

# The Prairie Page

## Living

### Thoughts from Gayle

*As part of my reflective practice as I move toward retirement, I'm going to select a few of my favourite or meaningful Page Posts to republish. Enjoy the journey with me!*

*In the last year or so, I've "discovered" Pastor Ian Simkins through his presence on Instagram. His white text on black background posts are distinctive, but it's his words that often challenge me to see things a bit differently, to look at something familiar in a new light or to envision the Christian life in a way that brings joy and delight. Here is a post of his that has particular relevance to the goal of Christian education to "See the Story. Live the Story."*

I had a professor that started every semester with an experiment. He'd say, "Without getting out of your seat, take 15 seconds and notice everything in the room that is yellow." We'd all feverishly scan the room and then he'd have us close our eyes and would say, "Okay, now I want you to list everything in the room that is... blue."

The whole class would let out a frustrated moan. If you're playing along at home, you might be doing the same. But he made a point that I've never forgotten. He'd say, "Some of you are so convinced that God only works in yellow, that you're missing all the ways He's working in blue."

He was right. I've often believed God only works in certain ways in certain places and I've missed so many of the ways God is moving outside of my expectations. The choice isn't between being in God's presence or being somewhere else. We're always in God's presence. It's whether we're aware of it or not.

I sometimes wonder if God isn't a little bit like "Where's Waldo." He's on every page, but sometimes we need to look a little more intently to see Him. In Genesis 28 Jacob wakes up from a dream and says something I've always resonated with. He says, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I was not aware of it."

I don't know about you but I don't want to live my life like that. I don't want to live unaware of the presence of God right under my nose. I don't want to rush past or hurry through whatever season I'm in. If God is moving, and I know He is, I don't want to miss it.

Have you ever bought something and then started seeing that same thing everywhere you went? That's known as the Frequency Illusion or more informally the Baader Meinhof Phenomenon. What you are looking for you will find.

If you're looking for outrage, you'll find it. But the same is true of beauty, goodness, gratitude, and love. It's easy to see the negative, the ugly. And there are plenty of reasons for that. But when we intentionally seek out things to be grateful for, when we actively look for God in the ordinary and mundane, I believe we'll find Him there too.

So maybe ask yourself, "What am I looking for today?" I often merely glance at what's beautiful and gaze at what's broken. I think I need to reverse that. Sometimes I go to God for answers and what I get is His presence. And that's good news too.

## Learning

### Celebrations of Learning

Meadowlark Christian School, in Edmonton, held their second annual Celebration of Learning on March 11 from 3:30-6:30pm. [Meadowlark teachers use Storyboards](#) as an essential practice for telling the learning journey within God's Story and as you walk through their hallways and classrooms, you will see Storyboards filled with their most recent units, FLEX's, learning targets and Throughline connections.



You can reach out to Rachel McOuat ([rachel.mcouat@epsb.ca](mailto:rachel.mcouat@epsb.ca)) for more information on Meadowlark Christian School's Celebration of Learning and their TTT journey.

### Teacher's Convention 2026

**Plans are coming together!**

- **Dates:** October 22-23
- **Location:** Calgary Christian School
- **Keynote Speaker:** [Mark Buchanan](#): author, speaker, pastor, professor
- **Registration:** Opens September 1, 2026

## Leading

### End of the Year Reflections

As you lead your staff through the end-of-the-year activities, consider setting aside some time for them to reflect upon the year. Here are some questions to consider: How has your Deep Hope impacted the teaching and learning in your classroom? How might you revise your Deep Hope next year? List three highlights from the year. Describe one "game changer" (an unexpected event that shifted your priorities). What didn't go as well as expected and what will you do differently next time?

### Summer Time Reading

I recommend picking up a copy of [God Walk: Moving at the Speed of Your Soul](#) by Mark Buchanan. Mark will be the keynote speaker at our Teachers' Convention, but I think this book would be a great summertime read for leaders. Coming off the demands and stresses of the school year, it could be a formative part of your summer restoration. [This video](#) gives a quick overview to whet your appetite.

### Job Postings

A reminder that PCCE schools can post job openings on the PCCE website, as well as [SCSBC's](#) and [Edvance's](#), free of charge. To post on the PCCE site, contact our office ([office@pce.ca](mailto:office@pce.ca)).

## Looking Ahead

**October 5 - 7, 2026:** Christian Schools Canada Leadership Conference

**October 22 - 23, 2026:** PCCE Teachers' Convention

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