

Newfoundland News

O'Brien Family Update



December 2017- January 2018

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter in one of my usual thinking/letter writing places – in our van, overlooking the lovely Bay St. George. Today, as I sit here and write, is one of our many nasty days that we have had recently. We have had some terrible weather lately: blizzards, storms with winds as high as 120 kph, floods, heavy rains during the day with freezing at night, and snowstorms dumping 10+ inches of snow in one night. Looking across the bay, seeing the high waves, and feeling the strong wind shake our van I am reminded of Psalm 107. The first verse says, “O give thanks unto the LORD for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” The Psalmist relates many difficult and fearful circumstances in which man may find himself that is either self-inflicted because of sin or just part of life; yet each situation is remedied with, “then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.” In verses 23-31 is the picture of men out on the sea during a great storm (possibly similar to or greater than what I am watching at the time of writing this). “They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits’ end.” Many times we find ourselves in the same proverbial position in our life or even spiritual walk – our soul is melted and we are at our wits’ end. I know I have found myself there many times, but I am thankful for the privilege to “cry unto the LORD” in my trouble and see in my life verses 29 and 30. “He maketh the storm a calm so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so bringeth them unto their desired haven.” He is our haven of rest! (And I’ll let you read verse 31 for yourself.)

Thank you for your prayers concerning our Christmas Program and special activities through the end of December. There were thirty-four at the Christmas program. Seven of those were first-time visitors and we even had our family dentist in attendance. Each participant did a wonderful job with their parts and the audience listened as the Gospel message was presented in both the play and the preaching portions.

This year we introduced to the Sunday school children the joy of Christmas caroling. We had a great time caroling to several individuals that we have ministered to over the years in some way or another. We made a few unscheduled stops to some the children’s friends and family as well.

We had a few other “firsts” in December. We had our first Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and a New Year’s Eve Service. These both were moderately attended but we were not discouraged because the weather was poor and new things can take time to catch on.

Please be in prayer for our regular activities and services since attendance is low due to weather and sickness. Please pray for faithfulness to all the services and for more hearts to accept the Gospel message.

Your Fellow Servants,

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

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