

## Mast Update

April 29, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters at Westminster Bible Chapel,

It sure is wonderful to know that God is in control when so much of the world seems out of control. I am encouraged by God's promises to His people that He is working everything out for our good and His glory.

*"God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
Even though the earth be removed,  
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea"* Psalm 46:1-2



Thank you for your continued support of the work we are involved in, and the generous gift given via MSC in April. We praise the Lord for supplying for our needs.

With the weather getting warmer it has been easier to get out and talk with people. Lois and I have been able to hand out a number of tracts and gospels of John at a nearby park. We are especially praying for two men who we talked with this past week. We found Daryl out with his friendly collie, and Bob we found at the tennis court practicing his serve.

In our "Young Men's Bible Study" we completed Allan Dunlap's "Young Man's Assembly Survival Guide" and this past week we started on the book of Proverbs. It is good to notice some more boldness of one young man in participating in the assembly meetings. I find what Solomon recorded in Proverbs to be so valuable to guide and warn young people so that they don't have to fall into the devil's traps.

This past weekend we hosted a satellite location for CMML's 26 Below conference. It was neat to hear that we were one of about 40 groups across North America that benefitted from the conference activities and teaching. Our group of young people enjoyed the singing, games, snacks, 3 teaching sessions and discussion times. The speakers challenged us to recognize God's call to reach out with the gospel, including overseas missions, and to make sure that disciples are made for the Lord Jesus. It was also good to hear the testimonies of how God provides for the work to which he calls us. May God use this teaching to draw more to serve in His harvest field.

The Good News Club, hosted at Pat Van Essen's house, is now done for the school year. We had nine children attend the closing gathering. It was another good opportunity to help them hear the message of what the Lord Jesus has done to provide the way of salvation. We build relationships, share God's truths and pray that He will cause these seeds to grow in these young hearts. They were also invited to come to the 5 Day Club that we hope to have sometime this summer.

The lessons continue at the Juvenile Detention Center each Sunday afternoon. I am thankful that the door is still open for us there, especially when I hear of many prisons being closed to Christians who are trying to reach out. I enjoyed sharing about the meaning of "Good Friday" and the significance of "Resurrection Sunday". Some boys have been with me for the past few months, others have recently been locked up. It is always interesting to see who requests the two copies of my notes at the end of the session. God's word changes lives.

We had a Bar-B-Que outreach at the chapel the week before the Passover. There were a good number there from the assembly as well as 22 people that are not part of this fellowship. The time of games and food gave us

opportunity to meet some new people and get exposure to the neighborhood. We pray that God will entrust us with more people to minister to on a regular basis.

We did something different this year. We had a Good Friday evening service. I remember in Vancouver (years ago) we always had an "Easter Conference" that many assemblies gathered at from Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday. I was surprised to find that Good Friday is not a national holiday in the US as it is in Canada. Those of us who gathered for this Good Friday service were blessed by the time of recognizing the Lord Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf and were thankful to have another opportunity to preach the gospel.

Now it is time to prepare for the summer mini day camp in early June. We want this to be a major outreach to the neighborhood as well as blessing to the children of the assembly. We have the speaker scheduled and the dates set. The little details still need to be ironed out.

Lois and I enjoyed getting to know one of the boys from the Youth Group better yesterday as we took him out for ice cream after school. It was his birthday and he turned 13. He and his two siblings attend Youth Group. I think that his adopted mother appreciates what he is learning from us, both spiritual and practical. After ice-cream, I showed him how to service a friend's lawn mower, and then his family's mower. We pray that investments in lives like his will make a big difference in his life and pay eternal dividends.

It is only about three weeks until our son, Joshua, gets married. He is marrying a young lady he met a couple of years ago at John Brown University. Hannah is a "Missionary Kid" (MK) from Ethiopia. She and Josh have similar backgrounds and can relate a lot to each other. They both love the Lord and want to serve Him. It will be interesting to see how the Lord leads them for the future. Hannah will graduate in about a week with a degree in "Cross-cultural studies". That can be good preparation for missionary service. They will have a year of getting settled in marriage and next year hope to go to the MOP (Missionary Orientation Program) that MSC & CMML conduct each year in early June.

Thank you for your vital prayer involvement in work that the Lord gives us to do.

Love,

Bert & Lois