




Victory in Jesus!



"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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 10:24-25

Winter 2023

Roddickton

On Sunday evening, September 25, the service started with the choir singing, "Never Give Up," which is great advice for the day in which we are living. Pastor Michael gave a warm welcome to all, which included some visitors! The congregational selections included the hymn, "In Times Like These," and felt very fitting in relation to what happened in Atlantic Canada this weekend with the arrival of hurricane Fiona. We are living in very uncertain times; however, it is certain that in times like these, the world needs a Saviour. The testimonies and choruses that followed were very uplifting.

The last special before the Word was entitled, "It's Me Again Lord," sung by Darlene. The Spirit of the Lord was so near and our sister starting receiving the blessings while singing. Praise the Lord! The musicians and congregation joined in on the chorus and sang it several times while blessings began to spill over to the rest of the Church. There was no preaching, instead the call was given to come down to pray. What a sweet, sweet Spirit filled the church as we met at an altar of prayer. Several more beautiful songs were played by the musicians while seekers sought God. Our great God showed up in a wonderful way! Oh the benefits of the gospel.

September 29, 2022

This is a witness to Don Jacob's time of conviction and salvation by his Home Care worker, Sheila Adams:

Thursday, September 29, I noticed he was having a very uncomfortable day so I asked him if he was sick or if he wanted to go to the hospital, he said no. I could sense something was going on different from other times and he seemed troubled in spirit, so I whispered a prayer (Lord if you are dealing with Don please help me and I will pray with him). I asked him, do you want to pray, and his response was YES!!! Of course, his wife, Clarice, and I prayed with him and then I called for the pastors to come. I could hear him saying Lord, I'm sorry, please forgive me. He was wondrously saved. What a time of rejoicing! Thank you, Lord.

September 2022



A retirement supper took place for Pastor Chris Hewlett. He is retiring from full time pastoring but will continue on as the Canadian District Superintendent. It was an enjoyable evening of fellowship and

delicious food. Since retiring from the pastoring role Pastor Chris has made visits to many of the churches in the Canadian District. A report from these visits will be posted soon.

September 16, 2022



The Roddickton congregation met to welcome our new pastor, Pastor Michael and his wife, Bonnie for a delicious potluck supper. There was a time of singing, "Labours Together," "The

More we Pull Together," a tribute and a time to roast the pastor which brought much fun, laughter and fellowship.

October 23, 2022

Sometimes a church Service can be described as outstanding! This is what we experienced on October 23, 2022, in the evening service. Pastor Michael had come to the service early, however, by the time we began arriving for church we were told that he had gone home again due to the weakness of his body. The service went ahead, led by Pastor Chris. After the choir opened with the selection,

"I've Been to Calvary," he gave all a warm welcome to the house of the Lord.

Among the selected numbers from our songbook was, "Come Holy Spirit," which was sung from our hearts, and the Holy Spirit did come in our midst. During the testimonies, Pastor Michael was mentioned multiple times, as he was certainly upon many hearts. When Clarence Hancock stood, he spoke about not always having to wait until the after service to go to the altar for prayer.

The Spirit was continuing to move upon the songs. Pastor Chris then felt led to give the invitation to come forward and pray on behalf of our Pastor, and he also encouraged all who had a need, to step out. Nearly all of the congregation came and stood in front of the altar. A "wall" of believers. There were quite a few anointed with oil and prayed over! *James 5:15 "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."* What a prayer meeting followed! The inspired music played softly. There was no preaching, but a Spirit of prayer was felt among the church family. One of the sisters had been sharing the service virtually with Pastor Michael and his wife, Bonnie. While the Spirit of the Lord stayed right there with us, they both walked into the church, Pastor Michael claiming a touch of the Master's hand. It was indescribable! We praised God and the bountiful blessings continued. The night ended with the song, "I'll Praise My Lord Forevermore," and what a volume of voices for this song. It was an amazing time of victory. Let's pray that the sweet Spirit of the Lord will continue to move upon His people, and draw souls to the Cross. Our God is awesome.

In the night service of December 11, we were blessed to have a soul come home to Jesus. Mr. Stan Jenkins sat in the pew through the service, at times tears in his eyes. The message from the Word asked the question, can we find peace in such a troubled world? The answer is yes, there is peace in receiving God's only begotten Son into our lives. After the sermon Stan continued to stay seated. One of our pastors made his way back to him. After some words of encouragement Mr. Jenkins made his way down to the altar and received the greatest gift one could receive, salvation! We are so thankful for the Holy Spirit who is faithful to call after the lost. We can sing, "There's joy in the camp, a sinner has come home." It is so wonderful to see someone 'kneel a sinner and come up a child of God.'

On December 14, folks gathered at the fellowship building for the annual Christmas supper. The potluck meal was

awesome. There was a wide selection of dishes with plenty to go around. Once the meal concluded there was a time of fellowship. Different individuals shared past Christmas



memories. Some of those memories were on a serious note while others gave accounts that were quite humorous in nature, causing laughter to resonate through the room. The group also had a time to sing Christmas carols dedicated to the King of kings. It was truly a blessing to come together as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ.

