

# The View at



## Haiti - The Opportunity to be God's Hands Across the Sea

*Dave Spate, Lead Pastor*

As we have been looking at the horrific pictures of what has happened in Haiti, all of us have felt drawn to do something - to somehow make a difference. The question is of course, what can we do at this distance? The answer is not simple, but that doesn't mean we have an excuse to do nothing. Listen to some of the wisdom from the book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "...he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Pretty profound words aren't they? Isn't it wonderful that through our words and moving in a caring way that we can refresh others and lift up arms that are tired and hearts that are broken. And we know from experience that as we refresh others through our words and care, we are refreshed ourselves. Did you notice that as you gave to meet the needs of others this past while that you have truly experienced an inner joy, a breeze of refreshment and the smile of God on our lives?

Proverbs 19:17, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord..." Now that is a verse that is hard to get our heads around isn't it? Just think that when we give, it is like lending our money to the Lord so he can use it to make a difference in the world and then His promise is that He will repay with interest. Now that is a pretty good investment strategy isn't it?

Proverbs 21:13, "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, He too will cry out and not be answered." As we have watched the news, all of our hearts had been touched by the cries of those who are in such great need and because they are also God's children we want to reach out and care for those who God also loves so much.

I should add, the fact that even before the earthquake happened, we were connected with Karen Huxter, Liette Wilson and the HATS ministry was not an accident. And that some of our people have spent time working, building, painting and ministering on the HATS site a few years ago has also given us the chance to see first hand the great work they do in Haiti. God has gone on before so that not only is there an orphanage and school already there, but that we have trusted friends 'on the ground,' who are not only in the middle of the situation but who also know the intricacies of the situation and how best to help with the resources we can send their way.

Our approach is that we continue to encourage you to send money for the immediate needs for water, food and medical care right now directly through HATS at [www.hats-haiti.com](http://www.hats-haiti.com). Then through our BMOF (Brentview Ministries Outreach Fund) we will continue to raise funds for the ongoing work of a number of mission ministries (25% of which will go to HATS) so that as the 'dust settles' we can help Karen and HATS step into the next phase of the recovery of Haiti. That will probably be a new and expanded ministry because of the increase of orphans and the need to help so many rebuild their lives after the earthquake.

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Thank you again for being a people whose hearts answered the call to be a people who refresh others.



## Family Ministries

*David Friesen, Children & Family Ministries Pastor*

Save the Dates!! On April 16 - 18, we will be having a Family Retreat at Camp Caroline. Brochures will be available at FM Live on February 21. Register early, as space is limited to the first 25 families.

## HUB

*Kelsey Doherty, Young Adults Ministries Intern*

January at the HUB was all about getting back into the swing of things for the New Year! The highlight and big event for the month was our annual winter retreat out at Camp Caroline. It was a weekend filled with games, hot tubs, tubing and a great time building and encouraging community. This year we had the pleasure of hearing from a new friend all the way for Los Angeles California, Jason Jaggard. Jason is part of a community called Mosaic, and came to the snowy north to talk to the group of 75 about what community, culture, language and Jesus' love for those around us. Filled with stories, laughter and challenges, Jason lead the group through Mosaics core values and how he's seen how intentional God lead relationships have shaped and changed lives. Our group was then challenged to start putting these themes into practice when we provided each participant with a 5 dollar gift card to one of two of our local coffee shops. The idea was to challenge the group to treat one person of their choosing to a cup of coffee, and simply get to really know them and their spiritual journey. This investment was to encourage our theme at HUB which is "to be a growing network of people residing in Christ" and adopt it into an everyday practice. It was a great weekend and we look forward to hearing the stories as the community goes out and shares these gift cards within their networks.

So far 2010 has started off running for those at the HUB. Many continue to go out and serve throughout the community, including our Feed the Hungry ministry which this month decided to switch it up a little and head downtown to handout clothing to those in need of some warmer clothing in the midst of cooler weather. This month we also got to help celebrate with our good friend Andrew by recognizing a Japanese tradition known as his "Coming of Age Day." As his HUB family it was awesome that we were able to acknowledge, pray for and encourage Andrew on this joyous occasion! We have picked up once again in our teaching series in John, can you believe we've made it all the way to Ch.6! All jokes aside, Ken and Dan have been leading us through this amazing book each week, challenging us to look at our faith and walks with Jesus in a new, and refreshing light. Check them out for yourself at [www.brentviewhub.com](http://www.brentviewhub.com)! Please pray for and check into the community at HUB as we continue with our pursuit to be a place for people to belong, grow and meet Christ. Much is happening in the hearts and lives of the people in our group and we pray that we would be a community rooted in Christ and his leading.

## **ENCORE 55+ Ministries**

*Wally Fus, 55+ & Care Ministries Pastor*

It has been an exciting month of January. Our outreach luncheon was a huge success with an Hawaiian theme which saw many of our people dress in an Hawaiian attire. For the feature we had an Hawaiian dancer give us a demonstration in hand signing as we sang some Hawaiian songs. Neri Cachero also hand signed "Majesty". We are pleased to have Ron and Judy Hystad join our Encore leadership team as the luncheon coordinators.

Our **ENCORE** choir started rehearsing for their for some upcoming events, especially our year-end program June 6. We added another small group which meets during the day in our church facility with Klaus Gerhardt giving leadership. In our Mission/Serving ministry, we have participated in partnering with Mustard Seed in providing needed items for the guests who are at the Seed. In Events we are also planning a tour of the Mustard Seed Ministry. Our big event, **JOYFUL LIVING CONFERENCE** is coming up April 23 and 24. Great speakers have been confirmed and it will create excitement in our church.

