

Pastor Profile

“Brent Who?”

The Synod of Canada is a geographic behemoth.

“Where exactly is Wainfleet?” may ask a member of the Classis of British Columbia.

Paralleling that question, from our other Canadian Classes might come, “Fujian Evangelical Church? Where’s that? Brent Mulder? Who’s that? Well, lets get to know each other then.

Yes, Brent Mulder, one member of the multi-pastor team of Synod Canada’s Chinese language congregation, has been in the RCA from the day that cute bundle of joy was baptized at Calgary Reformed Church. Mom and dad were fresh immigrants from Holland – a new son for the new world. At home and at church he was taught to love the Lord.

Junior High School years, the *Cal Hayes Evangelism Teams* brought the message of hope in a crusade at Calgary Reformed Church that led Brent to step forward to make Jesus the Lord of his life. The move of the Spirit opened the doors of his heart.

Then another move. The Mulders ‘emigrated’ to Abbotsford, BC in 1979 – Bethel Reformed Church became their new home. After his confession of faith at Bethel – the Lord began to open the doors for service.

The leaders challenged him to step out in faith, “Be a Sunday School teacher Brent!” “Would you like to be the Superintendent of Sunday School Brent?” “We think you’d make a great deacon Brent.” “How about prison ministry Brent?” What a joy

to serve!

“But God, can I do more? Here I am, send me.”

That prayer opened the doors for nearly twelve years of service with “*Mercy Ships*” and “*Youth With A Mission*” supported by the offerings and prayers of the members of Bethel! It was a team effort. What blessings it produced.

In 1998 Brent returned to Canada, with a beautiful wife from Taiwan and two daughters, one born in Taiwan, one born in Fiji – Brent and his family had been busy planting Bible Schools around the globe. But now it was time to take the next big step – the call to be a pastor.

Classis British Columbia took Brent under their care looking towards ordination. Trinity Western University became his new ‘home’ along with extra studies through the MFCA.

MDiv – ✓, Extra RCA courses ✓, Chaplaincy course – ✓, Classis exams – ✓

Two years of student pastor work followed three years of intern work at Emmaus Christian Fellowship their new home in Langley, BC. Five years – it went so fast. Then another move.

Brent, Sung-Han, Megan and Maria moved to Richmond BC last year. April 1st – a new role in a special place. Ordination day at Fujian Evangelical Church was a celebration! The Lord continues to lead. What a joy!

That’s it from here. Be sure to stop by and visit sometime – we are only five minutes from the airport ... and you don’t need to speak Chinese either.



Regional Synod of Canada Inc., RCA

Volume 5, Issue 4

December 2007

Kapteyn’s Korner

As the song says, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year”

I love Christmas. I love the lights, the music, the special services, and the gatherings. It is the most wonderful time of the year.



The most wonderful aspect of Christmas is that it celebrates the coming of Christ into our world. It is a reminder that there is hope. In the midst of all the darkness, there is light. In John 1, God tells us that the darkness has not overcome the light of the glory of God.

My prayer for you is that this Christmas you may have and hold onto the hope which we have in Jesus. We may wonder what the future holds for the church which Christ initiated. I need not talk of the struggles all churches are having in a myriad of ways.

I would rather be reminded of God’s promises. Paul tells us that Jesus is ruling the world for the church. “God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for *the church*, which is His body” (Eph. 1:22).

Instead of lamenting over the darkness or fearing what lies ahead, I invite you to be proactive in bringing the light of Christ into the world.

We do this by faithfully proclaiming the truth that salvation is found in Christ

alone, by sharing His care for the sick, the poor and the needy, and by showing unity in our love for each other.

Not only will we shine forth the true light, but we will quicken the day when Christ will come again. We are told that Christ will return when the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world (Matt. 25:14).

What a day that will be! Every knee shall bow and confess Jesus as Lord!

I love the lights of Christmas, but the future it points to will be much brighter.

May Christ’s light shine in the Regional Synod of Canada as we hold forth the word of hope!

Mobilizing for Mission (MFM) Update

- Received and Pledged to Date - \$6,340
- Remember MFM in your year-end givings.
- “A new day has dawned in the history of our Canadian RCA churches. God calls us to meet new challenges. We will help “Mobilize for Mission.” Come, join us!” Rev. John and Mrs. Joan Drost.
- MFM monies are already at work – helping 2 churches in visioning and providing a discipleship workshop

Published by the Regional Synod of Canada Inc. Synod, Reformed Church in America

R.R.#4, 1985 Beke Road, Cambridge, Ontario, CANADA N1R 5S5

Telephone: (519) 622-1777 • Fax: (519) 622-1993

Contact: Rev. John Kapteyn, Executive Secretary • E-mail: jkapteyn@reformed-church.com

Barb Laidlaw, Admin. Manager • E-mail: RSCLaidlaw@aol.com or blaidlaw@reformed-church.com

Reflections on Ministry

Part 2

By Rev. Joe Fenton

As an RCA pastor, I wish to share a couple of observations.

