



**The purpose of Bethany Baptist Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples who reflect the character and priorities of Jesus Christ.**

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM Sunday School
  - 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children's Church during sermon
  - 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting
- Nursery is available in the supervised room downstairs or the unsupervised room in the back of the sanctuary with audio

SERMON

**Scripture: 1 Cor 4:6-13**

**Speaker: Pastor Peter**

Humility Through Hardship ...The Example of Paul

OUR ELDER SHEPHERDING GROUP

- A-B → Lyndon Unger
- C-D → Tim Archibald
- E-H → David Street
- I-M → Pastor Peter Erratt

- N-R → Tom Smith
- S → Cory Leniuk
- T-Z → Dennis Burriss

According to the first letter of your last name, feel free to bring any questions or concerns to your assigned elder or email them at [elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:elders@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

GET TO KNOW US

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**Lead Pastor:**  
Peter Erratt  
[peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:peter@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

**Assistant Pastor:**  
Daniel Lara  
[daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:daniel@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

**Church Admin & Children's Ministry Coord:**  
Lilian Lara  
[lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:lilian@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

- Health Needs: Lorraine Hort, Gord Rue
- Email us your prayer requests or to join the Prayer Line!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Library

Leah Unger and her team of volunteers faithfully keep our church library organized and well stocked to meet the needs of our members. Thanks to their dedicated work, you can easily browse our library inventory online at [www.bbclibrary.libib.com](http://www.bbclibrary.libib.com). Leah would like everyone to know that there is no time limit on book returns. Donations are always welcome, and book recommendations are greatly encouraged. We would love to see more church members make use of the library as we continue seeking a deeper knowledge of God. Please pray for wisdom and discernment for Leah and the volunteers as they select new books and review donations. Pray that the books in our library would help our members better understand God's Word and grow spiritually.

JOIN OUR LIFE GROUP

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

- Tim & Michelle Archibald

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

- Martin & Lorna Scholz
- Tom & Tina Smith
- Peter & Nancy Erratt

EVERY WEDNESDAY

- Don & Jan Collier
- David & Laurel Street

EVERY THURSDAY

- Mark & Shannia Guenther

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

- Lyndon & Leah Unger

**TUESDAY MARCH 3**  
6:30 pm Adventure Club  
6:30 pm Youth Group

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 4**  
6:30 am Men's Breakfast  
9:30 am Seniors' Ministry

**SUNDAY MARCH 8**  
2 am Set the clock one hour ahead  
10:30 am Baby Dedication (Liam)

**SATURDAY MARCH 14**  
7 pm SingPlus @ Bethany

**THURSDAY MARCH 19**  
7 pm Membership Council Meeting

**FRIDAY MARCH 20**  
6:30 pm Men's Night

**SUNDAY MARCH 22**  
12 noon Newcomers' Lunch

**FRIDAY MARCH 27**  
6:30 pm Women's Night

**FRIDAY APRIL 3**  
10:30 am Good Friday Service

**SATURDAY APRIL 4**  
9 am Easter Egg Hunt

**SUNDAY APRIL 5**  
10:30 am Easter Cantata

It is important to balance character (who we are) and ministry (what we do). Emphasizing ministry at the cost of personal character formation will hinder our spiritual growth. On the other hand, offering service to God is an important aspect of our continued growth in character.

**January Financial Report**

General Fund Donation	Monthly Budget	Received
	\$31,835	\$27,667

**OFFERING**

E-TRANSFER: [treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca](mailto:treasurer@bethanybaptist.ab.ca)

OR DROP OFF YOUR ENVELOPE AT THE OFFICE

**Donation Policy**

The spending of funds received by Bethany Baptist Church is confined to Church approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or the specified program or project cannot be reasonably carried out or has not been approved, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes will be issued as soon as possible after the year end.

