

Edmonton Vietnamese Mennonite Church

Edmonton Vietnamese Mennonite Church has witnessed a marvelous work of God's grace recently. We purchased a baptismal tank that doubles as a communion table, when not being used for baptisms. After the candidates delivered their testimonies via DVD, impromptu words of encouragement came from the congregants, which moved many to tears, as we marveled at the grace of God's work in the lives of the candidates. Baptisms by immersion took place immediately after and these six candidate (see photo) got baptized: Grace Lam, Andy Tran, Samuel Nguyen, Austin Huynh, Vincent Hua and Esther Pham. A commemorative DVD was developed and given to each candidate of the entire service. This was the first baptism that Pastor Kuen had ever officiated and for her, it was amazing not to be submerged waist deep in water; thus, it was very easy to transition into a communion service and to deliver the sermon. This was a very efficient and meaningful way of doing baptisms by immersion. We highly recommend all churches invest in a similar baptismal tank/communion table as seen in our photo.



Candidates, front row, left to right: , Grace Lam (girl with striped dress), Andy Tran, Samuel Nguyen, Austin Huynh, Vincent Hua and Esther Pham (missing) - Rebecca Pham standing in for Esther.

As some of you know from Canadian Mennonite Magazine, our church has done a Bible Reading Challenge whereby, everyone is encouraged to read through the entire Bible in one year, following the Navigator's Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan. We started our second year into this program and

have enlisted more participants. To motivate congregants, we will engrave names on a plaque of all participants who complete the program next year.

Pastor Thomas has also issued a Bible Memory Challenge, whereby participants are given one month to memorize 10 - 55 verses. Once a month, all participants sit down and write out all their memory verses, as a test. This has been well received by congregants and we are so touched by their eagerness to write these tests. For example, in the English Ministry, we got 100% participation in the last test . As well, Pastor Thomas administers church-wide quizzes, which test their Bible Reading comprehension. This is an exciting, refreshing and novel experience, especially since it is spear-headed by our Senior Pastor.

We have some exciting programs planned. We will be selling Vietnamese food at a pavilion during the 39th annual, city-wide, "Servus Heritage Festival 2014." For more information, check out the link at: <http://www.heritage-festival.com/pavilions/63/> and drop by to visit us at Site 6, for a taste of Vietnam. An all day prayer and fasting vigil will be held at our church from Friday, April 4 through Saturday, April 5th to petition God regarding various major church initiatives and church ministries, including the "Servus Heritage Festival 2014," and a Vietnamese outreach concert, scheduled for April 6th. The concert will be presented by professional singers, like the ones we used for our church dedication service. We are excited to see how God is leading us forward.

Submitted by Pastor Thomas Pham, Senior Pastor and
Pastor Kuen Yee, English Ministry Pastor
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