First: We need an attitude of "excellence" within our ministries. It is better to do a few things well than many things poorly. We often believe every past ministry is important and necessary without calculating its effectiveness and the energy it absorbs.

Growing up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in the middle of a peach orchard, I observed the practice of pruning. Some peach trees were loaded with fruit, but when the workers came at least one third was on the ground. Were they deformed or rotten? Not at all! Pruning resulted in less but better fruit.

We have limited money and people to serve. Do our resources create the sweetest largest fruit? Do we develop the attitude of excellence? Is "just getting the job done" good enough? Or, do we feel in our hearts that taking more time and resources and offering our best to the Most High King is more important? Cheapest and quickest is not always the best. If churches are not growing and producing fruit, what are we offering first, to our King and second, to the world?

Second: Leadership development and accountability are priorities. Accountability is like a swear word to many and membership is seen as distasteful as it requires commitment and accountability. Some say "but we are volunteers not the staff." Does being a Christian and faithfully serving our Lord have anything to do with whether or we are a full-time staff member or a lay person serving Christ in the local body for the glory of God?



Also, what attitude is leadership displaying? If a pastor and consistory are on fire and committed to being the hands and feet of Christ, the

people will become the same. Good and bad things are passed on from the leaders to the people. Pray that God will work in our hearts and make us a passionate people for Him. Imagine the transformation that would take place in our congregations! Imagine the impression we would have on those who visit our church or we rub shoulders with at work and in our neighborhood! We can become the light of the world...we just have to get our fires stoked!

Unless God builds the house, the labourers labour in vain. May God work the soil of our hearts—planting the seed of His word so that it takes root and grows us into healthy producing trees for Him. If we pray for it, He will answer because it will bring glory to Himself for His is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Praise God who makes all things new!

Rev. Fenton is the pastor Elmwood Reformed Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Regional Synod News

Wainfleet: Installation: November 16 filled Maranatha Reformed Church for the installation for their new shepherd Pastor Emile Schmid and his wife Jenny. Many churches from the classes attended. .

Cedar Grove: Pastor Bill Hudson is retiring at the end of March, 2008

Upcoming Events

ONE THING - Denominational event in San Antonio, Texas. January 23-26th, 2008

Christian Education Report

It was great to see 16 RCA Sunday school teachers and youth leaders at Connect 2008, the annual day of training and encouragement for children's and youth ministry workers in Ontario. In all, almost 200 people attended the event, and responses were very positive. Ontarians, circle Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008 on your calendars. That's the date for Connect 2008, and we've invited Kirsty De Pree, Coordinator for Discipleship for the RCA, to be the keynote speaker. The conference will once again be held at Hamilton District Christian High School in Ancaster.

I want to let you know about some wonderful new resources for leadership development and discipleship training:

"VantagePoint 3" is an in-depth leadership training program. Though this is a 3-year program, participants commit to only one year (9 months of study) at a time. Participants meet weekly for group work, and bi-monthly or monthly with individual mentors. Facilitators, who lead the weekly group sessions, receive 5 days of training in two blocks, at various

Prayers

- Woodgrove Christian Community Church as they begin their Visioning process in January. The first step in our journey towards finding a Pastor. For Pastor Les and Nina as they prepare for retirement.
- Healing of cancer for elders Al Nyp, (Brantford) and Jack Moerman (Chatham)
- That Mobilizing for Mission be an effective tool for enabling us to live out the dreams that God has placed in our hearts
- God's guidance for "One Thing" and CP&D Summit.

locations in the US and Canada. This is a program for churches that are serious about leadership development in their congregations. It is fairly expensive, but subsidies are available from the RSC, so don't let cost be an obstacle. An 8-week introduction to the VantagePoint 3 program—called "Grow Up!"—will be available next spring for those who want to get a taste of the program. For more information go to www.vantagepoint3.org or contact me.

The RCA and CRC have collaborated on an excellent discipleship program for adults, called "Disciples." Disciples is a multi-year program that combines small group study (with excellent leader guides), home study (with engaging, thought-provoking daily readings), and free, downloadable worship and sermon resources. It is designed to "take you from discipleship basics to finding your place in God's mission." Each year consists of five 5-week studies, for a total of 25 weeks of study per year. The costs are reasonable, especially when materials are purchased in bulk. For more information, go to www.growdisciples.org.

Leaders on the Horizon is a new leadership development program for youth. For more information on this RCA resource, contact Bob Cleveringa at the Synodthe Heartland office at 712-737-4959 cleveringa@heartlandsynod.org.

We plan to hold a day-long introduction of these resources on February 23rd in Ontario. Please mark this day on your calendars. More details to come. The Regional Synod of Canada will also subsidize the cost of the above resources, if required and requested, as part of Mobilizing for Mission.

Susan Damon
Education consultant, RSC
519-747-2400
susandamon@sympatico.ca