

25 years... Where Has The Time Gone ~ Paul Penner

PCC Locations

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Christian counselling available to Valley would become the story of Centre.

It was believed when PCC started, that making counselling available to everyone was important even if clients couldn't afford to pay. So a sliding fee scale geared to income was offered, with the high end of the scale equaling our cost to operate per hour and the low end whatever it would take to make counselling affordable - even if it meant no charge. No one would be turned away because of money. This meant client fee income would never fully cover our costs. We have been called to trust God for the shortfall. Because of that decision to turn no one away, we have worked from a 'ministry' model rather than 'business' model, and PCC has had to fundraise to make up the difference. We have looked to the Lord to move His people to partner with us rather than depending on our own efforts to pressure people to give. We believe this was God's idea, and enough people have shared

"What God calls us to, He will provide for"

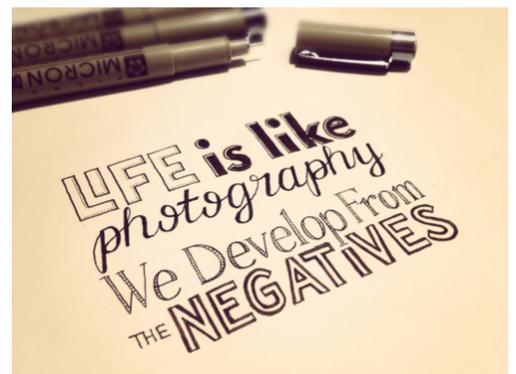
Every year is special for Pembina Counselling Centre because of ministry opportunities. But perhaps this year is a little different, because it marks our 25th year. To the Lord, to you, and the many who have supported over the years... we are grateful. Who would have thought an idea about the need for making professional everyone in the Pembina Valley would become the story of Pembina Counselling Centre.

this belief that we have been able to act on it. We are grateful and encouraged that a number of Churches have partnered with us in ministry over the years.

Marvin Wall, who was on the PCC Board when I began, told me, "What God calls us to, He will provide for". He has! Many, many months, more times than not, we have started a month without enough fund to cover the obligations we will incur that month. But the heart of our PCC story is not about God providing funds, but rather **why** He would. Why did God raise up PCC? Why are we looking at hiring another counsellor to join our team? Why are we expanding to Crystal City? Or adding more clinical hours for our counsellors? Or increasing our Morden office space? **The PCC story is about God calling people to journey with others who are wanting to find direction and hope.**

This calling has been given for us to walk out. Is it done yet? No. More people keep coming. What started as a vision planted in a few, has become 5000 different individuals, of all ages, coming to us for help over the years, and 40,000 opportunities for us to listen and care for people.

We believe that caring is more important than curing; that listening to understand is more important than pushing an agenda... that people need hope, and we have a need to share it with those who don't.



Broken and wounded people are all around us... in our communities, our churches and our families. People need to be loved as deeply as they have been hurt and not just told about it. We believe God passionately loves every person and that He has a response to our brokenness that is good and hopeful. Change can happen when hope and relationships are restored.

Pearls to Ponder...

A star has 5 ends.
 A square has 4 ends.
 A triangle has 3 ends.
 A line has 2 ends.
 But a circle of our friendship
 has no end.

Our counsellors and staff are chosen to be on our team for their passion about our mission, vision and values, and for the unique gifts God has given them to journey with our clients toward hope and healing.

I would like nothing more than for others to experience God's heart about restoring people and relationships, and then to join us in our mission... by praying, or partnering with us financially when God prompts; or if God steers people to invest their donation dollars elsewhere, that they would join Him where they have been called.

Managing Growing Pains...

I remember as a kid I would have pain in my legs at night. Mom said it was growing pains. As you can imagine, I experienced more growing pains than most of my friends. At PCC we also have growing pains given the number of people who are looking for resources to help them through situations they are trying to resolve. What that means is that the amount of time that we can book for clinical appointments in our Morden office space is at the max right now. To see more people and not just stretch out our appointment wait times we have had to consider expanding our physical space options to make room for scheduling appointments being sought by client requests for service. In addition to physical space requirements we are needing to contract more clinical hours with clinicians to serve the need, that is if we want to keep to a minimum how long clients have to wait to see a counsellor. Ideally wait times should be between two to three weeks for new clients. We have growing pain challenges here too. We need to add not just more clinical hours, but with each of our counsellors full time, and Judi Heide having retired this year, we are needing to hire another counsellor to join our team.

What are we doing about this? In regards to physical space needs, the PCC Board approved an expansion and relocation conditional on funding. After doing some research into our options, we concluded that the best space available to us was in the Agassiz Medical Centre. The north west wing on the second floor (with windows facing Stephen Street and the west side parking lot) is being considered as a potential relocation site. It would allow for adequate clinical office space (four clinical offices), a bookkeeping office, reception area, waiting room and a multi-purpose room for groups or Board meetings. We are looking to raise somewhere close to \$100,000.00 for renovations costs and the purchase of needed furniture. So far we have indications that subject to phases involved in the approval process, we may be granted between \$15,000 - \$25,000 from one of the foundations applied to, and between \$50,000 - \$61,000 from a second source. I won't mention the names of potential donors until the approval process is complete, however, we are hopeful that with the possibility of between \$65,000 - \$86,000 on the table for discussion (which is the price tag for building renovation costs less the furniture), we might be able to meet the growth needs PCC finds itself facing. These are exciting times. We'll keep you posted as things develop.



Peach Crisp

4 cups sliced fresh peaches
 ½ cup flour
 ½ cup brown sugar
 ½ cup cold butter
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 ¼ tsp salt
 1 cup rolled oats

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange peaches evenly in an 8"x8" baking dish.

Mix flour, brown sugar, butter, cinnamon and salt in a bowl using a pastry cutter or fork until evenly crumble. Fold oats into flour mixture; sprinkle and press topping into peaches.

Bake until topping is lightly browned, about 30 minutes.