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2016—September to December Update

“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:” — Luke 24:46

Dear Beloved Brethren:

2017 started out on a sick note! January saw the Espanola Hospital’s nursing home with over half of the North and South wings on isolation lockouts due to flu outbreaks that seemed to defy containment. During that time visitors were not allowed and it was my blessing to be able to encourage the residents as I worked. As a part-time janitor/housekeeper, it was my job to clean and sanitize the isolation rooms. The result is I’ve been down with that flu twice! God is great and has brought me through strong both times (never missed a service)!

I continue to hold chapel for the nursing home once a month. When the activities director gets a no-show or a last minute bow-out (can you believe that?), I have made every effort to step in. The Nursing Home holds a group Memorial every so often for residents who have passed away. I was happy to officiate for the second time for six residents, some of whom passed during the outbreak. The lifelong Christians in the crowd love to sing the old hymns and there is joy in their faces when I give the Gospel—pray the others will hear and believe as God allows me to counsel and witness.

Closures in the communities surrounding Espanola include a public school, a grocery store, a bank, a post office and more and the population in Espanola is down from 5500 to 4900. These places seem to be nearing ghost town status—but we will stay on until the Lord says go!

Last November, a young couple moved in two houses down from us and I visited them with a welcome gift and invited them to come to church. They never came, but in early March there was a knock on our door in the morning. The young lady was there asking if I would come be a witness at her wedding. I was taken aback! I said ..ok? When is it being held? She said, now. Because I’m desperate to reach people up here, I said let me put on a better shirt and I’ll be right there. I was praying to have some time with them to present the Gospel, so I packed a ‘wedding gift’ of a Life of Jesus DVD and walked over. When I got there, she introduced me to their ‘humanist mediator’ who would perform the ceremony and her other witness, her realtor. It was then she explained it was a ‘humanist’ wedding! Folks, you can imagine my prayers going up silently during this ‘ceremony’! To get a real idea of how things are up here, look up Atheism in Canada on youtube and google motion 103—which is a law that will make it illegal to criticize or speak out against Islam.

On a positive note—we had a good preacher fellowship here on March 31. It’s so good to get to spend time with these men. Bro. Roberts & Bro. Witte from Sault Ste Marie, Bro. Kruge from Goulais River and Bro. Wadley from North Bay and myself have purposed to meet several times a year, to encourage and pray for one another. We are happy to be a part of Bro. Wadley’s reachnorth.ca initiative to Reinvigorate-Replant-Re-Evangelize all of northern Ontario.

On April 11, I conducted a funeral service where two raised their hands to trust Christ. Praise the Lord! I’ve included some pictures on the next page.

Please pray for the upcoming summer youth program, workers for this field, and God’s power to help us rescue the perishing.

We pray for you daily and salute you wherever you are.

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Luke 24:47

