

The Way Forward at PGCC: Turning the page to 2009

Greg Laing, Lead Pastor

Welcome to 2009!

While many can't wait to get rid of 2008, anyone who is a follower of Jesus will have plenty to be thankful for, no matter how uncertain the times. We may have lost some confidence in the economy but we have plenty of confidence in the promises of God. 2008 was filled with many blessings; we saw many answers to prayer throughout the year within and beyond our church. God was faithful through a challenging year – God promises to be faithful in the year to come. As we move into the New Year, I feel compelled to echo the Apostle Paul who wrote this to the Colossian church: "My purpose is that [you] may be **encouraged in heart** and **united in love.**" (Col. 2:2a) To that end we labour. May the Lord awaken you to discern his will and embolden you then to follow it. And may we all see the Kingdom of God expand with new growth!

Next steps

We do hope that the Christmas services, and the theme of peace that we highlighted, were an encouragement to you. May His peace continue to guard and fill your life. Here, then, are some of the things you can look forward to in this next season:

- **Preaching Series:** Our next series is about life as worship. Each week until Easter we will explore inspiring biblical material that will enhance and enliven your visionary understanding of who God is and how to please Him in worship and service.

- **Bible Reading Plan:** Last year several of our people journeyed through the entire text of the Bible. This year we will slow the pace down. We begin the year with Colossians, followed by Romans and then the Gospel of John up to Easter. The website and e-bulletin will keep you up to date.

- **The New Church Plant (More Than 12): Jeff Wong** and his planting team have been meeting for several months to build community and vision. They are now ready to begin meeting in a public venue and will have the first of several monthly "launch" services on January 25th. Please continue to pray for Jeff, Lillian and the team!

New faces in leadership

One of our passions as a church is the development of new leadership. I would like to introduce two of these who have blessed us with their presence. First, the Elders of PGCC are pleased to present to you **Stanley Tang** as candidate to join the Elders.



Stanley and his family have been members of PGCC for the past 2 years and were attending Glad Tidings Church prior to that. Stanley is married to Tamara Tang and they have 2 girls - Taylor and Melia. Stanley grew up in Singapore in a Christian family where he attended a Christian boys' school and was actively involved in several

Christian groups including the Boys' Brigade and Campus Crusade for Christ. Although Stanley heard the gospel many times in his early childhood and answered the salvation call on numerous

occasions, he finally understood what it meant to be a follower when he was 12 years old and renewed his decision. He came to Vancouver to study at the University of British Columbia. While at UBC, Stanley attended a mission church that was planted from Singapore - it was at this church that he met his future wife Tamara, who was also at UBC.

After Stanley and Tamara were married, they began attending Glad Tidings church in Vancouver. They were greatly blessed through the home group ministry and eventually hosted and led a home group themselves. They also taught in the Sunday School and helped launch and lead the pre-teen Sunday School ministry. Early in 2006, Stanley and Tamara felt the Lord releasing them from Glad Tidings church and in the fall, they started to attend Point Grey Community church. Stanley is currently involved with the Men's ministry as well as attends a home group. Stanley works in the market place for a global management-consulting firm.

Important note: If you are a Member, we ask you to prayerfully consider his appointment and bring forward any comments to me in within the next 30 days.



Second, I am delighted to introduce **Rolland Low**.

Rolland and his family have been with us for a few months and have been a great

blessing. As he was completing his MDiv Degree at Regent College this past term, I began to meet with him to explore his calling as a pastoral leader. He has enthusiastically agreed to come alongside us for this next season as he discerns his calling. Specifically, he has taken over the duties of **Lisl Baker**, who was assisting me until she decided to resign to return to full-time studies at Regent. (*Thank you so very much Lisl for all the great work!*)

In addition to his part-time paid role to assist me with administration, he will volunteer over and above with our church in order to gain experience and further discern his calling. I thank the Lord for Rolland's generous spirit. We are well served.