

Victory in Jesus!

"From the rising of the sun unto
the going down of the same the
Lord's name is to be praised."

Psalms 113:3

Roddickton

Happy New Year to all the branch churches! It's off to a good start here at Roddickton. We have felt a continuation of God's presence with us in our services. On the evening of January 14, the choir began with, *"Jesus is Coming Soon."* The congregational hymns echoed that theme, and the singing was inspired by God's promise of His coming. Everyone seemed to be putting their all into it, as there was a great volume.

Testimonies of victory were given that were very encouraging. Isn't God good? One of the sisters, Tena Reardon gave her testimony. She is going through such a storm since the sudden death of her husband, just five weeks prior to this. This news had not only affected our church, but the community at large. God has been with her and is definitely helping her to trust Him, one day at a time. A brother testified and mentioned Earl Pilgrim, who has lost his eyesight completely, as of late. We have been praying for Earl and the brother suggested that we gather around him and bring his case to the Father once again. We sang the chorus, *"I Know a Man Who Can,"* and followed directly with, *"Rise and be Healed."* It was sung with fervor.

Pastor Michael gave the call to come forward in faith to be prayed for. Earl was the first to step out and made his way down the aisle. There was no last special or preaching, as many with afflictions responded and this response continued throughout the altar service. There were inspired songs played and once again the saints were greatly blessed while singing and meditating on such choruses as, *"Peace of God Cover Me."* It was a wonderful time indeed.

Christmas Service

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas service on December 17, 2023. Many of the Roddickton folks were away, including our Pastor and wife, but nonetheless it was truly a blessed occasion, greatly enjoyed by all in attendance. The birth of our Saviour can never be celebrated too much, it is the most favorite time of the

Winter 2024



year for many. Both young and old participated, including primary, junior, and senior departments of our Sunday school.

The evening began with choir singing, *"O Thou Joyful Day,"* followed by congregational singing and prayer. The young adults then sang, *"Birthday of a King."* *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,"* a poem read by Dorothy Hopkins entitled, *"One Candle,"* Sunday school teachers and Olivia Brenton singing, *"Jesus Is Here,"* *"O Come all ye Faithful"* were the



next items on the program. A solo sung by Doreen Brenton entitled, *"Do you Have Room,"* congregational, *"Away in a Manger,"* a solo performed by Alva Newman entitled, *"Baby from Bethlehem"* preceded the closing song, *"Silent Night."* Brother Vanzel Quinlan brought Christmas greetings and closed in prayer, bringing an end to a great night of celebration. We left the service feeling the sweet Spirit of God, peace and unspeakable joy that only comes from Jesus, the true reason for the season!

Church Supper

January 24 the church had a potluck supper. There was a variety of wonderful dishes. It was



a time of fellowship, smiles, and laughter. One of the sisters had a game that tested our Bible knowledge. The game started by asking personal questions such as your favourite

color or do you read your Bible every day. Then the player was required to answer some Bible trivia. One wrong answer would disqualify the player and another person would have to start from the beginning again. If the player was successful with the questions, they would proceed to pick a number from the table. Each number had a tag on the back determining what prize had been won or just sorry no prize. Everyone enjoyed watching. The meal concluded by singing choruses and a closing prayer. It was a great evening enjoyed by all.



What a thrill it is when people gather to worship. January 28 services were, once again, a blessing. The morning service was wonderful. Then we had an afternoon service at the local seniors home. It was so encouraging to hear the singing and listen to the testimonies of the seniors.

The evening service brought joy to our souls. Brother Kevin Hopkins gave an inspiring message on Real Peace. The world seeks peace, but it is Jesus who gives true peace. A beautiful altar service followed, with folks receiving heavenly blessings. It was a joy to see people tarrying at the altar of prayer.

Calgary

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the Saviour of his knowledge by us in every place." *II Corinthians 2:14.*

Farewell to the visiting grandparents

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." *Psalm 133:1.* It has been a wonderful





experience having some grandparents visit and spend time with us. The blessings, fellowship and encouragement remind us of God's promises. We said 'see you later' to most of them and we hope (by the grace of God) to have them visit us again. *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 23:17.*

Men's, Women's & Youth's Prayer & In-House Fellowship

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20. While the men enjoyed a wonderful time with the Lord in their bi-weekly prayer time, the women had their regular prayer fellowship during the middle weeks of the month. The youth also enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship during prayer meetings every Sunday evening. While all these meetings are held over Zoom, the Lord continues to rejoice and warm the hearts of His people.

During Thanksgiving we held our usual prayer meetings every first and last Friday of the month with abundant soul-inspiring testimonies of victories as God continues to bless His church.

The Lord gave us an opportunity to meet as a big family to deliberate and plan activities and events for the year 2024. Different arms of the church then met to discuss evangelism, in-reach and outreach programs for the year. We know that the Lord has set us on this path of victory, and we pray that He keeps our hands on the plough until we see Him in Glory.

