

Church-planting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

*“You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth...” Acts 1:8*

Winter 2015

Dear Friend of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Following Jesus is always an adventure. The greatest joy is that we get to know Him more and experience His love and faithfulness in every situation. I had intended to get this newsletter sent out first thing in the new year. However, between our grandson being in the hospital and launching a second Grace Fellowship gathering in another location, our plate was full.



Our first grandchild was born on July 4, 2014, to our middle son, Derek and His wife, Manny, but there were issues and he was immediately put on a respirator and taken to NICU. His name, Jachin, was given to him by his parents several months before he was born when they learned they were having a boy. The name means, “the Lord will certainly establish” and it was the name given to one of the two pillars at the entrance to Solomon’s temple (the other was named Boaz). See 2 Chron. 3:17. The Lord most certainly established the way back into the presence of our God for poor sinners like you and like me, through the Seed that would come through Boaz! My wife and I prayed for our grandson, trusting that he was given this name to encourage our faith that the Lord would certainly establish this little “pillar” to rise and rest on the bedrock who is Jesus to whom we cling and upon whom we rest. God was gracious and Jachin got to go home with his parents by the end of July.

In the beginning of January, Jachin (aged 6 months) was taken back to the hospital, and then flown by air ambulance to the children’s hospital in Edmonton. We spent time with him in both Saskatoon and Edmonton hospitals to give his dad and mom time to sleep and rest. He is now home and stable. God has revealed much about Himself to us through all of this. At one point I took this picture of Jachin when they were readying him to be transported via air ambulance.

He has no idea who these people (i.e. the doctors, nurses, EMT’s etc.) were or what is happening and why they are putting needles in his head, but his eyes are fixed on his mom. She is standing there and letting them do this – so there must be a reason – there must be a good purpose, for he is convinced she loves him. He trusts her. May I be like a child in that whatever comes – when I do not understand – may my eyes be on Jesus who bears the scars of His unfailing love, trusting



His purposes are good and wise – for my ultimate good and His glory. God has been teaching me much through this “little pillar” already. We are now “expecting” our second grandchild sometime in May – a baby girl - to our eldest son, Blair and his wife, Angela, in Calgary. It has been a stretch of great blessing, twists and turns, trials and pain, great joy and amazing ongoing grace as we cling to Jesus our only hope both now and forever.

Making Disciples and Planting a New Church - Two Sunday Gatherings – Saskatoon and Warman

There are times it seems like we take one step forward and 2 steps back in our church planting endeavors. Through it all, Jesus clearly shows He is faithful to build His church. We have officially launched a second Sunday gathering in the nearby city of Warman. This gathering is in the evening, and currently functions as our “evening service.” Over the past 5 weeks we have slowly grown from around 40 to close to 80.

Four “gospel communities” have been established in Warman and area, ranging in size from 12 to almost 30 people – learning to live out their Gospel identity as a Spirit-filled family of missionary servants. These Jesus-followers make up our core group in Warman. Several have moved to this city for this very purpose.

Since we are meeting in community space in a 430 seat auditorium in a huge multi-facility complex (hockey arena, soccer centre, basketball courts, multi-purpose rooms, physio-therapists, gyms, restaurants, city library, middle school and more... all under one roof), there is opportunity to meet a variety of people. On the first Sunday, a Philippino woman, whose grandson had a hockey practice in the rink, heard the music and came over to ask about the church. She told me that she had gone to a Catholic church in the Philippines but has not been to a church since she has been in Canada (around 7 years). Two weeks later, she brought her husband and they stayed for the whole service, and a number of people were able to converse with them. We are hoping that being in this space will lead to many such contacts.

One of the greatest pieces of news is that we have had our first profession of faith in Jesus in Warman. We are praying that this is the firstfruits of many coming to know our wonderful Lord and Savior!

It is quite overwhelming at times, but we are grateful to have front row seats to witness first hand the work of God by His Spirit in the hearts of men and women and children as Jesus is preached and made much of!

