

Be Still, and Know that I am God...

PSALMS 46:10



Roddickton Happy New Year! *“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.” Psalms 68:19.* We agree with the psalmist when looking back over the year 2016 that God has been gracious to us. It is good to be reminded of the blessings of the Lord, just in case we may be inclined to take them for granted. Freedom of worship, beautiful churches to attend where we hear God’s precious Word expounded, altars of prayer to kneel with our brothers and sisters in Christ, music to add blessing to our worship, joy of salvation, hope of eternal life are just a few of the spiritual blessings we enjoy. The physical blessings are many. God’s beautiful creation, water, air, shelter, food, clothing, friends and family are daily provisions from our loving Heavenly Father. How great it is to serve a loving God!

Roddickton has been experiencing wonderful showers of blessing from on High. The past three Sundays have been refreshing as the Holy Spirit falls in our midst. The glory of God fills the sanctuary as the church family worship, rededicating and consecrating their lives anew to the service of the Lord. A sister and brother testified to receiving the experience of sanctification. God is moving by His Spirit, preparing hearts with a fresh vigor and a new commitment for the Lord’s work. We are expecting souls to be saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost and healed as He promised He would do when men and women humble themselves and call on God.

The month of December was filled with much activity. Wonderful sermons were presented by the Pastor and ministers encouraging us to follow the events of the first Christmas long ago and relive the celebration of Jesus’ birth in our own lives. Because of His birth we have *hope* in this world and beyond for eternity. This world has very little hope to offer causing many to despair. Jesus Christ is the answer to the longings of men’s hearts in every generation.

The very first day of December the church was decorated by many eager volunteers who enjoyed wonderful fellowship as we worked together. Snacks followed as we sat around and enjoyed the fellowship of kindred spirits. December 8, there was Christmas caroling at the Rufas Guinchard Senior Home. December 13, was a night for the youth who gathered at the Fellowship Center to enjoy a time of heartfelt singing, Christmas crafts and a hearty lunch. The Pastor and his wife prepared suppers each week to include the whole congregation to visit. The Christmas concert this year was held by Bide Arm on December 18. It was indeed a beautiful program, with great musical selections and children/adult singing.

On December 21, we enjoyed a time of singing and music at the Roddickton Senior House. Our Candlelight service was held on Christmas night. The spirit of Christmas lingered in the air as the sanctuary filled with people desiring to hear and sing once more the beautiful carols and to enjoy the youth and adults as they sang so joyously. Thank God for a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Redeemer and Lord!

Toronto

Once again Christmas has come and gone but for us in Toronto it was a celebration that we will always remember as a family of God. We held our Christmas Program on December 18, with our regular evening service and fellowship thereafter. The service started with a Christmas prelude followed by lively congregational singing of Christmas songs. Testimonies of gratitude to God for salvation, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, healing and blessings were just full proof that God is real and alive. After the testimonies Bedemi Keshinro sang “*O Holy Night*” in acapella. The title of the message presented by Brother Randy Antalan that afternoon was, “*Unity with Christ*” using *John 1:1, 14* as his texts. The phrase in verse 14, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*” was the purpose of Christ being reunited with Him and for God’s children to be as one. He encouraged us that if we want to make Heaven, it is important to be in unity with our Lord. Tobi Shobokula led the closing prayer before the saints went to pray.

After prayer, we had a presentation of gifts, coordinated by Michelle Keshinro and Norma Rigor. It was a celebration of the love of God in our lives as we all dined together after the presentation.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. What more can we ask for? The Lord has proven Himself mighty in the course of the year, giving an assurance that He is at work in our midst. Randy and his wife, Jean, expressed their love and requested the prayers of the brethren as they travelled back to the Philippines.



