



## Tearfund Canada Discovery Trips:

Tearfund is in the process of organizing Discovery Trips to Tanzania and Kenya. These 10-day trips help our Church leaders and donors understand the humanitarian work being done.

Want to Participate?

There's still room. Participating on a Discovery Team allows firsthand knowledge of how Tearfund's projects transform families and communities, deepening understandings of people's needs and how financial support empowers people worldwide.

Interested in learning more? Visit <https://tearfund.ca/discovery-trips/>



The latest **EFCC Seasons** publication highlights a story about military Chaplain, Chris Willis, a former APD church pastor. The article may interest those who know Chris, as it details his role and journey as a military chaplain. Click on the [link](#), or visit [efcc.ca](http://efcc.ca) and scroll down their homepage to the Seasons publication button, to get the whole story.

## The Necessity of Grace

This past Sunday I worshiped at Knox church. A song, a parable and a conversation mixed together in a way that I'm still thinking about days later. The song was "Lord, I Need You" by Matt Maher. The words, "Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are." have stuck with me. Is it true that grace is more? Does my life reflect this belief? The parable was, "unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies it produces much grain." It seems obvious that for Jesus this meant the cross, but how does it become a reality in my life and yours? The conversation had to do with the realization that because of the conditions under which we live in this world we sometimes find ourselves in situations where there doesn't seem to be any path forward that does not involve doing wrong.

The account of Moses' childhood comes to mind. His parents were in an impossible predicament. If they did not protect their child from Pharaoh, they would be irresponsible and if they made a reed basket and left him to the river they were also acting irresponsibly. They put their "kernel of wheat", Moses, into the basket and hoped for the grace of God.

In a more challenging story Jephthah vows to offer to God as a sacrifice the first thing to come out of his tent if God gives him the victory (Judges 11). When his daughter emerged from the tent to greet him, he immediately enters a moral dilemma. Does he sin by breaking his vow or does he do wrong by keeping it? While you and I might disagree with the choice he made it seem that the grace of God was more!

All of this so far is hypothetical for me. What about real life? I remember a decision I had to make. If it went one way it would be difficult for members of my family and if it went the other way it would be difficult for members of the church. As pastor I have responsibilities to protect both. Either way I seemed to be wrong. What do I do?

August 2025

## 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](mailto:office@albertaparklanddistrict.ca) - and we'll help spread the word. We can also highlight events on our website.

### APD Financial Report For the Month Ended June 30, 2025

Please note, donations can be made through e-transfer to: [giving@albertaparklanddistrict.ca](mailto:giving@albertaparklanddistrict.ca)

<u>General Receipts</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Monthly	4,027	10,000	(5,974)
Year-to-Date	85,901	90,000	(4,099)
<b>General Fund Balance/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(4,272)</b>		

*Continued*

Want to **donate** to the APD?

Send an e-Transfer to  
[giving@albertaparklanddistrict.ca](mailto:giving@albertaparklanddistrict.ca)

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When faced with such a situation where he believed every possible course of action involved sinning Detrich Bonhoeffer did not justify his action but accepted that he was taking guilt upon himself as he wrote, *"when a man takes guilt upon himself in responsibility, he imputes his guilt to himself and no one else. He answers for it... Before other men he is justified by dire necessity; before himself he is acquitted by his conscience, but before God he hopes only for grace."*

While this is all challenging enough, the real test comes when the wrong is against me. When other people are faced with a complex situation in which there seems to be no action that does not involve wrong, and the choice they believe to be wisest hurts me, I am faced with the reality of Jesus' words, "unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies it produces much grain." Will my pride, my will and my preferred outcome die so that where sin runs deep, God's grace is more through my actions and attitude?

By Marvin Penner

*Interested in serving?*

**Consider the APD Board!**

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

## Pastors & Wives Retreat

Eight pastoral couples joined us this past June for Pastors and Wives Retreat at Camp Nakamun.

The retreat provided valuable teaching and focused on understanding the generosity of God and how this understanding affects the way in which pastors minister in the church context.

Besides the sessions, attendees were presented with opportunities of restoration and renewal that included free time, swimming, hot tubbing, beach time, campfires and more.

Come join the fun! Our APD pastoral couples are invited to join us again next year from May 31 - June 2.



Retreat video story: <https://youtu.be/Sh52cwJOfnQ>



## CLEARDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Cleardale is a rural farming community where people work hard and God is drawing more and more people into his family through the ministry of the Cleardale Community Church. We praise the Lord together with the Cleardale Community Church as they enter a building project. They are crowded in their sanctuary, Sunday School space and absolutely packed out in the fellowship hall. In addition, the local area community is frequently using the church facilities for weddings and funerals and other events. In order to bless the community better and make room for the growing church community their building project is now underway. We encourage you and your church to consider helping the Cleardale Church with this project.

Check out this video of the Cleardale building project:

<https://youtu.be/6YTeHNYt2KQ>

To donate e-transfer to:

[cgcefcc@gmail.com](mailto:cgcefcc@gmail.com)

**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.

Visit our website for registration details!



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