

What's up for Faith Today Subscribers

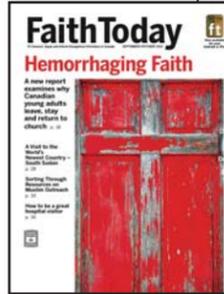
The Sept/Oct issue of *Faith Today* takes us inside *Hemorrhaging Faith: Why and When Canadian Young Adults Are Leaving, Staying and Returning to Church*, interviewing some of the lead voices in the writing of this groundbreaking report on the church attendance patterns of Canadian youth.

The story includes practical ways that churches can engage youth for the long haul.

Faith Today subscribers can also access years of archived copies of this award-winning magazine at www.faithtoday.ca/digital. Cover stories on climate change in Canada, reaching out to Muslim neighbours, religious freedom in China, and many more feature stories are easily accessed online by opening a current digital issue, then selecting back issues.

The Jul/Aug digital-only issue of *Faith Today* continues to attract attention online with its attention-grabbing cover story on how Christians can use social media and other technology in ways that align with their faith.

Check it out at www.faithtoday.ca and see some of the discussion on this story and many other topics at Faith Today's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/FaithToday>.



facebook

Come join the EFC on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/theEFC



Activate CFPL is the EFC's law and public policy blog – Visit www.activateCFPL.theEFC.ca

Do You Like What You Have Read?

If you read this issue of *Canada Watch* and recognized the importance of the work the EFC is doing in Canada, things like helping to secure a victory in the fight against human trafficking and producing a unique and helpful report on youth and their faith, then you need to know about Partners in Faith, the EFC's monthly giving program.

- Partners in Faith is a select group of EFC donors who recognize that biblical principles are a positive reality that we actively promote to help make our country a better, more just and compassionate place to live. Partners in Faith want results, and they get them.
- Partners in Faith enable the EFC to plan ahead for the most effective response possible when issues arise. Dependable, monthly donations help make that possible.
- Partners in Faith enable their donations to go further because they help us to reduce our administrative costs. More funds are channeled towards programs, boosting the EFC's efforts at the global, national and local level of biblical activism even more.
- Even when you don't have time in a busy life to do things like visit your Member of Parliament, add your name to a petition or write a letter to the editor, you can be assured that you are at work in Canada, because the EFC is there speaking biblically into the issues that are shaping Canada today, and what Canada will be like 20 years — or 20 months — from now.

Visit www.theEFC.ca/partner or 1.888.302.3362 for more information on Partners in Faith.



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The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is the national association of Evangelicals, gathered together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals and a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society.



TOGETHER FOR INFLUENCE, IMPACT AND IDENTITY • AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

CanadaWatch

CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE:
The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill

MINISTRY SERVICES: EFC Releases Report on Why Youth Leave the Church – and Why They Stay

PARTNERS IN FAITH: A Message From The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's President, Bruce J. Clemenger

How you can help



- Join us in thanking God for this important milestone in the efforts to end human trafficking.
- Share this great news with your church, family and friends. Include this link to bring them up to date: www.theEFC.ca/humantrafficking
- Continue to check www.theEFC.ca for updates on this issue and more as we work together for influence, impact and identity.

UPDATES ON THE ISSUES that the EFC is currently involved with are always available at www.theEFC.ca 1-866-302-3362

A Moment to Celebrate

On June 28, Governor General David Johnston put pen to paper and granted Royal Assent to Bill C-310, extending the reach of Canada's laws against human trafficking to the actions of Canadians outside our borders.

The EFC was invited to the ceremony.

Although ready to move forward with additional initiatives, we accepted the challenge to stop and smell the roses first.

We recognize the significance of what has been accomplished through consistent, sound, respectful public policy engagement on this issue, grounded in biblical principles. The EFC received a certificate of appreciation from MP Joy Smith recently, who is a recognized champion in the fight against human trafficking – and initiator of Bill C-310. The certificate read in part:

As Member of Parliament for Kildonan – St. Paul and sponsor of Bill C-310 I want to acknowledge and honour the outstanding efforts of EFC Centre for Faith and Public Life to help pass Bill C-310. As a result of EFC's support Canada has strengthened its tools to combat modern day slavery.

The passing of Bill C-310 comes after years of the EFC's engagement, including most recently a presentation before the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs' review of the bill. We are grateful for the many opportunities we have had to work alongside and support MP Smith's leadership on this issue.

In fact, it is hard to believe that less than a decade ago, Canada had no specific criminal prohibitions against human trafficking. The efforts of the EFC, working alongside other concerned groups, contributed to then Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler's (MP, Mount Royal) 2005 amendment of Canada's Criminal Code to implement Canada's intent to prevent human trafficking, protect victims and prosecute offenders. Two years ago Julia Beazley, EFC Policy Analyst, wrote these words in an ActivateCFPL blog, reflecting on the passage of MP Joy Smith's private member's Bill C-268, a bill actively endorsed by the EFC that extended greater protection to children from traffickers and drew together a network of

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individuals and organizations in a groundswell of support calling for additional action on human trafficking:

A coordinated, multi-level strategy is required to identify and prosecute perpetrators, identify, rescue and support victims, and to curb the demand for human servitude, sexual or otherwise. Curbing this demand will require a serious look at additional measures to combat human trafficking...

