



PARTNERS IN *Prayer*

Experiencing God's Faithfulness
in Canada





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*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling
among us, and we have seen His glory; the
glory of the one and only Son, who came from
the Father, full of grace and truth
John 1:14*

This Fall has been a busy session of ministry for us with some additional commitments and opportunities. Emma appreciated the invitation to speak at the BC Ladies Retreat in Falkland this year. It was encouraging to see so many ladies attend and their attention to the Word as it was shared. She had some worthwhile conversations with a number of the women and felt that God was working and ministering to hearts. She was thrilled to meet a lady who is a relation to the founder of Faith Mission, John George Govan, and is the only believer as far as we know in her family. What a thrill to hear how God had worked in her life and for her to know the godly heritage that can be traced to the formation of the Mission. What a faithful God we serve! Emma was also encouraged with our own Ladies Retreat at Campbellville this year and the deep work God was doing among the ladies. God was powerfully working and dealing with many lives.

The Fall Rallies and Conferences were also encouraging times of fellowship and ministry from the Word. We appreciate meeting so many supporters and friends of Faith Mission who stand with us in this work and bless us in so many ways. If you are one of those – thank you – from the bottom of our hearts! This ministry could not continue unless we have those prayerfully upholding the workers and their ministries but also providing for the increasing financial burden that we are faced with. Our workers are trusting God to meet each need and depending on the gifts of God's people who are able to support them. By the time you read this news, we will be in the throes of our Christmas Banquets at the Campbellville Centre, where we host around 80 people at each of the 6 banquets. These are tremendous outreach opportunities where families can invite unsaved neighbours and friends to attend. Pray that lives will be touched, impacted and changed as they hear of Jesus – The Light of the World.

The winter season is almost upon us and we covet your prayers and support as we cover many miles in colder conditions supporting local churches, doing evangelistic work, preaching, mobilizing prayer etc. And we want to start the year off as we mean to go on – in prayer! We encourage you to join us on Saturday, January 4th, at our Camp-

bellville Centre for a Day of Prayer. This will help set the sail for all God has for us in this next season. Will you join with us? Would you commit to praying regularly for the work of Faith Mission in Canada? How would God have you support this work? Thank you for considering us in your prayers and giving!

As we approach this Christmas season and the end of another year, we are thankful for all those who continue to keep us in prayer and uphold us in this work. God bless you richly in the part you are playing to keep this ministry of Gospel proclamation going across Canada.

FUTURE EVENTS

Day of Prayer: Jan 4

Tween Winter Camp: Jan 24-26

Junior Winter Camp: Jan 31-Feb 2

Men's Retreat #1: Feb 21-22

Men's Retreat #2: Feb 28-Mar 1

March Break YLT: Mar 9-12

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On behalf of all our Faith Mission staff, we would like to wish all our supporters and friends a WONDER-filled Christmas Season celebrating and treasuring the greatest gift of all – JESUS.

Emma with G-Niece of John George Govan



Meetings with Jeff Goudy, pictured with Sandra Thompson (Former FM Worker) and Andrew Bunner (FM Board Chair)



Toronto Fall Rally





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*Because we loved you so much, we were
delighted to share with you not only the gospel
of God but our lives as well.
1 Thessalonians 2:8*

Early on when this verse was read, it spoke to me of the heart of a missionary or someone in ministry. Paul loved the Thessalonians so much that he not only shared the message of the gospel with them, but his life as well. He truly had God's love and compassion for the people he ministered to.

Recently we were reflecting on the years of ministry we have had the great privilege of being a part of. Some of our ministry involves going in, serving, and then moving on. However, we have found youth ministry to be different because it involves a long-term investment with those we minister to. Although there have been many encouraging and discouraging moments, we feel this is the ministry that has borne the most visible fruit. Several of the youth we have ministered to in the past are now adults and are currently not walking with the Lord. We have sought over the years to faithfully teach God's Word and to point them to Christ, but we are not in control of the choices they make. It deeply saddens us when we see the youth God entrusted to us living in the world when they have heard the freedom that the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ brings.