'We will continue to do the work of Him that saved us'

Children's Christmas program

We are always blessed to have our Sunday school children's program during special services. The Christmas presentation was a blessing to all as the children presented songs and read



Some of the men from our Calgary group enjoying a wonderful time of fellowship with the visiting Overseers and ministers from Nigeria who came to spend some time with their families in Calgary this quarter. The ministers and overseers are Reverend Joseph Onyeabor (third from left), Reverend Fasanu (fourth from left) and Reverend Emmanuel Moh (middle).

Bible verses. We enjoyed the playlet on the theme "Joy to the World!" which focused on the story of the Birth of Jesus Christ. The children recited verses from **Luke 1:26-28** and **Luke 2:9-11** and sang many Christmas songs. It was a very wonderful time of fellowship and an opportunity to reflect on the special gift that God sent to humankind, Jesus Christ.



Calgary members after the Sunday school Children's Christmas programme on Christmas Eve 2023.

Meeting some of our brethren from around Alberta

We thank God for brethren who recently moved to various parts of Southern Alberta such as Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and other cities. While they join us regularly on Zoom for worship services, we are thankful that some of them made it to Calgary to fellowship with us. It was a refreshing time in the Lord's presence, and we are thankful that the Lord continues to bless us despite



Sister Aanuoluwa visiting from Lethbridge (second from right) flanked by some of the AF Calgary group women on Christmas Eve.

the barrier of distance. How beautiful Heaven must be – where distance will no longer hinder us from regularly seeing each other! We pray that the Lord will keep us in Him and help us to see Him in Heaven for that happy reunion when our time on earth is ended.

New Baby Addition

A beautiful baby shower was held for Joy and Princewill Moh who joined the Calgary group. It was a joyous time of praising



the Lord for keeping the new mom through nine months of pregnancy and also a time to pray for the safe delivery. We are very thankful that the Lord heard our prayers and blessed the family with a beautiful baby girl just after Christmas. We are also thankful for answered prayers. God is ever faithful and still in the business of blessing His children. *“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7.*

Thanksgiving

For Christians, every day is a new day for us to appreciate God for His blessings and promises. Thanksgiving provided another unique opportunity for us to be thankful as a group as we enjoyed sweet fellowship with God. We also had brethren visiting for Thanksgiving from



Manchester, United Kingdom and Edmonton. It was a wonderful time of fellowship as we reflected on the Lord’s goodness to us all. They were



happy to have their Thanksgiving lunch in the house of one of the brethren before heading back to their destinations. *“O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” Psalm 136:1.*



Apostolic Faith group at Thanksgiving 2023. Visitors from Manchester UK, and Edmonton, Alberta Flanked by members of the Calgary group; Visitors from Nigeria (Foluke Adeoba, Adeniyi Adeoba and Rev. Isaac Fasanu); The Okafors flanked by Rev. Joseph Onyeabor and sister Onyeabor.

Cross-Over service

To bid farewell to 2023 and usher in the New Year 2024, the Apostolic Faith groups in Calgary and Edmonton held a joint watchnight service via Zoom on New Year’s Eve. It was a refreshing time in the Lord’s presence as we were thrilled to listen to soul-lifting songs and inspiring testimonies of the Lord’s goodness and faithfulness. Sister Esther Daramola preached the sermon to close the year, admonishing us all to take stock of what God has done for us, as we look forward to a New Year of our renewed walk with the Lord. We were also joined by Sister Marjorie Reid who shared her testimony of how the Lord saved her many decades ago, and how the Lord answered an urgent prayer concerning one of her children recently.

At the dot of 12 midnight, Brother Oladunni, the leader of the Edmonton group welcomed us all to the brand-new year. Shortly after, the New Year service began, and it was a wonderful blend of congregational songs and selected songs

rendered by the choirs from the Calgary and Edmonton groups. Brother Oluwole Ajayi brought the New Year message titled, Covenant Renewal and took his text from **1 Samuel 7:3-12**. He admonished us to renew our covenant with the Lord because God is calling each of us to Mizpeh. The altar service, though in each of our homes, was a wonderful time before the Lord as we all tarried and recommitted ourselves to the Lord. We are thankful for the many victories of 2023, and we look forward to a wonderful 2024 filled with the Lord's manifold blessings.

Birchy Bay

Devotional Service and Singspiration

Rev. Chris Hewlett, his wife, Patti, Pastor Randy Antalan and his wife, Jean, travelled to Birchy Bay to spend the weekend with the saints and bring a little Christmas cheer. Austin Randell, his wife, Jean, Pastor Vanzel Quinlan, and his wife, Kimberley, also joined the group for Sunday.

It was a privilege to be in Birchy Bay on December 2, 2023, to celebrate Christmas. What a wonderful start to our Christmas celebrations. It was an early one, but it began a rejoicing in our hearts that lasted throughout the month of December and beyond.

