

Roddickton

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which started in March 2020 has created many challenges, problems, and upheavals on every side, not only in our own small towns and cities, but for every nation around the world. It came suddenly, giving us no time for preparation.

Many have been discouraged and burdened because of the restrictions and regulations associated with this pandemic. The isolation from family and friends has caused many to be disheartened. But PRAISE GOD, He has lifted His people up above the clouds and darkness to shine and bring hope and cheer to a much larger audience than we could ever imagine!

With our churches being closed for the past five months, it has been necessary for us to find other means to carry on our services and minister to the saints on a weekly basis. Thank God that the different social media outlets have provided us with excellent tools to share the gospel and encourage hearts to keep focused on what is most important, our relationship with God and to prepare for the soon return of Christ. This great challenge has certainly turned into a wonderful opportunity for us all to refocus, recharge and reevaluate our standing with God.

We are happy to report that in spite of being closed for several months our churches are alive and well! Praise God!

Without a doubt, God's people have experienced a new and fresh experience that brings us peace when all the world around us is in chaos. Our church people have found themselves ministering more on an individual level than ever before. Isn't it amazing how God can turn something so devastating into an opportunity which, in turn, brings joy and a calm that is beyond all human understanding!

The first Sunday our church was closed Pastor Chris recorded a message of hope and peace which he shared by way of Facebook. Shortly after, it was permitted for us to hold services at church with just five people in attendance. After several Sundays, we were permitted ten in attendance and finally on July 5, we could open the church to one half of our congregation which has continued to this point in time. Physical distancing and other regulations have been in place, but the sweet Spirit of God meets us to give us new strength for duty.

Recently, we have been blessed to hold open air services, drawing many from our town and surrounding area to hear the gospel. Sunday, August 9, 2020, our open-air service was Spirit filled and

uplifting. Great singing, a wonderful testimony of victory by Kevin Hopkins and a timely message from God's Word by Pastor Vanzel

Quinlan blessed our hearts. The following are little segments of his sermon: His text was Heb. 9:27, 28: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." When Jesus comes back again, He is coming for His bride, the Church and for judgment. It is not considered 'politically correct' to speak of judgment, death, or sin. I would rather be truthful than popular. Revelation 20 says we will have to give an account of the sins we have committed in this life. We are living in a time of a great pandemic but the greatest pandemic in this world is the sin problem. People are so fearful of this Covid-19 pandemic but why don't people fear sin? More people have died from sin than any other problem the world has ever known. Note: to listen to this full sermon you can find it on Facebook by searching: Apostolic Faith Church Roddickton NL.

These days we hear from many who are weighed in the balance and found wanting. May they respond to the call while they are still in time, before the door of mercy closes, just as the door was closed to the ark and opportunity was no more to come to safety. God bless you all. Our prayer is that you will keep your eyes on Jesus and not allow the enemy to get a wedge in, in any area of your life. Keep praying, singing, watching, and preparing. Reach out to your neighbor, bring some cheer, show some kindness. Jesus is coming for a people of His name!

Fort McMurray

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Psalm 46:1-3

God is our Refuge! Isn't that comforting? It is just what we need! We are facing an unprecedented crisis throughout the world as we grapple with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The world as we know it has changed and the need to adapt to the rapidly changing situations comes with challenges that impact

our lives. The safe haven of the physically gathered church for worship is no longer a reality.

In such a time as this we are called to witness the loving care and compassion of God who never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

When you talk to people or hear the voice of people on social media, many want God to do something. The current world-wide pandemic has in some measure opened eyes to the realization...We need help! We are thankful during these times of uncertainty that God is our refuge, a very present help in every situation.

While we yearn to attend the House of the Lord, we do bless God that the church is alive and well. The building is closed but the church, the body of believers is marching on and proclaiming the wonderful story of love.