It hurts us because we love them. To our amazement, God continues to work through us even if some of the former youths have become young adults. Some are married and have families of their own, and some are living out of province and even in another country. But by God's wonderful grace, some of our former youths still come to us for advice and counsel when they are struggling or needing help. They know and trust we will continue to do what we've always done, which is pointing them to Christ and the truths found in God's Word. They know we love them and care for them, and they know our home is always open to them. One young man in particular came to us recently to ask us for help after coming to the end of himself trying to do life on his own. Of course, we find much encouragement in those who never departed from the faith and who continue to stay the course since their youth.

Investing in people and loving them in this way can bring moments of both joy and sorrow because we are joyful with those who rejoice, and we mourn with those who suffer. We are so thankful to the Lord for revealing to us some of the fruit of the ministry He has called us to. May He give us the strength to see people through His eyes and to love them with His love, whether we are going in for a moment, or investing long-term over the years. And may we, as Paul did, continue to share not only the saving message of the gospel of Christ, but also our lives.



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The Fall is always a busy time here at the Campbellville Centre. After the week long summer camps, it switches back to revolving around the weekend events with lots of preparations during the week. There have been several catered and self-catered rental groups this Fall. It is always our hope that these groups have a special time together, truly meet with God, and carry on drawn closer to Him as individuals and together as a church.

We had a full house at the Fall Hymn Sing in October. It's always such a delight to listen to the Christians singing and worshipping from where we are down in the kitchen. We love seeing the fellowship during lunch and the unity in the workers and volunteers serving together. The Fall Ladies Retreats were also a time of rich blessing. There were many ladies who were new to the Faith Mission and they all seemed to blend together for a good weekend together.

We started up our YPH (young people's hangout) again this Fall and will be switching gears a little bit. Last year we had the young men take turns leading the devotionals going through the 'Fruit of the Spirit' in Galatians 5. This year we plan to work our way through Ephesians. Each month there will be homework of studying a section, memorizing a

few verses from the section, and then coming together to share our thoughts and verses with each other during YPH. We are excited to see this play out and bless everyone involved.

Our November Christmas in the Country banquets are right around the corner with staff meetings following. It's such a wonderful time of year with Christ's joy being so contagious amongst those of His own. December will be a slower month in terms of rental groups and events, so we plan to work away at random things that normally don't get our attention.

January and February will look a little different for us as we are expecting a new addition to our family. We will have others fill in cooking for us during Winter Camp as that is right around the due date. We might also have to plan for extra help during the Men's Retreats depending on the timing and how the early newborn days unfold. This will be a busy time and we know our gracious heavenly Father knows all our needs and carries us in His hand. We have been reminded of that in these recent weeks that we have His mighty power enabling us to do all that we do. In our own strength we would surely fail! Thank you again for the ways that you support us in the work here at the Faith Mission!



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Since the time of the Reformation, the church has historically celebrated Oct 31st as Reformation Day, the day, in 1517, which Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, which sparked the Protestant Reformation. Although this was not Luther's aim it was God's, who is Lord of all. The Reformation reminds us that God watches over His Word and His church, and that He is faithful throughout all generations to accomplish His purpose to exalt His Son, advance His gospel, and save a people for himself from every tribe and tongue. It's important to look back so we can be sure we are moving in the right direction with God. To remember the shoulders we stand on, the people who sacrificed for the cause of Christ. We cannot imagine Christianity and the world we live in apart from the Reformation. Through it the church recovered the gospel, the authority of the Bible, simplicity of worship, preaching, assurance of salvation, the priesthood of all believers, and God's Word in the home of every believer in their language. In society it achieved: democratic government, free trade, the dignity of marriage and the family, and all of life and every occupation for the glory of God. All of this and much more came out of the Protestant Reformation. Friends, let us celebrate the faithfulness of God and remember and consider our faithful forefathers who willing-

ly gave their lives so that we could have the Word of God and the gospel – and consider our ways (Heb. 13:7).

Now, regarding an update on us. We just want to share what kind of an impact you are having when you partner with us. The Lord has given us the opportunity to serve full-time and when you pray and support, you put your hands on ours and minister to those whom God sends us to. Ministry continues to happen in 4 ways: (1) In our community as we reach out to neighbors. We have had a huge influx of people in Mount Hope and Caledonia and it is not slowing down. (2) Shepherding churches without pastors. The need is so great. Right now we are committed to serving a church in Hagersville but Sam continues to speak at various churches too. (3) Serving the largely forgotten elderly community in local nursing homes. We do this through scheduled events where we sing hymns, read Scripture aloud, and share the gospel, and spend time in conversation. And (4) Serving kids in the public school through Key Bible Clubs. Sam is currently serving in River Heights in Caledonia. We can only serve in these places and be available to these churches because you pray and support us - for that we say thank you!