There are just a few saints of God remaining in this once vibrant church, but God has been faithful to give them grace and keep them true to Him. We were blessed to have saints from other branch churches join us as well.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

This was proven to be true in the service held in the morning. The presence of the Lord met us as soon as we entered the sanctuary. Beautiful music filled the place as brothers and sisters met in prayer. There was joyous singing, testimonies, and an inspiring sermon by Pastor Randy Antalan. He took his text from **1 Peter 3:14**, exhorting us that we need to remain faithful to God even when the enemy of our soul would like to use all means to try and steal our joy. He encouraged us with **Proverbs 16:20** *"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."* Our hearts were truly uplifted as we spent time in prayer.

The Singspiration in the evening was an enjoyable occasion. Brother Chris Hewlett welcomed each one then led the song, *"Tell me the Story of Jesus."* A group from Birchy Bay sang, *"Beautiful Star of Bethlehem,"* followed by a congregational song, *"O Come all ye Faithful."* Prayer was led by brother



Vanzel Quinlan. The Bible reading of the Christmas story was read. A duet was performed by brother Chris and Patti Hewlett, a poem by Patti, a quartet by brother Vanzel,



Kimberley, Austin and Jean Randell, a duet by brother Randy and Jean Antalan and congregational Christmas choruses all made for a lovely mini concert. Our time together was completed by singing, *"Silent Night, Holy Night,"* truly blessing us and adding a Christmas Spirit to our hearts.



After the Singspiration, we invited each one to the parsonage for refreshments and gift-giving. What a wonderful opportunity this weekend afforded us to not only bring Christmas joy and encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ, but to receive that same joy ourselves. To God be the Glory both now and forever!

Kitchener

Happy New Year from the saints in Kitchener. The year 2023 has passed so swiftly thus bringing us closer to our Lord's return.

Since our last submission there has been changes, events and many experiences, too many to include in just a few short paragraphs. September started with our annual Sunday school Promotion celebration where each student was assigned a new teacher. Chad Thompson has joined our team of faithful teachers for this upcoming season.

On October 1, Pastor Lisa Randell preached a message, "Come into His Presence." She explained the importance of dwelling in the presence of God. During the prayer service that night the Holy Spirit moved among the saints, and many came into the presence of God where there is fullness of joy.

A week before our thanksgiving Sunday on October 8, Deidre Randell suffered from severe nerve pain in her back, so much so she was unable to work. That Sunday morning, we anointed and prayed for her, but she didn't claim her healing then. That same Sunday night a sister sitting towards the back of the church began to feel the presence of God during our testimony service. As we prayed with her, the Holy Spirit moved upon Deidre. She went around the church, rejoicing and praising God for healing her and giving her victory over the pain. The Spirit of God also rested upon Russell Jenkins who was also healed from severe allergies. Miranda Thompson, who had drifted away from God, came forward to pray but didn't make it to the altar but fell on her face midway up the aisle. She claimed victory as she was anointed and prayed for. It truly was a day of thanksgiving and praise.

Sunday morning, October 15, while praying in the basement of the church before prayer before we began our service, the power of God fell and those waiting upstairs ended up joining us. Together, we enjoyed the Spirit of God blessing our hearts.

On October 22, Laurie Hillier sang the song, "I Dreamed I Searched Heaven for You." Obed Canning had been carrying such a heavy load for his family. That night the Spirit of God fell upon him, and as he was clinging to the wooden cross at the front of our church, God took the burden and gave him a great peace instead. Since then, brother Obed has faced tragedy in his family (losing his wife) but thank God for the peace of God that he received that night. It was able to help him through the difficult time he encountered since that night.



I could go on and on about the goodness of God. I must tell of this one though. On November 9, Pastor Robert Randell preached a message entitled, "Taste and see that the Lord is Good." Lena Gillingham prayed softly on the piano while we tarried in prayer. Before long the Spirit of God rested upon her, ministering to her needs in such a sweet and gentle way. For over two years she had lost her sense of taste and smell due to Covid but since then she is getting to taste and smell little things along the way. How great is our God.

Thank God for a wonderful privilege to share the love of Jesus in an area known as tent city where the homeless and less fortunate live. A group of ladies distributed care packages to them, which were received with much appreciation.

On December 3, following the morning service we enjoyed a fellowship lunch downstairs. We have a number of saints who travel quite a distance to be in our services. This gave us a great opportunity to get more acquainted with each other and strengthen the unity.

December 17, we had our annual Christmas Sunday school program. It was beautiful, our Sunday school did a tremendous job.



Lastly, on December 31, we held our Watch Night service where we took part in the Lord's Supper and the Washing of the Saints' Feet. It was a Spirit filled service as we said our goodbye to 2023 and welcomed 2024. The lady's downstairs sang together, "Peace of God Cover Me," in such a powerful way. That is our prayer for each of you as we go forward in this New Year. May God richly bless you all from His storehouse of love, and may His peace cover us as we await His return.

