

October 13, 2012

Hi, Greetings in Christ from Saint John,

A church up the street from us had a ladies' exercise group called "Firm Believers" – but this update has nothing to do with that. (Shouldn't have mentioned it. Sorry. North America keeps amusing my African mind).

Where was I? Oh yes, formlessness...

The earth was formless and void, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Gen 1:2

"What's your new title?" I get asked.

"Director of Inter-cultural Ministries"

"How's it going?"

"Well, it's big. Once I get my mind and arms around it, I might start directing it.

I said to Malcolm Beckett the former Director of Mission for the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, "I sure hope you're getting more done in your new office than I am in your old one. This new ministry doesn't have a life of it's own yet." (The office is formless, too, with empty bookshelves – I need books – like 2000 of them.)

His reply was profound: Remember, Paul, God worked on creation for six days before he actually breathed his life into it.

Yes, that's the sense I have! God is slowly creating something stupendous.

Inter-cultural Ministries – a movement of out-of-our-comfort-zones hospitality that could reshape our provinces, country and churches – is currently shapeless and empty with more questions than answers. But the Spirit is hovering. God is birthing something and beginning to breathe.

We're waiting, praying, researching, preparing, and casting here's-what-part-of-it-might-look-like visions – taking dominion and directing as much as we can.

We got a preview a few weeks ago. At the last of three seed sowing/training sessions with Kennebecasis Baptist a number of refugees and immigrants were with us. Classic Canadians and more colourful versions (Vietnamese, Bhutanese, Liberians, Zimbabweans and Somalis) sat, drank tea, listened and talked together. God smiled; his pleasure was palpable. We got a glimpse of the world he had in mind when he first hovered and breathed and, on the cross, breathed his last.

"Thank you!" to the people and churches who have already asked us to share. Thank you for those who are already investing in this ministry in the making.