

Hello Mountainview Church family.

I hope all of you are doing well and enjoyed a good summer and fall season. With the restrictions from COVID lifting, I hope you were able to travel, go on vacation and get outdoors. It has been an eventful summer and fall for Jackie and I. We were expecting a posting this summer that would keep me at a unit in Kingston, but after some significant personal issues came up with some of my colleagues, we found ourselves posted across the country to Vancouver Island, to an Airforce Base in Comox, BC. Not what we were expecting at all!

Jackie and I celebrated our 35th anniversary this fall and we had planned to take a Baltic cruise to celebrate. The cruise was cancelled back in May due to ongoing COVID concerns and the conflict in Ukraine, so instead we went to PEI and enjoyed a couple of weeks golfing, cycling, looking for sea glass and eating too much COWS ice cream. While on the island we received the news that we were posted to Comox, so we packed up, drove back to Kingston, promptly put the house on the market and began planning a cross country move. The house sold in three weeks, and in early August we made a house hunting trip to Comox and with some effort and shock at the prices, we found a nice townhouse in a hamlet called Little River.

The new house is nice, part of a very small HOA of seven units built in what used to be a campground. There are big trees, white capped mountains in the distance, and the Georgia Strait about half a block away.

The Strait, the ocean that lies between the mainland and Vancouver Island, is well known for its abundant sea life and Jackie and I cycle down to the water often, binoculars and coffee in hand, to sit and watch humpbacks, orcas, dolphins, sea lions and bald eagles. It is a popular past-time and we have met many of our neighbors at the beach and made connections in the community. Jackie even has an app on her phone that alerts us to sightings so we can rush down and look. We have also joined the local golf club and have enjoyed several rounds of golf so far, with the hope that, despite the rain, we can play year-round. This is the other great thing about Comox. The temperature range is 4 – 28 C, they get little or no snow (lots of rain in winter though) and many trees and shrubs are green year round. I was so excited to give away my snow shovels back in Kingston but Jackie said no!



My work in Comox is different from what I had been doing in Kingston. I am the 19 Wing Chaplain; I serve as the advisor to the Wing Commander and the Team Leader for the group of unit Chaplains on the base. We will soon be a team of six, five military chaplains and our administrative assistant. I am also the Chaplain to three units on Base; Deputy/Wing Command, 19 Mission Support Squadron and 19 Operational Support Squadron. Although the base is not large, approximately 2500 military personnel, it is very busy with three operational squadrons that constantly have planes in the air.

Our family is doing well, Jackie and I are settling into life on the island and getting used to being several time zones removed from our girls. Rebecca and Luke bought a house and we just returned from a trip to Montreal to help them move and spend some time with our grandson Zachary and their dog, Flynn. Zachary is eleven months old now, almost walking on his own, and in to everything. He is so much fun and makes us laugh often. Katelyn is busy at the university and aside from her doctoral work, she is teaching and working on projects for Heritage and History Canada. She will be going back to Europe next summer as staff for another Battlefield History Program, and dad might sneak onto that trip too!



We are settling in well – and we give thanks to God for blessing us during a hectic and complicated summer and fall. He is always good and we are looking forward to enjoying “island life” in the Comox Valley of Vancouver Island.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support, feel free to connect with us via our email; jkstieva@gmail.com.

God bless you all.

Kevin and Jackie Stieva