

It's hard to believe that we have turned the pages of the calendar eight times in 2012 and summer is fast coming to a close. Meteorologists and weather reporters tell us that we have experienced one of the warmest summers in the past 50 years. Dolores and I have enjoyed every minute of it for a number of reasons: Outdoor meals on the patio, our potted flowers have bloomed their hearts out, we have enjoyed fresh homegrown raspberries, Nanking Cherries and Saskatoon's before the birds got them. The rains came at the right time for me as I only watered the lawn once or twice all summer – that's a bonus.

Without warning, the nights are getting cooler and the days are getting shorter. It's all about change – isn't it? As much as we may wish summer was longer, it's not going to happen because of the way God created the world and everything in it. In writing about "Change" one author wrote these famous words, "There is nothing as certain as change." The reality is that for the most part change is beyond our control. Seasons, weather, health, eyesight, hearing, ageing, world economy are only some examples of the inevitability of change. I say all this in order to share with you what Dolores and I experienced while on a short vacation we took to the community where we grew up.

The weather reminded me of what summers were like growing up on the farm; hot, under a relentless sun, driving a tractor all day wishing the sun would set and a cool evening breeze would blow in. No umbrella's or air-conditioned cab on tractors in those days. What a pleasure to sit under the shade of the large trees in our friends back yard, take the boat to Lake Diefenbaker for 2 days of exploring a Lake that did not exist when we left Saskatchewan, fishing, early morning breakfast on the boat under clear, sunny skies with not a ripple on the water, reconnecting with a couple who were in our wedding party in June 1956, visiting the Church where we were married June 10, 1956. We even had our own private worship service after breakfast in the boat on the water – WOW! Too soon we said our goodbye's and headed home. As we reflected on our summer adventure, Dolores and I were impressed with several things we had become aware of:

1. Everything had changed since we left Main Centre to make our home in Calgary September 26, 1956
2. Farming was no longer a way of life but a business – only a few "small farmers" left in the whole municipality: three large Hutterite Colonies literally swallowed up what had been a thriving community
3. The small town which boasted a variety of businesses was literally wiped off the map – the railroad was taken out, the grain elevators were gone, the Arena was gone, all the stores, even the Post Office was gone
4. We realized that because of all the changes that had taken place plus ageing, our friends were stuck with limited options – the implications of relocation seemed formidable – the Church, which had been a huge part of their lives had a total congregation of 26 [all in the 65+ age range] coming from distances as far away as 30 miles – the nearest town with other limited services is 20 miles
5. All of these changes were out of their control and they would never go back to the "good old days"

When I accepted the offer of a transfer to Calgary three months after our wedding we never dreamed that this would happen to the community that had been home all our lives. So we can't say, "We made a smart move." What we did say was, "God was at work in our lives and we didn't even realize it!" I could have refused the transfer because I was given the choice. We were young, naïve and ready for adventure having no idea that this was only the first step into a journey that would be full of surprises, painful experiences and great victories!

We didn't know that when we said to God, "We'll be what you want us to be, we'll do whatever you want us to do and we'll go wherever you want us to go", it would involve changing careers six times, moving to St. Catherines and Niagara Falls, Ontario, Edmonton, High River, Prince George, BC, Peace River, Innisfail and back to Calgary in our 56 years of marriage. When we reflect on our journey with God, we can say that change has been good for us because He has used that to grow us to become the people we are today – disciples of Jesus. PTL!!

-Pastor Ed & Dolores Dyck

Bible Verse for the Month

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

Matthew 22:37 (NLT)

Milestone Birthday Celebration

Congratulations are in order to Bertie McCrackin who celebrated her 95th Birthday on August 31, 2012!
Our prayer for Bertie is that God would bless her richly in the coming year.

"Making Disciples – It's a Family Affair"!

Thursday September 20th 2012

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

The Harvest Rooms

Guest Presenters:

Emily Jantz, "Hands at Work" Mission &
Lynn Dutton, "Intentional Friends" Women's Ministries

Menu

Baked Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
New Corn, Fresh Salad, Home Baked Buns
Dessert Crumble [Fruit Plate for Diabetics] & Beverages

After Dinner – "DiscoveryLand Explosion"
Crystal Sylvester, Pastor of Children's Ministry

Cost: \$15.00 per person at the door
Please register with your phoner
Or contact Dolores Dyck 403-251-0340

Looking Ahead -

- October 11: Rosebud Theatre - Dinner and Show [Bus Trip] [Call to reserve tickets](#)
- November 15: A Time for Remembering – Dinner Event with Guest Speakers
- December: Calgary Christmas Lights Bus Tour [Date to be determined]
- January 17: Christmas in January Turkey Dinner

"Aging seems to be the only way to live a long time!"

Ed Dyck, Pastor of Seniors Ministry

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