



WELCOME TO CBOQ SUNDAY

We invite you to read the following statement after you have shared the video, or, if your church doesn't have video capabilities, you can read this in place of the video.

We are unique.

Let's take a moment to look around right now. Look at your neighbour, the person in the pew/ chair on the other side of the room... or the person who took your favourite seat today. These people you see were created in the image of God, and each of us is known by God. Each of us was purchased by the blood and sacrifice of Jesus. And each of us is guided by the Holy Spirit. You, me, we are all one of a kind. And this is your church. You belong here.

We are distinct.

No other church has our combination of people. No other church has our precise constellation of talents or challenges. No other churches is as well-equipped to serve in our neighbourhood as we are. We know this place. We know our people. No one can reach out to our community like we can. Because we're invested here, we care about it.

We are not alone.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." We are a cord of about 340 churches. Imagine how strong that makes us! Our church is part of the *[insert your association name here]* association. You may not know this, but we gather together to share ideas and support one another. Our church and our association are part of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, or CBOQ. That's why today we're celebrating CBOQ Sunday. It's who we are as a congregation—part of a bigger family of churches that work together, make decisions together and support one another.

And as a family member, we've been asked to partner in prayer with another church in our family. The church we're being encouraged to pray for is *[name of prayer partner church]*. We'll be dedicating time over the course of the next year to pray for them. Hopefully, we'll even learn a little about them, and if any of you are travelling to that area, perhaps you'll consider dropping in on a Sunday morning. As well, another church will be praying for us! We believe that God welcomes our prayers and that the Holy Spirit will move in powerful ways in partnership with our prayer.

Please make sure you take your family's copy of *The Canadian Baptist* magazine. It's another opportunity for you to see what's happening in your big Baptist family. And, I'd like to pass along a message of thanks from the staff and Board of CBOQ. "Thank you for being a part of our family. Thank you for joining us in prayer. We are grateful to have your church in our midst, and are honoured to have the opportunity to serve your church. Remember us in your prayers, that God would give us wisdom, integrity, courage and discernment to hear the leading of the Spirit as we share the good news of Jesus across Ontario and Quebec."