

In the loop...

Highlights from the March 16-18, 2015 DEXCOM meetings Held at Heartland Alliance in Sherwood Park

We began our time together with a dinner and tour at the brand new facility of **Heartland Alliance Church**. Pastor Al Andrus and their leaders shared the amazing story of listening and responding to God as He leads this people in developing a long-term strategy of being “on mission” in their corner of the world. Their numbers have already swelled as the spiritually thirsty gather at this oasis.



SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

Tuesday morning D.S. Brent Trask led DEXCOM in a discussion and prayer time, focusing on what the believer’s spiritual weapons are. We contemplated the commonly understood spiritual weapons of the Word, the Name, the blood, prayer and the Holy Spirit. Then we also focused on how humility, repentance, forgiveness, sacrifice, generosity, worship and other God-focused and God-infused characteristics are also within our arsenal. As we keep our eyes on Jesus we thereby create movement in the spiritual realms using these weapons. We were encouraged, as we prayed for ourselves and our District, being reminded that we engage in the spiritual battle around us from a stance of victory as we allow God to shape us by His Spirit.

TOUR

We toured and met with seven individual leadership teams to hear and see their work firsthand. We visited with three church planters who passionately work within different areas of the city of Edmonton:

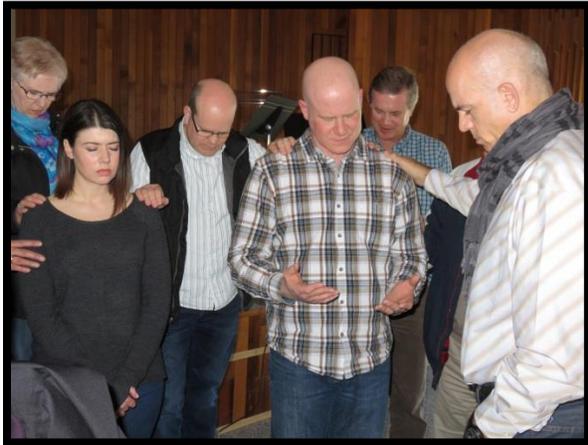
1. **Crosslife Church** with Rev. Chris and Rhea Logan,
2. **Thrive Community Church** with Rev. Barry and Geri McLeod,
3. **Crosspoint Church** with Rev. Bob and Karen Chartrand



These church plants are all very different yet the common passion to offer Jesus to unreached areas and lost people touched our hearts. We were filled with gratitude as we listened to the stories of *God at work* in response to the commitment of these couples. It was a privilege to gather around them and pray for them.

We continued on to visit several “rural” churches:

4. Fort Saskatchewan Alliance Church



Prayed with Pastor Gordon Schutz and Ashli DeJong.



We met to hear what God is doing (and ate oranges).

5. Sturgeon Alliance Church



Prayed with Pastors Greg Mulligan and Nathan Pollock.



We toured their church facility.

6. Redwater Alliance Church



Prayed with Pastor Tony Pasolli and Pete (church elder). Introductions were made and God stories were shared.

7. Lamont Alliance Church



These lovely women cooked us a delicious chicken dinner.

Jan Wurtz gave us a tour of their food bank ministry.



Pastor Ron Wurtz shared the exciting stories of their church. Our time together ended with praise and prayer.

At each stop we listened to the stories of how that particular leadership team was encouraging their people in reaching out beyond their own walls to share Jesus in various creative ways. Regardless of the varying challenges of space, facility, changing economics, volunteer needs etc, we encountered much joy and enthusiasm in the forward motion of the Spirit into these different communities. It was a privilege to lay hands on each team and pray for God's continued vision and blessing.

The common denominator in each of the seven groups visited was the heart cry to answer the question, "**Who are the least reached people in my area and how we can reach out to them?**" We were blessed to hear and see their passion and to encourage, affirm and pray for them.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Strategic Plan and Vision Focus Areas:

DEXCOM reviewed the renewal of the Strategic Plan, capturing clarity and progress and fine-tuning for presentation at the upcoming District Conference. It is exciting to see significant progress is being made achieving our vision and plan.

DEXCOM will be focusing on a four-year window for the WCD Directional Plan which will be presented at the upcoming District Conference along with particular attention to a proposal to refresh the National Vision Prayer to the new context we now find ourselves in, 15 years after it was first penned.

DEXCOM reviewed the evolving "green paper" that outlines steps toward Spirit renewal in the Alliance as a whole. This immersion will continue to be worked out through various channels as the Deeper Life/Holy Spirit Encounters multiply across the Districts with anticipation and renewal.

Reports:

General, Staff and Financial reports were reviewed.

DEXCOM heard and reviewed the report of District staff member, **Doug Balzer** on Church Multiplication, Leadership Development, and New Venture Developments.

We are also delighted by the continued thirst for the [Holy Spirit](#) Encounters that Doug spearheads across our District.

Church Coach, Tim Beadle, presented to DEXCOM the continued growth and vitality of the Rural Church Pastors Network and a number of excellent tools he has developed in the preparation of obtaining his Doctorate in *Rural Church Ministry*. His level of scrutinizing, learning, analyzing and preparing tools and resources for rural churches is truly a gift to our District. To our knowledge he is the first across Canada to engage in such in-depth learning on this unique subject in the ever-changing landscape of rural churches. This will be a tremendous resource within the C&MA.

District Conference

[Ignite, District Conference](#) will be held again as a decentralized conference. [Registration](#) is now open and churches are being encouraged to invite their delegates and lay people to attend. We ask every church to send their maximum number of eligible voting delegates and invite many more lay leaders as corresponding delegates, at least for the opening banquet.

ONGOING BUSINESS OF THE DISTRICT

Approvals of Building Projects and Governance Changes

Dexcom reviewed matters that had been approved, by email ballots, officers, or committees since our last meeting.

Prayer Retreat

Anticipation is beginning to grow for another great Prayer Retreat at Lake Louise November 2-5, 2015 with a theme of Deeper Life/Spirit Empowerment. Our guest speakers will be Dr. Martin Sanders and Dr. Ron Walborn of Alliance Theological Seminary, Nyack NY.

Other

The District will be investing in a Sabbatical period for Doug Balzer which will be holistic and rejuvenating in nature.

DEXCOM was encouraged by the excellent reports and Brent called us to pray for the few churches and pastors navigating transition.

The view from "40,000 feet" is always appreciated by DEXCOM as together we have opportunity to re-focus on what God is doing across our District as a whole as we lift Jesus higher.

Serving on your behalf,
DEXCOM MEMBERS:

- Brent Trask, District Superintendent, Western Canadian District, btrask@transformcma.ca
- Andrew Fisher, DEXCOM Chair/Lay Representative, Grande Prairie Alliance Church, gp2fish@telus.net
- Wayne Heth, Lay Representative, RockPointe Church, waheth@shaw.ca
- Gail Rodgers, Lay Representative, Spruce Grove Alliance Church, gail@rodgerslog.ca
- Brian Palsky, Corporate & Community Chaplain, University Drive Alliance Church, brian@udac.ca
- Al Schuld, Lay Representative, Sherwood Park Alliance Church, aschuld@telus.net
- Cheryl Zamora, Lay Representative, First Filipino Alliance Church, ffacoffice@aol.com
- Calvin Andringa, Senior Pastor, Tofield Alliance Church, calvin.tofalliance@telus.net
- Vic Wiens, Lay Representative, Airdrie Alliance Church, vicwiens@telus.net
- Lorne Fredlund, Executive Pastor, RockPointe Church, lfredlund@rockpointe.ca