On Christmas night a church service was held to close out this special day with singing and praising the newborn King. After everyone enjoyed the morning with their families gift giving and no doubt, a turkey with all the trimmings, it was a blessing to sit and listen to specials being sung by groups and individuals. The congregation also gave voice to songs associated with Jesus coming back to earth. Concluding Christmas day in church gave a special touch to the day.

On January eight our Sunday school children, along with teachers, had a visit with Pastor Michael and Bonnie at the parsonage. Snacks (junk food), sandwiches and other



goodies were enjoyed along with a time of singing. A treat bag was given to everyone as they left the house. It is a privilege to have such awesome young people to attend our Sunday school.

Calgary

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16

Over the last twelve years since the church started in Calgary, there has been an increase in members due to individuals and families relocating from other places due to work and other commitments. Special prayer was made that God would bring more people to join our fold. It's been a blessing to us as we have prayed for God to increase our numbers and He heard us, confirming Jesus' words in *St Luke 12:32* "Little flock, fear not..." In His own special way, the Lord answered that prayer! Grace Temitope Ogunsanmi moved from Ottawa to Calgary in the summer of 2022. Also, Gbenga Adejare and his wife, Motilola together with their two children moved from Kitchener, Ontario, to Calgary in the summer of 2022. Visitors are not left out as we have seen new faces - both friends that were invited and others who just walked in without an invitation. God is indeed interested in our prayers and will continue to bless and add to His church.

The District Superintendent of Canada, Pastor Chris Hewlett visited our Calgary church in November 2022 with his wife, Pat. Pastor Chris's visit was a memorable one for



the Calgary brethren. We always look forward to such visits especially since we missed having such regular events because of the pandemic. The brethren welcomed him and his wife with open arms which included a short presentation by the Sunday school children as they shared the Word of God with us. Pastor Chris gave the sermon titled, "The Love of God" followed by an altar call and heartfelt prayers. Pastor Chris and his wife were also joined on this visit by Dr. Makhabela, who used to fellowship with the saints in Newfoundland but has now moved to Okotoks, Alberta, where he is a Family Doctor.



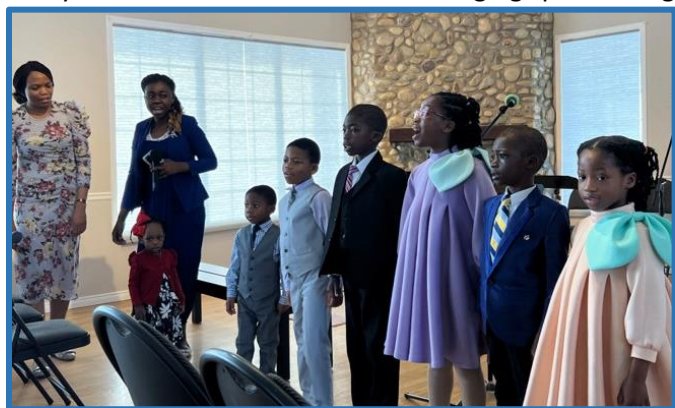
The Calgary brethren also organized a 'surprise' birthday celebration after the Sunday service as it was his

birthday month. It was a blessing to hear Pastor Chris' testimony of serving the Lord in full-time ministry for over three decades. We enjoyed sweet fellowship and lunch and could not but imagine how beautiful the fellowship in Heaven will be.

Answered prayers of healing, protection, deliverance, and revival have been experienced among our members and shared in testimony during our prayer meetings and services. The Calgary brethren have experienced divine breakthroughs in various aspects of our lives - healing, deliverance, job opportunities, new homes, and even spiritual uplifting. For sure, *"God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath He said, and shall he not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Numbers 23:19*

Christmas Service

It was a wonderful time of fellowship on Christmas Day 2022 when the young people of Calgary organized a special Family Service that included families singing special songs



of Christmas and sharing victorious testimonies of what the Lord had done for them in 2022. The day began with Sunday school taught by Oluwole Ajayi which focused on God's love. He pointed out that God's gift to humankind, Jesus Christ, is so unique and priceless. We all owe Him our gratitude and devotion. The special Family Day service also featured worship, Bible games, and other soul-inspiring presentations. Brother Blessed Agunu brought the

Christmas Day message after which an invitation to pray was made. The altar service was truly a blessed one that saw many rededicating their lives to worship and live for the Prince of Peace whose birth brought good news to the world. Before everyone went back home to continue the Christmas celebration, we had a potluck and exchanged Christmas gifts. It was indeed a blessed service that further reinforced the true meaning of Christmas.

Church Building Project

"I the Lord will hasten it in his time." Isaiah 60:22 Indeed, God desires for His children to fully trust Him and take a step of faith with His backing even when it seems impossible. We have been praying earnestly for our place of worship as there have been some changes and conditions with our current place of worship which have been quite challenging. God heard our prayers and led His church to a place that we can call our own. Although we have just started the process, the miracles that have been evident in this little while have strengthened our faith. We are confident that God will perfect all that concerns this project. We look forward to acquiring a place of worship which will also be a point of contact and outreach for evangelism.

A prayerful start to a new year!

As we seek to be more deeply rooted in prayer and in our walk with the Lord, we had a Monday to Friday evening Zoom prayer meeting to begin the year. This will continue every Sunday evening in January 2023. It has been a refreshing time in the Lord's presence. We praise God for His manifold blessings upon our group.

