

Fall 2020

Newsletter



Good News Chapel



School Supplies/Shoes Donations still needed

The Good News Chapel was blessed to give out over 40 backpacks and shoes to kids through the church in Regina. We will also be giving supplies and shoes to the Muscowpetung Educational Centre on Muscowpetung First Nation when their school begins **the first week of October**. Our goal is to provide for the whole school of over 60 kids. We are still accepting donations. Thanks so much for all the donations we have received so far! Suggested donations: new shoes (all sizes), backpacks, markers, pencils, erasers, pens, rulers, calculators, pencil crayons, glue, duo-tangs, scissors, pencil boxes, pencil sharpeners, Kleenex

Call (306) 580-0112 for more info including drop off location. You can also donate financially online at www.goodnewschapel.ca



Psalm 106:20-23 They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. Therefore he said he would destroy them— had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect all of society and how we are able to function within the church. The Good News Chapel is just now in the process of planning to resume Sunday services. (We will potentially begin again the first week of October). The building that we rent will only be able to accommodate 24 people in a service and we will not be able to resume our weekly potluck meals. In spite of not having Sunday services since March, we continue to give out bagged lunches for 70-100 people each Sunday including a two page mini-sermon. Most of the lunches are delivered to people's homes while others come by the parking lot at Indigenous Christian Fellowship. We are able to pray with people and encourage them.

God is continually at work and is using us to advance His Kingdom through the Good News Chapel. While we may not be able to minister to as many people in a larger group each Sunday as we have in the past it is obvious that God loves the people that we minister to and He has given us many opportunities to stand in the breach; to stand in the gap for the people whom God desires to save among those who would be considered the least in our society. We don't have as many pictures to share with you in this newsletter but stories of God at work as He calls us to intercede and advocate for the weak and the powerless as He draws them to Himself and raises them up for His glory.

Pastor Murray Hack

FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS

Helping people with learning disabilities who have slipped through the cracks in the public system

There are many people with learning disabilities who end up attending the Good News Chapel. There is one couple that we have been discipling for a couple of years now who managed to move out of North Central to a safer apartment. We helped them move but their place was so filthy when they left that they simply gave up a month's rent and their damage deposit. They have been living in their new place for over a year but they are incapable of keeping their apartment clean and the landlord intended to evict them. The pandemic delayed this from happening but they were in very serious danger of having to move again. We had provided some help with cleaning as a church but we simply do not have the resources to do this ongoing.

Fortunately, one of them received a settlement of money from being a part of the 60s scoop (a legal payout from court proceedings for Indigenous children who were taken away from their families and placed in foster care). In July, we helped them hire a private cleaner who was willing to clean their apartment from top to bottom. In just a few hours over 40 bags of garbage and old clothing were thrown out. They were no longer evicted.

Since then we've found out that they have never had an assessment done through Community Living Service Delivery (a branch of the Ministry of Social Services that works with people with intellectual disabilities and helps them access a variety of community-based services where people can come and help you in your home) and that cleaning services can be paid for through social services simply with a note from the doctor. All of the problems they have had over the years occurred simply because nobody walked alongside them to help them get the right support and access to the services that are available to them. They previously lived in a cycle of stress and anxiety, struggling to get by and continually running into problems that they did not know how to escape. They are growing in their knowledge of God and are learning to trust Him in every way.

TRAPPED IN YOUR OWN HOME

Advocating for the illiterate and elderly who do not know their legal rights

There is an elderly woman who attends the Good News Chapel who lives in a house with her son. Her son is a crystal meth addict and we have helped him get on a waiting list at Union Gospel Mission and Forward House in Winnipeg. We have helped him find a different place to live until he is able to enter an addiction recovery program but he continues to help his mother at her rental home. They moved into the house not knowing that it was infested with cockroaches. They informed the landlord but it has never been treated properly. They have been living in a cockroach infested house for almost two years and the infestation has gotten so bad that there are literally thousands of cockroaches throughout the house and in all of their belongings.

The Good News Chapel offered to help them file a complaint with the Office of Residential Tenancies. The landlord was found at fault but tried to find a way out of having to treat the home. He had thirty days to comply. We had arranged for a case manager from the Regina Health Authority to meet with the elderly woman and help her get more appropriate care but they refused to visit her in the home because of the infestation. She had no other place to go (her family members would not take her in) and she could not take her belongings with her if she could move out as they were all infested. She was trapped.

God has begun to move things forward. The landlord has decided not to fight the decision and a pest control company will soon be treating the home and other problems in the home are going to be fixed. The Good News Chapel has helped the elderly woman sort through all her belongings to dispose of unnecessary items and we have helped clean the home in preparation for the treatment. It is our hope that through this the elderly woman will see the love of God. She has suffered much abuse in her past by the hands of others and her heart is yet far from God. But there is still hope that she will be saved as well as others in her family.