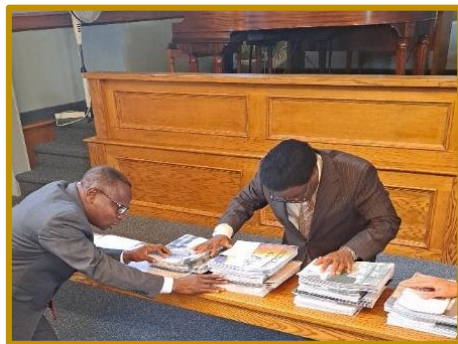
Langley

Taking to the Streets to Proclaim the Gospel

Our love of Christ for our neighborhoods was demonstrated in the third quarter of 2023 as our



Outreach team sets out to distribute gospel literature.



outreach team distributed gospel literature to neighboring streets in Langley. Before the team embarked on the outreach, ministers prayed over the gospel literature to save souls and heal sick bodies.

Celebrating the Gift of Jesus

On Sunday morning, December 10, guests arrived for the annual Christmas program. The program, "Celebrating the Gift of Jesus," featured the primary Sunday school class presentation, orchestra, choir, female choir, male choir, and youth choir, among other selections.

After a brief welcome remark from brother Samuel Adenekan, the congregation sang, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." Sister Marjorie Reid, the incoming pastor, led the congregational opening prayer. Monisola Ilori coordinated

the primary Sunday school class presentation, including the Nativity pageant, relating the Christmas story through song, acting and narration.



Narrator Kelly Brown explained that Jesus is the source of spiritual Light and that His incarnation was the thrilling moment when the Light came to dwell with men.

The songs recounted His life, beginning with choir renditions of, "Christmas Canon," and "He Shall Reign Forevermore." This was followed by a female choir rendition, "Come on Ring the Bells," then a solo, "Ring the Bells," by Diana Fadiora. A male choir sang, "I Call Him Lord," and a trio rendered, "Light of the World."



During the interval, brother Shola Akindele, who also directed the choir and orchestra, led the congregation in singing, "O Come all ye Faithful."

Following the interval, brother Phil Wong played a melodious guitar solo, "What Child is This?" after which the orchestra played, "O Holy Night," and "Angels we Have Heard on High/Joy to the World." This was followed by a quartet



singing, *"The Holly and the Ivy,"* a choir rendering, *"Amen,"* an octet singing, *"Beautiful Star of Bethlehem,"* and a youth choir singing, *"Hallelujah, I Believe,"* and *"Sing for Joy."* Before the closing prayer by Phil Wong, a solo rendition by Precious Akindele, *"The Hallelujah Christmas,"* concluded the Christmas program.

Watch Night Service of Cheerful Praise for God's Benefits in 2023

We closed the year with a Spirit-filled Watch Night service on Sunday, December 31. The service featured congregational singing and a report of activities in 2023. In a sermon, brother Samuel Adenekan began his message by reading *Psalms 103:1-5*. In the passage, David called upon His son and whole being to bless the Lord. He listed some benefits: forgiveness, restored health, deliverance, satisfaction, and renewed energy. If we have a grateful heart for the blessings received in 2023, God will do even more in 2024.



Englee

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."
Hebrews 13:8.

As the seasons change, we can take comfort in the knowledge that God remains the same. The very first service at the beginning of fall brought blessings to those in attendance. The Holy Spirit was present throughout the service and at prayer afterward when a family came forward to be anointed and prayed over. God is faithful to meet our needs.

That night our church was so excited to welcome Laura Hancock back after being absent from the house of the Lord for over a year due to illness. She gave a wonderful testimony of how being an unhappy teenager the Lord saved her in her humble bedroom at the age of fifteen and has kept her down through the years. God gives victory to the young and old.

On September 24, our Sunday school started up again with open house, having both children and parents in attendance. It's so encouraging to see fresh faces and the level of interest in learning about the Lord! Our prayer is that those little seeds planted will take root and grow into a vineyard for the Master.

"...He sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:45. Hearts were saddened by the news of the passing of one of our dear sisters, Susie Canning. Her faithful service will one day be rewarded. We have the hope that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord and if we endure faithfully unto the end, the family circle will not be broken.

Thanksgiving Sunday service commenced with the Sunday school and teachers entering the sanctuary singing, *"From*



the Rising of the Sun." What a blessing to see arms raised to Heaven as everyone joined in the singing. We enjoyed hearing songs of praise from thankful hearts uplifted to our creator. The grand finale of the morning was Ruby Randell and her beautiful rendition of, *"My House is Full."* We are so blessed to have her participate.

October was Pastor appreciation month and our church congregation showed appreciation to Pastor Kirby and his wife, Diane. A special song was sung by Trudy, a poem read, and a special presentation



was made along with heartfelt sentiments expressed. Our

congregation also acknowledged appreciation to both assisting Ministers.