We are blessed to have dedicated, faithful workers who are willing to face new challenges to provide church services, Sunday school and prayer meetings via virtual meetings. In March, our local congregation began to meet on zoom.

Easter

Our church family was truly looking forward to Easter season and the blessed privilege of the ordinance

service of the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing. We made it a matter of prayer and felt the need to partake in the Lord's Supper. On Saturday, the emblems were prepared and delivered to each home. It was a new experience but a heart touching one. Every stop was



a true reminder of the precious blood that bought us, and the love that brought us together in Christ. Our hearts felt the need to partake and remember the sacrifice Jesus paid for us. Even though it was a zoom service, the Spirit of God wasn't limited by our circumstances but blessed the partakers.

We can't do everything we are accustomed to doing and we long to gather with our church family and lift our voices to praise the Lord, but we are thankful for the platform technology provides for us to hold virtual meetings. We praise God for His continued favor and blessings. We have enjoyed fellowshipping with many of God's children from different church locations.

We count it a privilege to share a little of how God has been helping us to stay connected during the days of social distancing.

Just before the anniversary of the May 3, 2016 wildfire, the downtown core of Fort McMurray was flooded. On top of Covid-19 the flood added to the growing feeling of helplessness and anxiety in our city. In our time of brokenness and great need, we were so thankful for the prayers of God's people. One of our church families live in the flooded area and lost everything in their finished basement. Another brother was able to evacuate without any personal damage. In such adversity and emotional distress, we thank God for the phone calls, texts and emails that gave sweet assurance that God's children care and were holding us up. We knew our God who brought us through the fire would bring us through the flood. In such hardship, it is important that we recognize the good that is happening despite all the bad. We know that God is still with us, that He still cares and loves us deeply and that we are not fighting on our own. During Covid-19 lockdown and flooding we heard heartwarming stories and saw the love of God in action. When the Canning family was able to return home to begin cleaning up on their property, many of our church family were so happy to do a social distance visit to show love and support. Coffee, donuts and cards, along with happy faces, was an expression of the love of a church family.

Testimony of Victory out of the Flood

Due to overcrowded hotels and lack of space to house people, we were able to take in a family of five. The mom was not feeling well, her affliction prevented her from being able to walk. Her husband, who works with Edwin, had to leave work to come be with her.

We had the privilege to share Jesus and pray for her. The Lord touched her and the following day she was walking without pain. Before leaving to return home, she witnessed to her touch from Jesus. She said, "When you were telling me about Jesus it was like I felt Jesus standing beside me." She continued, "I can't explain it, but it was so real, and He made me better." In her words, "The flood happened so I could come to your house to get well." To God be the glory! Jesus anchors us and keeps us secure even when the storms are raging.

Mother's Day and Father's Day



To show our moms and dads our continued love and support our kids and young

people did a virtual silent witness on zoom. When asked to participate it was such a heartwarming response. Moms and dads on their special day received messages



that were very rewarding. For our Sunday school, moms received flowers and dads a Tim's card, a token of appreciation for their dedication of parenting!

Dedication Service

May 17, we were blessed to do a Zoom dedication service. It's always heart touching when we bring children to the Lord to ask His blessing. What a joy to celebrate the gift of baby Nash and his big sister, Claire. Claire is already a little worker in our Sunday school.



She is such a delight! We are thankful to have joined the Hepditch and Cassell families in the joyous event of giving thanks to God for their children. It is our prayer that they will grow up and serve the Lord.

Special Prayer

May 21, we began ten days of special prayer before Pentecost Sunday via telephone conference. We experienced times of refreshing as saints from near and far joined the prayer line. God heard and answered many petitions. While we are unable to meet in person for prayer and worship services, we are grateful we can still connect and pray together.

May God richly bless and keep you safely in His care! May we persevere as we listen for the shout, for the voice of the archangel, and for the trumpet call of God.