Kitchener

On September 1, we had the privilege of welcoming Pastors Robert and Lisa to our Kitchener church. The saints gathered in the church basement to show them our appreciation for answering the call of God. We are so blessed to have them lead the flock here.

On September 25, Pastor Robert brought us the Word. He read from *Luke 18:1* which reads, *"...men ought always to pray,*



and not to faint." There is no reason why we should cease praying. We ought always to pray – which means that we should pray without ceasing; "Continuing instant in prayer;" "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." Daniel ended up in the lion's den because he prayed. Satan is happy when we don't pray. Like food - if we don't eat, we get weak. It's the same for prayer; If we don't pray, we become weak as Christians. Let's get prayed up so we can experience God at work, in and through us!

One of our newest sisters went to the altar one Sunday morning and asked the saints to pray for her. She has been struggling with health issues. Of course, the human side of us feels we can't make it. That's why it's so important to give everything over to God. He cares about every detail of our lives. He surely came through for our sister that morning as His blessings were poured out upon her.

On October 9, Pastor Lisa brought forth the Word speaking on Job. We all know that Job lost all he had but still had a positive attitude. He still had a praise in his heart for God. Let's have a heart of thanksgiving.

In every situation we face, we can rest assured that when we put it in God's hands, He will help us through it. What a friend we have in Jesus!

In the evening service, Pastor Robert brought forth the Word. His message was entitled, "Time is at hand!" He spoke from Revelation and asked the question, "How will the Lord's coming affect us personally?" This is something that we must ask ourselves. Those of us who are ready will be caught up to meet Him in the air. What a day that will be!

During the morning service, while singing, "*I can trust Jesus*," the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of our sisters. She couldn't keep her seat. The joy of the Lord was bubbling up in her soul which led to others in the church experiencing the same blessings from God.

Deon stood to testify and told how in every situation he faces; he simply brings it to God. While talking to God one day, he told Him how he needed a touch for his feet. He asked in faith, believing and just like that, the Lord healed him. It is important to believe that God is able to heal. We

can come to our Heavenly Father and ask Him to heal us because He wants us to be whole, not just in our spirit and soul but also in our body.

Ralinda sang, "*Wounded Solider*" one Sunday morning and right after she was finished, Jaxon jumped to his feet and felt the need to testify. He talked about his seizures and said with faith in his heart, "The Lord will take them away!" In another service while we were singing, "*It is all over me and it's keeping me alive*," Myles stood to testify, Jaxon jumped out of his seat praising the Lord. We know that God has a great plan for Jaxon. We see evidence that God is moving in his life and believing that soon, he will be freed from seizures. Let's continue to keep him in prayer!

Benjamin stood to testify one Sunday morning and spoke about how he ran many races in his lifetime. This one particular race, as he was running, he felt very tired but he could see the finish line up ahead. He received encouragement along the way and stayed "focused." He compared it to the Christian race. When we feel we can't go on any further, it is so important to keep our eyes on Jesus. God has appointed a race for His children that we must run with endurance. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in the race He's set before you. It will be worth it all!



We were so excited to have a Sunday school Christmas program this year. For weeks, the kids were practicing their parts and on the night of the event, they did a tremendous job.

On Christmas Day, we held a Candlelight service. We were blessed with specials by our brothers, sisters and their children. What joy it is to celebrate the Birth of Christ.

On New Year's Eve, we gathered at the church for Watch Night service. It was an awesome way to end the old year and start the New Year, re-consecrating our lives to God and putting our lives in His hands.

We were happy to have our District Superintendent, Rev. Chris Hewlett and his wife, Pat, join us for the Christmas season. On January 1, he presented the Word using *Proverbs 29:18*. His topic was 'Lord, Give A Vision.' A vision is a revelation. It's seeing what others do not. It's doing what others will not attempt. Where there is no preacher

of righteousness to expound the Word of the Lord, to teach good knowledge and wisdom, then the Word of the Lord is scarce. You will only acquire such a vision for your church – your family – your community – if you spend time in prayer and submission. Prayer humbles us.

During testimony meeting on January 8 we sang, “*I Owe it All to You, Lord.*” Pastor Robert stood to his feet, anointed by the Holy Spirit. What a blessing it was to see how the Spirit moved upon him. He went around the church praising the Lord, the saints rejoicing with him!

There isn’t enough space in this newsletter to tell just how good God has been to us. We are deeply indebted to Him. Let’s continue in prayer for we know that soon and very soon we are going to see the King!

Bide Arm

The last quarter of 2022 has been wonderful for the children of God. Not only because we welcomed our new Pastor and his wife, we were also reminded of God’s unfailing love as we witnessed how His hand worked in our midst. He healed many from their conditions and blessed us in many ways. Testimonies of healing and protection were a delightful declaration of God’s unchanging nature.

A testimony from Phyllis Patey, who recovered from a stroke in August, confirms God is still in the business of healing. In addition, Hollis Cull testified that he felt the touch of the Master's hand again as he recovered from a heart attack that occurred in October of last year. We serve an awesome God who never fails to deliver on time.

