

## **The Immediate Mission Field for FLEFC**

**A. Jerusalem and Judea (Fast growing community: Langley and Township of Langley)**  
**The Township of Langley has been identified as Metro Vancouver's fastest growing municipality. It is located 45kms east of the City of Vancouver on the Trans-Canada Highway and close to the US border. It is a predominately rural area with 75% of its land in the Agricultural Land Reserve that makes agriculture and farming very important. It has 84 parks and FLEFC is located close to the Fort-to-Fort Trail which is part of the Cross-Canada Trail and the Fraser River. In 2017 there were 6,600 companies operating in the township and 1,940 housing starts.**

- 8% population growth over 5 years compared to 5% in other regions. Population in 2017 was 121,727 up from 117,285 in 2016. The Township of Langley is among the 50 largest communities in Canada.
- For the period 1986 to 2036, the total population within the Langley Local Health Area (City of Langley plus Township of Langley) is expected to grow by 210% (an additional 153,000 people). The Township of Langley has experienced a growth Rate of 12.6% over the last census period (2011-2016) and expected to double by 2040.
- In 1986 approximately 1 out of every 3 residents in the Langley Local Health Area was aged less than 20. (2nd highest proportion of youngsters for a Local Health Area in Metro Vancouver). By 2036, approximately 1 out of every 5 residents in the Langley Local Health Area will be under 20. (2nd highest proportion of youngsters for a Local Health Area in the Metro Vancouver area). **NOTE! Lots of children**
- Population of the regions closest to the church and where most of the members reside are: Fort Langley 3,864; Walnut Grove 24,314; Aldergrove 12,327; Willoughby-Willowbrook 30,967; and Murrayville 10,973.

### **1. Social Culture and Families:**

- 10 % minority and compared to 25% in BC. These include many Koreans and Chinese, with other African nations represented as well. FLEFC has a Korean Church (Jubilee) currently sharing its worship facilities.
- Persons in low income 6.9% compared to 13.1% in BC.
- Average family size 3.1 compared to 2.9 in BC.
- Average income is 52K compared to 40K in BC. 51% of the population has some form of post-secondary education. They expect quality programming and ministry.
- 21% are between 5-18 compared with BC 18.3%

- 56% are married compared to 50% BC. Larger families on average compared to BC.
- Average age of the population in the Township of Langley is 40.2
- 67% of the labour force in the Township work there.
- Family finances are stretched.
- The Township has been dubbed part of Hollywood North because of the many TV series and films produced in the historic and beautiful Fort Langley area worth \$40 million a year.

2. Total -	Age	NUM	LNGLY	BC
	0 to 4 years	5 ,185	5.5%	4.9%
	5 to 9 years	5 ,855	6.2%	5.4%
	10 to 14 years	7,170	7.7%	6.2%
	15 to 19 years	7,360	7.9%	6.7%

### 3. Family Sizes:

	#	LNGLY	BC
3 persons	5 ,500	16.5%	14.8%
4 to 5 persons	9 ,020	27.1%	19.6%
6 or more persons	1 ,415	4.2%	3.3%

## B.. Samaria:

Increased poverty in downtown Langley, Surrey and Vancouver is evident as the number of recorded homeless people has increased of late.

### 1. Religious Needs in these areas

**60% of British Columbians do not attend church or claim religious affiliation.** Indeed, in 2004 over half of Canadians aged 15 to 29 and almost 40% of British Columbians either had no religious affiliation or did not attend any religious services. British Columbians were most likely to not attend religious services at 57% in all three years.

### 2. Langley Religious Profile (source: 2001 Census) (source canadianchristianity.com)

- 34,595 Protestant;
- 29,770 No religious affiliation;
- 12,510 Roman Catholic;

- 6,155 Christian (including evangelicals);
- 830 Buddhist;
- 590 Eastern Orthodox;
- 1,055 Sikh;
- 710 Other religions (including Hindu, eastern religions, Jewish)
- The Mormons have a Temple in Langley

### **C. Uttermost parts of the World:**

Like other local congregations, FLEFC has an increasing role in the world through its various ministries and contacts

#### **Comment:**

“Many leaders describe a perceptible increase in social need and homelessness in Langley, over the last couple of years. “I would say that in the last five years or so, I’ve seen a greater desire of churches to be impacting the city – rallying more and more around trying to help the poor,” said Southgate’s McTaggart. He went on to describe this as paving the way for an improved relationship with local authorities. “I really feel the spiritual climate is changing. There is a greater openness to the Christian message, likely because churches are more involved in the community,” he said, adding: “When we leaders pray, it’s not for our own work; but it’s prayers for our city, for souls – not just to build our own congregation.”

Christian Life Assembly (CLA) is the largest church in the area, with some 3–4,000 in regular attendance. North Langley Community Church (second largest?) and perhaps FLEFC third largest.

### **D. Ministry Implications for FLEFC:**

1. People do not know much religious stuff. Be careful about religious jargon.
2. Strong family based ministry is essential.
  - a. Marriage and family counselling and teaching is essential (i.e., Alpha Marriage etc.).
  - b. The Mormons are here for a reason!
  - c. Invest our time and finances in families.
3. Recovery Programs or financial advising. Addictions abound!
4. Attention to sports parents (i.e., church on a time that fits their schedule).
5. Inviting small groups for connecting people.
6. FLEFC has recently featured equipping workshops to encourage the congregants to share their faith in a meaningful manner.