On the first Sunday of the year, January 1, 2017, Pastor Howard Canning and his wife, Sharron, of Bide Arm, NL, came visiting. The whole church was very enthusiastic to receive and welcome them. Pastor Howard gave a stirring sermon entitled “*Taking Stock.*” He reminded us that we all have time to think about where we want to spend eternity. He encouraged the congregation that this being the beginning of the year, it

is the time that many people like to do a list of New Year resolutions. As children of God, we can count our blessings and rededicate our lives to the work of the Lord. We were all very encouraged to have them in our midst. With grateful hearts we believe that He has begun a good thing among us and will bring it to perfection to the glory of His Holy name.

Birchy Bay

With the New Year now upon us we can look back upon 2016 and say with great confidence that “*God is good.*” We can see many places where the Lord has been with us, and we are so thankful for His mercies upon our lives that are renewed every morning.

On June 12, during our regular Sunday morning devotion time, as we sang the chorus, “*Lord I’ve Travelled the Last Few Miles on my Knees,*” the sweet Spirit of the Lord touched every heart in His house.

On July 3, some of the saints from South Brook joined us along with locals for our evening service. We had a great time worshipping and praising God together. The saints left feeling encouraged and uplifted.

In our last newsletter we wrote about a project the ladies were working on during our fellowship time together. With the Lord’s help we did accomplish it. We had decided to make quilts for children at the Janeway Hospital for sick kids. Our aim was to make twelve quilts. When they were completed we took them to our Sunday school service, gathered around them and prayed for the children who would receive them. We attached cards to the quilts letting them know what we had done. Our prayer is that through this act of kindness God may touch lives and that they may be blessed knowing someone cares and is praying for them. On November 1, our ladies made a trip to St. John’s and delivered the quilts to a volunteer, who in turn distributed the quilts to the children. They were very excited to receive them. We had a great time of fellowship and the Lord protected us on our travels. We are not sure what our next project will be, but as the Lord leads, we all want to be instruments that God can use for His purposes.

During the Christmas season we visited a senior home in a nearby community. We sang Christmas carols, shared a few readings with them and brought along some baked goodies. After our service we served them their bedtime snacks and enjoyed some great fellowship time with them. They enjoyed it and reminded us not to stay away

too long. We visit them on a monthly basis and have a wonderful time of worshipping God together.

Our church looks forward to 2017 with great expectations, believing that God is going to do great things, souls will be saved, bodies will be healed and saints added to His church. The little group here at Birchy Bay is praying to that end.

Winnipeg

Joy to the world, the Saviour is come! The Christmas program practices started early, September 2016 with the choir members and Sunday school children meeting after church service for their practices. It was quality time spent voluntarily, dedicated to the glory of God.

The Christmas program was scheduled for December 25, 2016. The program was threatened by the Colorado blizzard predicted almost ahead to Christmas. Prayers were offered for God's divine intervention and this prayer was answered. The blizzard ceased and everyone who attended the program reached their homes safely before it all started.



The title of the program was, “*Run to the Manger*” and it started at 3:00 p.m. with choruses and a hymn “*Joyful, Joyful, we adore Thee.*”

A series of songs were presented by the choir members, among them were: Calypso Carol – “*Every Christmas is a Birthday,*” a solo “*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*” by Dupe Ajibade, “*Show me the Star,* and *Glory to the Highest*” before the junior department offered their renditions, “*Feliz Navidad,*” recitations, solo/violin duet, “*Emmanuel*” then *Edelweiss* and finally, a trumpet/clarinet trio, “*Silent Night.*”

The intermission featured the audience singing “*Once in Royal David's City*” and “*Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells,*” after which the choir sang locally arranged songs including solos, strings and trumpet ensemble, “*Happy Day*” and “*Run to the Manger.*” There was great excitement with the last piece rendered.

In his closing remark, brother Samson Jimaza continued the program with a short talk, taking his text from **Job 14:1** “*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble,*” emphasizing that the world is full of so much trouble that we cannot do without God. Men try in their limited knowledge to resolve life's problems with a temporal solution. He read **Isaiah 1:18** of God's invitation to resolve the greatest problem of mankind – sin. An altar call was given to pray after reading **Isaiah 55:6, 7.** Many took time to pray.

