

**The
Davenport's**

Moving Forward

April, 2013

**Thunder Bay, ON
Canada**

Winter . . . Ongoing Still

You may have noticed that the colour scheme I chose for this newsletter is green. That, my friends is a statement of faith. Trust me when I tell you there is NO green to be found here in Thunder Bay. It is almost the end of April and we are still smack in the middle of winter here in the great Northwest.

What seems like the never ending winter became even more shocking as Karen and I returned just this weekend from a wonderful trip to the beautiful country of Tahiti. Having received a portion of our trip as a gift, we had been planning this get away since December of 2011. I can't resist including just a couple of photos of our time there.



The stark reality of returning to a fresh snowfall of 15 inches of snow in our driveway compounded by even more snow falling last night allows me to reflect somewhat on the “season” of spring but the “reality” of winter. What happens when things are supposed to be different because the calendar says they are but the reality of what I am experiencing reflects something so much different? How does that reality look in the realm of where my spiritual life is concerned? Perhaps I've been praying and seeking out the Lord for a significant amount of time regarding a particular area of my life. I've mustered all the faith I have and asked, petitioned and sought out wisdom as much as I know how to do. I'm doing my best to walk in the season I desire to be in but the reality is that my situation hasn't really changed. The struggle and the pain is still there. Nothing I do seems to make a difference. Where do I go in the midst of “winter” while believing that “spring” is right around the corner? Tough questions I know.

I must admit that there are still a few areas of my life where I find this analogy to be true. There are battles still being fought and in some cases there is a hint of spring but in others the snow continues to fall. I'm thankful that there are other places in my life where summer is in full swing. Thank the Lord for those places in me where I can reflect on God's goodness and His blessing in my life. I'm thankful that in those places, I'm back in Tahiti!

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

For tax deductible contributions in the USA you may send and make your checks payable to:

YWAM
PO Box 3000
Garden Valley TX 75771

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For those of you who don't want to have to remember to send your monthly check, both the Canadian and U.S. YWAM locations offer a monthly automatic withdrawal option. If you are interested, please contact us.

Please do NOT put our names on checks. Include a note in your envelope that the contribution is for Mark & Karen Davenport—YWAM Thunder Bay.



The Work Continues

Thank you so much for your ongoing prayer and your faithful support to the work of Youth With a Mission here in Thunder Bay. I am blessed to see the gifts God has given me work in a significant capacity through my ministry of caregiving at Redwood Park Church. This partnership between YWAM and Redwood has been truly amazing. I know it to be true that without this partnership, I wouldn't be getting the opportunity to influence the lives of so many in the Thunder Bay community. My work outside of Redwood Park Church has increased recently with a more significant role at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre through chaplaincy care and the chance to be part of a select group of local clergy involved in hiring a new full time Chaplain at the hospital. It's been a wonderful chance to meet more folks in Thunder Bay and watch new partnerships and relationships form.

I'm continuing to work and serve our police force by performing "ride alongs" with police officers. This affords me a great chance to build relationships with our amazing law enforcement personnel and continue my pursuit of the "official" police chaplaincy role here. Although that has not been made official, I still believe timing is everything and I'm going to continue to push as much as I can to see that move forward. While I'm waiting, I'm NOT sitting on the sidelines.



Police Constable Middleton



Thunder Bay Police

Family News

Karen and I continue to adjust to what it means to raise young adults. I know it is not something new for many of you but the learning process is ongoing for us! Alexandra is now driving without parents in the car. She of course is loving it. Dad is nervous every time she drives down the driveway. Jacob is planning on taking on his very first full time paying job come summer. The idea of Jake earning his own cash is especially appealing to our growing 15 year old. Meanwhile, our "baby" will be turning 14 years old in just over a week. Simeon continues to amaze us with his near computer like recall of facts and information. He's one special guy, that's for sure!

Finally, it looks more and more like we will be travelling to New Zealand next January, 2014 where I will be officiating a wedding for a very special couple. We are already praying for all the details needed to make that trip happen. We'd love YOUR prayers for that to come together.