

# Newfoundland News

**O'Brien Family**



Summer 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your continued prayers on our behalf. We have had an amazing summer and would not have without your prayers. In our last letter, we asked that you would pray that Grace Baptist Church in Corner Brook would find a new place to meet. The Lord provided tremendously. We were able to rent a space for a little over \$800.00 a month plus utilities. They were initially asking for \$1,200.00 a month, but they had not rented the space for over a year so their realtor talked them down. We were able to move in the same day as our lease was up on our previous location. The monthly rent is still quite a stretch for the few people who are currently attending. Please pray that we will be able to continue to make the monthly rent payment.

In July, we had a ladies' trio from Faithway College of Canada present a music program for both churches. This group was a tremendous blessing to our churches and family. The day the group arrived, our oldest daughter, Courtney, turned twelve. We had a great time celebrating her birthday. She received a special present from her grandfather and father. This year she is old enough to join me in hunting for small game.

We left for Teen & Family Camp the last week of July. This year we had quite the crowd join us for camp. We had Donna and two young girls that are faithful to Sunday school and church go again this year. A gentleman that had recently started coming to GBC in Corner Brook decided to come. Also, two special guests, my mom and a friend from our sending church chose to come for a visit at that time to join us at camp. We had an adventure on our 720 km/447mi. trip to camp. We had to take two vehicles. I drove our older van since our newer one was in the shop. I had the five girls in the back and the gentleman in the passenger seat. All the ladies rode in Donna's car. Three hours from camp and 45 minutes from a town that has more than just a gas station, the transmission in our van decided to give out. Thankfully, I was able to get in touch with a pastor friend in the town 45 minutes up the road just as he was leaving for camp. He was able to come and pick us up and get a tow truck sent out. Later, when I called to set up payment for the tow truck, the owner told me that he would not charge me because our Father would not want him to charge me.

The next day at camp, I found that replacing our van would be more economical than repairing it. Our plan was to shop for a replacement the next day in the city of St. John's, but we ended up having to take my mother to the ER. She had to stay three days for observation. She's much better now and will be having a follow up with her doctor soon. We did get a chance to look for and purchase a three year old SUV with very low mileage and for a great price. It has been a great blessing from the Lord.

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Through everything that has happened over this past year, no matter the frustration and the temptations to quit, the Lord continues to give the “peace that passes all understanding” and reminds us that He has called us here and will provide for us. On the way back from taking my mother to the hospital, Emily and I discussed how we felt it had been a good day. We stopped and considered all that had happened in the past few days and the uncertainty of the next few. Both of us wondered how we could have the feeling of having had a good day. The only explanation of that is God’s sweet peace throughout trials. We discussed how that recently there were many times of just wanting to quit after all that has happened and because of not being able to see results from our efforts. The knowledge that God has always brought us through, the conviction that we are called to be faithful, and God’s promise that we will reap if we faint not have been what has kept us from quitting. That evening as we drove the 45 minutes back to camp from the hospital, we were contacted by one of the pastors at camp to inform us that the gentleman who had come with us to camp had trusted Christ as his Saviour! I had witnessed to him for weeks and knew that he was at the brink of salvation. He just had to go from a head knowledge to faith. The excitement in the car was so great. We were once again reminded that God has a plan and He uses us despite our failures and weaknesses. And, many times He allows us to go through difficulties to show us and others His power and peace.

The Friday after we returned to camp the Northcutt Family arrived on the island. There was much busyness to get them unpacked. Their first Sunday was also quite busy. We had baptisms after the morning service. Our two youngest, Brooke and Autumn, were both baptized. It was a special treat for my mother and Emily’s parents as they were all able to attend. It was also a great encouragement to those in attendance. We had quite a few guests to come see the girls baptized. I was able to preach a message on Biblical baptism and present the Gospel at the same time.

We are so excited to have the Northcutts join us in serving the Lord here in Stephenville and Corner Brook. They have already added much to the ministry here. We are excited to implement many more things as they settle in. Please pray for them as they settle in and adapt to a new culture, especially the children. They filled in for us for two weeks in September. We had a family trip planned around an annual Canadian preachers’ conference which was in Quebec City this year. We went through Maine to visit my sister and an elderly great aunt. We needed this short time of refreshment in the Lord and a little time with family.

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

1. In previous letters we mentioned Loretta Berkshire was diagnosed with cancer. She has been feeling great this summer and is looking forward to her next scan at the end of September. Please continue to pray for her.

2. Please be in prayer for our visitor record extension. Our current record expired at the end of September and we have yet to hear back on the application. Pray also as we explore the different avenues for permanent residency. This is proving to be a time consuming, expensive, and confusing process.

3. Pray that the offerings at Grace Baptist Church in Corner Brook will start to be sufficient to cover the rent and utilities. Also, that this location will not get rented to someone else since we are on a month-to-month lease.

Your Fellow Servants,

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