

# Newfoundland News

## O'Brien Family Update

April-May 2017

Dear Friends,

Spring has finally sprung here in Newfoundland! I think we have finally had our last snowfall for this winter. The last snowy weather was the weekend of May 21<sup>st</sup>. It didn't stay around very long. The past few weeks we have had some nice days to start planting our garden and to get some needed yard work done.

We had several special services and activities in April and May. Just a few weeks after returning from furlough we had our Annual Ladies' Luncheon. The theme was "Under His Wings," and Emily was very thankful for all the help that the ladies gave in pulling the event together. She also had much help from the guest speaker who came all the way from St. John's and helped so much with the food and decorations.

Later in April, I had the opportunity to take three teens to an annual youth activity in St. John's. There were over thirty teens in attendance and each had a wonderful time. The teens were given an excellent challenge from the parable of the Prodigal Son.

We had good attendance for both Resurrection Sunday and Mother's Day. In fact, several Sundays we've had close to twenty in attendance. We have had a few new visitors, and one lady is coming quite regularly because of her granddaughters inviting her to church.

We have, sadly, been to a few funerals of our friends' family members. These have been some of the hardest funerals I have attended. Every funeral is sad as we say goodbye to a loved one, but when the clergy speaks of heaven and cannot tell of the assurance one can have of heaven it leaves those in attendance with a sense of hopelessness. Of these funerals, two were Catholic, and they both concluded with a mass. I had never before attended a Catholic mass. It broke my heart as I listened and watched them perform a ceremony that is essentially another sacrifice of Christ, since they believe the elements transform into the actual body and blood of Christ. Hebrews chapter ten came to mind and made me so thankful that His one-time sacrifice was sufficient for my many and great sins, and not just mine but the sins of the world. During the last funeral and mass I attended, I was able to sit by a friend of mine that I have witnessed to many times. I was able to point out (tactfully) how all that was truly unnecessary because when Christ died he died once for all, and the only requirement is faith alone in Christ. Since that day his attitude toward the gospel has changed, and there seems to be a more openness to it. Please pray for Bryan's salvation and that the Lord continues to bring about these opportunities.

Please pray for our up-coming summer children's program on July 21-22. Please be in prayer that many will attend and many will come to know Christ as their Saviour. Also, please pray for the youth group that is coming from South Carolina to help with this program. We pray that God would use this trip to call one of these young people into full-time service and maybe even direct them to Newfoundland one day.

Your Fellow Servants,

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

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