

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Those words from Paul to the church in Philippi are what come to mind when I think about Harvest.

Though not perfect, you emulate everything that a church should aspire to be... You love God. You listen to Him. You speak about Him from His word to one another and to those who don't yet know Him. You share your resources generously for the care of the saints locally and globally as well as to reach those in far and distant lands, especially through church planting. You care for widows and orphans. You are grounded in the practices of the early church while contextualizing them for life in our post-Christian society.

When people ask for churches in Canada that they should learn from, I quickly point them to you all.

It is a joy to know many of you and to have the privilege of friendship with some of your leaders.

The unfortunate reality for your church (like every church) is that your church is continually on the brink of moving away from being all that the Lord wants.

So, please keep listening. Revelation chapters two and three remind us that the Lord is intimately involved in His Church. He wants to keep speaking. He is continually knocking and wanting to fellowship with you. Remember it's His Church, not yours.

Finally, don't lose your first love for those who don't yet know Jesus. Please fight against becoming a religious cul-de-sac for Christians. May you be like a continually growing hospital where the sick can come and find healing so that they can go out and tell others that Jesus is at work through your church.

May you fully believe that God is able to do far and abundantly beyond all that you could ask or think and that you are deeply loved by Him.

I am humbled to be a small part of the story of what Christ is doing through you.

Dwight Bernier