

THE SWOPES

Serving in Canada since 2002

Pondering

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3

Praying

For summer events and the great deal of preparation that goes along with them. We want God to have His hand in all of them, otherwise they are just events.

Praising

Praising God for the possibility of purchasing the property, for the Lord testing and trying us so that we can grow to be more like Him.



New Year, New Adventures!

Winter has been mild this year, and already spring is showing us warmer days and milder nights, but a mild winter doesn't mean the past couple of months have been milder. The enemy has been busy at work this year, and his handiwork can be seen all around us.

Since COVID, the Lord has been building a heart of unity within our little church family that we had never seen before, and the memories have been so very special, but the wicked one doesn't like it when the children of God are in one accord. Recently, due to a variety of interpersonal conflicts, that sweet spirit has been put to the test, and we could use everyone's prayers as we seek to aid in reconciliation and to rebuild what has been broken.

In case you've not been keeping up on Canadian political news, the enemy has been working his deceit there too. Currently, past the House and on to the Senate for final approval is Bill C-9. If this goes through, it will effectively criminalize even the reading of certain scriptures because of newly defined hate laws. Pray for those in political power here in Canada!

In other news, our outreach opportunities have been such a tremendous blessing in the last couple of months. Our Valentine's outreach had a great turnout, and we even had the privilege of taking part in one young visitor's first steps. I am certain her family will not soon forget the Grand Forks Baptist Church! We've also been greatly blessed to see Landen (9) receive the Lord as his personal Lord and Saviour as well as Jaizen following the Lord in believers' baptism. God is so very good to us!

Many of you have lifted Shane in prayer over the past months. It is with



The Swopes keep growing up

- Tj and Mercy are finally settling in and back to work. Prayers for Mercy's Canadian citizenship paperwork process to go through fast. Tj taking on more church ministry aspects such as preaching more often, childrens and youth ministry.

-Breanna is working 3 part-time jobs and diligently busy in the ministry as well. Leaving April 7 for her first missions trip alone, to Prague (with one of the missionaries our church supports).

-Kk is continuing with her desire to work with the children's ministry as well as music ministry. She has also aken on more responsibilities in the house as the older kids have moved on.

-Andrew is staying busy with school and of course he keeps getting taller!

a heavy heart that we share his passing, but we rejoice in knowing that we will see him again one day. Just two weeks before he passed, Shane reached out concerning his soul and with urgency received the Lord as his Saviour.

Big News!

Over 10 years ago, we began to lease a piece of property owned by the city of Grand Forks. It has been a very good opportunity for us thus far, but the Lord has seen fit to show Himself yet again, and we are so very excited. We may have an open door to purchase the church property! This property should sell for close to \$3m, but we may be able to get it for only \$360,000 CAD! That is roughly \$250k USD! Unfortunately, we cannot get traditional financing for this purchase, and therefore, we are in great need of everyone's prayers on this matter. If you have any ideas for us on raising these funds, please reach out.

What's Next

- ◆ Resurrection Services in April
- ◆ VBS and Youth Camp this Summer

Please Pray

- ◆ Purchase of Church Property
- ◆ King's Kids Club growth and guidance
- ◆ Restored Unity within the church family
- ◆ Bill C-9 and Canadian politicians

Our family is keenly aware of what it means to be called your missionaries, and we are so grateful to be an extension of your ministries! Thank you so much for your faithfulness to the Lord on our behalf!

In The Service of The King!

*The Swope Family
Brett, Dianna, Tj, Mercy,
Breanna, Kk, & Andrew*