We are so thankful for those who are willing to uphold the truths of God's Word. In a recent sermon, Pastor Kirby expounded the Bible doctrines and principles upon which our church is founded. From early church beginnings in 1906 to present day, those Bible truths remain the same and are still the foundation of the church.

Most of all we appreciate the faithfulness of God. His Holy Spirit is still striving with souls. We are thrilled to hear the news that one of our seniors has come back to God. There is rejoicing in Heaven and on earth when a prodigal comes home! We will continue to pray that the Lord will give grace and strength where it is needed and add unto the church daily such as should be saved.

Christmas is always such a busy time, and this year was no different. With all the hustle and bustle we still took time to worship and honor the Christ child. From a Christmas gift exchange, to singspirations, to a potluck dinner for the congregation, we enjoyed the very best the season had to offer.

On a beautiful winter evening a group of carolers from our church visited the homes of seniors and shut-ins to spread some Christmas cheer. What joy to see happy, welcoming faces. To sing and hear the words, "Silent Night, Holy Night," brought the true Spirit of Christmas to our hearts. The outreach in our communities is well worth the effort.



New Year's Eve morning we were blessed to have Pastor George Burton to bring us the word. Taking *Daniel 1* as his text, he threw out the question, are we fairer and fatter spiritually at the end of this year than we were at the beginning? What does our spiritual report card look like? We

were encouraged at the dawning of this New Year to stay committed, stay loyal, and stay with the Lord.

We anticipate great blessings in 2024 as we press onward with renewed hope and zeal for the gospel. *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* 1 Corinthians 15:58.

South Brook

Thank God for His love and guidance through the year 2023. We have seen God move many times among His people. God is so faithful when we trust Him and stay close to Him.



With all the activities and Christmas behind us we are now pressing on in a new year with greater hope than ever before. We are nearing the time of the Lord's return to take His bride away, so let's continue to keep our family and friends in our prayers daily.

We lost five of our saints this pass year, bringing sadness to their families and the church family. But thank God they were so faithful, with a sincere love for the Lord and His Church. They are now free from pain and the cares of this world. *II Corinthians 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."*

November 15, our Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes were collected and delivered. We pray that it will put a smile on some less fortunate child's face.

December 4, monetary gifts were delivered to the Valley Vista Home to buy stocking stuffers for the seniors. We have been blessed to continue donating to this cause as in past years.

On December 16 we had our annual Christmas supper at Eddy's restaurant. It was an enjoyable evening of fellowship, delicious food and singing of carols. Food was prepared and

delivered to us by some great ladies. Following supper everyone went to the church basement for desserts, tea, games, and gift giving. It was such a wonderful time of fellowship.

On December 17 we were blessed with a Singspiration, singing carols to celebrate the baby that was born in a stable and is now the King of kings. A highlight of the night was a poem written and read by Beatrice Gillingham.



There are simply no words to write how beautiful it is to experience and see God's Spirit moving among His people. In October month, Nancy Burton was suffering with an illness for months. She came to prayer service on a Tuesday night and was anointed and prayed for. We only need faith as small as a grain of mustard seed, then God will do the work. Nancy is doing great and testifies to how God touched her body that night. Truly we can say God is faithful and knows the needs of each one of His children.

Brother Austin Randell testifies to what the Lord has done for him in 2023.



Every hour, day, week, or year brings a new surprise, a new challenge that sometimes causes our faith to go in test mode. The songwriter wrote... "Life is easy when you're up on the mountain, and you've got peace of mind, like you've never known. But then things change, and you're down in the valley. Don't lose faith for you're never alone."

2023 started out as a normal year for us. We were hoping our health would be a positive encounter going forward. Change came quickly leaving very uncomfortable feelings and many painful moments for me.

Around springtime I started to experience abnormal episodes with joint pain. It became evident as my mobility started to decline. I could no longer do my daily chores. I continued to try and fight through, hoping to attain some relief. Nearing the end of summer my mobility was well below the normal level. My condition had worsened, and I knew that my future would be different. Due to this problem I began to question, rethink, and contemplate what will be next? My strength was failing in my hands, arms, shoulders, and legs.

I could no longer dress myself without help. I found that very humiliating; sitting, standing, lifting, getting in and out of bed was not an easy chore. The struggle increased daily, causing me to navigate through periods of fatigue and into a deep feeling of hopelessness.

I sought medical help and after consultation with the specialist I was diagnosed with systemic arthritis know as Chondrocalcinosis. Immediately, it was confirmed, there is no cure. Thoughts were rapidly running through my mind like never before. What next? What can I do? Where shall I turn?

In early September Pastor Quinlan and his wife came to visit us. They saw the condition was different than their previous visit. In conversation one afternoon we talked about growing up in isolation and the medical challenges our parents faced. We reminisced how the people depended on God, through prayer for healing and comfort.

My memory of Psalm 50:15 "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." What a consolation to know there is an answer to every situation! I spoke to Pastor Quinlan saying, "I think you should pray." Without hesitation he stood, and we prayed. It did something for me. I felt different and my faith increased. I believed something was about to happen.

