

Seek first
the Kingdom...



SPRING
2018

PARTNERS IN PRAYER



Experiencing God's Faithfulness
in Canada 

Isabel & John Bennett



On the move:

Andrew & Melissa Porter: Seventeen years ago Andrew Porter arrived from N. Ireland to commence what has proved to be a very fruitful ministry with The Faith Mission (in Canada). Two years later Melissa and Andrew were married and for the past fifteen years they have served in Northern Ontario, Western Ontario and more recently Andrew as Regional director for Western Canada based in BC. In every area they have served with a passion and dedication to the Gospel, a commitment to the local church and to the work of The Faith Mission in Canada. Wherever they have been their lives and ministry has impacted many people. Over the years Andrew has often wondered if God was leading him towards a more settled pastoral ministry. Through 2017 this impression deepened resulting in a clear call to join the staff of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Vernon, BC. There is no doubt we will miss them, however they continue to be committed to helping whenever and wherever time allows. We also appreciate the fact that Emmanuel Baptist Church has been most supportive of the work over the years.

Conan & Julana Arndt: We are thrilled to share the good news that Conan and Julana Arndt have been accepted to join the Mission in April, following Graduation from Millar College of the Bible. Both Conan and Julana have worked closely with the Porters and Evans in BC over recent years. Julana is a daughter of Kevin and Janice Evans. The plan is for them to be based in BC and the board is seeking direction as to the exact location where God would have them live. We hope to share more details next issue.

Margaret Roberts: During her time in university on two occasions Margaret Roberts led mission trips to the South of Ireland where students assisted The Faith Mission. Over the years Margaret has felt a growing conviction that God was leading her to Ireland again only this time for a longer period, initially for one year with the option of this becoming permanent. Margaret will transition to the work in Ireland around the middle of March. (con't page 3)

During her time serving here in Canada Margaret has proved to be a most dedicated and loyal servant of the Lord. She does not shy away from difficulties. Once she catches a vision she goes for it. We are going to miss her but know that our loss in Canada is Ireland's gain.

Change is never easy we do not like to lose faithful staff whom we have come to know and love, however we support each of their decisions as we know they are following God's leading. We know they will all value prayer as they transition to new ministries.

Isabel and I continue to praise God for His continued blessing on weekend ministry and for His constant supply of every need. We are constantly hearing from people who share how they have been blessed or saved through the ministry of the Mission. This encourages us to continue to trust God for even greater things. I recently read a statistic that stated that only 1% of people in Quebec are born again Christians. I am not sure how much higher the stats for the rest of Canada would be. There are numerous mission fields throughout the world with a much higher percentage of believers. Will you pray that God would send many more labourers into this needy harvest field. We have only one couple in Quebec, one couple in Alberta, two couples in BC and four couples and two single ladies in Ontario. We thank God for those He has called. It is such a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group who are so passionate about their walk with God resulting in them being passionate about Prayer, Evangelism and Revival. We need many more such workers.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CAMPBELLVILLE CENTRE FOR YOUR CALENDAR AND PRAYERS:

Snow camps February 2 – 4 and 9 – 11.

Seniors Hymn Sing and Lunch April 25.

Men's Retreats

February 23 –24

Guest Speaker:

Pastor Les Clemens and

March 2 – 3

Guest Speaker:

Mark Hardwick

20s and 30s:

Retreat April 27 – 29

Ladies Retreats May 25 – 27

and June 1 – 3

Guest Speaker:

Sharon Atcheson

Youth Leadership Training

March 11 – 14

Thirsting For God Conference

June 22 – 24 Guest Speaker:

Charles Price



Jennifer Armitage

It is hard to report much about office work, however I do covet your prayers for all the regular duties in the office, like taking bookings for Sno' camps February 2 – 4 and 9 – 11. and coordinating and planning for the Lady's retreats, May 25 – 27 and June 1 – 3 when Sharon Atcheson from N. Ireland is the speaker. I am also involved in Prayer meetings in Oakville, Burlington and Toronto. I speak at the Junior Sno' camp. It has been a privilege to share in meetings in St. Thomas and Brampton also to represent the Mission recently at an event in Heritage college.

Excerpt from: AW Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy.

The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our religious thinking.

With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the Divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words "Be still and know that I am God" mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshiper in the middle of the 20th century.

The loss of the concept of majesty has come just when the forces of religion are making dramatic gains and the churches are more prosperous than at any time within the past several hundred years. But the alarming thing is that our gains are mostly external and our losses internal.



**Myron &
Janet Hoover**

**Campbellville
Centre**

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:7

Recently, a friend dropped in on a day that the ground was covered with fresh snow. She said "What is that hymn about snow?"

"Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole; I want You forever to live in my soul, Break down every idol, Cast out every foe; Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." (James L. Nicholson)

What a beautiful picture from scripture that reminds us of the cleansing that comes through Christ. The Centre is geared and ready for the upcoming weekends where it will be filled with the sounds of excited kids coming for Sno Camp- and hopefully some snow on the hill. This will be followed by the praise and worship that comes with the Men's Retreats. We often don't know what God is doing in heart's but these events allow for His word to go out and with that comes the promise that 'it will accomplish all that God desires."

We covet your prayers for these upcoming weekends as well as for each group who rents the Centre for their own retreats. We continue to pray that the Centre is a place where God reigns and where His presence is honoured and lifted up.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer for us!





Laura-Anne Drake

This past quarter has been one of growth: As we have continued to lead a Bible study at the Morningstar Mission in Napanee, we have witnessed a desire and change in the lives of our attendees as they seek to live for Jesus. Please continue to pray that they will hunger more for righteousness, as we finish off our program Life Explored and begin Discipleship Explored over the next several weeks. Pray for the group as they sort out their beliefs. We have also been encouraged as we see Refresh. Revision. Refocus bring together two young adult groups that we attend. There has been a growth of Spiritual vitality in the young adults in the area and we pray that we continue to see a desire there for a deeper relationship with God. Please pray for our Wilton youth group as one of our teens is moving; this one in particular has come up through Wilton kids club and has been part of youth for two years now. She has been struggling to believe in God and we appreciate prayer that she would be able to find a good youth group in the area that she is moving to. She comes from an unsaved home and we ask that you pray for God to reach out to them through other Christians



Margaret Roberts

This quarter also sees some changes happen in eastern Ontario as I (Margaret) leave to join the work of the Faith Mission in the Republic of Ireland. This has been a calling that God has placed strongly on my heart over the last few years and while this is not an easy move, God has revealed His faithfulness to me time and again. I cling to His promise in Deuteronomy 31:8 'The Lord is the One who will go before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged.' I have greatly appreciated my time with the Faith Mission in Canada the past four and a half years, and have evidently seen what it means to live a life of Faith. I have learned dependence on God in a way that I had not understood before as well as the importance of prayer; through these things my relationship with God has been cultivated and deepened. Having grown up with the Faith Mission in Canada as part of my life I will miss the workers and their genuine faith and dependence on God and words cannot express my appreciation for the Mission here. God has shown me the great need of missions in Canada and it is a banner that I pray the churches will take up, to reach out and 'seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness....' (Matthew 6:33).

Margaret Roberts con't.

My move takes place in March, and while as of yet my exact location is to be known, I will be working in Southeast Ireland. Please continue to keep the Eastern Ontario district in prayer as Laura-Anne continues the work and I also would appreciate prayer not only for myself, but for my family as transition takes place. Also know that your faithful support has been greatly appreciated.



Youth Group Fun - Napanee area



Youth Group - Montreal area

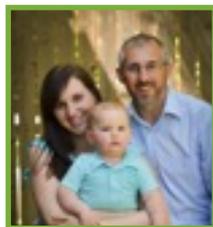
What a privilege it is to serve the living God - and what a joy to be able to teach and lead youth into a greater understanding of who God is. We currently work with 2 youth groups. One group is fairly young while the other group is more mature.

This year it was on our hearts to challenge the teens in the areas of spending time in God's Word and prayer. Young or old, we are convinced that their lives will forever be changed if they can learn to wait on and really meet with God in these ways, especially in their youth. Moses' prayer in Ex. 33:13 was that God would "teach him His ways so that he might know HIM". The goal of spending time in God's Word and prayer is not to fulfill some Christian duty but to meet with and know our God!

We have already looked at different ways to read and study the Bible – character, book or topical studies, etc., and are now moving into prayer. We will be looking at the necessity and power of prayer, things that hinder our prayers, being authentic in prayer and so much more. We would really appreciate your prayers as we seek to teach on this challenging yet exciting topic. If we are honest, this is an incredibly humbling area to teach on because we feel we have so much to learn in this area ourselves. May God take us deeper and teach us to pray”

We have been encouraged through both these groups. We know of at least 2 from the younger youth groups that took up

Robin and Debra Perron



our challenge to spend time with God in reading the Bible every day. We know God will use this in their lives! We have also heard from our slightly older group of ways that God has been working in their lives and leading them and how they have been seeking to trust Him in different areas of their lives. God is so good and we are excited to see what He will continue to do.

