

**The  
Davenports**

# Moving Forward

**December, 2013**

**Thunder Bay, ON  
Canada**

## Christmas 2013

It's 5 days before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring - Not even a mouse. Primarily because it means that 3 teenagers are still sleeping on their first day off of their extended Christmas break. Extended because this year my two oldest teens are off for a month! Karen and I and Alex and Jacob are heading off to New Zealand for almost 3 weeks leaving on New Year's Eve. After a quick stop for 2 days in Los Angeles to see Karen's sister, we are headed to Auckland. The primary purpose of our trip is for me to officiate the wedding of one of our former DTS students, the lovely Emma Betton. Following our decision to be part of this wonderful event, we decided to make it a family holiday and enjoy a place that none of us have been before. After a good bit of discussion and prayer, we decided to leave Simeon home here in Thunder Bay under the care of some



close family friends who are flying up to Thunder Bay to spend two weeks with Sim. (Thank you Aunt Janny and Uncle Malcolm!) For the last week Sim will be enjoying the hospitality of some other close friends from our church family here in TBay. (Tillers – you rock!) We can't wait to see the land of Lord of the Rings but are probably more excited about leaving our snow and cold here in TBay and enjoying the summer that New Zealand has to offer.

I seem to say this every time I write an update but these last few months have been an amazing ride. I have been serving as the chaplain at the Thunder Bay District Jail since October. It's exciting to say that about 7 or 8 men have given their lives over to Christ since I've been there. Of course there have been other challenges too but the opportunity to share the good news of the gospel of Christ with men who desperately need that has been a tremendous reward. For so long, I desired to be a person who could make a difference for Christ in my life and over the last year or so have seen fruit literally falling off of the trees. It has reminded me of the prayer Karen and I prayed while we were in Vancouver regarding our coming to Thunder Bay. It was such a risk for us moving to a place based purely on faith. All that to say, we could not be more pleased about our decision. It may be minus 25 with piles of snow right now in Thunder Bay. Nevertheless, I'm pleased to report that the sweet aroma of Christ has created an amazing growing season. Thank you Lord. All the best to you this Christmas 2013!

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

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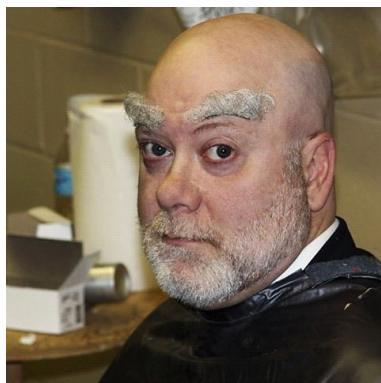
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## It's a Wonderful Life!

We had an amazing run of six sold out shows of Redwood Park Church's performance of *It's a Wonderful Life*. When I have asked people to guess what part I played, everyone says, "Why, Mr. Potter, of course." I don't know whether to take that as a compliment to the typecasting or my acting skills. Either way, we had a great time putting on the show. It has been my pleasure to be acting in my fourth Redwood Dinner Theatre. The first was *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Second year was *A Christmas Story*. Last year was *Gifts of the Magi* and this year *It's a Wonderful Life*. Who knows what next year will bring. I've included a couple of photos of this year's show. What was great about this show was that Alex acted in it with me. Fun times!



*Mark in makeup for the big show*



*The cast of It's a Wonderful Life*



*Dance Scene. Alex is on the right.*



*Closing Scene. George has friends.*

## Family News

There's always something new happening in the lives of the Davenport's. Today mark's another watershed moment as the button was pushed on the computer that sent off Alexandra's University Application. It's hard to believe we will be having a daughter in university this fall. Alex is applying to Lakehead University to study Gerontology. We hope to find out soon of her acceptance into that program. Along with prayers for that, I ask that you keep us in your prayers concerning a big decision on whether or not to sell our home in the country and move back into the city in the spring. Our thoughts would be that the University would be closer and allow Alex to get there without having to have a car. The real estate market has also been on the upswing here in Thunder Bay so making that decision could have a huge impact on our finances.

For those who are wondering about my dad, he continues to reside in the Lutheran Home in Livonia, Michigan. His condition remains pretty much the same. Every few months we think things are turning for the worse but then his condition improves which seems to mystify everyone. Please keep him and my mom in your prayers.