



THE ALBERTA CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

"The people were amazed at his (Jesus) teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority..." Mark 1:22

Recently I have been reflecting on how we follow, and the idea of authority is central to who we follow. In my Bible, I've written the following: "We only follow someone who has authority." This applies to our understanding of Jesus - if we don't admit to his Lordship and submit to his ultimate authority we will always seek to place our own agendas above his. If we follow Jesus well, he gives us the authority we need to lead well, so that others will want to follow (not us, but Jesus!).

I pray that in your influence as pastors and leaders and servants in your church, God will grant you an authority that comes as you seek him and invest time with him - through his Word, in prayer and in the community of faith.

I trust that as we enter summer, you will have time to rest and re-energize for the upcoming ministry year. I encourage you to read (or listen to) at least one of the Gospels, perhaps one of the letters to the churches and a few favorite Psalms.

I'll be taking all of July off, although I plan to occasionally check some emails and I'll be in full swing again after the long weekend in August. Please check out the upcoming dates below to put on your calendars!

Paul Loewen

ABMB Conference Pastor



One of our ABMB pastors just sent us this email: "On Sunday we had two people indicate they prayed a prayer of repentance and forgiveness. It was awesome! Let the follow up begin! I chatted after the service with one of them, a friend of mine no less, and encouraged him to focus on Jesus particularly, not just God and then asked him if he had a Bible. We got him set up with You Version on his phone and I challenged him to read John over the next few weeks. He phoned me that afternoon after having nearly read the whole thing. Now he wants to talk about some more things. Please pray for him as he begins to follow Jesus."

It's so encouraging for us and others to hear what God is doing in your communities! We want to celebrate with you or to pray with you if you have a request. So please share your stories! Just let us know what we can or cannot publish. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 4-6, 2015 - ABMB Pastors and Spouses Retreat. More info to come soon.

October 16-18, 2015 - AWAKE in Edmonton. More info to come soon.

October 21-23, 2015 - CCMBC Study Conference. [Click here for more info.](#)

October 23-26, 2015 - Church Renewal Weekend. [Click here for more info.](#)

November 19, 2015 - C2C Fall Banquet. More info to come.

January 12-14, 2016 - Sonlife Training Day during Peer Cluster Time. More info to come.

April 22-23, 2016 - ABMB Convention in Coaldale MB Church. More info to come.

July 6-9, 2016 - CCMBC Gathering in Winnipeg. More info to come.

PEER CLUSTERS FOR 2015-2016

September through June, our three cluster groups (north, central, and south) meet regularly. Participants are pastors and leaders serving in parachurch ministries through the Alberta Conference. The focus of our clusters is to provide a safe and open time for leaders to share their concerns, passions, and experience in areas of ministry with a view to empowering one another toward effective and fulfilling ministry. Although locations are yet to be determined, the following are the scheduled dates for the upcoming year: (please note there have been some date changes since the previous newsletter).

North - Sep 24, Nov 26, Jan 14, Feb 25, May 12, Jun 23

Central - Sep 22, Nov 24, Jan 12, Feb 23, May 10, Jun 21

South - Sep 23, Nov 25, Jan 13, Feb 24, May 11, Jun 22

If you have any questions about Peer Clusters, please contact Paul Loewen at

paul.loewen@abmb.ca

Our mailing address is:

ABMB

160 - 340 Midpark Way SE

Calgary, AB T2X 1P1

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)