Youth Leadership Training

We are excited to be hosting our 3rd annual Québec Youth Leadership Training, which will take place March 4th – 8th. Our first year we had 6 youth while last year we had around 11 in attendance. We are not fixed on numbers by any means but we are excited about this opportunity and what God will do in the lives of youth during our time together. This year our theme is “Cornerstone” and we are considering what it means to be the church. We will look at the importance of being part of a local church, the mission of the church, key doctrines of the faith (what we believe and WHY we believe it), considering doctrines that have come under attack in the church such as creation and the existence of hell, etc. We are partnering with different believers as they come to share in the teaching of this week. Please pray that these would be life-transforming days as youth meet with God.

"... And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" Romans 10:14b

Jeff & Jani Goudy



We are so thankful for the open doors that God has given us to share His love and the great news of His salvation through Jesus Christ with many immigrants from all over the world. Your prayers mean so much! We have had several new men coming out to the soccer outreach and have had the privilege of meeting many new refugee families and tasting lots of Syrian food. Sometimes it feels like we are busy day and night but we really love every opportunity that God gives us to join Him in what He is doing in hearts. As we share the Gospel we have watched hearts soften and seen those who are seeking Him respond by asking questions and coming to church. We are excited that some are calling and asking us to pray in Jesus' name about various situations because they have seen God answering prayer. These families have become great friends but our earnest prayer is that they will all become brothers and sisters in Christ. We are so grateful for the small team of people who work with us and who share our love for these dear families. We meet weekly to pray together and to go out visiting. We are thankful for our older daughters who help so much in caring for our younger children in the evenings as we go out to minister.

We continue to be involved in discipleship through Bible Studies and through one on one meetings. The prayer groups are such an encouragement and a privilege to be a part of. It is great to journey together through the joys and trials and to rejoice in answered prayer. One of the men shared last week how God had spoken to his heart and challenged him with this thought... 'Why is it that we will drop everything and come together to pray desperately to keep another believer who is sick from going to glory? Praying for healing is a good thing. But, the sad part is... we just don't seem to care at all for the lost around us who are going to hell'. These are the ones that we need to cry out to God for. Please continue to pray along with us for a great move of God in central Alberta and all across Canada. For an even greater burden for prayer amongst God's people. "The only reason we don't have revival is because we are willing to live without it."

- Leonard Ravenhill



Graham & Melodie Ghent



"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3

Perfect peace... what a thought, and what a glorious message, this gospel of peace, we get to declare to the children of three public schools in Caledonia. Around 70 kids each week gather to hear this word during their nutrition breaks. What a great opportunity. Please pray that we would stay in favor with the schools and that the gospel would be deeply rooted in these children. Pray for Melodie as she prepares captivating lessons each week. Graham continues to preach around the region and also involved with coaching prayer and evangelism with small group leaders at different churches.

Early spring we hold 5 weeks of evangelism seminars (along with a kids program) at a church in Townsend. We look forward to YLT over the March Break and are trusting God to really work in the lives of the youth. This spring marks the first year that the Annual Spring Men's Conference will not be happening in the same way it has been. The Lord seems to be opening doors to a fresh opportunity to really encourage a revival of prayer in the churches. Let's pray to this end.

Upcoming Dates:

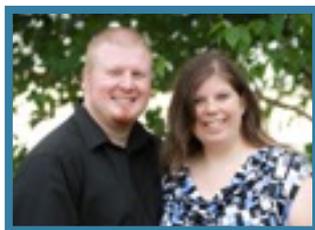
Irish Nite: March 10th - 6pm 

Youth Leadership Training: March 11-15

Saturday of Prayer: TBA



**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.**



Mark & April Hardwick

Thank you for continuing in prayer with us over this past quarter. God, our great Redeemer is so incredibly mighty! We see him work in situations that humanly seem impossible but it is our joy to lay them at His feet and know that He alone can inflict change. As we come alongside families who are unraveling years of destructive patterns, we know that in God's timing and power He will write these people a new story and bring glory to Himself. We are thankful that at the right time He encourages us, often through His word or a note from one of His children. Reminding us in those times we are waiting for that change to happen that He is still at work.

Mom's night out continues to attract new young mom's who don't know the Lord. Just before Christmas we had a craft night and were able to connect with some women that we hadn't met at all before. The church has gotten behind this ministry financially but we would love to see some more involvement in a practical way.

In just a few weeks Mark will be heading to Campbellville for the men's retreat. Later that same week we will again head to Quebec to join Robin and Debra for Youth Leadership Training. We are really looking forward to being with these young people again and seeing how the Lord is going to work this year.

The month of April holds a new venture for us, and the mission. Mark will be speaking at a 20's and 30's retreat at the camp centre in Campbellville April 27th to 29th. We are hoping for a good number of people to attend so please feel free to spread the word.

There are still many churches in Northern Ontario that continue to be without a Pastor. We really covet prayer for them as they search. If we could add one more request to our list - Riverside Church in Swastika is about to embark on a huge campaign for a new roof. The building is an old school so this is a very big job. God has proven faithful and we know He can accomplish this!