The church members and invitees had a sumptuous Christmas dinner and what a great fellowship. The predicted blizzard did not obstruct the success of the program because God owns the universe.

The total attendance was eighty-five. How thankful we are that we can share, through song, the message of Christ's birth and plan of salvation, the main reason for Christmas. As we look forward to the Lord's return, we at the Winnipeg church want to occupy in all ways till He comes. Praise God for another year of victory.

Englee

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. We are so thankful for God's presence and are enjoying the sweet Spirit of God as we worship from time to time with the congregation of the righteous.

The Christmas spirit started with a Candlelight service, our Sunday school children and the senior choir singing, “*Jesus the Light of the World.*” It was such a great job done by all. Listening to the music and singing sure lets us all feel the true meaning of Christmas.

On December 18, choruses were sung and there was a gift exchange by our entire Sunday school. Such excitement! Each one was very excited when their names were called to come forward and receive their gift. But the most important gift was given to the world, when God gave His only begotten Son to be our Saviour. When the wise men came they presented unto Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The question is, what are we giving to the Lord, for all that the Saviour has done. Throughout the Christmas season such high spirits were felt. But who knows “*This could be the last Christmas on earth, but just think if it was, think of all the Christmases in Heaven there will be.*” Let's continue to thank the Lord every day and do our best for Him. God bless.

Thompson

Here at Thompson we can say, *"There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place and I know that it's the presence of the Lord."* We are so thankful for God's continued blessings. December 10, we held our Christmas gathering. The saints came for a time of fellowship and, of course, good food. Whether it's meeting in the church sanctuary or outside, it's always uplifting to spend time together with the family of God. January 8th, we were privileged and blessed to have our ordinance service, moments to be shut in with the Lord and a time of refreshing for our souls. In the busy world we live in, it is great when our group meet to pray together and worship. Our expectations are high for 2017! We believe that souls will be added to our church.

This past Christmas season the Lord called one of our saints home. Samuel Ivany passed away December 16th. Brother Ivany's passion for the Lord and the church was evident wherever he went. Over fifty years ago he made salvation a cornerstone in his life. Brother Ivany (or Sam as he preferred to be called) had the privilege to be a part of several branch congregations in his life time. No matter which church he stood to testify in he would say, *"There's no place I'd rather be than right here with the saints."* This quiet individual was loved by all. Pop, as many called him, cherished his moments at the altar praying with the saints. The last few meetings he attended he would be too weak to get up from praying. A brother on either side would raise him to his feet and help him to his seat. His last three weeks were spent in hospital. Nurses and visitors alike gave account of him singing hymns, praying and quoting scripture from memory. His comment to visitors was, "I'm going home." Brother Ivany is missed by many but at eighty-six years old he received the best Christmas gift of all, being taken into the presence of the King. Please continue to pray for Beulah, his wife of eighty-one years. So thankful that Jesus is a comfort in those times of loss!

Edmonton

The Christmas season is a special time to remember and appreciate God for the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, to mankind. During this period God granted us openings to bring the good news of Jesus' birth to two retirement homes. This was an answer to prayers for the Apostolic Faith Church Edmonton and we are very grateful to God.

The Christmas program titled *"Unto you is Born this Day a Saviour,"* started with the Sunday school children

singing Christmas carols and the residents joining in. There was much joy in the house when the children were singing *"Joy to the World"* as some of the seniors could still sing the verses from memory. Other songs presented included *"To God be the Glory, O Come all ye Faithful, For God so Loved the World* and *No Room for the Baby."* It was a great blessing to sing along with the children and share in the good news contained in the words of the songs. The children also recited from memory many Bible verses. As part of the program, we had a choir rendition of *"Silent Night,"* followed by *"Bless this House,"* (female duet). It was a song that was really loved by the residents. Other highlights of the program were the violin solo, vocal solo and finally the Christmas message.