On the evening of December 25, we gathered at our Roddickton church for a blessed service to celebrate Christmas. On December 29, we held a wonderful Christmas supper at our own church in Bide Arm. The home-cooked meal and sweet treats prepared by the ladies of our church was delicious. There were games played also and we all had a good time.



Over the past twelve months of 2022, God has never failed to bless His people. Many of us were accorded blessings over those months, all glory to His name. Since January 1, 2023, fell on Sunday, the Lord's Day, Bide Arm church celebrated the beginning of the year with a wonderful service in the morning. The service was celebrated by faithful brethren with beautiful singing and praises to His Holy name. Pastor Randy Antalán delivered the first message of the year, and the scripture was taken from *Isaiah 43:18-19*. He spoke about forgetting the former things because God will do new things for His faithful children.

The evening of January 1 was an eventful night for our church. It was the night of our Christmas Singspiration! The



highlight of the evening was to proclaim through singing and poems the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Luke Canning, one of our Sunday school children opened the event by welcoming everyone, followed by opening remarks from Pastor Randy. You could tell that the Sunday Schoolers were very excited as they delivered their songs beautifully and with deep reverence to the Savior. Thank God, Cash Cull confidently recited a poem about the birth of Christ. Rev. Rene Cassell did the closing remarks with a short message. After the Singspiration, everyone was invited to fellowship and refreshments. There is no better way to begin the New Year than to glorify God in every way possible.

Ottawa

After several months of prayers and virtual meetings, the Lord visited the church in Ottawa and provided us with a beautiful meeting place for our Sunday worship. The meeting place, which is strategically located

at 46 Castlefrank Road in the Kanata area of Ottawa, is very spacious and equipped with a large meeting area that can conveniently accommodate about 200 persons, a fully furnished toddler room with access to a wide range of child-friendly facilities, an infant room with baby cribs and other essentials, a well-fitted kitchen and an accessible washroom.

The inaugural service at the new church location was held on September 18, 2022, with persons in physical attendance including brethren from our Apostolic Faith Churches in Washington, DC, USA, Langley, BC, Toronto, ON, and Calgary, AB. As well, over twenty joined the meeting via Zoom. The meeting was a tremendous blessing to all in attendance.

The service commenced after an organ prelude by Timothy Oladiran and a trumpet medley by Aubin (a member of the Ottawa congregation who resides with his family in Montreal, QC). These renditions were closely followed by a choir song titled, *"Redeemed,"* congregational songs and an opening prayer. The church was then divided into four classes for the Sunday school lesson. Becky Adigun taught the Primary Pals class. The Answer/teenage class and the Search/adult class handled, *"Signs of the Times,"* taught by David Oduwole and Oludare Owolabi, respectively. The French class similarly considered the same topic, *"Signs des Temps"* taught by Timothy Oladiran. In all the classes, the lesson was beautifully taught and very interactive.

A brass ensemble performed a medley, *"Wonderful Grace of Jesus,"* and *"My God is Real,"* which ushered us into the devotional service. This brass ensemble was followed by the choir singing, *"Ancient Words"* and *"Great is Thy Faithfulness."* Moses Akazue led the congregation in singing after which Adewale Adigun gave the opening prayer.



The Pastor, brother Niyi Oduwole, welcomed everyone present to the inaugural in-person meeting of the

Apostolic Faith Church in Ottawa. He read goodwill messages sent from all around the world - including messages from our District Superintendent, Rev. Chris Hewlett, The Director of Works in North American, Rev. Bob Downey, Rev. Josephine McElveen from Washington, DC, Rev. Peter Awomoyi and Rev. Beecroft Osirike from Nigeria.

The floor was open for testimonies after a beautiful trio by the choristers from Langley, BC. The testimony service was very inspiring as the brethren testified of the power of God to save, keep, heal, and provide. Moses Akazue read the scripture from *Ezekiel 22:30*.

After the special song rendered in the French language by Rachele Djidenou, the Word of exhortation was delivered by brother Shola Akindele titled, *"I Searched for a Man"* He enjoined us to be the one, God will use for the spread of the gospel. The service ended at about 4:30. Opportunity was then given for each one in attendance to pour out their hearts to God at the altar of prayer, as is typical of our services. A reception was held in the kitchen following the service. Again, it was a sweet time of fellowship with the brethren as people got the opportunity to interact with each other while enjoying a rich platter of African delicacies and an array of drinks.



Even after the church had dispersed and hours after the service had ended, revival fires continued as a mini revival sparked at the residence of brother Niyi Oduwole, where guests congregated for dinner. Those in attendance prayed and sang until well into the night.

Following the inaugural service, our Sunday services have adopted a hybrid format. The in-person services cater to our brethren residents in Ottawa, with periodic visits from brethren in neighbouring cities, Kingston and Montreal. On the other hand, the online services are conducted on Zoom, which has the added advantage of providing an

avenue for real-time interaction from our online participants, who join us from different places - unlike YouTube live streaming, which allows only limited interaction via comments. We have also had the privilege of being blessed by guest ministers from our Apostolic Faith Churches around the world, such as Rev. Samuel Okon (West and Central Africa Headquarters), Rev. Beecroft Osirike (Benin City, Nigeria), Rev. Francis Odudu (Bexley, United Kingdom), Sis Antonia Schleicher (Bloomington, Indiana), Rev. Charles Schleicher (Madison). God has richly blessed the church with His presence at all our meetings, wonderful testimonies of victories and answered prayers which is never in short supply, and by adding new members to our church.