Bide Arm

Lord's day of this year. There we heard testimonies of victory. One sister told about her coming to church the Sunday before and asked to be anointed and prayed for on behalf of her very sick mother. Her mother has since recovered. Another sister told of how her college daughter called home at the end of the fall semester, saying she was packing up and moving back home as she felt she would not pass one of her courses. The mom and another saint joined her in prayer. Her daughter passed the course and returned for the winter semester. Pastor Howard Canning preached on "Seek first the Kingdom of God." It was an encouraging start to the new year.

In our service on February 9, we were blessed with victorious testimonies. One sister spoke of a time when she was heavily burdened. After getting into

bed she pulled the blanket over her head and started to sing "On the Wings of a Dove." She saw a white dove and the burden left her. As more testimonies were shared and

choruses sung, we were moved to prayer. It was then sister Phyllis Patey received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

On the last Sunday night before Covid-19 shut down the Church, we had another encouraging service. Two months prior to this Rochelle requested prayer for herself. She was asked to sing a solo but could not due to an affliction. A few days after she felt the Lord touch her. Now on this Sunday (March 15) she sang a solo, "Just Any Day Now, the Lord is Coming." She asked the congregation to join her in singing the last chorus. The Spirit fell on her and many others which led to an awesome prayer meeting. The Lord knew we needed this, as for the next fifteen Sundays there would be no church service.

While our church was closed many of us had access to social media, whereby we could watch and listen to services, teachings, hymn sings, etc. in addition to our home devotions, Bible study and secret place of prayer. With God's help we made it through to the Sunday of July 5, when we were eager to get back to church. Even though we had to exercise social distancing, the Spirit was close. With the excitement and spirit filled church, our eyes were as fountain of tears. Pastor Howard preached from *Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."*

The past few Sundays have brought more blessings. One Sunday night a sister, struggling with physical issues and down in spirit for quite some time, was revived. She was sitting when the Spirit moved her. With arms raised, she came to her feet and from there to the altar. She knelt, something she had not been able to do for the past years. Yes, she was the first to her feet with a shout of victory the following Sunday. This past Sunday morning we had a new convert, Kathy Chubbs, to attend. The Sunday before she was not able to get out of bed due to a severe back problem. The Lord touched her there as she cried out to Him and gave her victory in her soul. Of course, it made for much excitement and praises to the Lord. We had Pastor George Burton and his wife, Barbara, visiting with us. He preached from Psalm 42:5 on having the "Hope in God." We sure did leave the church feeling we had been in Heavenly places. To God be the glory.

Birchy Bay

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:2. The following verse goes on to say, "Therefore will not we fear...." That was one of the last messages we heard from God's Word before we temporarily closed our church due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We can say we have proven that to be true, especially looking back now on the last few months. Even though social distancing as become part of our current lifestyle we have proven that our Heavenly Father is still very present and ever by our side.

We thank God for His mercies that has been renewed every morning, and how He has protected and sustained each of us during these trying times. Just as we have missed being with our natural families, we also have missed fellowshipping with the family of

God. We have kept in contact with each other on a weekly basis to ensure everyone is safe and nobody is in need, offering each other a listening ear and helping hand whenever needed. This has certainly



given us a greater appreciation for our church families as well as the privilege of being able to assemble and worship our Lord as we have done over the past few years.

Because we were unable to have services dedicated to mothers and fathers on their special day, we did, however, drop treats at their door to let them know they were appreciated. My husband and I took it upon ourselves to prepare a meal and deliver to each of them. Many times, the saints have dropped goodies at our door as well. God has been so good to all of us!

During our last visit to one of the senior homes a brother stood and gave his personal testimony. For the past year, every time we visited for a service, he would ask us to pray for him. Just a little while back he requested the saints lay hands on him and pray. We did just that and the Lord touched him. He says, "I am feeling so much better now." We praise and thank God for it!