The messages (sermon) for both events focused on the love of God for mankind in sending Jesus Christ for our redemption. We can have the true peace, joy and hope



Christmas brings through Jesus Christ. The Retirement Home residents and church members present were invited to pray after the message before singing, *"We wish you a Merry Christmas."*

The afternoon ended with some time to get to meet and fellowship with the seniors in the coffee room. The church provided the snacks and coffee was provided by the facility. The same program was presented in the church on Christmas day with a drama addition by the children.

We thank God for the love and unity we share together as His children. We are also grateful to God for the opportunity to continue to share His good news with these seniors in our community. ***"The Harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few"*** *Matthew 9:37.* We pray that God will increase our number, send labourers to His harvest and bless His church. Amen.

Kitchener

What an awesome God we serve!

Looking back over the past year, we thank God for His presence and His Holy Spirit that has been such an inspiration in our services.

Psalms 133:1 comes to mind, **“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”** Truly we serve a good God who provides, just as He said He would. All of His promises are sure.

On November 25, 2016, we had a farewell supper for Ray Denny who had just retired and had decided to move back to his hometown of Engle, NL. The supper was attended by the church family and it was great to see a number of Ray’s family there as well. We miss him but we are happy for him and know that he will be an inspiration for the church at Engle.

Our Annual Adult Christmas Supper

It’s amazing that the birthday of a King can bring such a time of joy and fellowship! On Saturday, December 3, the Kitchener congregation was joined by family and friends to celebrate the wonder of Christmas. With approximately seventy to eighty in attendance, a buffet-style turkey and roast beef dinner was prepared and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The evening was delightfully hosted by Deidre and Beverly which consisted of games, prizes, special singings and group singings. It is always a joyous time when each one sing in unison, songs such as, *“Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child,”* and *“Silent Night.”* A beautifully decorated display was arranged and throughout the evening individuals gathered for photos – making memories of such a festive celebration. We are truly a blessed people and all praises shall be given to Jesus, the Reason for the Season.

Annual Youth Christmas Supper

We always look forward to celebrating with our youth during the Christmas season. On December 9, the youth and their families were invited to attend our annual Christmas supper. There were approximately thirty-five in attendance. Our night consisted of a delicious turkey dinner, prepared by the parents, followed by games and performances from our talented youth. It made for a spectacular night. Our prayer is that all children and youth throughout the world will come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ!

As December rolled in, our Sunday school was preparing and practicing for our Christmas program. December 18, came and the excitement was in the air. At 7:00 p.m.,

with the church full of family and friends, we were ready for our program to start with the Welcome, *“Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All.”* This was followed by the Sunday school singing, *“The Perfect Christmas Gift.”* Throughout the night we had recitations, singings and



musicals. The young men performed a Lip Sync song called *“Glory to God in the Highest.”* What a great job! Our primary children also did amazing in learning their parts and singing their hearts out for Jesus. The youth then blessed us with a shadow skit called *“The Greatest Gift.”* Our program ended with the Sunday school singing, *“The Gift Goes on,”* and *“We wish you a Merry Christmas.”* Let us never forget that not only at Christmas time but all year through that, *“Jesus is the greatest gift of all!”*

Candlelight Service

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.” Psalms 100:1-2

It is verses like this that inspire us to keep doing what God clearly honors, that is to offer up praise with joy and gladness! The Candlelight sing-a-long service, *“Noel, Noel, Jesus is Alive,”* was a refreshing way to start off the New Year! After many weeks of preparing for this night, it had finally arrived and was everything we prayed it would be! We believe that hearts were warmed and uplifted as songs proclaiming the arrival of Jesus to the world ministered to souls. From the opening combined choir song, *“Noel, Noel, Jesus is Alive!”* to the closing young adult choir song, *“Till the Season comes ‘Round Again,”* the anointing was felt. His presence filled the place as the congregation joined in worship singing songs such as, *“All Hail King Jesus,”* and the traditional, *“Light the Light, in the Corner Where you are.”*

It is our prayer that, till the season comes round again, should the Lord tarry another year, His richest blessings

will be upon all who attended. Most importantly, that unsaved souls have been warmed by the simple gospel message of the birth of Christ and take the necessary step to salvation.