Here is a link to our vision video: <http://vimeo.com/110089432>

and a link to our latest brochure:

<http://gracesask.com/brochure/2014%20-%20Grace%20Trifold%20Brochure.pdf>

Current Series

We are currently in a series on “The Sermon on the Mount”. You can find the videos on our website.

Soma Communities Training in Saskatoon with Jeff Vanderstelt

We are excited to be hosting a training session with C2C on April 10-11, for current and future missional community leaders and participants. The details can be found on the C2C website. (c2cnetwork.ca)

Needs

As we move forward to a new church plant in Warman, we have a number of start-up costs for equipment, supplies, material, signage etc. for the new location. If you desire to be a part of this, we would be very grateful. For now, we haul our equipment to the theatre we rent in downtown Saskatoon for the morning, set it up, exalt Jesus in Word and song and fellowship in our service, take it down, pack it up, and then haul it to the city of Warman to do it all again in the evening there. Currently I put in 16 hour days on Sunday. There is much to



keep me refreshed in the Gospel and Jesus, my Sabbath, but I do look forward to the day that we can purchase a second set of everything so that we can truly move Warman to the place of being its own site. Our estimated start-up costs are around \$25,000, of which we have been able to raise \$7000. We would love to raise the total needed by Easter if at all possible.

Our faith is always encouraged and spurred on as we step out in ventures that we could never pull off by ourselves – but it is because we seek to follow Him in what He calls us to in His Scriptures and where we see God already at work, so we can join Him in what He is doing. We do not want to be about our own agenda and asking Him to bless it. Our heart's desire is to be on His redemptive mission for His glory.

To American supporters!

In the grace of God, one of our Acts 29 churches in the States has agreed to support our church planting endeavors here in Saskatchewan. Should you like to receive tax receipts, support for us can be directed to:

River City Church
323 Main Ave
Fargo, ND 58102

Make sure to designate the check for: Murray McLellan in Canada. We are thankful to Brett Moser and the saints of River City for this ongoing service to us.

A Big Thank You

On behalf of all of us in Grace Fellowship, I praise God for each of you who are partnering with us in seeing Christ-centered churches established in Saskatchewan and beyond. Your gifts and prayers are enabling us to minister here for the sake of the One who loved us and gave Himself for us and sent us with the mission of making disciples. There are so many stories from the last 6 months left untold in this letter, but I praise God for the lives being changed in and through the Gospel.

May you find great refreshment in the Good News message that God became one of us, to show us His love, to forgive us our sins through the perfect righteousness and finished work of Jesus, to put an end to religion, and to restore His kingdom and establish a world-wide family in relationship with Him. The curse has been lifted from us – and it was placed on God's dear Son, so that His blessing – taken from Jesus – was placed on us, as we were adopted as God's dear "sons". Praise God, Jesus is risen and has now deservedly been given the name that is above every name! The redemptive work has been accomplished and is finished – resulting in peace with God! Simply amazing!

Keep running to Jesus to find your identity, refreshment, and strength.

For more information, contact: Murray McLellan (306) 244-4372

Please keep us in your prayers. We are striving to be faithful. May the Lord be magnified!

By His grace and for His glory,
Murray

Please visit our web site <http://gracesask.com> for more information on our ministry in Canada, and pray for us as we seek to have God glorified in everything we do.

If you have a desire to support the church-planting and teaching ministry of Murray McLellan you may do so by sending a cheque to:

Grace Fellowship
118 Chan Cres.
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, CANADA
S7K 5N8

Ph. (306) 244-4372

E-mail murray@gracesask.org

Make cheques payable to "Grace Fellowship".

You may also make donations online here: <https://gracesask.com/give/>

(Unfortunately we are not able to provide a tax receipt for out of country giving, unless given as noted below:)

Note: If you live in the United States and would like to receive a tax-deductible receipt, please direct your gift to: River City Church; 323 Main Ave. Fargo, ND 58102 and designate it for Murray McLellan in Canada.

“Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God
and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ...”
Acts 28:31

“The story continues...”



ACTS 29
churches planting churches



C2Cnetwork
planting churches for 100+ years

Grace Stories

Here is a video link to a story on one of the couples in our Saskatoon Grace family:

<http://vimeo.com/110090770>