Whom shall I fear?

By Margaret R. Roberts

“Fear” the emotion behind the word is often that of sudden panic or withdrawal. However, when it comes to ‘the fear of the Lord,’ in today’s world do we truly understand? To be honest, I cannot recall the last time I stepped into a church and heard a sermon on the fear of God, and how that is depicted in a believer’s life.

The truth is, as Christians we should fear God: not that we should cower away from God, but to come to Him in reverence and awe. When I first heard the phrase, I wasn’t sure about its meaning, but now have learned that it isn’t a terrible thing, but really is can strengthen the believer to live a life pleasing to God.

“In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death” (Proverbs. 14:26-27).

There are a few things that I have learned and observed that I would like to share:

If we fear God, then we will put Him first: Believers are called to ‘seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you’ (Matthew 6:33). In first world countries, we have access to so much that it is easy to get caught up with material things. If it isn’t with objects than its with world events, family and/or friends. With everything that is taking place it is easy to lose sight of God and what His will is. However it is God’s Will that is supposed to be first in our lives and then everything will follow. I want to encourage you to set God first and surrender everything to Him. If we fear God, we will seek Him first, because our lives, hopes and ambitions are in His hands.

In fearing God, we will be bold: “So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6). When we look behind us at the way God used evangelists, preachers and missionaries who have gone before us, we can gain encouragement to look ahead. Missionaries such as Adoniram Judson and Jonathan Goforth are such men who suffered immensely for their Faith, yet God used them in powerful ways. These men were not afraid of what people thought of them but instead they kept their gaze on Jesus. In the book of Acts, Stephen was stoned but even then he did not look around him, but saw a vision of Jesus and cried out for their forgiveness (Acts. 7:54-60). When we need to stand before man and share the Gospel, it can be frightening, yet we also need to remember that we know the Truth and have the responsibility to share it.

If we fear God, our prayer life will also be intensified: We will pray with more fervour, because we become more aware of the greatness of God and His ability to transform even the hardest of hearts. Praise will flow from our hearts and an awareness of God’s power will settle into our lives. It’s a good reminder for us that despite the darkness and chaos that seems to be around us, God is greater and in control of all that is happening.

If we can grasp what it means to ‘fear God’ and apply it in our daily lives, we can find ourselves in a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him.





Andrew & Melissa Porter



I never would have thought one chance lunch meeting would have made such an impact on my future. I was in Bangor Northern Ireland at an interview for Bible school. I had been asked to stay after my interview for lunch and ended up sitting next to Roy Dreaing then working for the Faith Mission (in Canada). I was invited to come to Canada to help out for the summer. I accepted and the rest as they say is history. I had no idea that I would move to Canada, and marry a Canadian, or that God would bless us with four children. After emigrating to Canada and seventeen years of serving (fifteen as a married couple), with the Faith Mission, our time has come to an end. Over the last number of months we have been sensing God's leading to pursue a pastoral position here in Vernon, BC at Emmanuel Baptist church. As our ministry with Faith Mission comes to an end, its a good time to reflect on God's faithfulness over the years. We are humbled at the many ways we have seen God at work over the years. In many small rural Canadian communities we have seen the impact of the gospel on individuals and families. We have experienced God's sustaining power in our own lives and in believers around about us.

Countless kids clubs and summer camps, many hours spent in prayer, several vehicles and many miles to go with them. Lots of sermons prepared and preached. Lots of meals and fellowship as well. God has been so good and has guided each step of the way. Homes in Kirkland Lake, King Kirkland, Mount Forest and Vernon. Thanks you so so much for your partnership through this journey, your faithfulness in prayer and your love for our family. What's next? My position at the church is Associate for Worship & Christian Ministries. Primarily responsible for three areas, music, small group Bible Studies and College and Careers. In this process, a verse that is precious to Melissa and me is Joshua 1:6.

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them”.

We are excited to see what adventure God has for our family next. He is so faithful.



Kevin & Janice Evans



Psalm 100:2 “Serve the Lord with gladness.”

We've been thinking a lot lately, about the privilege to serve God. As we serve our guests at the camp centre, it is God we are serving. Sometimes the temptation is to serve with a grumpy bad attitude, but it is our prayer that we will serve with gladness and a song in our hearts. We need to remind ourselves that it is often through loving acts of service that the lost see Christ in us, and are drawn to Him. The best thing we can serve others is the Gospel of Jesus.

We appreciate prayer as we in BC are transitioning again as Andrew & Melissa Porter have left the Faith Mission, and Conan & Julana Arndt will be joining us the end of April. We praise God for providing wonderful Bible college students for the upcoming summer. Please pray that God will use our team to reach many for the kingdom through Camps this summer. We are grateful for your prayers and support.

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