I hadn't been able to attend church for many weeks. My body could not withstand the struggle. However, on September 17, 2023, I was encouraged to attend. I made my way through the pain and discomfort. Pastor Eric in his opening remarks mentioned my presence after a long absence. He said, "Maybe he will tell us his story in testimony." I stood and told some of the things I was experiencing. I also felt led to ask for prayer for my situation. I stated, "I really believe in prayer and asked to be anointed and prayed over." I also asked for other believers to join in the prayer. I asked the Pastor to decide when it would happen. He immediately responded, "There's no time better than NOW." I stepped out, went forward followed by many believers. The prayer began and the Holy Spirit came. The Great Physician came. I felt His mighty touch. What a wonderful experience!

I could raise my hands above my head, stand and sit without hesitation! To this day I still feel His touch.

If you have an issue! If you have trouble! If you feel hopeless! I highly recommend the Lord Jesus Christ. It Works. All glory and honor to Him!

Winnipeg

We give glory to God for giving us another opportunity to have the Christmas Concert this year.

Members of the choir began rehearsals late summer, shortly after the Portland Camp Meeting. The Sunday school teachers also engaged the children of beginners, primary pals



and answer class in Christmas songs and Bible verses commemorating the Birth of Jesus. The children were excited to be able to learn Christmas songs and be a part of the Christmas Concert.

About four weeks to the concert, invitations were sent out. It was also posted on our social media platform and there was a radio jingle on CHVN.

We had a great turnout this year as the church auditorium was filled up even to the overflow upstairs. The program started with a congregational song which was led by Pelumi Enejoh and then followed by the opening prayer. There was a short welcome address given by the Pastor, Samson Jimaza. Pelumi led us through the first half of the program.

During the first half, choir songs included Emmanuel with, "Joy to the World," by Michael Allen & Michael W. Smith, "For Unto Us," from GF Handel, etc.



At the intermission, the Sunday school children presented a short Christmas program. They sang Christmas songs, recited Bible verses about the birth of Jesus and presented a short nativity playlet.

The children's program was followed by the second congregational song. Pleumi also led the second half of the program.



Some of the songs featured in the second half were, "O Holy Night," "Omo oba," a song in one of the Nigerian dialects which means Jesus is a Prince, and other Christmas tunes.



Our hearts were thrilled and filled with great joy as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ in songs.



The concert was closed with prayer from Peter Oyeniyi, following which we enjoyed a sumptuous dinner with all our guests.



God poured out His blessings upon us during the concert and testimonies have been shared of how God has used the songs to minister to souls.

We thank God for His blessings.

Bide Arm

December 2023 has come and gone, but the memories of a beautiful Christmas season will remain in our hearts and thoughts for a very long time. As we witnessed the first snowfall at the beginning of winter, we also witnessed the constant blessing of God to us.

On the first Sunday of December, brother Randy and his wife, Jean, joined Rev. Chris Hewlett and wife, Patti, on their visit to our church in Birch Bay. Rev. Rene Cassell took charge of the services in Bide Arm while Pastor Randy and wife, Jean, were away. Both churches reported wonderful and blessed Sunday services.

Brother Kevin Hopkins, an assisting minister from Roddickton Headquarters and his wife, Dorothy, joined Bide Arm congregation that Sunday. Brother Kevin used *Matthew 5:14-16* as his text for the Word that morning encouraging the saints to continue to be the light of the world as Jesus mentioned in the gospel.



The Christmas season is a time for many of our saints to visit their family members who are away from home. Because of that, it has been a tradition for Bide Arm congregation to celebrate Christmas together when the majority of those who traveled come back from weeks of vacation. However, while some are away, others still stay in town, faithfully attending prayer meetings and Sunday services.

On Sunday, December 17, 2023, we joined our congregation at Headquarters church in Roddickton for their annual Christmas Singspiration. We were entreated with wonderful

renditions of beautiful Christmas songs which were presented by the youth and adults. That was one memorable night for those who came to join our Roddickton brethren.

Sunday, December 24, was the day before Christmas. Our Bide Arm folks gathered together in the morning for our regular Devotional service. In the evening, we had a Christmas Sing-along which was also attended by visiting young people and a couple from our neighborhood. It was a wonderful night of singing together, praising the Lord. To the



glory of God, a sister was even blessed while we were singing those beautiful Christmas songs and songs of praise to our Heavenly Father.

The last day of year 2023 was Sunday so once again the brethren joined

together in praises to God for blessing us from the 1st of January to the last day of the year. Testimonies of God's amazing grace and wonderful blessings were the highlights of the morning service. We joined our headquarters church in Roddickton for evening service to welcome the New Year.