Mark & April HARDWICK

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Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?"
Psalm 77:10-13

We are so thankful to the Lord to have seen him continue to open up doors and ministry opportunities for us. We concluded the Fall edition of "Partners in Prayer" with a request to pray that the Lord would both move the heart of the public-school principal in Grand Bend and provide a room that would be open to accommodate the younger kids for the Key Bible Club. We can praise the Lord that both of those things have happened! During the first nutrition break, April is able to go into the school to lead the bible study with the younger kids. During the second nutrition break, the older (Jr. High) kids sign themselves out and cross the street to the church where April can then lead the bible study there. We were unsure that we would see any carryover from last year's group. However, each Tuesday, more and more kids are coming. With so many Jr. High kids, this sometimes leads to things being a bit more challenging. We are so thankful that the Lord moved one of the ladies in the church we usually attend to volunteer her time to help out with both groups! This year, the church in Wingham also approached April

to lead a kids club that they had started over the summer. This makes for a lot of driving and a long day on Tuesdays.

We would ask for prayer for protection on the roads, as well as for health and strength. Driving in equal and opposite directions on Tuesday, is a constant reminder for us to pray that the Lord would be gracious in opening up ministry opportunities locally in the town of Clinton. Mark continues to preach in various churches in the area regularly, and it has been a privilege to remind them not to become so narrow-focused that they lose sight of the bigger picture of what the Lord is doing, that they are not the only expression of the Kingdom of God and that the Lord is still working and He will continue to build His church. This coming season, we are looking forward to serving at many of the Faith Mission Christmas in the Country banquets, as well as preparing for the new year, Winter Camps, and the March Break Youth Leadership Training (YLT). In all of this, we never want to forget how far the Lord has brought us, and so we seek to remember the deeds of the Lord, remembering both who and how great He truly is. Please continue to pray for us, and for the Lord's gracious and miraculous provision.

DOES THE INCARNATION REALLY MATTER?

By Rev. Joe Barnard

We all know that we are supposed to be amazed by the incarnation. We reverently listen to Christmas messages and use pious language about the marvel and beauty of the child in the manger. However, if we are honest, a lot of us struggle get much spiritual benefit from thinking about the incarnation. We are more mystified by the story of Christmas than amazed by it. We readily understand the need for Jesus to live a perfect life, for him to die on the cross, and for him to resurrect; however, the relevance of the incarnation is more difficult for us to determine. The proof of this is seen in two ways: first, in just how little we talk about the incarnation at any time other than Christmas and, second, the slight influence that the incarnation has in shaping our everyday devotional lives.

Now, if you (like me) have often struggled to discern the spiritual relevance of the incarnation, here are some ideas to ponder over the advent season.

1. THE INCARNATION REVEALS THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN NATURE

God could not take the form of a tiger, a mole, or an eagle and reveal His glory. There is something incompatible about the nature of a mere animal and the nature of God. Animals lack the freedom, will, intellect, and ability to love which are necessary to reflect the personal nature of God.

The incarnation highlights for us that, when the Bible says we are made in the image of God, it really means what it says. Our nature, as shocking as it may sound, is able to bear something of the weight of God. God is able to take the form of a man because man is able, by design, to reflect the life of God. Marilynne Robinson, the great Christian novelist, captures this point when she says, “Jesus is the profoundest praise of humankind the cosmos could utter” – or, as one old Puritan put the matter, Jesus is the “flower” of our nature.

2. THE INCARNATION MEASURES THE IMMEASURABLE LOVE OF GOD

Pagan religion could not conceive of a true incarnation. The Greeks may have told stories of Zeus taking on an avatar in order to enjoy an evening of pleasure, but they never made the mistake of imagining that Zeus would inseparably unite his nature with the nature of a human being. No god, the Greeks would have thought, would love human beings enough to become one of them in suffering, in pain, and in death.