We don't know what 2017 has in store for us, but PRAISE the LORD already in 2017 we have good news to share. January 6, Melissa Jenkins gave her heart to the Lord. The following Tuesday, January 10, her husband, Tyler Jenkins, surrendered his heart to the Lord and was wonderfully saved.

Also, while on our knees in the prayer room before the service began, the Spirit of God moved in our midst and a sister claimed her sanctification. We Thank God for His faithfulness!

There is great joy in our church. Faith has been motivated in the hearts of the saints that others will be saved. For 2017 we trust it will be a year of *revival* as hungry hearts keep before Him.

South Brook

Christmas is always a joyous time of the year as we celebrate the birth of Christ. It's a wonderful time when family and friends meet for fellowship, give gifts and share God's love. We are thankful that God was willing to offer us His only Son as a gift for our sins.

December 11, our Sunday school program took place. The children were all very well behaved and did an awesome job with the skit, singing and reciting their



parts. Each child is special, unique and has different talents that they use for the Lord. Also, the congregation joined in singing beautiful Christmas songs. We were very pleased to see a great crowd of people in attendance.

On December 17, we held a church supper for the adults. It was a fun evening with games, singing, excellent food and great fellowship.

On December 31, as the old year was coming to a close and a new year about to dawn upon us, we were kneeling in prayer. What a wonderful way to begin a New Year, talking to our Lord. *Thank you Lord for all the many blessings you have seen fit to place in our lives as we begin this New Year. Please go with us. Please help us to stay focused on you. Lord, lead, guide and direct us in this New Year and lead us down the path of success. Help us Lord to be faithful in your service. Guide our thoughts in the right direction and take us by the hand when we start to stray down one of those many paths that Satan has waiting for us. Lord, please give us the strength we need in this coming year to make the many changes that need to be made in our lives. May the Lord continue to bless all of you in this year if the Lord should tarry.*

Bide Arm

Our Christmas season came upon us so fast! But our God is so faithful and on Sunday, December 18, we were anxiously awaiting the evening program. As we gathered in God's house for Sunday morning worship, Pastor Howard began by sending Christmas greetings. He exhorted us to think about the true reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As the service continued, Pastor Howard took texts from several books of the Bible to reference the many names of our Saviour. For example, He is Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace, Everlasting Father and the Mighty God. He closed with Jesus is a man who is the best in His class; you will find no other man as this.

As Sunday evening approached we gathered at the church and greeted our Sunday school children in great anticipation for tonight's program. We started with "Happy Birthday Jesus," and continued as each child and teen did their utmost to make it an evening to be remembered. Our children did outstanding in their efforts to put forth their best. We are so thankful for children and parents who take the time to come to Sunday school. We pray this New Year will find each one of us with a grateful heart for our Saviour (the baby born in a stable). God bless you all.

Fort McMurray *“Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” Luke 2:10*

More than 2000 years later, good tidings of great joy are still impacting lives for eternity. Jesus, the hope of the ages was born into time and He remains the Hope this world needs. Christmas is a unique time of year and it provides an amazing opportunity for us to show and share the love of Christ to our families and loved ones. People who wouldn't normally come to church at other times of the year will come for a carol service Sunday school program. People who grew up in church but have grown apart will be more aware of Jesus at this time of year. We whole heartedly thank God that this time of year can become an open door for evangelism.

December 11, with Christ as the center of our celebration, we believe all who came were blessed. We truly bless God for our church families who combined their talent to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Having the story of Jesus' birth presented in such a special way made Christmas time feel even more special. Church events like this make Jesus and the story of His wondrous birth come alive even to the children.