Sunday night service on March 8, during our testimony service, as we began to sing, "Heaven's sounding Sweeter all the Time," the Holy Spirit sweetly and gently came and ministered to our hearts. Little did we know that we would not be assembling together for a long time. But God knew, and through that service we gained the extra strength needed to endure this difficult time.

We look forward to each opportunity to be able to worship our Lord together. With that being said, we also look forward with anticipation to the great worship service that will take place around God's throne in our Heavenly home where we will be separated no more.

As we continue to move through the phases of this pandemic let us pray for the brethren and keep looking to God who is our present help in times of trouble.

Ottawa

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices...:" This we sang in thanksgiving, heartily praising God for His unconditional love, protection, provision, good



health and so many other blessings He bestowed on us in the year 2019. At exactly 12 am in the year 2020, our mouths were filled with much gratitude for the grace given unto us to be alive and well in the new year. Brother Niyi in his word of exhortation declared 2020 a year of double blessings.

The church in Ottawa, though small and growing, has experienced an outpouring of God's blessings in our gatherings. We would like to thank you for your continued support and prayers. The music department, with the help of God through brother Timothy, held a Christmas concert in December 2019. Visitors who graced the occasion were indeed blessed.



Since then, God has blessed us with more members who play musical instruments like trumpet, clarinet, violin, piano and flute. We thank God and we know that God is preparing His church and the instruments that will be in use when we acquire a permanent location for worship.

With the pandemic that hit the world, we were admonished by the federal and provincial governments to keep social distance to help flatten the curve. This we did and in mid-March, started holding our Sunday services through WebEx. We also held prayer meetings on Thursdays through the same medium. As *Psalm 34:10* promised, the Lord indeed was gracious unto us and we did "not lack any good thing" during the pandemic. God was our sufficiency;



we thank Him for that. Under the secret place of the Most High where we were hid, none of our members

tested positive for the virus and we are all in good health. God is great!

Sidney, a visitor who joined one of the WebEx meetings during the pandemic was led by the Spirit of God and she prayed through to salvation. In her words, "she felt peace in her heart." We thank God and rejoice with the host of Heaven just as the gospel of Luke says, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Kindly remember to put Sidney in your prayers so that the Lord will use her for His will. We also ask that you continue to pray for the church in Ottawa that the Lord will expand His work here.

We thank God because indeed He has answered our prayers and with joy in our hearts we can once again enjoy the fellowship of our brethren. Our first physical service after the pandemic was held June 21, 2020. Restrictions on gatherings are slowly being lifted. God kept us all hearty and well, therefore, we raise our Ebenezer because we know that the Lord is good.

We have learnt through this pandemic that the world is very uncertain, but God stands supreme and never changes. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" Psalm 46:1 — which was the core of brother Niyi's message on June 21. We continue to trust God and raise our voices with the saints worldwide that God will put a definite end to the virus so that we can all begin to gather in our different places of worship as we have missed the Christian fellowship.

South Brook

Our last service since COVID-19 began was on March 15, 2020. Since then I have been keeping in contact with our church family through our church site on Facebook, by way of video message or just a video chat to try and encourage the saints. We really enjoyed the zoom meetings from the different churches across Canada. Just to listen to different Pastors preaching, testimonies and singing I can truly say it was a blessing. We had a few COVID-19 cases in our nearby communities but thank God our town and

church families were not affected. On June 28, we were allowed back to church for one service on Sunday to worship again with different restrictions and distancing. What excitement it was on Sunday morning to get up and go into the house of the Lord and feel the Spirit of God move in our midst. Thank you, Lord, that we do not have to keep our distance from you because you are always by our side. We are expecting many more blessings in the future should the Lord tarry. David said in *Psalms 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord"*.

May God richly bless each one! God is in control and He's still on the throne and He will never forsake His own. Let's continue to pray for each other and our unsaved loved ones, I'm sure God will see us through this pandemic. God bless you all.

