

Biographical Sketch
Rev. Chris and Rebekah Crocker

Chris and Rebekah have been married since April 2006 and in fact attended grade school together as children! They were both born and raised in rural Ontario, Canada, but now they are following the Lord's call to the international city of Bristol where Chris will embark on a four year doctoral program in Baptist and Evangelical history. They will be accompanied by their Border Collie named "Jennie." Allow them to introduce themselves:



Chris:

Chris' family originally hails from Devonshire, though they have now resided in Ontario for many generations. Chris grew up a "farm boy" labouring on his uncles' and neighbours' farms. He came to faith at a young age and was baptized in 1995 and has been engaged in Kingdom work ever since. For the past six years he has served as an evangelical Baptist pastor in rural pastorates, prior to which he was active in lay preaching and the life of his home congregation. Concurrently, he has served as the regimental chaplain of a Canadian Army armoured reconnaissance reserve unit. When he is not so engaged he has his hands in the honey pot, marvelling over this creature and praising its Creator who gave it such admirable instincts, by managing some 50 colonies of honey bees with his father.

Chris has had the privilege to further his Christian education through two masters degrees and now through his PhD which will focus on John Ryland Jr— a Baptist pastor, one of the "Baptist Five", and friend of many notable evangelicals of his day— among whom God powerfully used in preparing the way for the 2nd Great Awakening in the early 19th century. In ministry he is passionate about bringing Christians together under Christ and His word, helping them understand their spiritual heritage to equip them for their future (Heb 13:7), worship and music, Biblical counselling and Christian discipleship: mentoring, preaching and teaching. Chris is also an avid outdoorsman and loves adventure, world travel, carpentry, gardening, guitar, strategy games, history, geography, politics and good conversation.

In 10:10, that Jesus came so that we could have "life and life to the fullest," is his life verse and motto.



Rebekah:

Rebekah's heritage is very unique coming from evangelical Mennonite roots. After years of persecution her ancestors settled in Canada. Rebekah grew up on her parent's farm and spent many summers picking cucumbers. Having the privilege of growing up in a Christian home, she gave her life to Christ and was baptized in 1996.

Rebekah has trained and worked in childcare, administration and history, which was her focus in university. For the past three years she has served as the curator of their regional museum and archives.

Rebekah has been most faithful and indispensable in supporting Chris' ministry. She has a heart for youth, leading nominal Christians to Christ and missions (the Crocker's most recently taught beekeeping in East Africa in 2013). Rebekah enjoys a good read, historical research, writing, long walks, knitting, travelling (especially England), making cards and collecting tea cups.

The Crocker's are scheduled to arrive in Bristol on August 1st. After storing away their possessions, concluding jobs and responsibilities, and bidding farewell to family and friends, they are expectant as to what the Lord has in store for them in the coming years on this great journey. As they wait on the Lord as their Good Shepherd, trusting Him with this international transition, they look forward to blessing Bristol as ambassadors for Christ and likewise being equally blessed in return.



The Lord's Sweetest Blessings,

The Crocker's
"Deus Elit Esos"