We have also had successful outreach services, such as our Christmas carol service which was held on December 18. Invited guest joined us online as the choir sang beautifully, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The service featured songs like, *"Mary's Boy Child"* and



"We Three Kings" sung by the male choir, *"Silent night"* by the female choir, solo instrumentals on cornet, clarinet

and flute, vocal solos, *"Away in a Manger," "Little Drummer Boy," "Mary Did You Know," "Oh Holy Night,"* children's choir rendition



"The First Noel" and *"Petit Papa Noel"* and the mixed choir singing *"Beautiful Star of Bethlehem."* It was truly phenomenal.

Our watchnight service, which was held at 10:00 pm, ushered us into the new year as God reassured us of His presence all through the year 2023 in a message delivered by our Pastor Adeniyi Oduwole, based on **Exodus 33:14** *"And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."* We are excited about what God has lined up for us this year, and we implore you to join us in prayer as the church grows.

South Brook

Here we are well into a new year. As we look back on 2022, we see God's blessings, love, and keeping power. We can say that He has been so good to us.

On October 9, we were privileged to have our District Superintendent, Rev. Christopher Hewlett and wife, Pat, with us for Sunday services. He expounded the word of God using **Psalms 105** as his text. In the evening service they both favoured us with an old-time song, *"Blessed Assurance,"* before testimony meeting. We have so much to be grateful for in our lives each day. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving in our hearts and enter His courts with praise. His love endures forever.

On October 16, our Church family surprised us with a Pastor Appreciation luncheon. It was a great time of fellowship, and the food which was made by our members, was delicious. Thank you to each one from the bottom of our hearts for all your generous love and support through the past nine years. God is good.



In December we collected non-perishable food items for the food bank. It's a blessing to give to others in need. **Acts 20:35** Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

On December 16, we were blessed once again to have our annual Christmas supper. After dealing with COVID for the past couple years, getting together in person was welcomed. It was a great time of fellowship, fun, food, gift-giving and singing praises to the King of kings.



On Sunday morning of December 18, we changed the order of our service somewhat, singing Christmas carols to

honour and celebrate Jesus, the baby born that first Christmas morning. As well, we had a memory tree where each one placed an ornament on the tree in memory of a loved one that has passed. *"When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure."*

On Sunday morning, New Year's Day, the saints participated in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. We had a great time carrying out the instructions given us by the Lord himself. Jesus said in *Luke 22:19 "...this do in remembrance of me."* We thank God that we can remember Jesus' suffering and all that He went through for sinful men.

Through this year 2023, may we desire to be drawn closer to God and keep lost souls in our prayers. We believe Jesus is about to make His return. *Revelation 22:12 "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."* May God continue to bless and prosper each one in this New Year.

Toronto

The summer of 2022 closed with a change of leadership in the Toronto church. Pastor Randy Antalan and his wife, Jean, who had pastored the Toronto group for twelve years, moved into full time ministry to the congregation at Bide Arm, Newfoundland. The church family held an outdoor 'sent forth' ceremony. Earlier that Sunday



morning Pastor Randy Antalan preached a valedictory sermon on loving one another reading from *1 John 4:7-11*. He encouraged the church to show love one to another.

THANKSGIVING 2022

As our church, our hearts magnify the Lord for all His goodness, mercy, and tender loving care. It was the first physical Thanksgiving service we held as church post COVID. According to *Numbers 31:49 "And they said unto Moses, Thy servants have taken the sum of the men of war which are under our charge, and there lacketh not one man*

of us." The Lord preserved every member of the church during the pandemic and even for a few members that got ill, they were raised back to good health by the power of God.

After the Thanksgiving morning devotional service, the brethren spent some quality time together, sharing a variety of meals prepared by families to commemorate the occasion and to show appreciation to God for His countless blessings.

CHRISTMAS 2022/ NEW YEAR 2023

December was a busy time for the members of the choir



as they prepared and practiced for our first in-person Christmas concert in two years! On concert day, the choir presented selected songs and solo renditions. Our children were not left out. Some of the specials they presented included a collection of songs, *"Hooked on Praises," "Christmas is a Birthday,"* amongst others. The children's choir sang, *"Joy to the World"* and played their recorders, with some older kids playing the cello, violin and piano presenting some Christmas airs which included, *"Deck the Hall," "O Christmas Tree," "Jingle Bells"* and *"God Rest you Merry Gentlemen."*

It was a wonderful time of singing as performances were not restricted to members of the choir alone. Everyone



had the opportunity to go to the platform to sing. The Christmas celebration ended with a Christmas dinner,

where we all enjoyed food and beverages. There was also an opportunity for gift exchange.

As part of the year end activities, we had our first in-person Watch Night service post COVID on the eve of the New Year. It was a beautiful service. Brother Tobi Shobukola preached from *2 Kings 2:1-14; Joshua 3:1-5*. He encouraged the church that we are all on a journey and there is a need to follow God closely as we have not travelled this journey before. Like Elisha he also encouraged that we go all the way to the fullness of God's blessing and not stop halfway.