Christmas will not be complete for our Bide Arm congregation if we did not have our annual Christmas program. It might be unusual these days to celebrate Christmas in January, however with the help of our Sunday School teachers, music director, musicians, and the parents, we were able to put together a wonderful presentation. On the evening of January 7, it was attended by our brethren from Englee and Roddickton. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles of our Sunday school children joined us that Sunday night to see our children do their best to give praise to the Lord. Our Sunday school children opened with, "Come on Ring those Bells," followed by the adult choir with their rendition of, "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem." There was congregational singing in between. Luke Canning did well with his presentation of "The Colors of Christmas." As well, Cash Cull recited a Christmas poem beautifully. Following the program, we enjoyed refreshments and fellowship together.

Overall, it was a wonderful Christmas season for our church and the people around us in this humble little town of Bide Arm. Praying that the Lord God Almighty will continue to

pour out His blessings upon this congregation in the New Year 2024.

Ottawa

We are delighted to share with you the exciting news of God's abundant blessings and growth in our church at Ottawa. The church continues to grow in leaps and bounds. This season we were privileged to welcome new members to our congregation: Gideon Adedokun and his family of five from Nigeria, and Happiness Ibok from Toronto. Aside from the new members, we gladly welcomed other visitors who joined our services, both in-person and online, on different occasions.

Our Ottawa church, affectionately known as *"the home of new babies,"* witnessed the arrival of the newest addition to our church family, baby Desire Okuazun. Her christening was a joyous event, bringing together nearly a hundred friends and family members. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel, and we are thrilled to share that Paul Shuaib Oshineye, a guest at the christening, has since become a dedicated member of our congregation.

As God continues to add to His church, it has become necessary to appoint new workers to meet the growing demands of the church. The following appointments were made:

- Cheryl Oduwole (Sunday school Teacher, Primary Pals class)
- Queen Johnson (Sunday school Teacher, Primary Pals and Search class)
- Oreoluwa Osinaike (Sunday school Teacher, Answer class)
- Ogooluwa Shoyebo (Ushering Department)

Christmas at the Ottawa church was amazing! For the first time in a long while, we had all our members come together in-person to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This meeting was really special because, due to the hybrid nature of our services, about half of our congregation are connected virtually (via Zoom) for weekly and Sunday services from Montreal, Kingston, and Chicago, Illinois, United States. We also had Grace Ogunsanmi, an active participant in our weekly services, join us in person from Calgary. The church staged an evening of music featuring beautiful choir renditions such as, *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "What Child is This?," "Ring the Merry Bells," "Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem,"* and *"Oh Holy Night."* We also had a chamber orchestra play, *"Deck the Halls,"* arranged by Ryan Taylor and *"Christmas*

medley," arranged by Luke Hall. The children and teenagers were not left out as they rendered various songs in English and French. There were also solo performances: Pearl Akazue



sang, *"Mary, did You Know?"* while Moses Akazue sang a medley of Christmas songs, which was the climax of a wonderful evening of songs. The presence of God was felt throughout the songs and intermittent Bible recitations, reminding us of the true reason for the season.

On Christmas day, some of the youths (particularly, those who could not travel home to spend the Christmas celebration with their families) came together to experience a heartwarming time of fellowship.



We were privileged to hold a Crossover Service on December 31, a powerful moment of prayerful reflection to usher us into the New Year. During this meeting, God assured us through Brother Niyi Oduwole of God's quadruple blessings in the year 2024. According to him, God's blessings are conditional, and it hinges on total obedience to God, hallowing the Lord's Day and not making excuses. We are optimistic that the Lord has great things in stock for us as a church this year. We are excitedly looking forward to these blessings!

Fort McMurray

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits,
Even the God of our salvation. Selah." Psalm 68:19.

Looking back over 2023, we can truly say that we have experienced the benefits and blessing of the Lord. God has been good to us here at the Fort McMurray branch church. Through the past year we have been blessed with wonderful



services and the presence of the Lord surely has been in our midst. We also thank God for our Sunday school and many times the presence of the Lord is so real and blesses us during Sunday school time.

Over the past year we have had many visitors join us for our Sunday service. Some of these are locals who attend regularly, some are visitors to Fort McMurray and look for a church to attend. As well, we had family that came to visit. We appreciate those who take time to attend our church. Occasionally, we have unsaved visitors show up. It is our prayer that they will continue to come, the Lord convict them and they surrender to Him.

During the month of October, we were blessed to have our daughter Stephanie, husband Myles, their children, Jaxon



and Rachel, spend a few days with us. Also, Beverly Randell came to visit family. We are thankful for those who come from our branch churches and are blessed as they participate in our services.

As we drew near to the end of the year, plans were made for a Candlelight service. It was an hour of special songs, congregational singing, and readings. On December 17 our Sunday school children presented the Christmas program

with the help of our Sunday school department leader and teachers. The children were so very well behaved and did an amazing job which included recitations and singing. The



program was well attended with many families and friends. We are blessed with a wonderful group that volunteer their time to Sunday school, and they do an outstanding job.

