

Newfoundland News

O'Brien Family Update

September – November 2016

Dear Friends,

Praise the Lord we are home owners! We are so excited and thankful for the great things the Lord has done to allow us to purchase our own house here in Newfoundland. We had a wonderful mortgage broker who went above and beyond in working for us. We had several people give much toward our down payment and so many little things that fell into place at the right time. We have already seen the Lord use this to glorify Himself. Our mortgage broker was able to see the Lord do things she didn't think were possible. At one point in the process she thought she was giving us bad news that we needed a bigger down payment, but we were able to show her that God had already provided. At one point she told us that when we first came in she could tell there was something different about us. We were happy for the opportunity to then be able to tell her that the difference is Christ and to share the Gospel with her.

As the season has changed, so have our ministries. We have had two successful church dinners. Our first was our annual Summer's End Soup and Sandwich Celebration. We had one new visitor for the service and 13 people for the meal. Our second meal was to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving, which is always the second Monday in October. (That's the same day as Columbus Day for those of you in the U.S.) We had five visitors. Three of them were ladies that regularly attend our monthly Ladies' Meeting, and two of those were first time visitors.

I have an unusual ministry this time of year. I take every opportunity I can to go hunting. This is one of my two best ministries to reach the men in our community. Again this year, I have my personal moose tags and New Hope Baptist Church's charity tags to fill. Besides the possibility of supplying food for ourselves and some church folks, this allows me to spend many hours (sometimes one on one) giving the Gospel and giving Biblical counsel. Each year I meet three or four new people with whom I am able to make a stronger friendship, and oftentimes I get to know their families as well.

The last weekend of October, Emily was able to be one of the speakers at the island-wide Ladies' Retreat. The ladies that were able to attend all had a wonderful time together and were encouraged and challenged by God's Word.

Each Halloween we buy special tracts and lots of candy to hand out to all the children that come to our door. This year as we were assembling the bags, Emily and I were considering the effectiveness of this activity. We mentioned that we had never had a phone call or had anyone come to church from the invitation and tracts we hand out. The Lord quickly reminded us of the promise that His Word does not return void, and we both knew that God has used and will use any effort we make in giving out the Gospel. This year we had two families, that came to the door, mention that their kids enjoy the "little books" they get from us. We also had a great surprise that next Sunday. A mother and her two young children came to the service as a direct result of our Halloween tract distribution. This year we had 123 children come to our door and receive a Gospel tract with their candy. We learned, again, to "not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)

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We are looking forward to our Christmas program on December 11th. We always have a good number of people attend. Please pray as we prepare for this and invite people.

We are preparing for our furlough from January to mid March. We still have much to do as we fill in the last few empty Sundays and Wednesdays in our schedule. We also have lots of preparation for our replacements and for our travel plans. Please pray that we will be able to get everything completed.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Your Fellow Servants,

Patrick, Emily, Courtney, Brooke and Autumn O'Brien