

Partners in Prayer

Experiencing God's Faithfulness
in Canada



SPRING 2024 • Quarterly Prayer Update



Timothy & Emma CONDY

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*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me*
Psalm 51:10

Since the beginning of this year, the Lord has been challenging me in a number of areas and especially in relation to our walk with God. Our lives and our ministries can become so busy and the calendar is always full, yet if we are not spending that unhurried time before the Lord in prayer and waiting on Him; then what use are we in our ministries and to those we seek to minister to? As I contemplated on these verses in Psalm 51, the Lord brought an old hymn by William Cowper to mind which I trust will bless and challenge you:

*"O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb."*

The 'Christmas in the Country Banquets' were all well attended with unsaved at most of them hearing the Gospel and interacting with Christians who love the Lord. These continue to be great opportunities for outreach and we are

thankful for this avenue God has given to us. We began the year with a wonderful time at our 'Day of Prayer' in Campbellville. This truly set the tone for the year! We are so thankful for praying people who continue to 'stand in the gap' with us as a Mission and take the burdens to the Lord in prayer. We could not do this work apart from the sustaining grace of God and the supplication of the saints praying with us! If you are one of them – Thank You!

By the time you read this news we will have completed our Sno' Camps at Campbellville and our prayer is that each child and young person who attended would have been impacted by the Word and that lives would have been changed as a result of these camps! We look forward to our Men's Retreats at the end of February which are always special times together in worship and the Word with men from various churches and generations being built up in the faith. Pray for our Youth Leadership Training (YLT) over March Break as young people attend who have a desire to go deeper with God and grow in their love for God and His Word.

As we continue to move through the Winter and into the Spring, pray for the other events planned in the FM calendar and the outreach opportuni-

ties our workers will have. The ladies look forward to having Heather Holdsworth from Scotland as the speaker this year for Ladies Retreat. She has kindly given us an article she wrote based on Psalm 13 which is on the centre page. We trust this encourages your heart! Thank you again for your faithful support in prayer and for those who financially support this work – we appreciate you all and thank God for you!

FUTURE EVENTS

March Break YLT: Mar 10-13

Spring Hymn Sing: Apr 3

Camp Work Bee: Apr 27

Spring Ladies Retreats: May 24-26, May 31-Jun 2

Thirsting for God Conference: Jun 21-23

Summer Camps Begin: July 8 (for 3 weeks)

*Full details online under 'Ontario Events'
or by contacting the head office.*



Serving at the Christmas Banquets



Ontario & Quebec Staff Meeting

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In our last update, we mentioned the ladies Bible study which had started in the Spring but did not continue in the Fall. The ladies who were coming all have a Catholic background but are not living out their faith. There was much confusion about what the Bible teaches, and they had many questions. When the study did not start back up in the Fall, we thought perhaps God had closed the door. However, it appears God isn't finished with this group yet! We started meeting again in January, although only once per month for the time being. We are praying that over the next 6 months, God will work mightily in the hearts of these ladies and His truth will transform their lives.

Please continue to pray for our former youth as several of them are struggling in their walk with Christ. Our prayer is that they will stand firm against doubt and the vices of this world by turning to the biblical truths they were taught. Since coming to the St-Jérôme area, our eyes have been opened to several new ministry opportunities. One in particular has been on Rob's heart. Although humanly impossible from a human standpoint, we serve a great God who can do the impossible! We currently live in an area where the landscape transitions from urban to rural. It has been revealed to us that many towns, villages and hamlets to the north of us have no protestant or evangelical influence whatsoever. Some of these places have Catholic churches, but many of them are struggling or are no longer operating. Although there has been

church planting efforts in certain areas, there is still an overwhelming amount of work left to do. Several opportunities have opened up for us to serve in urban ministry and with English churches. It would be easier and much more comfortable to serve in ways that we have served in the past, Rob feels we are being called to something new. We would greatly appreciate you joining us in lifting this matter in prayer before the throne of grace. The Faith Mission (in Canada) has its roots in rural ministry, and we sense that this is the direction God is leading us to explore. Rob feels the next step is to contact the few churches in our vicinity that are scattered across the rural landscape to determine if there are any ongoing efforts to evangelize the north that we can support and partner with. We firmly believe there are countless people in the northern rural part of Québec who have never heard the good news of the gospel of Christ before. We know of other missionaries who have Northern Québec on their hearts as well and who are actively involved in reaching out to these communities. Our goal is to contact them in hopes that we can partner with them as well.

