Scout... Be
Prepared!**

Pastor Don Gardner

Invitation/Response

Lord I Need You

Closing Prayer

Doxology

Please feel free to stand or sit as we sing.
Friendly reminder for parents of
preschoolers and kindergarteners: please
pick up your children downstairs at 10:45.

Sermon Outline and Discussion Starters

Pastor Don Gardner | Be a Good Boy Scout...Be Prepared! | Malachi 3

- I. Warning: Refiner's Fire
- II. Humble Yourself and be Blessed: Tithes & Offerings
- III. Arrogant Bargaining with God over Serving Him
- IV. Faithfulness is NOT about Reward
- V. The Day of the Lord is Coming! (Ch. 4)

Sermon Based Discussion Group Questions:

1. Do You live your life as a "sacrifice to God" or not? Explain and justify your reality!
2. How can I be a spiritual person in a world that doesn't seem to respect this? Explain.
3. Does God really need my money and time? I don't have enough money as it is!
4. How do I know that serving God is a good usage of my time and resources?
5. What is in it for me to be faithful to God? Practical?
6. The warning is there that the Day of the Lord will come but is it urgent for my life to worry?

Events This Week For You To Be Involved

Sunday (today)

1. Prayer Group at 8:45am; Contact Betty at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca

2. Worship

3. MBM is at 1pm in the sanctuary

Monday

Small group discussion. Young adults, young couples welcome. Contact henryhwcheung@msn.com

Tuesday

Toonie Tues. Badminton; Sep-June from 8-10pm at Moberly School (\$2 drop-in); Contact Heman at hemanc@gmail.com

Wednesday

1. Dayspring Ladies Bible Study; (1st & 3rd Wed at 1pm); VCBC Rm B3-5; Contact Carolyn at carolynyp1949@gmail.com
2. Church-wide Prayer Meeting; Weekly at 7:30pm in VCBC basement; All welcome (primarily Cantonese but we'll translate as needed!)

Thursday

"Experiencing Forgiveness" Women's Bible Study; (3rd Thurs at 7:30pm); Winnie's home; Contact Winnie Lai-Fong or Cindy So.

Friday

Prayer Group at 7:45pm (1st Friday); VCBC W2; Contact Winnie at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca

Saturday

Journey Young Adult Fellowship. 7:30pm in VCBC room B3-5. Contact Chris at ChrisChCheung@hotmail.com or ask for a Journeyer to get introduced today!

*Homebuilders small groups. For family & couples. Various times. Contact Cindy at cindyso@vcbc.bc.ca

Announcements

1. **Members' Bi-monthly Meeting (MBM)** - Will be held **TODAY 1:00 pm** in the sanctuary. Please refer to the insert or foyer bulletin board for the Motions as well as Resolutions from the July 26 MBM and Aug. 23 Special Members' Meeting (SMM). Limited quantity of Chinese buns will be for sale in the basement before the meeting. **Registered VCBC Members** please sign in and obtain your Ballot at the registration tables in the foyer before the meeting. **Notes:** (1) Non-members do not have voting rights; (2) Obtaining Ballot and/or Voting on behalf of another person is not permitted; (3) All Ballots are the property of VCBC, all unused Ballots must be returned to the registration table before leaving; (4) Minutes for the July 26 MBM and Aug. 23 SMM are now posted in the foyer and also available at the Church Office.
2. **Prayer Retreat - Saturday Oct 17, 9 am - 12 pm**, followed by lunch. It is important to take time from our busy schedules to fellowship with God - our Father and our Creator. The time spent in prayer will positively impact us, our community, and the world around us. Registration starts **TODAY** until Oct 11. For further questions, please contact Winnie Lai-Fong at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca
3. **Staff News** - (1) Pastor Sam will be on a 2-week annual vacation this Tuesday; (2) Petra will be on a 2-week vacation this Tuesday; (3) Custodian Raymond Fong has made a request last week to reduce his work hours to 8 hours per week.
4. **VCBC is now Hiring a Full-time or Half-time Custodian** - The Custodian is responsible for cleaning, maintaining, and keeping the church in good running condition. Salary is dependent on related experience and skills. Group health benefits are provided. Please contact Clement Ng or Marcus Leung (Personnel Committee), or Stanley Lau (Administrative Assistant).
5. **General Service Dept.** - During the time that we're looking for a Custodian, please help keep the church clean and tidy. Everyone is asked to please return tables, chairs, equipment etc. to their original place after use. After eating, please dispose of food scraps separately from other garbage and recyclables, wash all utensils and clean up any mess, and cover all food or store them in fridge to avoid attracting mice and ants. If you're willing to help with other cleaning chores (e.g. washrooms, vacuuming), please contact Church Office. Let's all do our part in keeping our spiritual home and place of worship safe and clean!
6. **Weddings** - Congratulations to Sueann and Garry, who got married yesterday, and to **Christy Lew and Angel Albizurez de la Rosa**, who will be getting married at VCBC this Saturday at 11am, followed by a reception! You are all invited to attend the ceremony and reception.
7. We are still accepting **Pioneer Clubs registration** for the Fall Term (Oct 2015 to Jun 2016). Registration table is in the basement on Sundays or register at church office during weekdays. Fee: \$70/child.
8. **Offering and Expenditure** for the month of **August 2015**, and Year-To-Date balance/(deficit) for all Funds are now posted on the EC bulletin board in the basement (outside rm B1-2).