



Good News Chapel



God is Opening Doors!

With the pandemic it is easy to become discouraged and to fail to recognize that God is constantly at work and answering our prayers as we continually seek His will. He is faithful and His timing is always perfect. We have been praying and seeking God for years now to begin a church on Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation which is north of Balgonie. God led us to disciple and support one large family (with ten children) whom have since moved to another reserve in the last year. We will continue to provide support for this family but this will look different now as they live farther away.



This led us to question how we can continue to reach out to the people on Muscowpetung? What does God want us to do? While we know God led us specifically to Muscowpetung, of all the many reserves by Regina and in the Fort Qu'Appelle area, another door would need to open in order for a church to be planted. In spite of the COVID-19 restrictions last year, we were able to give back packs and school supplies to the entire school on Muscowpetung and began to develop a relationship directly with the school. Again, this year we were able to provide supplies to the entire school (now 100 students) and thankfully, this time, we were able to deliver them directly to the reserve. It is very encouraging to see Indigenous schools led by Indigenous teachers who are teaching children their own language and culture and that we could, in some way, be a part of overcoming the wrong decisions that were made in the past. God had given us further motivation to pursue Indigenous ministry on the reserves through the intern that was to begin in September. Kirk Custer is a student from Millar College of the Bible and is from Pelican Narrows. He has a desire to share the Gospel with his own people and expressed interest in being a part of the reserve ministry through our church. So how could we use him and continue to work towards a church plant on Muscowpetung?

Little did we know that God was already opening doors without us doing anything. A person from Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation had been attending Balgonie Baptist for years. Just this past summer he was able to get access to the school gym for church services and about every two weeks there have been church services on Saturday afternoons! We planned to bring the fifteen passenger van out to join them for their most recent service but unfortunately COVID-19 led to it being cancelled. This is a minor setback and we are excited to work alongside Balgonie Baptist in seeing a church planted on Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation! We are confident that with the many different relationships of people through our church here in Regina and God's perfect leading we will see a church grow and prosper! We are confident that with other churches in the Regina area coming alongside, we can see the Kingdom of God advance together!

Pastor Murray Hack

THANK YOU FOR SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS!

We were able to give out school supplies to 40 children here in Regina and the entire school (100 students) at Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation



INTERNS

In June we were contacted about a Briercrest student who wanted to volunteer and learn about ministry to the poor. And so for June and July, Dawson was able to help us and gain ministry experience. We are very thankful for Dawson and there is a possibility that he may be able to bring groups of Briercrest students to help at our church in the future.



Dawson Dokkie

Thanks to Parliament Community Church we were able to have five kids from the Good News Chapel attend their Athletes in Action Sports VBS in August. Kirk was able to help out as one of their leaders.



OVERDOSE

**Not recognizing the dangers
of being attached to sin**

All of us struggle with recognizing the dangers of being attached to sin. A man from our church whom we had been able to meet with for Bible studies continually struggled with remaining separated from the evil that surrounded him and genuinely cared for those in addictions but was not yet born again and in a place to really help them find freedom through Jesus Christ. He started dating a fentanyl addict with the desire to rescue her. She ended up in jail and when she got out she moved in with him. Part of her early parole condition was to be in programs throughout the week which included a weekly video call for Bible study and to attend church. This never happened and she

showed zero interest in the things of God. She spent all of her boyfriend's money and he was evicted because of her and they broke up but he was never really separated from her. She still controlled him. We were willing to help him find a new place as he slept on a couch for months at a friend's place who was willing to take him in. We warned him to have nothing to do with his old girlfriend. We warned him that she would destroy him if he went back to her. But as soon as he found a new place she moved in with him and a week later he died of a fentanyl overdose. We do not know if it was accidental or if he became addicted. Regardless the evil that surrounded him destroyed him in spite of being so close to entering into the Kingdom of God.

EVICTION

The extra challenges in overcoming past mistakes

We have been working with a special needs couple for years and have slowly been able to find additional supports so that they can live independently. Community Living has been a great help since becoming involved and now Regina Residential Resources Centre (RRRC) is also providing weekly assistance as well as a house cleaner paid for by social services. But their circumstances changed before all of the extra supports could lead to more positive changes and lessen this couple's reliance upon the church for their monthly needs. Their past mistakes caught up with them and they were evicted. It is much harder to find a new place to live if you have been given an eviction notice as the old landlord is usually required as a reference. We looked at many different apartments but their application continued to be denied. If they did not find a new place to live they would end up homeless. In the nick of time, we finally were able to find a new place for them and helped them move and clean their old apartment. They can now start fresh and continue to learn how to live without being in a state of perpetual poverty. We provided support for another person this summer who did end up homeless because they could not find a new place in time after being evicted. We helped them move their belongings to store temporarily at two different "so called" friends' homes while they couch surfed and slept in a cheap hotel and on the streets until finding a new place to live. When we went to pick up their stuff to help them move into their new rental home, all of the belongings were gone and had been stolen.

CHANGES TO SOCIAL SERVICES

The anxiety and stress of being on social assistance

During this summer, the basic income assistance program was changed in Saskatchewan. Everyone had to reapply and they wanted everyone to register online and to setup for direct deposit to your bank account. Most people who live in poverty do not have a bank account and just use places such as Money Mart which cash cheques at high fees. Many people we help don't have email or any computer skills. We have helped many people in our church get a variety of IDs and also set up bank accounts. Often people will have been without any IDs for years before getting our assistance.

Getting set up for the new income assistance program took multiple steps for people in our church living in such circumstances. Even with our help there were delays in getting approved for the program that caused a lot of stress and anxiety. With the new system there is no "worker" to call directly if you have any problems. You now have to call into a call centre which often is so overloaded that you cannot get through. We do our best to help and are learning different ways to deal with the problems within the system like phoning in when they first open instead of later in the day. We continue to help people in our church navigate the different challenges with the government assistance programs.

WAYS TO HELP

- We have to manually wash and dry dishes every week. If you are able to come and help us out after your church service the meal starts usually around 12:15 pm. If you would like to donate any food or help serve or clean tables it would be much appreciated.
- 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

- pray for continued open doors on Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation
- pray that Kirk's internship will go well (Aug- April)
- pray that God will provide more leaders in the church