Truly the *“It's Jesus Birthday”* was an event that blessed our hearts and inspired us to pray earnestly for new opportunities to share the greatest story the world has ever known. The week

before our Sunday school program, our church family earnestly prayed that God would inhabit the praises of His people and through the presentation given; everyone would be given an opportunity to see how great God's love is for them.

December 17, as we gathered for prayer, God opened the windows of Heaven and poured out His blessing upon His children. The touch of His presence filled our hearts with great anticipation to once again share and celebrate the Christ of Christmas.

December 18, following the welcome, our first selection was a duet, *“Little Baby Jesus.”* As the sisters beautiful voices blended, the awe of that wondrous night was felt anew as the Spirit of God moved. While the details of

that glorious night unfolded in song, all the participants entered and stood to remind us of what took place that first Christmas.

The entire program was filled with songs and pieces that pointed to Jesus and told of His love for the whole world. What an awesome privilege God gave us to celebrate the Christmas story with those who came out. We love to thank God for the good things He has done for us. He alone is worthy!



December 31, New Year's Eve service began at 8:30 p.m. Closing out the old year and welcoming in a New Year filled with God's promises, always makes for a time of celebration. We enjoyed fun, food and a great time of fellowship. It was also a time of worship and prayer. We give God all the glory for a perfect setting to allow Jesus to help us to prayerfully look to the Hope of the Ages as 2017 made its entrance. Love, hope and joy filled our hearts and we anticipate following God's direction in the New Year!

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we are already almost a month into 2017. We are so thankful for all of God's blessings in 2016 and look forward to God's purpose and plans for 2017. One thing we know is always true, *“The Lord preserveth the faithful” Psalms 31:23* and our desire is to be faithful. The Spirit of the Lord has been moving in our midst and we thank God that hearts were stirred. We are looking forward to all God has in store as we continue to “earnestly contend for the faith.” We pray to be a beacon of light and pursue our mission of delivering the unchanging Word of God to a world that desperately needs Jesus. May God richly bless you in this New Year!

Langley *“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful.”* As we entered the year 2017 we certainly can look back at 2016 and say the Lord has blessed us.

During our Thanksgiving Sunday, we enjoyed the presence of the Lord in our morning worship service followed by a traditional dinner with all the trimmings one would desire. Having brethren from the United States join with us made it more special. We are counting our blessings and so thankful for each one!

During the fall, we started our youth meetings which are being held once per month. The children have shown great enthusiasm. The young people have expressed an excitement in waiting for the next time we get together. Please pray for the youth, not just in Langley but through all of our churches that they grow in number and in their walks with God. They are the future church.

The winter here has been one that doesn't come all that frequent in that more snow has fallen than previous years. Unfortunately, it has resulted in having to cancel some services but praise the Lord it did not hinder us from having our Christmas program entitled, "A Shepherd's Story."



It was wonderful to see such a number that came from the surrounding area to join with us in celebrating our Saviour's birth. There were first time visitors and several returnees. All in all with the Lord's help the youth of this church did a superb job in representing the church and giving glory to God.

Following the program, we enjoyed a time of snacks and refreshments, many of our visitors remained to mingle with the congregation. Our prayer is that the Lord will speak to those hearts that are not saved and add to His church daily such as should be saved.

The weather did become an obstacle to our New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services. Travelling was challenging and many folks were unable to attend the former and the latter had to be cancelled. Despite not being able to assemble together on New Year's Day, we

savored all the more our first meeting of 2017 and together know that this New Year will be one of great blessings from the Lord.

We are living in expectation of souls being saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. Let's join in prayer and believe together!

Upcoming Events 2017

Easter Special Meetings

Guest Speaker: Rev. Darrel Lee
Roddickton, NL
April 13 – April 16

Portland Camp Meeting

Portland, OR
July 2 – July 16

Youth Camp

Roddickton, NL
July 17 – 21

Midwest Camp Meeting

Fredericktown, MO
August 1 – August 7

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