## GOT QUESTIONS ARTICLE

### Why do Christians suffer?

Suffering is an expected part of the Christian life. Jesus told His followers, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” ([John 16:33](#)). That truth about overcoming sustains Christians when suffering threatens to overwhelm. Christians suffer for a variety of reasons, including many of the same reasons non-Christians suffer—life on this broken planet can be difficult. Christians may also suffer for some of the same reasons Jesus did ([John 15:18–19](#)). Believers represent an uncompromising truth that the world doesn’t want to hear, that Jesus Christ is the only path to God ([John 14:6](#)).

Suffering of any kind was not part of God’s original creation. Everything He created was “very good” ([Genesis 1:31](#)). Sin corrupted the world at Adam’s disobedience, and sin continues to corrupt the world as we each add our own poor decisions, rebellion, and selfishness ([Romans 3:23](#); [6:23](#); [8:19–23](#)). Sin has ripple effects, as well; our sin harms others, and their sin harms us, even when we’ve done nothing wrong. Becoming a Christian does not insulate us from the ugliness in our world, nor does it protect us from the natural, temporal [consequences of sin](#).

The [book of 1 Peter](#) addresses Christians who were suffering ([1 Peter 1:6](#)). Peter encourages them in their trials, reminding them that their suffering had a purpose: “So that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” ([1 Peter 1:7](#)). In other words, God uses temporary suffering to refine the character of His own children. James tells us to “consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” ([James 1:2–4](#)). Suffering, no matter its cause, can be used by God to complete us in Him ([Romans 8:28–30](#)).

There are several possible reasons for Christian suffering that are distinct from the reasons for the general suffering experienced by everyone:

1. Suffering may be a form of discipline. God is a good Father, and when one of His children goes astray, He may use suffering to bring him or her back. [Hebrews 12:5–11](#) says that God disciplines those He loves. Verse 7 says, “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?” For example, when a man who spends all his time and passion at work instead of with his family or with God loses his job, it may be that God is toppling his idols in order to help him readjust his priorities. Financial stress may feel like suffering, but it could be intended to produce godly character in a person who has placed too much importance on money. Even if hardship has no link to a specific sin struggle in our lives, God can use it to train us. Parents, for example, often assign their children chores, not to punish them but to help them learn various skills and build a solid [work ethic](#). Those chores may feel like suffering to the child, but they are being used to build something in the child that will serve him or her well throughout the rest of life.

2. Suffering enables Christians to identify with and encourage other sufferers. [Second Corinthians 1:3–4](#) says, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” Those who have experienced the grace of God in their trouble are better equipped to help others find the same grace in their trouble. Joni Eareckson Tada is a good example. A diving accident when she was 17 years old left her a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic. She deals daily with pain and lack of mobility but has allowed God to grow her and develop His character in her. For several decades she and her husband Ken have overseen ministries that serve the disabled. From summer camps for the mentally challenged to Wheels for the

World, a project that provides wheelchairs to impoverished handicapped people, Joni has used her own suffering to benefit thousands. By allowing Joni to suffer for a while in this life, God is providing her a unique opportunity to store up bountiful treasures for eternity ([Matthew 6:19–21](#)).

3. Suffering helps us draw closer to the Lord. We often seem to grow most when we go through difficult times. Suffering strips us of artificial or temporal securities and forces us to dig more deeply into the Word to find peace and purpose. It has been said that “when Christ is all you have, you find that Christ is [all you need](#).”

4. Suffering reminds us that this world is not our home. Christians who live in more affluent parts of the world may find it harder to long for heaven than their impoverished brothers and sisters. When life is comfortable, eternity is only a glimmer far in the future. But when Christians suffer [persecution](#), poverty, and privation, eternity starts to become the brightest light in their lives. Often, Christians who suffer have an advantage in keeping their priorities straight.

