

# Message from Your District Superintendent



Hello District Family,

**Welcome to District Conference 2019**, meeting in 3 locations this year ~ Calgary, Edmonton and Grand Prairie. Our hearts are full of anticipation and expectancy as we look forward to welcoming you and interacting together around our theme

~ ***“The Issachar Moment”*** ~.

How should the church go about its ministry in a time of rapid change, radical cultural shifts, and the acceleration of just about everything? That’s the sort of times that we find ourselves in.

It’s not a unique time in history. We read in 1 Chronicles 12 about a dynamic season of societal and geopolitical shifting. The people of Israel were defecting from King Saul and they were aligning themselves with a new focus and new purpose with the yet to be King, David, who was out in the wilderness. All of Israel and the various tribes are numbered there as they assemble at David’s side; tens of thousands of this tribe and that tribe. Then, quietly in the narrative, we are introduced to the tribe of Issachar, a small clan of only 200 leaders, who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do”.

What a beautiful group to have in the midst of God’s church. People who understand the times and discern together what we should do as the Body of Christ.

***The Issachar Project*** has been for this exact purpose.

Over the past two years, our District has been in a period of intense investigation and reflection. We have been listening to three different audiences. First, we have been listening to God, prayerfully asking for the Holy Spirit to speak into our hearts. We have been listening to our constituency of pastors and leaders and taking careful notes about what they are hearing, seeing and thinking. And, we’ve been listening to culture at large – not only here in Alberta, but broader to Canadian and global trends - asking, ‘how do our changing times and current realities impact our how we should move forward in our mission and mandate from Jesus?’.



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The Western Canadian District of  
The Christian and Missionary Alliance

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***We're in a time of rapid acceleration of change in the world. How does the Church find its place and gain its traction in such a time as this?***

We trust many of you, along with the core leadership of your church, have been able to listen to our ***Issachar Reveal*** videos (available at [WDCTV.com](http://WDCTV.com)) to generate your own discussions and discernment within your specific ministry contexts.

At District Conference, both Terry Mochar and myself will be making presentations regarding the findings of the Issachar project and what the implications of these are to our District Office and District Family. Change can be both exciting and uncomfortable, but we are continuing to lean into Jesus as He leads us to increased Kingdom impact in our post-Christian Canada. We covet your prayers and input as we discern this for our region as a whole, but also uniquely so in our various local churches.

Now is our ***Issachar Moment***. Time to choose our path. Time to let go of some things in order to make room for new ways of being, thinking, acting, and living. We come gather to bind ourselves afresh to Christ and the mission of multiplying disciples everywhere.

Our conference begins in each location with an afternoon of equipping seminars on *The Big Three*; making disciples, seeking renewal, reaching the least reached. Then, as has been our tradition, we will host a banquet full of celebration, worship, service awards and vision for our district. This will be a great time to begin to focus on our theme, to enjoy fellowship and to be a family together! The following 'ministry advance' day will feature a variety of District business and ministry reports, DS and DEXCOM elections, and with the bulk of our time dedicated to discussions and presentations on the Issachar Project. At the conclusion of the day, we are delighted to also hear from our C&MA president, Dr. David Hearn and from Dr. Terry Young who will bring an update from Ambrose University. Lunch and all coffee breaks will be catered onsite.

Friends, I look forward to our time together and what the Lord wants to accomplish in our midst. We are ever looking to Him to be our guide in all things, to lead us into a fuller understanding of His will for us in the days and years ahead and to step out in faith and joy in our service to Him. And as we gather, we trust that our love and awe and praise will increase and overflow! May it be so - Come Lord Jesus and meet with us!!



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I, together with your district team, look forward to seeing you in whichever location you attend. Please join with me in spreading the word and inspiring all the core leaders in your church to come with you!

Together in Mission,

Brent Trask  
District Superintendent