My wife and I travelled to Ontario on December 19 to spend Christmas with our family and returned on January 2, 2024. We thank you and appreciate you all for your support and faithfulness in 2023.

As we look forward to this new year, our prayer is that God will continue to bless in Fort McMurray, and souls saved and added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Toronto

The last quarter of 2023 was filled with celebration for the Toronto church and its members. In early October, the church celebrated with Adelina R. Torres (Nanay) as she turned 88. It was a joyous occasion as we gathered at her residence with her and family to thank God for His faithfulness in her life.

On the following Sunday, October 8, 2023, the church came together to celebrate Thanksgiving. To align with the season, the theme for the service was centred on giving thanks - starting from the Sunday school where the adults considered the topic, "Food and Water Thanksgiving." There was a special thanksgiving testimony session during the devotional service and the sermon titled, "Giving thanks to God" was delivered by Sister Comfort Ibok.

This celebratory mood was maintained as the church began to gear up for its first wedding in years. Also, a series of activities were earmarked to celebrate the Christmas season.

In early December, Bidemi Keshinro, a Sunday school teacher and choir member was joined in marriage to Victor Ajayi from the Apostolic Faith, Manchester, UK. It was a memorable occasion as the brethren came together from within and outside Ontario to celebrate this union. We are praying that the Lord will bless this new union. We look forward to celebrating more weddings within the church.

The children's Christmas programme took place on Sunday, December 10, 2023. The children treated the congregation to



wonderful musical performances, Bible verse recitals and a delightful Christmas playlet. The programme was inspirational, and Spirit filled as those present testified that they could feel God's presence during the various performances.

On December 24, 2023, the choir presented the annual Christmas concert titled, "Sing Christmas, Promise Fulfilled," to commemorate our Saviour's birth. The choir and orchestra serenaded the church with beautiful Christmas hymns and



ensembles that reminded everyone of the reason for the season. We had a guest organist, Yanmife Ojumu, visiting from outside the province to support and enhance our choir presentation. In addition, the choir and orchestra presented many Christmas airs and musicals to celebrate the season. The congregation was also engaged in a sing-along session where they had the opportunity to join their voices with the choir to worship God for the gift of His only begotten Son.

To cap up the Christmas celebrations, there was a get together event after the concert hosted by the church. It was well attended as members gathered to dine and celebrate Christmas as a church.

December 31, there was a Watch Night service, allowing us the privilege to thank God for His manifold blessings throughout the year and usher in the New Year with thanksgiving and prayers for guidance and protection.

Aside from the numerous celebrations, new members joined the Toronto church moving to the Toronto environs for various reasons. The church is grateful to God for this



increase, as these new additions are answers to prayer and will further support and enhance the work of the gospel. Of a truth, God is with His church, and we are confident like Apostle Paul in *Philippians 1:6* that, "*... He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*"

Edmonton

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. Psalm 65:11.

The winter months were great and filled with the blessings of God in our midst.

The December 17, 2023, the devotional service witnessed a special gathering of brethren visiting from Calgary, including their pastor, Sister Mary Fasola. In the evening, the Edmonton youth, young adult choir and orchestra held their inaugural Christmas concert. From enchanting orchestral pieces to soul-stirring choir numbers, the musicians beautifully retold the timeless Christmas story. The concert also featured the participation of primary pals and beginners, portraying costumed angels and shepherds, sharing, and receiving the joyous tidings. Some of the choir and orchestra numbers include, "*Carols of the Bells/While Shepherds Watched their Flocks*" (string quartet), "*Mary Sat A-Rockin*"



(Acapella Choir), "Ding Dong," "O Holy Night," (saxophone duet), and "God Bless Us Everyone" (choir).

The audience was captivated as the glory of God accompanied the youth, fervently narrating the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. Grateful hearts praised God for the dedication of young talents in His vineyard.



On December 31, 2023, Sister Marjorie graced the Edmonton branch church with her presence and delivered an inspiring sermon titled, "Bring your Vessels to the Lord," drawing inspiration from the account of the widow in **2 Kings 4:1-7**. Her message resonated with the congregation, emphasizing

the abundance of God's blessings available before the close of the year. Sister Marjorie reminded the church that the Lord is eager to pour into their lives as much as they are willing to receive.

As the New Year 2024 dawned in a virtual Crossover Service, Sister Esther Daramola reminded the congregation of the "Opportunity of Another Year." She urged the brethren to view the upcoming year as a divine opportunity to deepen their commitment to God's service, encouraging everyone to consecrate their lives more fervently to Him in the coming months.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or thing, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21.

Upcoming Events

Portland Camp Meeting

Portland, OR
June 30 – July 14, 2024

Newfoundland Youth Camp

Roddickton, NL
July 22 – 26, 2024

Canadian Camp Meeting

Roddickton, NL
July 28 – August 4, 2024

Midwest Camp Meeting

July 29 – August 4, 2024

Winnipeg Church Dedication

September 20 – 22, 2024



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