



PRISON MINISTRY

It might be hard for us to imagine a Christmas without gifts, family, or a visit with friends, but sadly, this is the reality for many in our local correctional facilities. Jesus himself instructs us to care for the forgotten members of our society. With your generosity, we are working to change this. 2021 marks the 5th year that Coastal Church has worked to deliver Christmas packages to minimum and medium security inmates in Mission, BC.

For these inmates, there's nothing special about Christmas in prison. Maybe they'll be offered a cup of hot chocolate to mark the day, but we're about to change that for 400 inmates by giving them each a gift. Each gift will include a Moleskine journal, a day planner, a Coastal Church pen, a box of Purdy's chocolates, and a Christmas Card containing an encouraging scripture and message. We are bringing the love of Christ as we hand these gifts to each recipient. **This is just one tangible way that we can be the hands of Jesus, caring and praying for others, and shining light in a dark place.**

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." - John 1:5 (NLT).



SAVE THE DATE! - YOU'RE INVITED!

This year Coastal is pleased to announce that we will once again be hosting our in-person Grand Services for Christmas!

The Grand Services this year will be on December 18 and 19 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Register for your ticket here: enjoychristmastgether.com

Please note that Coastal is working closely with the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and will be following the guidelines established by the PHO to be able to hold this event and reach many for Christ. We are expecting this Grand Service to be a sweet time of celebration.

Both services will also be live-streamed.

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COASTAL CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Pastor
Dave Koop

What Child Is This?

This traditional Christmas hymn took on a whole new meaning for a church in Queens, New York in 2015. The church was asking, "What child is this?" when they discovered an actual newborn infant wrapped in a purple towel in their church nativity scene. The baby had been born only a few hours earlier and still had the umbilical cord attached. Quickly the baby was taken to the hospital and was thankfully found to be okay.

As the Christmas season is now here you will hear this carol played in the malls, on the radio or in a church service. The question the carol asks is one that we all should stop and think about this time of year.

There are some who have never given it much thought. For them, Christmas is more about a holiday time to celebrate with friends then to think about a child born in a manger over 2000 years ago. Still for others, they have never really heard the story behind the child that mysteriously showed up in the world with angels singing and shepherds watching. Even if we have heard the story of Christ the King coming to "such mean estate" before, we should slow down enough to reflect and marvel at this Child.

When a child is born, every parent asks, I wonder what they will be when they grow up? What is their purpose in life? The song makes it clear the purpose of Jesus' life was to go to the cross. As the songs says: "The cross be borne for me, for you." A common phrase at Christmas is "Jesus is the reason for the season." And this is certainly true, but on the other hand "you and I are the reason

for the season". This Child, who was God's word in the form of a person, had the express purpose in life of coming to set us free from the power of sin.

December can be a hectic month with Christmas parties, shopping, work deadlines and family commitments. But in all our busyness I challenge you to "Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary."

On December 18th and 19th Coastal Church will be having a grand service at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on West Georgia in Vancouver where the story of Christmas will be told through the creative arts in a fresh way.

Invite some friends and come discover who this Child is! The event is free, for tickets please go to: enjoychristmastgether.com



CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS – CAMPUSES STARTED IN 2021

These past two years the world has been challenged, stretched, and changed. In the midst of trials and adversity, we can recognize God's hand and celebrate His faithfulness.

This 2021 we celebrate how God has continued to build and expand His kingdom and how He continues to use Coastal in new ways as we seek His face and His will.

In 2021 Coastal was able to re-open campuses and launch new ones!

Downtown, Pitt Meadows, Commercial Drive and Richmond were opened again, and Coastal launched a microsite in Squamish and new campuses in Yaletown and North Vancouver! 2021 was also a year where the Spanish service was launched in person out of our Commercial Drive Campus.

We reflect in awe at what God has done and stir up our faith expectantly for what He will do as we continue to press in and follow Him while we travel together.



2021 DINNER WITH THE FATHER

Christmas dinner is the highlight of the season for many. This year, Coastal will be participating in its 15th year of providing a special "Dinner with the Father" for 40 members of the Vancouver Friends for Life Society.

