

# GOD IS ON THE MOVE



## Planting and watering...by Pastor Tyler Graftaas

Lately I have been reading through *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission* by Christopher J.H. Wright. What stands out most as I read this book (and others over the years) is how small my thinking has been about what it means to be the church. Biblical scholars like Chris Wright (Irish), N.T. Wright (British), David Platt (American), Michael Goheen (Canadian), and others have been saying for many years is that God is on mission to redeem the entire creation and that his people are the main emissaries for that mission. The Trinitarian God of the universe is going to make everything new and has asked all those who believe Jesus to be the Messiah to be “first fruits” of what that new creation will look like. Even more, we are to invite others to submit to the lordship of Jesus and join us in following him and reflecting his glory in our families, communities, and to the ends of the earth. It is important that we keep this in mind. It is important to recognize that God is on mission and He is inviting us to participate...

Over the last year there has been a lot going on at CHBC. There have been staff changes, leadership restructuring, bylaw revamping. Outside we have been digging in the dirt, planting bulbs, perennials, and trees. Bible studies, Sunday school (adult and kids), Sunday worship, Foundations dinners, 1212 ministry engagement, prayer nights, leadership meetings, and more. Through it all we, as a leadership team, have been trying to ask the question, “is this what God is calling us to do?” If we are doing great things but they are not things God has asked us to do, we have gone astray. If the things we are doing are not redemptive, God glorifying, disciple-making,

**“It (redemption) brings his people...into a new relationship with God. And that new relationship calls for the practical response of redemptive living in mission for God in the world.”**

**Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God's People*, 104.**

mission of God focused activities, than we are wasting our time. If we forget, once we have discerned the will of God, the reason we do what we do, we will quickly get tired, begin to lose interest, or worse, begin to lord things over one another and act as the Gentiles do, just as Jesus told his disciples not to (Matthew 20:25-27).

Over the last two months the elders have been meeting weekly and going through a video series called “Your Church Experiencing God Together.” In so doing we have been reminded that it is the responsibility of each person in the church to pray for God’s wisdom for the church, that we need to pay attention to and engage in the work of God in our midst, and that one of our responsibilities as elders is to help those under our care hear/know the voice of God. As such, we are asking everyone in the church to keep seeking God with all your heart, soul, and strength, and continue to cultivate your relationship with Him. Furthermore, we are asking everyone to seek the heart of God for his church at CHBC in order that we may discern who he wants us to be and what he wants us to do. And as elders we are committed to facilitating opportunities for prayer, dialogue, and discernment of the will of God for each person in the church and the church as a whole. As we collectively listen to God, let us share with one another the things he is placing on our hearts:

Who is he calling you to be? What is he calling you to do?

Who is he calling us to be? What is he calling us to do?

Let us all commit to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us into the heart of the Father’s mission for CHBC in line with the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

### Recommended Reading...

*Mission of God’s People: A Biblical Theology of the Church’s Mission.* Christopher J.H. Wright

*Simply Good News: Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good.* N.T. Wright.

*Saturate: Being Disciples of Jesus in the Everyday Stuff of Life.* Jeff Vanderstelt

*Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream.* David Platt

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...our commitment to mission must demonstrate the same broad totality of concern for human need that God demonstrated in what he did for Israel. And it should also mean that our overall motivation and objective in mission be consistent with the motivation and purpose of God as declared in the exodus narrative.

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Wright, Christopher J.H. *The Mission of God*, 275-276.

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### Items for prayer...

- ▶ CHBC would continue to grow in our understanding of the mission of God and our call in it.
- ▶ That we would make disciples in obedience to following Jesus.
- ▶ Vision for the future: involvement on the local community, city, and the world.
- ▶ Future staff position: the right person to fit with the current staff team, finances to support that person, timing of when to hire.
- ▶ Ongoing leadership development and whole church discipleship
- ▶ 1212 Ministry partnership

**Elders:** Steve Turner, Brenda Neufeld, Ken Ritchie, Leona Cardinal, Tim Goodwin (Moderator)

**Deacons:** Ian Clarke, George Day, Hannah Clarke, Lisa Goodwin, Su Li, Sunnye Kaye

**Staff:** Tyler Graftaas, Natalie Wong, Angela Graftaas, Neil Byron