

**The
Davenports**

Moving Forward

March, 2013

**Thunder Bay, ON
Canada**

Big Changes on the Horizon

What a difference three months can make. Wishful thinking had me hoping that by the time we returned from New Zealand, winter here in Thunder Bay would be almost finished. I couldn't have been more wrong. In speaking to the native Thunder Bay'ers who've lived here their whole lives, even they are saying this has been one of the more brutal winters on record. Needless to say, we have mountains of snow and there was one day that I cleared the snow for two hours and it didn't even seem to make a difference. That was a snow day for the whole family!

Before I get into our big changes, I'd like to report that our time in New Zealand was simply fantastic. It really did have that "once in a lifetime" type feel for us. We got to do things we NEVER would have done otherwise including skydiving, mud bathing, and zip lining. How about that? There were so many things that we enjoyed about New Zealand including the warm summer temperatures. We stayed on the north island and went as far south as Wellington. What a beautiful place. I can honestly say that I could move there and mean it! But more than anything we enjoyed the wonderful company of our good friend Emma Betton who became Emma Munro while we were there. Officiating her wedding was certainly one of the highlights of our trip and the day couldn't have been more beautiful.



Just before the big jump!



Hobbiton. Where are you Frodo?



The Davenport's and Munro's

As for our big news—we are moving again! This time back into town. We have loved our beautiful country home but now feel it's time to re-engage with city life. We already have an accepted offer on a home and now need our house to sell. Please pray with us for a speedy sale. From our new location our kids can walk to work and we can significantly reduce our mortgage. We are all excited for this change and hope to report back good news in our next communication. I guess you can say we are still on the move!!

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*“Trust steadily in God,
hope unswervingly,
love extravagantly”*

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Include a note in your envelope that the
contribution is for Mark & Karen Daven-
port—YWAM Thunder Bay.*



Still in Jail

It may sound strange to hear but I'm happy to still be in jail. There's no better place in Thunder Bay to spread the good news of the gospel than at the Thunder Bay District Jail. What is getting more exciting for me there is that my relationships with the Correctional Officers and the staff is growing every time I'm there. This week we are expecting our first Correction Officer to come over for dinner and hang out! It's just another sign to me that God is on the move there. In addition, I just received word there a couple of weeks ago that they are so excited about my being there that they have asked if I could stay through September. I heartily accepted and so I'm continuing to serve there two and a half days a week. While it remains a bit of a tough working environment as you can imagine a maximum security installation would be, the presence of the Lord has been sweet. I may have said this before but I never could have imagined the opportunities to pray with folks to invite Jesus into a relationship with them then I have since I began my time at the jail.

Redwood Park Church

It continues to be a delight for me to be serving at the Care Ministries Pastor at Redwood Park Church. In these last 6 months, we have been getting to know our new Lead Pastor, Joel Enyart who moved with his wife and two daughters up from Los Angeles, California here to Thunder Bay. They have been receiving a crash course in winter as we've experienced an especially brutal one here this year. I'm finding it interesting to hear Joel express some of the same transition challenges that I experienced in moving from Detroit to Vancouver in 2004. As "fellow Americans" here in Tbay, I'm trying to help soften his move into Canadian culture. Having Joel here has been awesome and providing our team with a different kind of relational leadership than we've had here before. For more info on what's going on here at Redwood, check out the website at www.RedwoodPark.ca

Family News

Things have been just plain exciting around here in the last couple of weeks. In addition to getting our house listed and expecting to move into town in the next few months, our lovely daughter Alexandra received word that she had been accepted into all three of her program choices at Lakehead University here in Thunder Bay. She has decided to enter the nursing program which to be honest, she didn't think she would be accepted given the competitiveness of the program. We are so excited and proud of her as she attempts to become the second Davenport to be a nurse. (My brother Dan is a nurse practitioner in Michigan.) This is another of the reasons we decided to move into town as we then provide a transportation opportunity through the local bus system to get Alex to school. Our oldest son Jacob has been expressing a recent interest in welding and is even thinking of taking that up as a career choice. And good old Simeon is doing great as well. Thanks for your care for all of us.