

The Link

DECEMBER 2018

A Christmas Reflection by Ken Solberg, Area Minister

As I sit to write this short message to you, I am sure that you are all in busy preparation for the celebrations that go with this time of year. I am sure that I am not alone with the feeling that much of the message of Christmas often gets pushed to the fringes as we rush busily about preparing for family and friends. My hope is that you will find time to reflect, as I did, on the words of a song written by Michael Card. It is called "The Final Word."

The Final Word

*You and me we use so many clumsy words,
The noise of what we often say is not worth being heard,
When the father's Wisdom wanted to communicate His love,
He spoke it in one final perfect Word.*

*He spoke the Incarnation and then so was born the Son.
His final word was Jesus, He needed no other one,
Spoke flesh and blood so He could bleed and make way Divine,
And so was born the baby who would die to make it mine.*

*And so the Father's fondest thought took on flesh and bone,
He spoke the living luminous Word, at once His will was done,
And so the transformation that in man had been unheard
Took place in God the Father as He spoke that final Word.*



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*And so the Light became alive
And Manna became Man.
Eternity came into time
So we could understand.*

*He spoke the Incarnation and then so was born the Son,
His final word was Jesus, He needed no other one.
Spoke flesh and blood so He could bleed and make a way Divine.
And so was born the baby who would die to make it mine.*

Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son..." May we be quiet enough to hear His voice with fresh ears this Christmas season.

A Year in Review from Balgonie Baptist Church

In the summer of 2017 we took a sober look at who we are and how we fit in the kingdom in a place called Balgonie. As this town becomes more of a bedroom community to Regina, fewer people seemed to be looking for a local church. We lost our pastor the year before.

Everyone affiliated with the church - members and adherents - voted to keep the doors open and discover how we fit in the community of Balgonie and in the kingdom work of our Father in Heaven. To help us through this, in January we hired Shawn Cavers as a transitional pastor to give us guidance.

The sermon topics that Pastor Shawn presented in the new year set our hearts in the right direction. Bible studies on prayer turned our focus to seeking God and his will for Balgonie Baptist Church. Because we all studied the same material, although in different groups, we have a common, what do I call it - guideline, purpose, language . . . ? Maybe I should call it a common point of reference as a community of brothers and sisters.

In the fall, we started transition in earnest. What are our roots, what brought us to this point? Where do we want to be? The Board of Deacons worked through the process first and then we did it as a congregation. All of this was supported by regular prayer. Early in the new year we hope to gather again to further understand and define where God is leading us. Where the previous transition meeting was mostly looking at the past, the next transition meeting will look to the future. At some point we will examine the qualifications for a "permanent" pastor.

We have a Sunday evening set aside each month dedicated to prayer. We set aside time each Sunday to listen to requests and praises. One Sunday a month the sermon is cut short so that we can remember, talk about and pray about what is happening in each of our lives. In effect, we are ministering to each other purposefully.

The result is growth. Personal growth, corporate growth, growth in the number of those attending, growth in our chequing account and growth in programs. God is working in Balgonie. We've seen it in the people who decided to join us this year. We are seeing it in relationships around town. We are seeing it in relationships with each other.

You are invited to join us. Join us in prayer for our community. Join us on a Sunday morning - the service starts around 10:30. Make it a point to join us at the next SBA meeting.

David Gagnon



A Christmas Blessing

*God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of
Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;*

*The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of
Christmas which is Christ.*

Wilda English

