

The Pastors Connection

May 2011

Stewarding a Pregnancy

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”
Isaiah 43:19

In our March 27th worship Rusty Richards shared a prophetic word. He and Janet were present to bring a mission update. Rusty asked the Lord for a word he might speak on our Lord’s behalf. Rusty sensed the Lord speaking “pregnant.”

Over lunch I asked his sense of what it might mean. He shared that “God is generating something new in Conestoga. It will build on the values of previous generations, but it represents a new thing. Conestoga is pregnant with new life.” He encouraged us to steward the gift.

In our “Guidelines for the Use of Spiritual Gifts” we noted that I Cor. 14 and I Th. 5 call us to both welcome and test a prophetic word. As your Pastor I confirm the word Rusty spoke.

During our Oversight Team weekend Conference Minister Graham Cyster shared a similar sentiment. He noted that the gospel pattern is of Jesus helping people belong. From belonging they believe in God’s love. Upon foundations of belonging and believing, behavior is transformed.

Graham noted that religious tradition, including our own Mennonite era of legalism; flips those three b words on their heads. Namely, a religious spirit requires one to first behave in a certain way and believe correctly before one can belong. Graham sensed that God is helping Conestoga get the sequence in their right kingdom order.

Recently I shared that our youngest daughter and husband announced their second pregnancy. We were ecstatic! Every child is God’s gift. But this one feels extra special in light of dark days after Eric was struck by lightning nearly three years ago. Doctors gave little hope for life.

Eric’s lightning strike and the one that struck Conestoga’s ministry center happened days apart. From both has come new life. This is the work of God!

Pregnant couples prepare a nursery. They get extra sleep. They guard their diet and exercise. They focus on giving the baby its best shot at quality of life.

This week Pastoral Team spent over an hour of our meeting time in sharing and worship and intercession. We noted that as we joyfully live Christ’s story to benefit others God is connecting us to those who don’t yet know him and those who need his healing and hope. These past months He is entrusting us with the privilege of welcoming, nurturing and

protecting. We invite you to join us as together we steward the promise of a “new thing” from pregnancy to birth towards full maturity of faith.

Birth and parenting is hard messy work. But it is a very rewarding. May God favor us with the privilege of hearing “well done” with the new life He is bringing to us; no matter what form the labor takes.

Joyfully Living His Story with you, Pastor Bob