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. – Luke 10:2. God is so good and He is so faithful! We sense He is leading us in this direction, and we are simply following in His steps to see what He will do next. Thank you for remembering us and for standing with us in prayer!



Matthew & Susan MACFARLANE

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We had a great time with the Christmas in the Country dinners this year. Each one was different from the last. It was very encouraging to see almost a whole table taken up with people from our home church at one of the dinners. Matthew and Susan were both sick at different points throughout the two weeks, but at least one of us was always feeling well so things still ran smoothly in the kitchen. It was refreshing meeting with the rest of the FM staff following the banquets, and also to hear ministry given from one of the board members. After staff meetings, Mathew started renovations on the main floor men's and ladies' bathrooms. The men's bathroom walls needed repainting, the wooden stall and door needed restaining, and we installed pot lights in both the men's and ladies' bathrooms. (Completed pictures in the next edition of PIP)

Our first event in 2024 was a Day of Prayer. It was a fitting way to start the new year. It was also nice to see our numbers double from last year. To know that many of you care about what's going on for the Lord through the Faith Mission in Canada was touching. We continue to meet with young people in our home on the last Wednesday of each month. It's a delight to see how much they enjoy being together and we can see that they are a good influence in each other's lives.

The end of Winter and Spring events are fast approaching. We pray that God will be glorified through the efforts of all the staff during these events.

Come Help Us at our 'Spring Work Bee'
Lots of jobs for all ages!

Saturday, April 27 from 9am-4pm at
the Camp (*lunch provided*)
Email us if you plan to attend:
campbellville@faithmissioncanada.org



Left: Zach Helping Susan Clean



Right: Susan & Emma Prepping for the Banquets



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... It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer...
Matthew 21:13b

We continue to thank God for the way that he is working in hearts, especially in the area of prayer. The pastors and their wives in our area are such a blessing. In the pastor's prayer meetings over the past several months there have been several men sharing how they are so burdened to encourage even more prayer in their churches. We have heard of new prayer groups starting in different communities, and people are sharing how their own personal prayer lives have grown lately and that they have an increased burden to pray for revival. There have been many baptisms and several pastors have shared that their churches are full each week. It is such an encouragement to hear how several pastors and others are preaching and teaching on revival and that God is touching hearts. People are experiencing personal revival. Some pastors have also shared that as they have gone deeper with God some people have left the church, but those who have stayed have really come into "one accord", are growing together and have an increased burden to pray

and share the gospel. Please continue to pray for pastors and churches across our nation. We are so grateful for what God is doing and we continue to pray "mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead." Each week is full for us with evangelism, discipleship, prayer groups and Jeff preaches in various churches most Sundays. What a gift and privilege it is to have God's Word and to be able to share that with others and witness how God uses His Word in lives and hearts. Thank you for praying for us as we seek to be faithful to the Lord day-by-day and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.



'Faith Place' Room in the Goudy's Backyard - Used to Counsel and Pray with People



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As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
1 Peter 4:10

What an incredible privilege it is for every believer to be able to serve God using the gifts He has given us. We continue to joyfully look for places He is working and join in that work, as well as pray for new opportunities to share His love with the many people we come in contact with that know nothing of the Lord. Mark was blessed to be able to begin 2024 by joining in the Day of Prayer at the Camp Centre. It was encouraging to see so many come out and devote time to praying and seeking God's will for the New Year. Already our calendar is filling up quickly and we are so aware of our need for God to strengthen and enable us for the work.

April and Libby have begun a Junior High lunch club in Grand Bend. The church there is directly across the street from the school and there are around 60 students that sign out for lunch every day. We were thrilled when 43 kids enthusiastically joined us and listened attentively to the Gospel message at the first event we held. Please pray for these young teens as we continue to minister to them, that they would see their need for Jesus!

We know many of you have been praying for our family as we adjust to life in our new district and have

specifically kept our kids in your prayers. We are so blessed to be able to connect them with a great youth ministry about half an hour south of us. The Youth Pastor and his family are such an encouragement to them. Libby, Jack and Elie were able to join a large group travelling to Kentucky for 'Cross Conference' in early January. We are thankful that they are finding Christian community here. We'd love for you to continue to pray as the older kids begin to seek the Lord in making decisions about their futures. There is a monthly non-denominational prayer meeting here in Clinton that Mark has been attending. This has let him meet many more local Christians and Pastors. He continues to come alongside men in ministry to offer encouragement and pray with them. He is so aware of the truth of Prov. 27:17 as he fellowships with these godly leaders and is thankful that he is sharpened by their time together as well.