Kitchener

Neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. II Chronicles 20:12

Its been trying times since the church closed on March 15 because of COVID-19 pandemic. But truly we can say God has been a match for all the challenges we have faced.

As God was for Noah, Abraham, and the patriarchs of old during their testing times, God has proven Himself to work wonders on behalf of the saints here in Kitchener.

We were saddened when one of our saints, Dorothy Bell, age 75 who had been battling cancer, passed away on March 22, 2020. "Earth's loss is Heaven's gain."

Since March 22, our Sunday morning worship services and Sunday school has been viewed through the zoom App. It has been a blessing because not only our local church saints attended but others from different locations, which made it like special meetings.

We have good news to share! Four souls have been saved recently and it really motivates our faith to believe that others will be saved.

On Sunday evenings and Tuesday evenings we have prayer meetings at the church. Thank God for those who attend and are hungry for more of God.

Looking back, we praise God for answered prayers. There are those who have been sanctified and have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, those who have received healing for their bodies and others who have been motivated and encouraged to seek the Lord.

Truly we can say, God is there for us not just in good times but all the time.

Let us continue to keep the burden of souls to be saved. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

Edmonton

This year, the world faced a period of pandemic in different places around the globe. In early March 2020, we had a Sunday service, without knowing that we will not be able to worship together in person (as a church) for the next four months.

Prior to Covid-19 season, we had been meeting online for our weekly prayer meetings using Microsoft teams (software). In response to the shutdown of church gatherings during Covid-19, the church switched to online services on Sundays. During this period, although we were not able to meet as a church, we experienced God's blessings at home. As the scripture says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20. After a while, we resumed our mid-week Bible study. This time, it was done online.

After restrictions on church gatherings were lifted, the church began to make plans to resume worship. We had a pre-church get together in which brethren



gathered for a time of fellowship at the Oladunni's residence. We had a fun time together with games, (Bible jeopardy and soccer), food and drinks. It was nice to have many of God's children around after a long time. It is a joy to have the opportunity to have pre-church get-together; as God's Word says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.



Recent events remind us about the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ regarding some of the things that will happen when the return of our Lord is at hand. One of the things mentioned in *Matthew 24:7* is pestilences. The world has gone through various pestilences. We have also seen most of the other signs that will happen when the coming of the Lord is nigh.

We long for the time in which the Word of the scriptures in *Habakkuk 2:14* shall be fulfilled: "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

As we await the coming of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may the Lord send us a great revival that will turn the hearts of people back to righteousness all over the world, in Jesus Christ's name, Amen!

Englee

ere at Englee church we continue to be, "So Blessed." Even after fifteen Sundays without a regular church service we have been feeling the Spirit of the Lord in our midst. We are thankful, in times like these, for a church family who believes in unity in the spirit even when we are separated physically. We are also thankful for media platforms we could use to continue proclaiming the good news that Jesus saves.



With the Lord's help, we uploaded a service from our sanctuary each Sunday for folks to see. It is our prayer that God's Holy Spirit would use it to encourage, bless and uplift those watching and some word or song would cause sinners to contemplate their spiritual condition and lead them to salvation. Our prayer nights were still held regularly. Prayer requests were submitted to Facebook and other means. Wednesday evenings, as we all knelt in our homes, we could still feel the connection through prayer. How awesome is God's power!

July 5, we were thrilled, once again, to enter our sanctuary. Oh, the joy that filled our souls. Yes, there were some guidelines to follow but thank the Lord the Holy Spirit has no restrictions. It was wonderful to

worship together. The message asked the question, "Who can separate us from the love of Christ?" We were exhorted from the Word to let nothing separate us from the Lord.

Wednesday night prayer meetings continue to be a blessing as the saints gather, once again, at church to enjoy a time in Father's house.

July 12 brought another beautiful morning service. Just to look and see saints, hands raised to Heaven, enjoying the presence of an Almighty God. The message from the Word encouraged the congregation to be thankful and praise the Lord. Reference was made to the ten lepers healed by Jesus and how just one turned back to say thank you. Many of our trials and difficulties in life would be made more bearable if we could just praise the Lord and give Him thanks. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to each time we gather in the house of the Lord.