Today in Canada, that is what is happening.

In early June, representatives from the EFC were among a select group to attend Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews' Ottawa launch of Canada's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking – a plan that, we are pleased to report, incorporates many of the suggestions made by the EFC in our October 2011 report *Seeking Justice, Rescuing the Enslaved: Recommendations for a National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking*.

There is more to be done.

Close links have been established between human sex trafficking and prostitution. The EFC reflected on a strategy for Canada in our April 2010 report *Selling Ourselves: Prostitution in Canada, Where Are We Headed?* With Canada's prostitution laws the subject of a case soon to be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada, the EFC is preparing to engage in the Court and before Parliament to make our laws on prostitution – and strategy on human trafficking – even more effective.

But first, let's enjoy these few minutes to reflect, celebrate and share with you our gratitude for your prayer support, financial support and other support generally. Our donors and supporters are a key part of every victory. And the significant strengthening of Canada's human trafficking laws is a victory indeed.



EFC Releases Report on Why Youth Leave the Church — and Why They Stay

Why are youth leaving the Church? When do they go? And why? Those questions are answered in *Hemorrhaging Faith: Why and When Canadian Young Adults Are Leaving, Staying and Returning to Church*.

The ground-breaking new report, commissioned by the EFC Youth and Young Adult Ministry Roundtable and sponsored by the EFC, Great Commission Foundation, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada, Stronger Together 2011 and Youth for Christ Canada, surveyed Canadian youth aged 18 to 34, investigating their spiritual lives as children, teens and young adults, and their subsequent church attendance patterns.

Aileen Van Ginkel, the EFC's vice-president, ministry services, was a key leader of the study. She shares her thoughts on the study with *Canada Watch*.

Q: Aileen, why is this report so important?

Understanding, from their own perspective, why young people leave the church or stay engaged holds up a mirror to the church, and helps us to ask "What's vital for us to hang on to? What do we need to let go of? What do we need to start doing or improve on doing?"

This is true not just in relation to young people, but to all members of the church.

Q: Why did the EFC help organize this effort?

The EFC Youth and Young Adult Ministry Roundtable, which operates on the administrative platform of the EFC, led the way for us. The Roundtable members knew that one of the things that they could do better together than alone was commission a research project that would shed light on their changing ministry landscapes. And in Canada using Canadian research findings.

This report is a great example of the EFC facilitating the coming together of Evangelicals from across Canada for a common purpose that will, in the end, help us all.



"Understanding, from their own perspective, why young people leave the church or stay engaged holds up a mirror to the church..." – Aileen Van Ginkel

Q: How do you think churches and parents can use this report well?

Churches can use this report as an opportunity to come together before God and discern what God is saying to them about what it means for them, in their own particular contexts, to be and act as the Body of Christ in a way that includes members of all ages.

For parents, this is a good reminder that they are a huge influence on how their children view the Christian faith – and it's not so much about what parents say as it is about what they do. That's what the report tells us.

Children, youth and young adults will be looking to see if their parents' beliefs really have an impact on how they live. There is a call here to parents live out their faith 24/7.

Q: What was your biggest surprise?

I'm not sure I'd call it a surprise, but I was really gratified to see that the research stressed the importance that young people get a sense of who God is and how God acts in their lives. If God is not real to them, then they just don't want to bother with the Church. It's a wonderful reminder that church is primarily a gathering of people who are walking together in response in Jesus' call to follow him – it's something we all need to take seriously, especially when the extraneous things about church distract us from our focus on Jesus.



To sign up for a copy of the report, visit

hemorrhagingfaith.com

A Note from Bruce J. Clemenger, EFC President



A victory in human trafficking in Canada. A report on young adults, the first of its kind in Canada, produced through the collaboration of five distinct evangelical groups. And a roster of other initiatives we are gearing up for in the fall. This represents what the EFC is all about – public witness and effective partnerships resourcing the church in Canada. With the passing

of Bill C-310, we see the results of long-term EFC engagement on a crucial issue for the wellbeing of vulnerable members of our society. With the publishing of *Hemorrhaging Faith: Why and When Canadian Young Adults Are Leaving, Staying and Returning to Church* we see an insightful tool that churches, ministry organizations and parents can use to engage their youth more deeply in a lasting faith. These EFC milestones would not be possible without your partnership. Thank you.

On Parliament Hill



The EFC has been granted intervenor status in the *Cuthbertson v. Rasouli* case. The case before the court is about an Ontario man, lying in a coma due to complications after minor brain surgery. The doctors in charge of this man's care determined the time had come to remove him from the medical equipment that is keeping him alive. The family disagrees out of their religious beliefs and he is responsive to their presence. In July, the EFC filed its written arguments which consider the sanctity of human life and the importance of moral and religious beliefs in life and life's decisions. Find out more about this case and read the EFC's legal arguments online at www.theEFC.ca/RasouliFactum.



Bill C-279 is a repeat of last year's Bill C-389, a private members' bill proposing to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination, passed second reading in the House of Commons and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The EFC has deep concerns about this bill as both of these categories have been recognized in law as being covered under the term "sexual orientation" which is already in the Act. The EFC is watching and responding to this bill as it makes its way through the system.

