

# Newfoundland News

## O'Brien Family



Spring 2019

Dear Friends,

The past few months have had two overwhelming themes for our family: provision and protection. As for both church plants, we have seen the usual springtime low attendance due to weather and sickness. But as May arrives and the weather starts to improve, we should see the regular groups back again. At Grace Baptist in Corner Brook we have started having split men's and women's Bible studies. These have been well attended and seem to be enjoyed. A lady from Stephenville who had recently made profession of faith has been faithfully coming to the Sunday services and even rides with us to the services in Corner Brook.

We were recently reminded in a big way of God's continual care for us. Last month we received a house call from a company that does our yearly oil furnace cleaning and inspection. They were in the area and notice that our furnace was due for its inspection. During the inspection, they found that the firebox was cracked and leaking carbon monoxide. This answered many questions we had been having in regards to headaches and other health issues plaguing our entire family! (And we found a reason to be thankful for our drafty house!) We are so thankful that God kept us safe, revealed the problem and allowed us to get it fixed before it became any worse. We had a few cold days while we waited for a new furnace, but as of mid-March we have a brand-new furnace that is more efficient than our old one.

We have also had a few nerve-wracking drives to and from Corner Brook. We have had a few trips where blowing snow or spring fog took the visibility down to just a few feet. We have also seen the Lord clear the weather up for us almost instantly. On one trip, Autumn asked from the back seat to pray for the weather to get better. She didn't know that I had been praying most of the way. As we prayed as a family, the amount of snow falling and blowing dropped to almost nothing. It was amazing to see God teaching our girls to trust Him and to bring everything to Him in prayer.

We had a busy yet enjoyable Easter Sunday. We had a breakfast and morning service in Stephenville and supper and evening service in Corner Brook. In both churches we enjoyed the day with God's people and in Stephenville we were also thankful for a couple of visitors.

During Easter break, Courtney and I traveled across the island to attend a two day youth activity. This was Courtney's first year to be able to participate in this teen activity. I was able to preach twice to the young people. And, as in years before, it was a blessing to minister alongside the other pastors and Christian workers on the island.

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The Northcutts' furlough is going well. They are excited to be close to the finish line. They are looking to be here the first part of August. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel and prepare to make the move to Newfoundland.

We have a few things we ask that you would pray with us about:

1. In our last letter we mentioned Loretta Berkshire was diagnosed with cancer and was given six months. Her last scan showed that her cancer was shrinking and we praise the Lord for that! Please continue to pray for her as she continues her treatments.

2. We have been experiencing some amount of difficulty with our immigration process. In the past, we have tried to get permanent residency, but to no avail. Without permanent residency, we are required to extend our visitor records. In the past, these have been extended for two years at a time. This year we only got a 3 month extension and now a 5 month extension. If this continues, it will quickly become expensive and time consuming. Please pray that our next application for extension will give us the two years that we had been getting. Pray also as we explore the different avenues for permanent residency. This is proving to be a time consuming, expensive and confusing process.

3. Continue to pray for Grace Baptist Church in Corner Brook. The rental agreement for the place we are renting will expire next month. Please pray that we will be able to find a place to rent and that this little church plant will have the finances to make the rent payments.

4. This final prayer request is for wisdom regarding our newer van. Over the past few months, it has been in the shop several times for expensive repairs. It is currently still waiting in the shop to have the rear differential replaced. We are praying about whether we should hope this will be the last big repair for awhile and keep it, or if we should sell it and try to get at least what we still owe on it. Thankfully, we still have our old van, but it has over 200,000 miles on it and is over 13 years old. Please pray with us for peace regarding which decision to make. We travel an hour one way each Sunday with nothing but cabins and forest between. Because of this, we are thankful that our old van is holding up so well.

Your Fellow Servants,

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