

Weekly Connection – August 6, 2020

Greetings from Gerald D. Reimer, Director of Canadian Church Planting

Like many of you, when I first saw the video of the explosion in Beirut, the capital city of Lebanon, I was shocked. This was quickly followed by an overwhelming sense of sadness and sorrow for what had just happened to all those beautiful people living in this city of 2.5 million people.

Our newest EMC church planting couple, Ibrahim and Phebe Zabaneh, who are working with Arabic-speaking people in Winnipeg, informed me that they know many people in the city, including relatives who live there. They themselves have served in the ministry there in the past. One friend of theirs indicated that the hospital where she worked as a nurse was completely destroyed by the blast. They also indicate that many Syrian refugees live in Beirut and that means there are connections with people in Winnipeg with whom they minister as well.

Our hearts are heavy today for the devastation of this catastrophic event, which has caused so much more pain and suffering for a people who have already suffered so much. We pray that our gracious Heavenly Father would meet them in this darkest hour with peace that passes all understanding. We pray that our fellow Christians living and serving there would find healing and strength to be the hands and feet of Jesus to their neighbours throughout that city during this time as well.

Video

The [video](#) this week is by Dr. Darryl G. Klassen, senior editor of *Theodidaktos: EMC Journal of Theology and Education*.

EMC Global Pandemic Emergency Fund

EMC, MWC, MCC and other global Anabaptist agencies are pooling resources to assist the global Anabaptist church during this pandemic. Visit [this page](#) on our website for more information and to donate, or mail a cheque designated *Global Pandemic Emergency Fund* to our office (EMC, 440 Main St, Steinbach, MB R5G 1Z5). For a wider update available in English, Spanish, and French, see <https://mwc-cmm.org/deacons-commission/stories/covid-19-global-response-fund-helps-churches-0>

Theodidaktos

A new issue is available of [Theodidaktos: Journal for EMC theology and education](#) in digital and print forms. Churches are welcome to indicate how many print copies they wish to receive of this current issue. See Darryl Klassen's cover letter with a request (**attached**) for submissions related to the BLO's recent pastoral letter. Thank you.

On-Going Contact

The Weekly Connection was started to assist communication in a crisis. To help churches even more, an on-going contact is being developed. The Weekly Connection will pause now for the month of August and a new connection will be promoted in September and start in October.

EMC National Office Staff