The marvel of the incarnation is that the eternal Son of God assumed the form of a man in order to rescue us from sin, suffering, and death. In order to do so, he became a sin offering, suffered in our stead, and – did not just die – but experienced the worst of all possible deaths. Such heavenly love exceeds anything human beings could have imagined or hoped for. Thomas Watson was right when he said, ‘Christ incarnate is nothing other than love covered with flesh’.

3. THE INCARNATION ILLUMINES THE SACREDNESS OF THE CROSS

If Jesus is not God, the cross is unspectacular. Thousands of men and women have been executed throughout history. If Jesus is simply a martyr, he is forgettable.

But Jesus is God, a fact that changes everything. His blood is not just the blood of an innocent man, but the blood of God enfleshed as a man. Appreciating this ought to make us shudder as we reflect on the weightiness of the cross. John Donne says,

*Yet dare I almost be glad, I do not see
That spectacle of too much weight for mee.
Who sees Gods face, that is selfe life, must dye;
What a death were it then to see God dye?*

Looking at the cross, we should be dumbstruck as we ask one question: why? Why would God do this?

The more we appreciate the incarnation, the more we will marvel at the cross. To see God in Christ is to see the glory of Calvary.

4. THE INCARNATION MAKES SENSE OF THE RESURRECTION

Christians sometimes overestimate the intellectual scandal of the resurrection. If Jesus is simply a man, then the idea of him being resurrected is shocking. Human beings are mortal. We expect them to die and to stay dead.

Yet, Jesus is 100% God as well as 100% man, and God is not mortal, but immortal. Thus, whereas we might expect death to have power over a mere human being, we should not expect death to have power over Jesus. How could the Son of God die and not resurrect? This is the real question we should be asking. Death is not stronger than God; death has no claim over holiness.

That the Son of God could die is a paradox; that the Son of God would resurrect after death is no more surprising than the sun bursting through the curtain of night.

5. THE INCARNATION REVEALS THE ESSENCE OF SPIRITUALITY

In the person of Christ we see humanity yielding itself completely to divinity. Jesus is perfectly righteous because his will is submitted completely to the love of the Father.

Herein lies the essence of all true spirituality. Our greatest fulfillment does not come by resisting God or trying to become God, but by yielding ourselves completely to God. Although we cannot replicate the unique person of Christ, we can learn from him what it means to be truly human. I am most myself when I am most yielded to God. This is the existential truth of the incarnation.

This article has been used by permission from Cross Training Ministries and Rev. Joe Barnard. We are excited to have Joe return as one of our Men's Retreat speakers in 2025.



Jeff & Jani
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*Quicken me, O Lord, for thy names sake
Psalm 143:11a*

What a wonderful prayer! Here David prays, “Quicken me/Revive me Lord, and cause my life to bring glory to your name.” This too, is our constant prayer and the prayer of so many others who we get to meet with for pray each week. We are asking God to do what ONLY He can do- to revive our hearts and to fill us with His Holy Spirit so that those around us will see the reality of Christ in us and will desire to turn to Him. We are praying for Him to revive His church. These last few months, we have watched God continue to revive the hearts of numerous believers and we also hear the reports of how that is having an impact in homes and churches for the glory of God. It has been really encouraging. Recently, there were a few pastors that expressed interest in meeting to start a new Pastor Prayer Meeting in Red Deer. We started it last month and we thank God that there are about five men who are coming out and what a blessing it has been already! We would ask for prayer that God would bring others who are burdened to come and pray and that He would continue to bless the many other prayer meetings that are meeting weekly to call out to God for re-

vival in these days and that we “will not be weary in well doing; for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not.” (Gal. 6:9) We are believing God for even greater things to come in the area of revival and prayer. We thank the Lord for the many opportunities that we have each week to teach the Word of God and that Jeff has the privilege each Sunday to preach in various churches. God is at work in Central Alberta and what a joy it is to see and know of so many faithful pastors and ministry leaders who are caring well for the people of God, praying and preaching the truth from His Word. We thank the Lord for every open door He gives to share the beautiful gospel message and we have many stories of people who have paused to listen, have accepted tracts and gospel reading material and who we have been able to pray with. We also rejoice to hear of other believers sharing their faith more boldly and with a sincere love for the souls of those around them. In it all, it is bringing us to our knees as a Christian community as we see so clearly how desperately we need the Lord and how desperately others need Him as well. How salvation comes from none other than Jesus and how we are compelled by Christ’s love to share the good news. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 The gospel brings hope and salvation. Our world needs Jesus. Please continue to

pray for us as we seek to be led by the Holy Spirit daily and to be obedient to the Lord's call to encourage the church and to point people to Christ, "to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:18) And, to end, we would like to echo Paul's words from 2 Thess. 3:1 "Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you." Thank you so much for your prayers for us and for our family.

