



# LIVING WORD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LWCC NEWSLETTER | LANGLEY B.C. |  
JANUARY 2021

## Finishing Well

By Pastor Gilbert Barlit

As a pastor, it is an honor to have a privilege serving Christ that has an eternal significance on people. It is my conviction that finishing well in the pastoral ministry must at least be preceded by effective leadership. Though leadership development takes time, first and foremost every leader's aim is to develop maturity in character and love for God. Effective leadership is not merely the size of congregation or the growing budget they operate, but by being faithful to the pastor's task: that is to finish what delights the Lord.

A good understanding of pastoral ministry and having a pastoral philosophy of ministry helps in fulfilling and discharging God given responsibilities in leading a church. With these responsibilities in leading people, the Lord's promise comes to mind in Matthew 16:18, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The Lord promised to build and to bless the church. Although all believers were called to salvation and to live in obedience to God's will, He also extends His call to others for vocational ministry as leaders and pastors. There are several factors that affects finishing well. It is important to identify them and its influences in order for a pastor to stay on track. Transitioning process is an important part in continuing the Lord's purpose for His people. That includes helping to find a successor or at least facilitate a smooth exit with someone taking his role. Leadership is hard work but at the end, there are benefits and rewards.

**You can read more on our website!**

## Church Events

- **Jan 10<sup>TH</sup> -Annual  
Congregational meeting  
at 4pm via ZOOM**
- **Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – Appreciation  
Sunday for Pastor Gilbert  
& Luz Barlit**
- **Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – Welcoming and  
Commissioning of Pastor  
Brad and Rhoda Crossley**
- **Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – Official meeting  
of the Board of elders  
with Pastor Brad**
- **Jan 31<sup>th</sup> -Official meeting  
of the Lead Team with  
Pastor Brad**

## We are excited to welcome our new Lead Pastor and his wife, Dr. Brad and Rhoda Crossley.

Pastor Brad accepted the call to be the next LWCC's Lead Pastor and commencing his service on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Pastor Brad will bring in his thirty-seven years of pastoral service and experience leading multiple-staff churches with multicultural ministries. His prominent ministerial skills and gifts include preaching, teaching, leadership training and mentoring. Broad ministerial skills and gifts include small group development, pastoral care, counseling, evangelism, discipleship, and administration. He loves ministering to people of different ages, ethnicities, and languages and committed to nurturing them in their spiritual journey, encouraging them to wholeheartedly trust in God and experience his grace.

His past ministerial experiences include:

- Lead Pastor, Oakridge Baptist Church (Vancouver, BC): 2007 – March, 2020
- Senior Pastor, Richmond Baptist Church (Richmond, BC): 1991 – 2007
- Ministerial Assistant, Northwest Community Baptist Church (Vancouver, Washington): 1989 – 1991
- Minister of Preaching and Teaching, Calvary Community Church, (Yellowknife, NWT): 1982–1989

His Education and Qualifications include:

- Ordained minister (Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches)
- Doctor of Ministry, Luther Rice Seminary (Lithonia, Georgia)
- Master of Divinity, Multnomah Biblical Seminary (Portland, Oregon)
- Bachelor of Theology, Canadian Bible College (Regina, Saskatchewan)

Pastor Brad enjoy walking, reading, international travel, short-term mission trips, golf, and gardening.

Rhoda has always been supportive of and active in their life of ministry. She has the gifts of encouragement and hospitality. She is a pianist, and her primary ministry has been worship team accompaniment. As time allows, she also join Pastor Brad in visitation ministry. Her primary hobbies are art and craft work.

Pastor Brad and Rhoda has been married for 42 years. They currently reside in Langley, BC, and their home for more than a decade now. They are blessed with 3 married adult children and 10 grandchildren.

Romans 5:1

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jess Christ”

## LWCC Directory

We are in the process of updating our church directory.

If you had a change of home address, phone number or email address, please contact any of the following:





# 10 Questions to Ask at the Start of a New Year

By Don Whitney

Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with Him, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai. "Consider your ways!" (Haggai 1:5) he declared, urging them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them.

Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going. The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God? 2
2. . What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

# Summary of LWCC's AGM

LWCC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING –  
JANUARY 10, 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 4:00 PM

Our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 10, 2021 is a very important meeting that should be attended by all members of LWCC which is the responsibility of all members according to our Bylaws.

In our Annual Congregational Meeting, we will be hearing consolidated reports of different ministries accomplished in 2020 and presentation of 2021 Ministries by Pastor Gilbert.

There will also be Financial Report for 2020 and we will be voting for the Proposed 2021 Budget to be presented by our treasurer April Punzalan.

We will also be voting for Bro. Don as additional Elder for 2021. We will be presenting the members of our Elders Board and Ministry Leaders.

We will also be voting on the recommendation of our Board of Elders regarding the Kalubihan Christian Fellowship Center in Barili, Cebu, Philippines which is a Church Plant started by Bro. Vince and Sis. Angie Hayhurst.

There will be an official presentation of Pastor Brad Crossley as our new Lead Pastor whose term of office will commence on February 1, 2021.

We would like to praise and thank our Lord Jesus Christ for what He has done in and through LWCC in 2020 and looking forward to a fruitful ministry in 2021 with the leadership of our new Lead Pastor Brad Crossley for the glory of our God Almighty!

Hope to see you all. May God continually bless LWCC.

Thank you.

Bro. Elmer Cruz BOE Chairperson (On behalf of LWCC BOE)

# Unity Through Humility

By Elmer Cruz

## Philippians 2: 1-4

“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

How can we attain unity in the body of Christ – at LWCC?

1. In order to have unity we have to acknowledge that unity can only be attained through Christ flowing out of His love for us through the indwelling presence or fellowship of the Holy Spirit manifested in our affection and compassion towards one another. (v. 1)  
Christ is the source of unity.  
Love through our affection and compassion towards one another is the motivation to unity.  
The Holy Spirit is the power making unity a reality.
2. We can attain unity by being of the same mind. (v. 2)  
Same mind – the Greek word means “think the same way”. We can only think the same way if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and amongst us.
3. We can attain unity by maintaining the same love. (v. 2)  
Same love – believers are to love others in the body of Christ equally – not because they are equally attractive, but by showing the same kind of sacrificial, loving service to all that was shown to them by Christ.
4. We can attain unity by being united in spirit. (v. 2)  
United in spirit – means “one-souled” and describes people who are knit together in harmony, having the same desires, passions, and ambitions.
5. We can attain unity by having intent on one purpose. (v. 2)  
What should be our one purpose as a church?  
Our one purpose as a church is to glorify God in everything that we do.  
Our one goal, one desire, one passion is to glorify God as a church.  
We are to be consumed by the glory of God.
6. We can only attain unity if we have the attitude of humility. (v. 3-4)  
Selfishness is the number one hindrance to unity. Agree?

We need to have the attitude of humility by regarding others more important than ourselves and by not merely looking for our own personal interest but also for the interest of others.

We may have different opinions but a humble person is considerate of other’s opinion

It is my fervent prayer that by the grace of God, may we all be united in pursuing God’s glory in everything that we do as Church which is the body of Christ. Together we will be able to accomplish more for His kingdom sake and for His glory! Amen.

## Membership Class

We praise God for 9 people who recently attended our Church Membership Class.

To those who still need to do a make up class for missed sessions and/or are ready to apply to become a member of LWCC, please contact any of the following Committee members:

Pastor Gilbert  
Don Soriano  
Joel Monserrat  
Mavis Gevido  
Aileen Cruz

To those who consider LWCC your home church and are interested to know more about how to become a member, please contact the Membership Committee.