We know the Spring will be full with Youth Leadership Training, retreats and summer planning. Like many, we often find ourselves saying "when life slows down a bit" which never seems to happen! Would you pray with us that we will make time to be still before the Lord and be sure to continue to walk closely with Him even in our busiest times? We want to walk in His strength and be wise in how we fill our time. As we go about our days, we want our eyes to be open to the needs around us so that we can impact our neighbours and the people in our community for Christ.

AN ANCIENT PATH TO PEACE

The Healing of Lament

By Heather Holdsworth

As the days lengthen and light breaks up the dark, we move towards Easter. We are resurrection people, a diverse singing community, centred around the impossible – that death can be conquered, that hope pulses out of the grave.

The church calendar for nearly 2000 years marks the 40 days before that Sunday, as a period of preparation. Lent is a gift of time.

In it we are invited to loosen the hold we have on things, that things have on us. We choose depletion in order to see what is important. We welcome contemplation, to grow our understanding. And in the clarity, we walk towards His forgiveness, so that we can be free.

From the outside, Lent sounds life-giving, filled with focus and purpose.

But being still with ourselves and open with our Creator isn't something we run towards. Our lives can be marked by disorientation, and questions can throb into our nights. When Divine help didn't come through; when those we loved walked out of the door; when we were betrayed by Jesus' friends – how do we trust Him whole heartedly?

We have an impression that Bible-people got it all right, that their faith was excellence, wrapped up with a bow. But in this, we would be wrong. The ancients were no less human. They came bruised by torn friendships, by communities that failed, by losses that flooded into their lives, uninvited.

A question was recorded in John's Gospel of a man who'd been desperately unwell for nearly four decades. A community had formed around his diagnosis, his identity was shaped by the sorrows he bore. The Healer walked into his space asking, 'Do you want to be well?' The question seems ridiculous – of course he did – health is better than weakness, surely he would rush to be whole. Why ask the question?

I wonder if Jesus asked because the option was on the table – did the man want Him to change things?

Do we want Him to change things? As we journey to Easter, it is a time to take stock of our souls. Do we want healing here? For He may change things that have consoled us for years. The sorrows we carry are familiar, they may give us a voice, or relieve us of our need to take part. We have been wronged, letting go of that, can hold fear. 'Who will I be if I am not the one who was wounded?'

This wrestle, this quandary, has ever been.

3000 years back, David found a path from wounding to wholeness. He turned to the process in Psalm 3, when facing family despair; in Psalm 4 when broken by slander; in Psalm 6 when sick of his own sin – he found a way to process sorrow, a way back to peace.

The Psalms of lament take up more than half the Psalter. They are laden and strong. At times they seem chaotic, like the poet is hurling plates at a wall. But when we look closer, there is design and intention.

Lament requires planning and decision, strong boots and faith! I have found that engaging in the process of lament is life-giving. Challenging, yes, but a massive release.

How about taking a day during this Lenten period, with a notebook and Psalm 13. During this time, quiet all the technology and, to the question that comes to us through the centuries, 'Do you want to be made well?', answer with a solid 'Yes'.

STEP 1: CRY OUT TO GOD

How long, Lord? Will You forget me forever?

How long will You hide Your face from me?

Psalm 13:1

Begin with a situation that has troubled you – perhaps for a year, perhaps for 40. And, like David, fill the page with calling out to God. The place for requests will come later, now is a time to simply cry out.

STEP 2: MAKE YOUR COMPLAINT

How long shall I wrestle with my thoughts,

And day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy be triumph over me?

Psalm 13:2

The invitation here is to complain. To list the hurts and the impact of these on you and on those around you. This difficult phase of the process brings memories to the fore – hold these lightly, listing the impact of the wrongs, knowing that your Father in Heaven saw each one.

STEP 3: MAKE YOUR REQUEST

Look on me and answer, Lord my God

Give light to my eyes,

Or I will sleep in death,

And my enemy will say,

"I have overcome him"

And my foes will rejoice when I fall.

Psalm 13:3-4

Here is the time to ask – Spurgeon said, 'Asking is the rule of the Kingdom'. Now is a time to lay out what you would like God to do for you, or perhaps undo for you, in the situation you are considering.

STEP 4: REMEMBER THE PAST

But I trusted in Your steadfast love;

My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Psalm 13:5

The word 'trust' here is in the past tense. David looks back to see God's salvation and care through his life. This is a time to look back through and list the times the Lord has intervened in your life.