The first Sunday of 2023 was a special one since we had our District Superintendent, Rev. Chris Hewlett, his wife, Pat, and his family worship with us in the Toronto church. He preached a sermon entitled, "A New Beginning," taking



his text from *Joshua 1:1-3*. He reminded the church that we, like Joshua, must look at how far God has brought us through 2022, reflecting upon God's mercies, blessings, and the challenges He has helped us overcome in the old year. He admonished the congregation to look up to God for the journey ahead into 2023 asking Him to direct our steps, for we do not know what lies ahead.

Our hearts are filled with profound gratitude to God and for the Toronto Church. We are certain that with God on our side victory is certain! Amen!

Winnipeg

The Apostolic Faith Church, Winnipeg, held a Family Retreat at the Gimli Bible Camp in Gimli, Manitoba.

The retreat was held over the Thanksgiving weekend of October 7-9, 2022, with 101 participants in attendance. The anticipation was high as this was the first camp experience for the Winnipeg brethren. The theme for the Family Retreat was taken from *Romans 12:10*, "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.*" The retreat itself was tagged

"God's Plan for our Relationships." The Retreat began on Friday, October 7, 2022, with Pelumi Enejoh leading the



congregation in singing praises to God. Brother Samson Jimaza, Pastor of the Winnipeg group, gave a welcome address to all participants present both on the camp site and those joining virtually. A few of the brethren shared testimonies of victory. Dupe Ajibade shared her testimony about God's mighty hand of deliverance from a fire incident at their house. Though the house was destroyed, no life was lost.

The congregation sang songs of victory before Aderemi Ajibade gave the lesson for the night which was centered on "*Why Are You Here?*" His text was taken from *Mark 10:46-52*. He assured each one that "*God is here*" and used the account of blind Bartimaeus to encourage everyone to be sincere in seeking and receiving blessings from God. He further admonished, using the account of Jacob, that if we demonstrate the type of determination Jacob exhibited when he wrestled with the angel, God will surprise us, solve our problems and we shall return home rejoicing. After the message, there was an altar call that led participants to pray till late in the night.

On Saturday morning, everyone gathered in the auditorium for a morning devotion which was led by Biyi Oladunni. That took us all to pray. This was followed by a lovely breakfast which offered several delicious choices. After breakfast participants came together for a discussion centred on the theme of the program. The guest minister, Pastor Marjorie Reid, taught the adult session. There were also classes for the Primary Pals, Answer, and the Young Adult departments.

Sam Fadiora, who led the Young Adult session, emphasized that relationships can be broadly divided into two types – godly and ungodly. Where we stand will determine our eternal destination. There is no alliance between these two zones in the spiritual realm; you are either on God's side or on the side of Satan. He further

posed a thought provoker – requiring young people to ponder whose side they want to belong.



Pastor Marjorie took the text from *Deuteronomy 6:4*, highlighting that if we're going to live out godly relationships, God must be at the center. Building a godly relationship means one is in a relationship with God, which starts at salvation. Our relationship with God has the hallmark of LOVE. She went on to stress the importance of godliness in our relationships. There was a lunch prepared, then a Question-and-Answer session.

There was a team building session for all participants with activities that included Jenga, soccer, ping pong, etc. Participants also took a walk to the Gimli beach which was around the camp site. There was a short time of rest before we gathered around a campfire for a Variety Night. It began with participants singing praises to God and sharing testimonies. Everyone in attendance had an opportunity to quote their favourite scriptures. This was followed by a delicious barbeque dinner.

The Sunday worship started with Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. for the adults while the Primary Pals and Answer classes also had their breakout sessions. Brother Wole Ajayi from Calgary, Alberta, taught the adult Sunday school titled, "The Marriage Supper." The devotional service began with a violin solo and the choir sang: "All Hail the Power of Jesus" that set the tone for a time of worship. The congregational singing was led by Biyi Oladunni featuring songs of praise from the Celebration Hymnal. The female voices sang, "Hear My Song," and thereafter, the scripture reading was taken from *Psalms 136:1-4*. Before the sermon, Moses Ogbe sang, "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Pastor Marjorie took the Bible text for the thanksgiving message from *Psalms 136:1-4*. Using the phrase, "God is love" from *1 John 4:8*, she affirmed that the love of God is the reason we are here because God so loved the world

that He sent Jesus to redeem fallen man. Everyone of us have fallen but because of the love of God that was exhibited through the death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary, we are redeemed from our sins. The mercy, love, and kindness of the Lord towards us is real and it endures forever. We can always depend on the love of God and when we walk in the light of His Word, we experience the depth of His love that is everlasting. She admonished everyone to seek and pursue the Lord because of His love. Thereafter, brethren gathered around the altar to seek the face of God. Lunch was served and brethren departed for their various locations. A wonderful time of spiritual



refreshing from the Lord was certainly experienced by all who came to be a part of this retreat.

Christmas Carol 2022

We praise God for our Christmas concert and the liberty to gather without any restrictions. On the day of the concert, we had a reporter from The Winnipeg Free Press visit. Pictures were taken as well as brief interviews with selected members of the choir which were featured on their Christmas Eve story printed on December 24.