## International Fellowship

*Brad Friesen, International Ministries & Missions Pastor*

Happy Lunar New Year everyone. It's been a great year so far. Our bible class is continuing to grow, even beyond our service at International Fellowship. This excites me as people are seeking the Word very seriously. We have been studying the book of Luke diligently, and have been focusing on how Christ works through each of our different cultures and backgrounds. It has been exciting.

Recently, however, in the news, a major event has occurred that will affect our International community. In the fall, the U of C had the Dali Lama come to speak. Being that there is much political tension between China and the Dali Lama, China has officially taken the U of C off of their list of accredited universities. This means that anyone starting a degree from there as of this year forward, will not have their degree honoured in China. This is a major event. It is possible that many Chinese students will decide to not come to Calgary for studies. Please pray that God will do what He sees fit in this situation. We however are encouraged that God will deliver everyone, no matter what political boundaries may apply, to this place as He seeks them.

## Missions

*Brad Friesen, International Ministries & Missions Pastor*

Our missions team is becoming busy. While juggling the work of the BMOF, we have been setting our sites on launching our new plan for missions at Brentview as of April. There is much to be done to prepare, but we are excited about what this means for the life and future of Brentview. So far, we have seen lots of giving towards the BMOF. We are encouraged with how God will be using these gifts to further the work in Haiti, Cameroon, Mexico, Brazil, Calgary and around the world. Please consider continuing to give towards these projects.

Our new plan will lay out how we will actively pursue touching the world, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will be pursuing an active engagement of every member of Brentview to live life to the full with the passions God has placed in their hearts. We believe God has put his image on all of us, and as we engage that image, God will work through us. We will each be given a chance to journey with our new mission statement for Missions: Global Discipleship exists to Speak Out, Act Out and Give Out the Gospel. The question now is, "What's your story?" How will God touch the world through you?

## Constitutions and Directors

*Markus Lemke, Moderator*

In last month's newsletter, we outlined some of the similarities, and important differences between the church as an organization, and other business or government organization. There's no arguing that we are a formal organization in the eyes of our government - under Canadian tax law, we are a non-profit organization. This means we have to adhere to the rules governing non-profit organizations, which includes the requirement for a Board of Directors who are legally responsible for the conduct of the organization.

That is one of the roles the Board of Elders fulfills at Brentview. The Board has the responsibility to ensure that the things the church does are properly accounted for, documented, and done according to the rules we have decided to use to govern ourselves. Those rules are contained in a constitution, that must be ratified by the membership of our organization, and a copy sent to the government so they can have something to compare our actions to when they assess whether we are in fact playing by all the rules.

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## Constitutions and Directors (...continued)

*Markus Lemke, Moderator*

Constitutions can change, and they do, over the life of an organization. It's not easy to change a constitution - which is a good thing, because a large percentage of the congregation needs to approve those changes, so that the changes in fact reflect the will of the majority.

The best constitutions are those which express the core truths and values of the organization, but which also have the flexibility that allows for interpretation based on the circumstances of the organization. If a constitution is too specific (getting down to specific job descriptions for staff and volunteers, or defining areas of ministry in which the church will be involved, for example), then when the church has the chance to branch into a new area in which God is leading, or needs a new kind of staff or volunteer leader position, the constitution can be unrealistic, and even a stumbling block to growth. The folks who revised Brentview's constitution (in 1996) took that into consideration and produced for us a document that provides not only a firm foundation, but enough flexibility to address the changes and opportunities we have today (and into the future).

The Elder Board refers to our constitution extensively, and as you might expect, there are some parts of it which need updating, to reflect the way operations have changed to address the larger group of people we have become today. Rather than doing a wholesale rewriting of the constitution now, those changes are being proposed to the congregation for a vote, either as an amendment or a change, during our annual general meetings. There will definitely come a day when a comprehensive review needs to be done again, but so far, it's working very well.

One of the most significant changes that has occurred at Brentview over the past five to seven years has been our transition from being a relatively smaller church to one which now fits into what researchers agree is a "large church" One of the consequences of that growth is that now, not everyone who attends the church is necessarily interested in, nor able to be involved in every decision about every aspect of the operation of the church. That is much easier to do when a church is small - because its ministry areas are fewer, its income is more modest, and almost everything can be accomplished by a few dedicated volunteers, and pretty well everyone knows everything they want to know about anything. A large church has many more ministries, many more areas of expenditure, more management and human resources procedures to carry out, and an ongoing, daily need for oversight and management at a professional level.

That reality has the potential to make an Elder's job, as a legal director of the organization, a full-time, professional and endless task. If being an Elder means being required to keep track of and approve every ministry, every expenditure, and every activity within the church, we'd probably have a tough time finding people wanting to serve as an Elder.

What every church needs is a happy balance - a group of Elders who can oversee the general direction of the church, a group of ministry leaders who have responsibility and authority over each ministry area, and a team of people who can oversee all the administrative functions of the church. Depending on what church you're looking at, those functions are carried out by a combination of hired staff, elected volunteers, and non-elected volunteers. Finding that balance, within the constitution at Brentview and reflective of where God is leading this congregation, has been the Elder Board's primary task throughout the last two years of redefining and adapting our governance structure in order to best address the needs of a ministry which God has blessed with both numerical and spiritual growth and opportunity. In the next few issues of the newsletter, we will look more closely at the roles, responsibilities and authority of the various positions and groups which work together to operate Brentview Baptist Church.

Meanwhile - if you've never seen Brentview's constitution, you might want to have a look! It's something the staff and Elder Board consult frequently, especially now that we are implementing and revising policies, procedures and structure. If you need a copy, just ask at the Church Office.