STEP 5: MAKE A PROMISE OF PRAISE

I will sing to the Lord,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.
Psalm 13:6

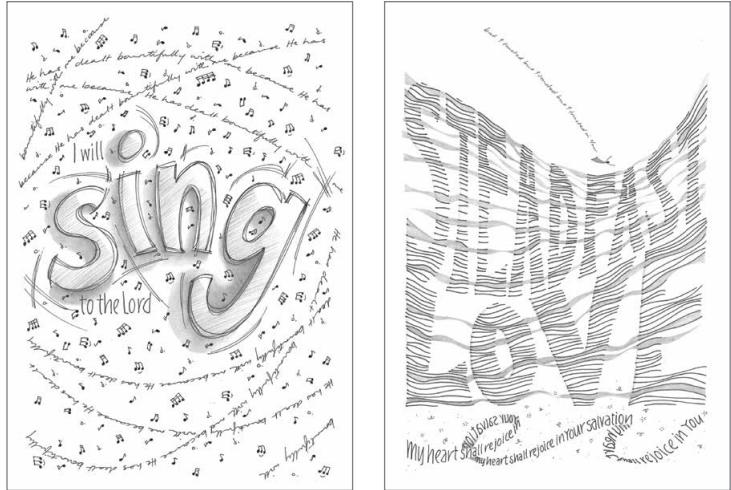
At this 5th stage, the psalmist declares his confidence in God. How will you speak your trust in Him today? Write down your words of declaration.

I commend this practice to you today – may you know the lifting, healing presence of Jesus as you bring Him your most sacred sorrows, your most weighty questions.

In His peace, may we find our peace.



Heather Holdsworth is a pastoral assistant at Cornerstone UF Church, St Andrews. She teaches Spiritual Formation and Discipleship at Chalmers Institute and is the author of, 'Landscape of Hope - an illustrated journey into the Psalms' (Moody Publishers, 2023). Her drawings are part of her engagement with Scripture that began 14 years ago on the death of her parents, Colin & Mary Peckham, and more recently during a 3 year debilitating time with Long-Covid. They allow time to meditate deeply on life-giving biblical passages.



Artwork by Heather



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It's 2024! A new year but with the same God who never changes. That is good news! In our last update, we mentioned how God was teaching us what it looked like to serve Him and the great commission in small places. As we entered the Christmas holiday, we really wanted to change the way we approached the season of celebration. Most of the time the focus tended to be on us and the get-togethers and feasting. Not that there is anything wrong with that, but we wanted our celebration of Christ to be outwardly focused, so we determined to spend time serving. The Lord gave us our desire. The idea sprung to call retirement and nursing homes around us to see if they would have us to sing carols and read Scripture. Two doors opened up: Anson Place in Hagersville and RVilla in Caledonia. We put together a wonderful program that richly told the Gospel story from Genesis to the Gospels through Scripture readings and carols. We were warmly embraced and thanked for the program. The joy on their faces and their heartfelt singing was a blessing; it really made this Christmas special. What is neat too, is that the Lord has opened up a door of ministry in the future! We have been welcomed back once a month to sing hymns and share Scripture with the residents.

Another joy to share is how the Lord has been working in our hearts personally. Since Christ-

mas eve, the Lord has impressed on us the need to return to the daily rhythm of prayer, to make prayer central again. In this New Year, He has graciously been restoring it. For instance, through the Day of Drayer at the FM Centre, the united prayer time we had as workers, sermons on prayer, reading passages on prayer, and taking time in secret prayer throughout the day. It's our prayer that we will be known as a man and woman of prayer. We know that He is worthy, and He wants our heart and our hands. If we seek His face, we know we will never miss His open hand. Being in His presence is everything. Prayer is our life blood. The fuel of faith-filled persistent persevering prayer is the knowledge of God and His promises. We know the Lord honors the request to be such a people, so please pray to that end and pray that our (and yours) 2024 will only be explainable by the reality of God. We look forward to serving the kids at the upcoming Junior Sno' Camp and seeing you all this year at the many Faith Mission events!



Conan & Julana
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*Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
Psalm 34:3*

We praise God for His faithfulness in our lives throughout these past few months! We continue to see many come out to church in Falkland and seek the Lord. We have about 100 regular attenders! Youth Group and Kids Club continue to reflect that same result as we see many more kids come and many who are seeking the Lord! Julana continues to head up the hot lunch program at the Falkland school and it is amazing how many connections come from that. We are gearing up for the camp season as we watch the registrations and staff applications roll in. We are excited! We anticipate another action-packed summer and trust that God will work in the lives of all who come. We have been loving our monthly get-togethers with our camp staff from last summer and plan to continue right up until camp time! We thank you for the prayers and support that are evident as we watch God use this ministry.