Yes, we miss our "normal" way of worship, but we know that God's grace is sufficient to help us deal with the changes happening in our world today. We look forward to the day when we will be eternally changed where separation will come no more. Stay safe and may God bless you.

Appreciation for a Brother

March 13 our church had a fellowship supper. Bonnie and I prepared a meal for the church family. We are so thankful to be a part of this great congregation.



moment of appreciation for one of our brothers who was

During our service on March 15, we had a



in charge of maintenance on the church grounds for years. Thank you, brother Ben, for your many faithful years of working around the Englee church. It is not uncommon to see Ben's car parked at the church, after hours, checking to see if all is well. He is a go to person when we need information about the church building itself. Ben is our head usher and he's there to help prepare for events. When help is needed, he is only a phone call away to respond without hesitation. During church services, he can be found on usher duty or sitting next to his lovely wife, Betty. Even though he has had sickness come his way he continues to be a blessing to us. God bless you for your faithfulness brother.

Winnipeg

As the world faces a global reset consequent to the outbreak of COVID-19, the lockdown and all that comes with it, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not and cannot be hindered in any way. Instead we can say with the Apostle Paul that "And we know all things work together for good to them (Christians) that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

During the outbreak of the pandemic, even though we could not attend church, the cyber world technology assisted us to worship God in the beauty of His holiness virtually, using the App called zoom.

Roundtable

The teachers met biweekly to review two lessons from Primary Pals, Search and Answer classes that will cover two Sundays. It is indeed a great opportunity for this group to pray for the church and the global setback.

Music

Music plays an integral part in all our services. With the prevailing situation, our musicians made a schedule that allowed them to present their songs prior to the Sunday school lesson.

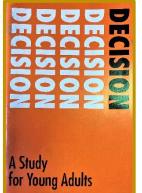
Sunday school

Our Primary Pals department commence their Sunday school 9:30 am with the parents sitting to help organize them. The program is introduced by their teacher with welcome notes and singing of songs prior to their lessons. The little ones use this privilege to see themselves and exchange greetings as well. The Search have a class of their own separated from the Answer class on the same zoom meeting with breakout room enabled and it is very interesting how technology is assisting us during this pandemic.

We have many brothers and sisters joining our programs from both Nigeria and within Canada during our Sunday school.

Bible Study

The church initiated a Bible study targeting the young adults on Wednesdays. We already completed the



booklet "DECISION," a study for young adults. This came timely when many of them were graduating and others changing grade levels. These young adults and even adults joined in this study.

After the completion of the young adult lessons, the whole

church also resumed Bible study for all. Topics focused on Mind Invaders and Holiness series.

Prayer Meetings

We hold our prayer meetings every Tuesday also through zoom. Everyone was encouraged to send their prayer requests via email created specifically for



this purpose. We appreciate the Lord for many answers to prayer during this period.

We appreciate God for keeping us intact and marching His church forward and we are confident that He will see us through this time.



We covet the prayers of God's people for this 10th Anniversary Celebration of the church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

THE LIGHT of THE WORLD

APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH CALGARY

PRESENTS

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday, Sept 4

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM: Evening Revival & Evangelistic Service

"This is the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes"

Saturday, Sept 5 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM: Youth Activities

7:30 PM to 8:30 PM: Evening Service

Sunday, Sept. 6

Psalm 118:23

Sunday School:

10:30 AM to 11:00 AM: Children (virtual) 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Adult (virtual) 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM: Devotional Services

5:00 PM to 7:30 PM: Historical Recap and Music

Venue: Victory Bible College, 10623 West Valley Road SW Calgary, AB

Apostolic Faith Church

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"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will 1 hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

11 Chronicles 7:14