Some teach that those who have enough faith will [never have to suffer](#). But this doctrine is contradicted on every page of the New Testament. From John the Baptist being beheaded in prison ([Matthew 14:1–12](#)) to John the apostle being banished to Patmos ([Revelation 1:9](#)), the New Testament is a record of the terrible suffering that dominated the first-century church ([Acts 8:1–3](#)). The men and women listed in [Hebrews 11](#) were commended for their faith. Many on the list, including Abel, Noah, and Abraham, endured suffering. [Hebrews 11:16](#) tells us how they did it: “They were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” We read of faithful Moses who “chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward” ([Hebrews 11:25–26](#)). Moses’ faith did not shield him from suffering, and in fact contributed to his choosing of it to gain something greater.

The author of Hebrews also speaks of unnamed faithful “who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground” ([Hebrews 11:35–38](#)). Living by faith in a fallen world invites suffering and requires an acceptance of a deferral of reward: “These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect” ([Hebrews 11:39–40](#)).

Our ultimate hope is not in this world or in gaining earthly comfort; our hope is in God and in His greater plan. It requires faith to please God ([Hebrews 11:6](#)), and the faithful know that a lack of suffering is not a reliable indication of His pleasure. Neither is the experience of suffering proof of His displeasure.

The same hope exemplified by the people mentioned in [Hebrews 11](#) is ours, too, when we suffer for doing right ([1 Peter 3:14](#)). Even when we suffer as a direct result of our own poor choices, our suffering is never wasted. God promises to use even our most heartbreaking pain for good if we will trust Him with it ([Romans 8:28–30](#)). Paul, who suffered more than most, wrote, “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” ([2 Corinthians 4:17–18](#)). That knowledge strengthens Christians when they are called to suffer.

## MISSIONARY UPDATES

## Vance & Korelei Nelson

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

### New Book Work

Procurement of fossils, and associated living counterpart photographs have been a large part of Vance's work over the last two months. This work is for a section in his upcoming book which deals with the age of things: the theology and the evidence.

Above, you can see two fossils with their living counterparts. Sea stars (formerly Starfish) have turned into sea stars, and pencil urchins have turned into pencil urchins. The older one wants to believe the rocks are, the stronger the point becomes. Genesis states ten times in the first chapter that God created creatures to reproduce after their own kinds.

Vance has already procured many dozens of fossil examples of plants, aquatic organisms, and insect life showing no matter how "old" the secular geochronologists claim the rocks are, the message of the evidence remains the same: organisms have reproduced after their own kinds.

### Dire Dragons Book Expansion

Work is also being done on expanding Untold Secrets of Planet Earth: Dire Dragons to about 200 pages. New examples of dinosaurs, or supposedly extinct reptiles in old artwork, have been discovered, and have gone through a protocol developed by Vance over the last 26 years. This assures that the examples are solid evidence.

### On the Road

February to April: Saskatchewan & Manitoba

Please pray with us:

- for health and safety while travelling
- for open hearts and minds
- for changed minds and salvation
- for funding for books & ministry

God has been sustaining us in ministry for about 25 years. We have grown to trust in Him, and His leading. Funds are a bit short at the moment, so please consider donating to this ministry.

1. Why is pride so dangerous in a community of believers, and how can remembering that everything we have is a gift from God help keep our hearts humble?

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2. Should Christians be careful when it feels like they have “everything they want”? Why might abundance or having things pretty easy be a spiritual warning rather than a guarantee of maturity?

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3. Paul says we should “not go beyond what is written.” Where do you see the temptation today to build our thinking, identity, or leadership on something other than Scripture — and how does staying rooted in God’s Word protect us from pride?

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4. Paul contrasts being “fools” and “weak” with being “wise” and “strong.” Why might weakness actually be closer to Christ’s pattern than strength?

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5. Paul describes hardship but also describes his responses: blessing, enduring, and appealing gently. What stands out to you more...the hardship itself, or how he responds to it?

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6. In light of this passage and Jesus’ call to take up our cross daily, how does this text help us understand the role hardship plays in following Christ?

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7. How do we honestly acknowledge our natural desire to avoid pain, while still learning to trust that God may be using difficult seasons for a good and shaping purpose in our lives?

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8. How can we walk alongside others in hardship in a way that shows compassion and patience, while also gently helping them see that God may be at work shaping them through what they’re facing?

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