BC Youth Groups and Church Services



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Thank you for partnering with me in prayer! The students at Cornerstone School continue to love listening to Missionary stories. Each month during chapel, they listen attentively to how God used men and women in the past to bring about change and most importantly the Gospel to the nations. We just finished the life of William Carey and have now started Hudson Taylor. My prayer for the kids is to be inspired to be missionaries here where they are, and wherever God leads them.

Wilton kids club is going well. This year as a Christmas project, the kids raised money to purchase 8 Chickens through Samaritan's Purse. These chickens will be gifted to help families start a farm in third world countries. Not only will they receive the chickens but the best gift of all the message of the Gospel. My hope is for the kids to learn. We average 12 Children. It is encouraging to see how excited they are each week to be at Kids club.

Over these last few months, we have seen Verona youth continue to grow. Each week we have a teen come back who attended last year or a new teen come. We average 15-18 teens each week, with about 30 on the registration list. It's exciting to see God working amongst these community youth! At Christmas, we went through a teaching series on Advent. The teens listened well as we looked at

how the coming of Christ can change their lives. Please pray for Pastor Dave and I as we continue to work with these teens and for wisdom to teach God's word in a way they can understand.

Youth at St Mary Magdalene has continued to go well with a core group of 6 students. This October we had a 'Saints Party'. Each of us had to dress up as a saint and talk about who they were, what they accomplished and how God used them for his glory. It was neat to see the teens research Faith heroes of the past and the effort they put into their costumes. We also assisted the community garden that grows food for the Salvation Army and Morning Star Mission with the end of season garden cleanup. At Christmas time we had a Samaritan's Purse shoebox packing party. The teens were excited to go shopping for some of the items and then pack them.

We packed 24 boxes. It's encouraging to see their heart to serve.



Laura-Anne as old St John at St. Mary's



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O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed.

Psalm 10:17-18

Just before Christmas, God laid on our hearts the needs of an 11-year-old boy in foster care who had been tossed around too much, and needed a home for Christmas. It blessed our hearts tremendously to see our family open their hearts to include him in our Christmas celebrations. How heartbreaking to see this young kid long for someone to want him – a place to belong.

As we returned from a Christmas Eve service, we both sensed God so definitely directing us to open our hearts and home more long term to this sweet troubled boy. God confirmed this prompting over and over in many ways, so we were fast tracked to become Foster Parents, and he moved into his new bedroom. We had so much fun together, playing games, shooting hoops, shopping (his favourite), and even working together. He gradually opened up, chatting, comfortably helping himself to food in the pantry, joking with us, and moving from sleeping on top of his bedding

to snuggling deep inside the covers!! He enjoyed Falkland Church where he made friends quickly.

Unfortunately, we weren't aware of his intense anxiety as a result of trauma, and the affects that would paralyze him unexpectedly. And then... as quickly as this relationship began It was over!! He was removed and placed in another home at quite a distance from us. Our hearts broke. Questions flooded our minds. Why? What was the purpose in this short-lived experience? Did we make a mistake? We've actually learned a lot!!

1. God has raised up prayer warriors. Through this experience, God has burdened our hearts and others to pray for the children who are the broken pieces in this fallen world. If he never had anyone to pray daily for him before, he does now!
2. God is sovereign! ALL. THE. TIME. We don't know or understand His plan, but the story isn't over. He has him, and loves him more than we do. And we have peace as we rest in His plan.
3. What a joy to be Jesus' hands and feet. We thought we were too old to "parent" again, but where God guides, He provides.... Strength, patience, rest, wisdom... everything we need. When

we allow Him to love others through us, the joy, peace, and strength are beyond comprehension.

4. A fresh burden for the lost. God invites all of us to help, love, and protect the helpless. We were orphans before Jesus adopted us into the family of God. There's room for more in the family, and there are many ways to reach out. People need the LORD. We will serve Him wherever He leads.

We are continually grateful for many volunteers at camp, prayer & financial support, and a full calendar of ministry happening at the camp and Falkland Church. Thank you so much for your prayers.

FALKLAND EVENTS

Marriage Enrichment Retreat: Apr 26-28

Staff Training: Jul 3-7

Teen Camp: Jul 7-12

Junior 1: Jul 14-19

Junior 2: Jul 21-26

Junior High Camp: Jul 28-Aug 2

Squirt Camp: Aug 12

Extreme Camp: Aug 14-17



Falkland Kids Club



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