



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5 (TNIV)

To the Members and Friends who gather for your local AGM,

We have just come through the time of Advent and Christmas; likely the greatest interruption in human history. Matthew tells us that Herod and all Jerusalem were disturbed by the coming of the baby King. Life continues to be a series of interruptions. I have been thinking about this since one of the lines in our kitchen broke loose sending a small flood of water into our kitchen and down into our family room. For a couple of months we did without most of our kitchen and worked with a make-shift sink and counter. At one point we couldn't reach either stove or sink so there was a discontinuation of the normal cooking that goes on. Did this interruption ruin our life? Hardly! Today, we have a much nicer kitchen than the one that was ruined. The interruption has resulted in a house that has a higher value than before.

Sometimes interruptions are difficult; like the closure of CBC. Many wondered if this interruption meant more than the closing of a well loved school; could it mean the end of focused discipleship in the ECCC. Today we stand on the edge of a whole new series of interruptions that God seems to be bringing about; interruptions that will impact many disciples of many ages from across our congregations!

The commitment to follow Jesus is a commitment to live with interruptions. We will see interruptions in our time, our passions and our resources. But these interruptions can end up being of incredible value to us. Many from our family of churches have chosen to go on some kind of service project as part of living out their faith. These projects may be at the local soup kitchen or in another country. Everyone I have talked to says that without a doubt the interruption enriches their life.

Let's be honest, there is an interruption that comes from being part of a larger church family. It is possible that some of the local initiatives might even be interrupted so that there can be a joining in with the wider ministry of the Covenant. I would like to think that because of many being willing to have interruptions there has been significant ministry done in the past year. The ministry may have been in Haiti or in Gatineau, in Congo or in Mississauga, in Kenya or on the Key Reserve. I want to thank your congregation for taking seriously the notion of joining together in shared ministry. I want to thank you for being willing to have a possible interruption from what you may have wanted to do on a local level.

As you head into 2009 I want to ask that you be on the lookout for the interruptions that come from God's Spirit. Regardless of how they seem initially – they will always bring something to your individual or corporate life that would not have happened without them.

Grace and Peace to you as you meet,

Jeff Anderson, Superintendent