"Vancouver Friends for Life Society" is a wellness centre supporting people who are alone fighting HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other serious illness.

This special Christmas dinner started in 2006 when a Coastal Church Life Group member who was a part of the Friends for Life Society approached his Life Group leaders.

The name "Dinner with the Father" was chosen as many people may have challenging relationships with their earthly fathers, but we all have a Heavenly Father who loves and cares for us. Starting with a small team the "Dinner with the Father" has continued and grown over the years.



Dirty Apron, teamed up with Coastal Eden café will be providing the meals that will be delivered to the members. For many of these members this is considered their big Christmas dinner "event".

We pray over the food and believe that with every meal and every smile, we help make the city a better place.



AN INTERVIEW WITH SANDRA – SERVING GOD THROUGH MISSIONS

Coastal Church does not only support local ministries and missions, but also gives into what God is doing in different parts of the world. Below is an interview with Sandra, a member of our church who is currently living and serving in Switzerland and has taken on a role serving at Alpha, Switzerland.

Tell us a little about yourself! Where you are, your ministry roles and any initiatives you guys are part of currently.

My name is Sandra. My husband Enrico and I returned to Switzerland, for now, to be close to my in-laws. It all happened rather fast and unexpectedly. God is using every circumstance, His purpose, His plan. I started working for Alpha Switzerland. We are a team of four and are serving smaller and larger churches all over Switzerland in running Alpha. I am honoured to equip and coach churches and their leaders, such as winning new churches for Alpha, strengthening and expanding the Alpha culture locally, strategic planning and development of Alpha as well as collaborating with Alpha Europe and developing and running training across Switzerland.

Did Coastal play a role in you coming to Christ or your growth in Him?

Coastal is and will remain my spiritual home away from home, even when I am unable to be there physically. Growing up I believed in God but I never learned, knew and practised a relationship with him. To me, the church was a boring, stiff place. The book "the purpose-driven life" by Rick Warren God used 5 years ago to finally bring us home to him hitting it off with these lines on the first page of his book " Life is not about you". To that point, Life was all about me, me, me. We dared to step into a church building again after those rather unpleasant childhood memories. My husband, Enrico then joined Alpha and I joined a small Group, then we did Alpha together and the Holy Spirit came big times and life was no longer the same. We got baptized at English Bay and later renewed our wedding vows there after 19 years; this time, dedicating our marriage to GOD. We hosted Alpha groups, we were each part

of a small group, we served at Coastal, joined Saturday Morning Prayers, we basically were full-on fire for Jesus and his church and still are. The highlight was the opportunity given to me in form of an apprentice year (combination of mentorship, studies, and serving). Pastor Cheryl took me on as her mentee and to this day, she has been infusing me with her wisdom, leadership, faith, her humility and her love.

How has Coastal supported your growth in ministry?

In every step of the way, I felt guided and supported by my leaders in the Coastal Church team. There are so many programs that Coastal is offering besides the great teaching of God's word. The thing is, it is all on you. You have to take action in wanting to be plugged in. Being a part of a small group and serving is essential in my opinion. This shifted my attitude from "Going to church to Being the church"



How is Coastal currently supporting you and what you are doing?

If it wasn't for my incredible Mission Partners who also are a part of my Coastal Church family, I would not be enabled to do His work at Alpha Switzerland. The assignment God has given me is way too significant and big to carry alone. It is the best teamwork I ever have been on. My leaders (Pastor Dave and Pastor Cheryl) have been my advisors together with the Holy Spirit in the progress of me taking on this assignment. I don't just work for Alpha, I live and breathe to serve the church and its leaders in my role. The financial, spiritual support, leadership and guidance of Coastal Church is such a blessing. I am beyond grateful to have a whole church family standing behind me by giving into this ministry and by praying for more lives to be changed through Alpha in Canada, Switzerland and all over the world. Through Coastal my attitude was shifted from "Going to church", to "Being the Church" and I am grateful.

"Jesus came and told his disciples, " I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18 -20