JUDGMENT AND MERCY

Walking alongside those who have caused harm to others and helping them to find forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ

The Good News Chapel was able to be part of a sentencing circle this summer for someone connected with our church. A sentencing circle is where an Indigenous community provides feedback and even a sentence for a guilty party. It is usually a lessened sentence for a crime for someone who has shown remorse and reformation- a clear change in behavior. The judge will accept the decision of the community in determining what the consequences are for the wrong actions of the guilty party. Sentencing circles are rare and unique. Because of the pandemic this sentencing circle did not take place upon the reserve but in the court room in Fort Qu' Appelle and it was different in the sense that the judge would still decide the

punishment instead of the community. We were able to give feedback upon the character of the person charged. Others spoke on his behalf including an Indigenous counselor, a teacher from Parkland College in Yorkton, members and representatives for the chief on the reserve, and friends and family. Parkland College provides basic courses on the different reserves and the teacher shared how she could count on one hand the number of adults that have gone on to further their education after their initial class that they offer. The person we have been supporting is one of these individuals.

A conflict arose in the court room during the solemn assembly which clearly demonstrates the deep hurts that so many Indigenous people feel and the misunderstandings between Indigenous and those of European descent. God used our involvement in the solemn assembly to set the tone as we got to begin the session after the conflict that had arisen. We were able to help establish peace in a tense environment. The man who is guilty still has not responded to the Gospel message but it is our hope that he will yet repent and believe. Many Indigenous people struggle with their identity and it can take a long time to determine who they really are because of past abuses and generational sins and that so much was taken away from them. It make take a long time to figure out that their true identity can only be found in relationship to Jesus Christ and restored fellowship with God their Creator.

DEMONS FORCED TO FLEE

Helping the demon possessed find freedom through Jesus Christ

For a year and a half we have been trying to help a person who was demon possessed find freedom through Jesus Christ. While the person wanted the problem to go away, they were not yet ready to surrender to Jesus Christ.

They have been tormented since childhood and their parents had positions of authority within the Indigenous community. They did not understand that their power and authority did not come from God but from the devil. Over the last few months, the person came to a place of true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. They had been involved in probably 90% of the possible areas of the occult and renounced them all. As all these areas were renounced and

deliverance was sought through Jesus Christ, the demons were forced to flee! The person felt as if the room was swirling as the demons left. The person still had a bad headache and as we prayed the Holy Spirit gave her a warm hug and said something along the lines, "I will be with you 24/7. Listen to me now." The voice was loving and gentle unlike the voices the person heard before. The evil voices have not been heard since.

PANDEMIC STRUGGLES AMONG THE POOR AND ADDICTED

While we have been able to help many people during the pandemic there are many individuals and families who are not drawing nearer to God at the present time but are one step closer to an eternal

suffering. We have seen firsthand many people on welfare getting the CERB benefit and spending it on drug and alcohol use. Many individuals have died from overdoses including a tenant of an elder in our church who rents to the poor. As the CERB benefit comes to an end there will likely be an increase in crime to pay off debts for drugs, and evictions for those cut off of rental payments because of claiming the CERB benefit. Pray for the salvation of souls!

WAYS TO HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC

- donate food or be a part of the bagged lunches that we are providing each Sunday
- help with the school supply/shoes giveaway for the Muscowpetung Educational Centre on Muscowpetung First Nation. We still need more donations to provide for the whole school. It is our hope through such giveaways that we will be able to further establish trust on the reserve and develop more relationships for Bible studies in the future as restrictions are lifted.
- come help out as we begin to have Sunday services in the near future. Lead worship music, help out with the bagged lunch distribution, help teach Children's Church or help with set up and cleaning.
- While many people in our congregation give sacrificially, we do not bring in enough to meet our needs and need to fundraise for the remainder of our budget. Financial support from those outside the church makes a big difference in our ministry.



NEEDS TO PRAY FOR



- we are still hoping to hire an associate pastor in the future. Pray that the Lord will lead us to the right person. The pandemic has delayed our ability to commit to hire anyone. As Sunday services resume you can pray that we can handle the workload without an associate pastor for now.
- leadership within the church. There are only three of us as leaders who are carrying the majority of the workload within the church. While we may be okay for now, if God does not provide more workers for the harvest we are in serious danger of burn out in the future.
- spiritual growth and healing for those in the church. We long to see more people wanting to go deeper in their understanding of the Word of God and to find spiritual freedom in Jesus Christ. We meet with people one on one and there is a group study on Saturday afternoon where we have been going through the Pilgrim's Progress in the Nineteenth Century by William Weeks.
- pray for continued opportunities to pour into people's lives showing them the love of Jesus Christ and that the darkness will be forced back in North Central and on the reserves. There is so much need! Pray for God to move!