



**REGINA
CHRISTMAS
WISH LIST**



**Good News
Chapel**



The Good News Chapel is blessed to be a part of the Regina Christmas Wish List again this year!

The Regina Christmas Wish List is a Christmas gift program for the poor in our city.

Stories for individuals and families from the Good News Chapel and other charities are listed on the website:

www.reginachristmaswishlist.com



Winter 2020
Newsletter



Good News Chapel



Thanks for School Supply Donations!

The Good News Chapel was blessed to give out close to 90 backpacks and school supplies to the entire school at Muscowpetung Educational Centre on Muscowpetung First Nation on top of the over 40 backpacks and shoes to kids through the church in Regina. Thanks so much to all who donated!

While we were not able to go onsite due to the COVID-19 restrictions we are thankful that we still could have a witness on the reserve and continue to establish trust.



On Thanksgiving weekend we were able to have our first service at the Good News Chapel since March. We stopped delivering bagged lunches but continued to give them out during the service to those who attended and for those who did not stay. We are able to accommodate a maximum of 30 people. Normally we require people to stay for the church service in order to receive food but since the health restrictions are trying to limit larger groups we decided to only have people attend church who really wanted to be there. It has been great to be worshipping God together again in spite of the restrictions!

Thanks for the Food Donations!

Thanks to the Regina Christian School for the food we received from their Thanksgiving Food Drive!



Regina Christian School



INNER CITY MINISTRY WITH A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD

I try not to share personally but rather the lives and needs of the people whom we are blessed to minister to as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ at the Good News Chapel. But I felt led in this newsletter to share more personally about another aspect of the call of God on our lives. Inner city ministry can be very rewarding and challenging but God has given us the extra blessing of a special needs child.

Gideon is our youngest of four children. He is now five years old and was born with a gene deficiency and his genetic disorder is called Sotos Syndrome. He was born into this world with great uncertainty. Both he and my wife nearly died during delivery if it were not for the hand of God guiding the medical specialists in Saskatoon where he was born. We were given a diagnosis of his genetic disorder the day after he was born which is quite rare so soon after birth. It can take years to properly diagnose a rare genetic disorder.



Both my wife and I were tested in our walk with God as his birth was drawing near. There were indications that something was not normal as he was in his mother's womb. How were we to pray for this unborn child? Were we to pray that he would be born "normal"? We felt called by God to pray as He was knitting Gideon together in his mother's womb that he would be born as God intended. But as he was being born the question became for me personally how would this child affect my ability to be a pastor in inner city ministry among the poor?

Four years before Gideon was born, I had quit my job of 12 years at SaskTel to prepare to be a pastor at the Good News Chapel. Would I have to give up ministry now because of this child? I trusted God that if He called me to this work He would enable me to carry it on. We did receive some reassurance as the genetic specialist told us the day after Gideon was born that Sotos Syndrome is just a growth disorder and there was no intellectual disability as part of it. I was convinced that God would not give us a child with an intellectual disability as if this was the case I would not be able to carry on in ministry. But God knows better about what we can handle than we know ourselves. The genetic specialist was wrong. There often are intellectual disabilities with Sotos Syndrome.

Gideon had a hard first year of life. He was fed through a feeding tube for over six months. And as he grew every developmental stage took much longer. When he was old enough to be given a hearing test it was discovered that he had hearing loss and required hearing aids. We enrolled him in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Preschool at Henry Janzen which he attended for two years. As his speech was significantly delayed (we weren't entirely sure if he would speak), sign language became very important. My wife learnt sign language and all of a sudden we became part of the deaf community in Regina. It was wonderful to meet these

people in Regina who are probably among the most isolated in our society. Many new immigrants coming to this country who only know their native language can eventually learn English. But the only people a deaf or mute person can have a conversation with is someone who can speak sign language. Their community is so small and the deaf community as a whole is among the most unreached people groups in the entire world in hearing the Gospel message. Then, after much effort and focus on sign language all of a sudden Gideon's hearing improved. His hearing is now normal which was quite a shock as usually hearing loss deteriorates over time! In spite of the blessing of his healing we had a sense of loss as we no longer have the same personal connection with the deaf community.



But how have we been able to carry on in ministry while caring for Gideon? For neither Melanie nor I have parents who live in the city to lean on for support and there is no one at our church who is able to help. Thankfully when Gideon was almost 4 years old he was able to get into Hope's Home special needs daycare. My wife and I finally had outside support during the week. During the pandemic Gideon was home from March until the end of June and it became very apparent to me that without Hope's Home I would not be able to be a pastor at our church. The Lord has provided the support that we need and has blessed us immensely through Gideon.

He now attends kindergarten at the Regina Christian School and also continues to go to Hope's Home. My wife continues to work part time for Souls Harbour Rescue Mission in Halifax along Ken and Michelle Porter. But my wife and children are unable to regularly attend the Good News Chapel. I'm not able to support her with Gideon and the other children while fulfilling my role as a pastor at our church and so they attend another church in the city. This is a sacrifice that we must take in order to serve the Lord together (in fact 80% of Christian parents of special needs children are unable to attend church at all).

We have so much to be thankful for! Our family would not be complete without Gideon. He is such a joy and loved as the rest of our children and we are so grateful to God that He has enabled us to carry on in this much needed ministry to the poor in our city as well as raise a special needs child. He equips and He enables!

May the Lord bless you and your family during this Christmas season!

Pastor Murray Hack

NEEDS TO PRAY FOR

- The Good News Chapel has the opportunity to hire an intern from Millar College of the Bible as an Associate Pastor starting in September 2021. He is the only Indigenous student on campus. Pray that God would confirm that this is the right person and that God would continue to raise up Indigenous pastors rooted in the Scriptures.
- 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.