“Reaching into a New Year”

December 27, 2020

As we close this amazing, uncomfortable and uncharted year of 2020, we also finish the series, “Rooted and Reaching”. All through the fall we have explored the “Big Ideas” of Vision 2025:

- **A Bold New Leadership Approach** – “We will ignite a new leadership culture by reshaping the role of the Lead Pastor into a Pastoral Team Lead and a new Volunteer Pastoral Team.”
- **Kingdom Advancing** – “a ‘kingdom advancing’ structure that allows for more organic movement of the spirit, makes us culturally relevant and permits healthy growth.”
- **Core Values** – “We will establish a set of Core Values … as a guiding beacon for all we do.”
- **Rooted and Reaching Discipleship** – “a two-fold … discipleship approach, built on the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course and an in-house developed ‘Reach’ curriculum.” Concurrently with this last series, we launched the pilot version of the EHS course. I hope you will consider taking the course when it is next offered.

Before our final destination in heaven, Jesus left us with a job to do:

- “…<u>you will be my witnesses</u> in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)
- … <u>he has committed to us the message of reconciliation</u>. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

In the beauty and mystery of God’s will, he has chosen to use us to introduce others to his kingdom. If you are like me, you don’t feel qualified. That’s why Vision 2025 calls for “an in-house developed ‘Reach’ curriculum.” Here are some components that might be part of future training to help prepare us as more effective ambassadors:

- A strong foundation – some basic Bible teaching on why outreach is integral to the Christian faith.
- A simple testimony – help in preparing our own personal faith story of how we came to faith and the difference Jesus has made.
- A variety of approaches – looking at different ways we might share faith in our relationships since no two of us are exactly alike.
- A chance to practice – perhaps walking through or role-playing how we might naturally speak of our faith.

It will also be helpful as a church to review all our programs to see how we can sharpen our outreach focus in each activity. Introducing family and friends, co-workers and neighbours to Jesus is why we are here!