



Focus Forward

Matthew 3:3 & Isaiah 40

Preparation is critical in many aspects of life. We send our kids off to school, hopefully preparing them for a lifetime of work. We “prepare” meals for our families. If you are a pastor, you prepare to speak to people, and that takes time, energy, and creativity. Preparation cannot be ignored.

In Matthew 3:3, and in every Gospel, we find a quote from Isaiah 40, informing us that John the Baptist’s role was to prepare the nation of Israel for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. This preparation was unique and

This year, our theme at BCMB is Focus Forward. Preparation is about planning for the future. John the Baptist was focused on the coming of the Chosen One, and he preached a message of repentance and focus. Today, I am issuing a call to focus. There are many distractions in our lives, but God calls us to focus on Him and His mission. I invite you to consider what distractions are pulling you away from that mission and to choose to limit them. In December of last year, I chose to remove most of my social media apps from my phone—there were simply too many distractions. It has been freeing, allowing me more time for reflection, reading, and time with my grandkids.

The second part of our theme is “Forward.” We can focus on the past, but that is like trying to drive a car while looking in the rearview mirror—not very helpful. Preparation is forward-thinking. How is God calling you and me to invest in His mission? What does moving forward look like for BCMB? Throughout this year, we will continue to explore this theme together. I would love to hear any thoughts God may place on your heart, so please share them with me.

My prayer is that we would “prepare the way” for the work of Jesus to flourish in our churches and communities. Will you join me in praying for this? Just as John the Baptist was called to “prepare the way,” so we too are called to prepare, so that people will hear the clear invitation of the gospel and understand how it speaks into every part of life. Let’s invite God to show us the way, and then go and do the mission He has called us to do.

Your fellow servant,

Reg



Reg Toews, Executive Director