

# The Way Forward at PGCC Christmas 2009 – New Year 2010

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## **Merry Christmas!**

On behalf of Andrea, Parker and Alicia, we wish you a very joyful Christmas season – and a restful time for reflection and fun as we anticipate what the Lord has in store for us in 2010. The Laing family.



## **Four Advent Candles Burning...**

We have shared the joyful lighting of the four Advent candles that *represent* the hope, peace, joy and love that Christ brings into our lives. *Tonight*, Christmas eve, we light the final and most significant candle of all: the Christ candle. Jesus Christ, God, took on human form, born as a baby, to bring to humankind the very presence of God. Emmanuel – God is with us! His light is pure and penetrating. His light is love that awakens belief within our hearts. Oh come, let us adore Him!

Note: Our Christmas preaching series continues on Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> (“God’s love awakens blessing” – Lisl Baker speaking) and January 3<sup>rd</sup> (“God’s love awakens searching” – Susie Colby speaking.)

## **Next Steps: 2010 is at the door**

### **1. The New Testament Challenge**

As we begin the New Year, we urge you to make sure that you have a fresh commitment to commune with God through regular prayer and scripture reading. To help make that happen, we are organizing a Bible reading plan that will guide us as a community through the New Testament. We will read the four gospels up to Easter and then the remainder of the New Testament by July. The reading plan checklist will be ready for Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>.

We also want to see prayer increased in each of our lives and as a community. In order to foster more prayer, we will be enhancing our prayer ministry training efforts and developing our prayer life as a church. We look with dependence on to the Lord for a fresh outpouring of His Holy Spirit. Hebrews 4:16 is a great call to turn to God with expectancy: “Let us approach the

throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

## **2. The 2010 Games (and beyond...)**

We are developing our outreach strategy for the upcoming 2010 Games – there are some exciting things in formation. We have partnered with More Than Gold and a number of other churches in the Westside to focus our efforts on the Olympic venue that is in our own backyard: the UBC **Thunderbird hockey arena**. We will also have events happening within our church to extend the radical hospitality of Jesus to our neighbours. See point 3 below. (My own personal involvement includes being the Co-Chair of the More Than Gold Community Chaplain Group - ensuring that authorized pastoral care is available at venue zones during the games - and as a Chaplain in the Athlete’s Village.) It will be a very exciting season!

Beyond the games, it is our hope and prayer that all of these efforts will result in us hosting the **Alpha Course** as a post-Olympic place to invite people to gather to explore the life and teaching of Jesus. See [alphacanada.org](http://alphacanada.org)

## **3. You are invited...**

Following the worship service on January 10<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to stay for lunch and then learn more about getting involved in the ministry life of our church. We will be focussing on three key areas:

- Outreach/Hospitality
- Worship/Music
- Children/Pre-teen/Youth.

God has inspired us with hopes and dreams; we are praying for God to activate you for His service.

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## **The invitation is in your hand**

Our vision remains clearly before us: **To “activate” each person’s God-given potential for ministry, to the praise of His glory.** This happens as we increasingly enjoy God and his community, as we are trained for godly service and as we extend God’s love to others. It is to this end that we Elders and staff labour.

Give yourself afresh to God: enjoy His presence; receive His instruction; respond to His calling.

**Activate: Enjoying, training, reaching.** This is our God-given vision – to God be the glory as we pursue Him and His vision with our whole hearts.

Greg Laing, Lead Pastor, for the PGCC Elders