

Daniel Paras

1701 Signal Hill Green SW
Calgary Alberta T3H 2Y4

Bits about me

- I was born in Edmonton, AB in the early 80s.
- I have had 20 different mailing addresses in 7 different cities while living in 3 different countries on 2 continents.
- There are 11 different congregations I would consider as “home churches” during my life travels.
- The C&MA is the denomination I have the greatest experience with, totalling over 13 years in 3 different countries.
- Click on the map to the below to explore where I’ve lived and where I’ve served—including some of my missionary activities across the globe!



On the web at <http://tinyurl.com/maporama>



Degree: Master of Divinity (3rd year)
Anticipated Graduation: April 2017
Age: 33 **Birthday:** Dec 4



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A quick history...

I was born into a Christian family that moved often, as I grew up. As such, the only real sources of permanency in my life came from my family and from my faith. After graduating from high school, I spent a year working, trying to figure out “what to do next” with life. I ended up working as a meat cutter while raising funds to commission a large mural painting that a few friends and I painted in the core of Slave Lake, the town where I was living. The next year, I moved to Edmonton to go to Bible College, still trying to figure out where God was leading, and after completing the 1-year program, I enrolled in university, eventually graduating with a BA in Drama and Psychology. Immediately after university, I worked at Crowsnest Lake Bible Camp in southwest Alberta over the summer as an “out trip director,” leading groups of campers & counsellors through multi-day excursions in the Rocky Mountain wilderness. Work was hard to come by after that summer finished, and—true to BA graduate form—I ended up working in fast food for a bit before a big-box retail chain recruited me into their management program. In the Spring of 2007, I was asked by a friend to consider serving as a missionary-teacher in Thailand, which I ended up accepting (The details around this offer, and how I got there is a story in itself though!). I worked in Thailand for two years, also partnering with a Thai family to plant a church in my second year there. After my teaching contract expired, I moved to Calgary and began working for Shaw Communications, climbing the corporate ladder until, in 2012, some of my friends reminded me of the call they saw on my life to be in full-time ministry. God used this reminder, along with a constellation of other factors coming together at the end of 2012, to have me apply at Ambrose Seminary in early 2013. That Fall, I began studies full-time, and I’ve been working toward my degree at Ambrose ever since!

Previous ministry experience

- Youth group leadership
- Bible Study facilitation
- Sunday School teaching
- Prayer meeting coordination
- Sunday worship service planning & hosting
- Preaching
- Acting in & directing skits or plays
- Summer camp ministry
- Large events planning & execution (youth conferences, music festivals, etc.)
- Church planting
- Worship tech support (audio, A/V, etc.)
- Seminary Student Council president

Hobbies and interests

- Travel
- Technology
- Photography & Digital media
- Hiking, outdoor exploration
- Stories: written, acted, filmed, drawn—you name it!
- Food: both cooking and culinary experiences
- Communication and leadership

Strengths

I have been told that I am a good communicator and listener, and that I made an exceptional boss. People have said that I have a knack for connecting people and making them feel comfortable, valuable, included. I am passionate and dedicated, willing to go “above and beyond” to ensure that goals are achieved if I believe in them. I’ve been told that I am a natural teacher, and that I have a keen sense of perceptiveness.

Weaknesses

As a person who naturally tends to be shy, I find it challenging sometimes to meet new people. Large, loud groups in small spaces are draining to me, and I’ve found I work best in smaller groups, where everyone has a chance to be heard. My dedicated passion sometimes can turn into stubbornness, and although I will always listen to criticism or alternative perspectives, I can be difficult to convince.

Opportunities

I’m looking to be used where God wants me to be; I’m not 100% certain what that will ultimately look like, however. I have a passionate desire to see Christianity break through the spiritual darkness in Thailand, and I would love to participate in developing a robust discipleship ministry for new Thai Christians in the metropolitan Bangkok area. I also know, though, that God can use me elsewhere, and indeed, that He might very well want me within a Canadian context.

My hope is to develop a deeper understanding and perspective of what church ministry looks like in the day-to-day reality. I want to learn as much as I can to see where I might “best fit” within the overall thrust of the universal Church’s call to fulfill the Great Commission. Is God calling me to be a teacher, a pastor, a missionary at home or abroad, or a worker within a parachurch organisation? Is He, perhaps, calling me to be a combination of some of these things? It is my hope, as I rub shoulders with a mentor pastor (or pastoral team) in a church ministry and community, that some of these considerations will flesh out and give me a sense of how I might best contribute to the Body of Christ and its God-given goals.