The theme of the concert was "Carols of Christmas." Weekly rehearsals began in September and lasted till the day of the concert. Sunday school teachers also engaged



the Sunday school children from the beginners, Primary Pals and Answer class in Christmas songs, nativity playlet and Bible memory verses concerning the birth of Jesus. The attendance was great with the hall filled to capacity

and we had about fifty virtual attendees to the glory of God.

Brother Samson Jimaza gave the welcome address, and the congregational song was led by Pelumi Enejoh. She then took us through the first half of the program.



Choir Members

The first half featured popular Christmas Carol songs like, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "Holy Night Silent Night," etc. Some other specials like, "Shout ye Heavens" by John Antes, "Glory to God" by G. F. Handel were featured in the first half also.

After the first half, members of the choir stepped out for a break while the children presented a short Christmas program which included a playlet about the Shepherd's



Sunday school children song



renditions and playlet

encounter with the angels during Jesus' birth and the three wise men bringing gifts to Jesus. It was a beautiful sight to behold! Also, during the intermission, the announcement was given by brother Samson Jimaza followed by another congregational song.

The second half was introduced by Pelumi Enejoh which featured an orchestration, a local air written in the three major Nigerian languages and other choir songs ending with G. F. Handel's, "Hallelujah Chorus." The Concert was closed in prayer by Sam Fadiora followed by our annual Christmas dinner which featured a variety of dishes. It was

a great time of celebration as well as fellowship. Praise be to God!

Fort McMurray

On August 25, 2022, my wife and I left our home town of Bide Arm, NL, after spending nine years pastoring the church there. We were very blessed to have had that time in our home town church. Before heading to our new destination, Fort McMurray, AB, we took a few days to visit our three daughters and their families in Ontario.

We arrived in Fort McMurray on September 7, 2022. We were met at the parsonage by some of the saints, with a welcome banner and balloons. As well, they brought flowers, food, and a lovely cake. Receiving such a warm welcome made us feel at home.

Our first Sunday was a great day, as we received another welcome during Sunday school. Our official welcome took place at Boston Pizza on Saturday,



September 17. We enjoyed a lovely meal and a great time of fellowship. The kindness that has been shown to us since our arrival has made for a smooth transition. We feel blessed to be workers together with the saints here in Fort McMurray.

After taking some time to get settled in our new surroundings and getting used to city living again, we feel more at home. The Church and work schedules are a little different than what we have been used to in the past few years, but since we have adjusted to that, we have been enjoying spending time with the saints, and worshipping together at Church.

During the evening service of October 30, we were presented with gifts from the congregation, as October was Pastor Appreciation month. We are truly blessed.

On November 5, we had a get together with the saints, and their spouses at the parsonage. It was potluck for the meal and it was delicious food that everyone enjoyed. It was an evening well spent, with great fellowship.



We were blessed to have our Canadian District Superintendent, Reverend Chris Hewlett and his wife, Pat, visit Fort McMurray from November 21 - December 1, 2022. On November 25, we had a casual night at the parsonage. This gave opportunity for those who could attend, to spend time with Pastor Chris and Pat. Finger

foods were served and a good time was had by all.

On November 27, Pastor Chris and Pat joined us for regular Sunday services. Pastor Chris brought the Word of God during the evening service. The text for the message was *Jeremiah 18:1-6* with message theme, The Potter and the Clay. God had a purpose for Jeremiah going to the potter's house. He can take what seems impossible to work with and break it down. In good time God molds the clay to what He wills if the clay is in workable condition. A great prayer service followed as the Spirit of God moved in our midst.

As we began to approach the Christmas season plans were made to have some special events at church. On the evening of December 11, we held a Singspiration with congregational singing and special numbers. We were blessed to have the Sunday school children join with us. It was well attended by family and friends.



On December 18, at 6 p.m. we had a Sunday school Christmas program, with both the adults and children participating. The children sang, did recitations, and the adults presented a skit. We involved those who attended with congregational singing. The support that was shown for our Sunday school program was awesome as parents, family members and friends came to see the children perform. A big thank you to all who are faithful in working willingly with our Sunday school.

On December 31, we had one last gathering at the parsonage to end the year. Finger foods were served, as we enjoyed being together on the last evening of 2022. Before midnight, we took time to sing a few choruses, and with only minutes left in 2022 we knelt in prayer, praying the old year out and praying the New Year in.



It was such a blessing to have Earl Pilgrim from our Roddickton church join with us, while he visited his family here in Fort McMurray over the Christmas season.

We are thankful for all that the Lord has done in the past year, we have been blessed abundantly. Looking ahead to the New Year, we are anticipating good things to happen as God moves among His people. Our prayer is that God will add to the Church daily such as should be saved.

Edmonton

T*hou crownest the year with thy goodness..." Psalm 65:11.* This is the testimony of the brethren in AFM Edmonton for the year 2022! To the glory of God, there were a series of events in last two quarters of the year which revived our souls and fostered sweet fellowship among our congregation at Edmonton.