*Jeff speaking at the Fergus Men's Conference
in Ontario, Nov. 2024*





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Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

The Fall ministry season has kicked off with a bang! We are so blessed to look at all that God is doing in the hearts of our campers, our staff and His church. The Youth Group has been moved to be regularly held at the camp due to the growing size of the group and has been going well. We are seeing huge growth in Kids Club and it has been great to have the help of so many in our church family! We took a trip down to Saskatchewan with 6 of our camp staff for the Youth Edge Retreat and it was a great time. Conan took 3 of them down a few days early and we got to sit in on Bible school classes, which was a real blessing! Our monthly staff gatherings have been a wonderful way to stay connected and build relationships throughout the year. We are looking ahead to Christmas Banquets and outreach events in the coming weeks! It may seem early, but we are also starting to plan for camp ministry in the sum-

mer. Please pray for God to continue to provide staff and campers to teach and hear the gospel! However, before that we have Winter Camp. We are excited to see and connect with our campers in February and are thankful for that opportunity! Thank you for your prayers and support towards this ministry. We are thankful for the many blessings that God has given us!



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Thank you all for your faithful prayers! The summer went well with seven weeks of VBS and camp. It was great to have Libby Hardwick with me for several weeks as well. She did a fantastic job doing all the teaching at Verona Free Methodist Church VBS. The church has not had one in a long time. We had 10-14 children each day. Another highlight for me was the VBS at Bethel Community Church in Marlbank. In 2019 we had around 18 children at VBS. Last year was the first one we tried since Covid and no children showed up. The church wanted to try one more time. I had very little faith that any children would show up. Monday there was none but Tuesday we had about 16! This was one of those occasions I was very glad to be wrong!! For the rest of the week, we averaged 8 -14 each day. All of these children were community kids. Only one has some kind of church background.

Verona youth got off to a great start. We have been averaging 14 youth since we started in September. Numbers are down from last year; however, this group of teens seem not to be there just for fun but also for Bible time. The kids have been asking good questions and one of the girls wanted to take a turn praying before Bible time! We have been going through the Jr youth Alpha book we found in the youth room. We want to

teach the tweens how to use their Bible and they have been taking turns reading the verses that go with the topics. Both the girl group and the guy group have been keen to do this especially since they can earn tuck bucks for doing so. One of the newer teens and his mom have started attending church and it is amazing to see one tween and her younger sisters attending church all by themselves! Thank you for your prayers!



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God continues to bless and work abundantly beyond what we could ask or imagine. We continue to hear wonderful reports from summer camps... kids and staff who were challenged and encouraged from the Word. Couples who attended Marriage Retreats have shared how God has transformed their marriages, their lives, and their families, and they keep encouraging friends to attend Marriage retreats. Our Fall Ladies Retreat was well attended by over 90 Ladies, who were impacted by the Word shared by Emma Condy. We are so humbled by how God is working through this Camp and touching so many lives. Kids Club & Youth continue to grow both in number, and in understanding of the Word. It's so good to have a number of Christian families join these ministries to rub shoulders with unsaved in our community. Winter Camp registrations for Feb 7-9 are already coming in since the end of October!

We've also been humbled and blessed by God's provision. This Fall, a donor provided upgraded vehicles for both Arndts and us. Funds have come in to begin our long-awaited dining shelter to provide shade to over 20 picnic tables, as well as replace windows in the house trailer used for volunteer accommodation. Funds have begun to come in for the next big project: replacing

the roof of the main lodge. We marvel at how God provides just the right help at just the right time. Help in the kitchen has been tremendous, and men helping with various projects have been invaluable. We always need more help!! Please pray with us as we seek God's leading in putting together our program staff team for next summer, and as we look for a year-round part time cleaner/kitchen help beginning May 1. Thank you for your prayers and support. Summer camp registration opens January 1.

Grandma's Helpers with Fall Cleaning



Preparing the Ground and Posts for the Dining Shelter





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