The Church was able to resume the monthly Sunday afternoon evangelistic outreach to a long-term care facility after over two years break occasioned by the pandemic. It

was a revitalizing reunion with the folks at the Centre. The one-hour service usually includes reviving songs, testimonies, and Bible exhortation with prayers. It is always spiritually refreshing to watch the joy on the faces of the residents for the duration of the service. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the gospel news of salvation with these dear souls which we believe the Lord would use to qualify them for Heaven.

Towards the end of summer, the Church organized a BBQ event with the goal of fostering unity among the members and to share the love of God with invited guests. Despite the rain of the day, the turnout was encouraging, and several invited guests attended with their families. It was a great and exciting event.

In November 15-20, 2022, our Canadian District Superintendent, Rev. Chris Hewlett and his lovely wife, Pat, visited our congregation. Highlights of the activities and events during the visit included Friday Revival service, Saturday Church buffet, and Sunday services.

We were happy to see brethren from the Fort McMurray church join us for the Friday Revival service. There were



also many new visitors in attendance. There were wonderful testimonies shared of the wonder working power of God to save, sanctify, baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire, heal, provide, protect and more.

The topic of the word of exhortation was "What Shall it Profit a Man," with the key text being *Matthew 6:33*. It was a great heart-searching sermon which urged everyone to consider seeking Heaven above all other pursuits, attainments, and possessions in life. A great prayer meeting followed.

The Saturday dinner buffet for all members accorded the opportunity to interact with Pastor Chris and his wife in an

informal and relaxed setting. It was an amazing time of bonding and sharing among all the members and invited guest. Pictures were taken to capture the memory of such an awesome togetherness.

The Sunday service of November 20, 2022, was one of the crowning points to the visit. The Children Sunday school department presented a short program to welcome Pastor Chris and sister Pat. The sermon "A Man to Stand in the Gap," using *Jeremiah 22:30*. It was a challenge to all to stand true to the profession of our faith as God is expecting us to stand in the gap in Edmonton that souls could be dissuaded and won from the impending judgement of God and to propel the expansion and growth of God's work in Edmonton.



Overall, the visit was a great encouragement to the Church to keep on keeping on, remain steadfast in the faith and continue in the Christian journey until we all make the portals of glory.

We have a heart of gratitude to the great God of Heaven who manifested Himself in our midst all through 2022 with answers to numerous prayers, God's providence upon us and including additions to the Church.

We look unto God in faith that He would work among us in 2023 to revive and expand His Church should the Lord tarry, and if the trumpet sounds, to make us all rapture ready. May God be praised.

Langley

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

We thank God for His abundant blessings which have continued to be outpoured upon the Langley congregation since our last newsletter contribution.

In late October, early November, we were blessed to welcome our District Superintendent, Pastor Chris Hewlett and his wife, Pat upon their tour of the Canadian branch churches. While we had the Hewletts for two Sundays we were also graced with Pastor Marjorie Reid and Edwin joining us for the last of those two Sundays.

On Saturday, November 5, the Langley ministerial team along with the Hewletts and Reids enjoyed a delicious breakfast at a local restaurant named White Spot. We then meet for a minister/spouse meeting where our hearts were encouraged, strengthened, and fortified as we discussed how wonderful it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Thank God for the opportunity to exhort one another in this glorious faith. During the Sunday



meetings there were some milestones we wanted to recognize. One, being the 75th Anniversary of the gospel work in the Greater Vancouver area and the other being Pastor Chris' 65th birthday. The Langley brethren presented him with a gift to acknowledge this achievement. For both occasions we enjoyed cake as is customary. With regards to the anniversary, we reflected on precious memories of the gospel work here in BC. The gospel has a rich history in this area of which we thank God for!

During the meetings that were held over two Sundays we all enjoyed Spirit filled sermons from the Word of God. Pastor Chris took his text from [2 Peter 3:9-18](#) where he focused the saints on the coming redemption of the church of God. Pastor Marjorie took her text from [Luke 10:38-42](#) with her theme being "One thing is needful." We

all were reminded of the need to place God first and seek His face above all others. Following both Spirit-filled messages we all enjoyed a great season of prayer around the altars.

As the year 2022 came to a close, we enjoyed our watchnight service via Zoom in order to accommodate all the saints since many live great distances from the church location. During this service Nicole Babor played a flute



instrumental entitled, "Take My Life and Let It Be." Very fitting for the time indeed. Pastor Scott delivered a message entitled, "They That Wait Upon the Lord" with his text being [Isaiah 40:25-31](#). The main theme of his message detailed how 2022 may have been a year of waiting, a year of patience, a year of perseverance, a year where answers to prayers may not have come to fruition. Yet, in spite of this, our efforts expended in 2022 of being faithful and trusting in God will make the year 2023 a year of blessing, a year of victory and a year of reaping in joy as God perfects His will concerning us.

We have great hope and great faith that 2023 will be just that! We may sow in tears yet thank God we will reap in joy!

UPCOMING Events

Portland Camp Meeting

*Portland, OR
June 25 – July 9, 2023*

Newfoundland Youth Camp

*Roddickton, NL
July 24 – 28, 2023*

Midwest Camp Meeting

July 28 – 31, 2023

Jesus
THE LIGHT *of* THE WORLD

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