Greetings from the Headquarters church at Roddickton! We give the glory and praise to God for His many wonderful blessing. His love and faithfulness is ever new. From the rising of the sun until the going down thereof, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

On Saturday, February 16, a Valentine's supper was held at our Fellowship Centre which included all adults from our church, singles and couples alike for a fun celebration of love. Following a delicious potluck supper, there were games, door prizes, stories and a great time of fellowship. It made for a fun and entertaining evening. Of course it involved music and special songs about God's wonderful love, which drew us together in the bond of love. On the lines of bonding, one of the fun highlights of the evening was a contest between couples working as a team to wrap a gift. Two of their hands were bound together and only one hand per person was used to wrap. They were then judged to see who had the most neatly wrapped gift. Each couple got to take home the gift that they wrapped, so everybody won! Ecclesiastes 4:9 “Two are better than one; because they have good reward for their labour.”

Sunday school Open House

February had a love theme running throughout the entire month, here at the Roddickton Church. On Sunday, February 24, our Sunday school, together

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For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come...

Song of Solomon 2:11-12
with all the invited family and friends walked into a beautifully decorated church auditorium while music selections about the love of God were being played. It was an open house session held during our Sunday school time. An invitation had been sent home via the students on the Sunday prior so it was exciting to see so many come along to share in this celebration of love. The event had been scheduled but postponed earlier in the month due to inclement weather. Surely the timing must have been right however, as there was a good attendance, including visitors, and even some family members from out of province. Our Sunday school students performed songs about God's love that had been rehearsed in Sunday school. All of the participants did an amazing job! Some of the activities included a Bible drill with verses on love, and there was even crowning of a prince/princess from the primary, junior/senior departments as well as a king/queen from the adults. They received a gift to take home! The names were drawn, as it would have been hard to decide on who to pick for this. We love and appreciate all of our Sunday school. Everybody in attendance was invited to the basement for refreshments afterwards to enjoy homemade goodies and other treats that had been prepared by the teachers and department heads. It made for an opportunity for the teachers to interact with the parents and others in a casual, relaxed atmosphere. We shared with them some happenings from our Sunday school. Everyone really enjoyed it! God’s amazing love is so big!

On Good Friday, April 19, a combined service was held at Englee and what a wonderful beginning to our special services for Easter! It was already evident that we were in store for a weekend of blessings from the Lord. The sweet Holy Spirit was in our midst from the start. It was a blustery, cold night but we were so happy the service wasn’t cancelled. We would have missed a great blessing. The singing, testimonies and the precious Word of God were touched by the warmth of His Holy presence.

The sermon was presented by Rev. Rene Cassell, using Matt. 27:35 as his text. He gave a detailed account of the suffering of our Saviour. Even Pilate scourged Him before He handed Him over to the crowd – to torment and crucify Him. He was spit upon, mocked and humiliated. However, the nails and cords did not keep Jesus on the cross, He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set Him free. It was obedience (St. John 10:18, Is. 53) and love (John 3:16) that kept Him on the Cross.

On Easter Sunday morning, April 21, we held a combined service at Bide Arm for the commemorating of the Lord’s Supper and washing of the saints’ feet. It is difficult to describe how special this service was. Each one of the testimonies given were extra-ordinary and spoke of some specific healing or miracle.

- A young lady, Sherri-lee Adams, told of the great experience of salvation her teenage son, Jaden, received at the Good Friday service. His parents are overjoyed in the change that has taken place in their son’s heart and life. She told how different he is since, how he even wanted his room ‘cleaned up’ because he felt such a change and clean feeling in his heart. She also told of the different ways God has supplied their family’s needs when it just didn’t seem any way out for them. They have had many difficulties and trials come their way in the last couple years but God has been working everything out.
- Their daughter, Hannah, also gave her testimony of how, when her dad was in the hospital so very sick she received a sign from
God that He was watching over him and he was going to be alright.

- Eddie Filler told of a healing he received on Easter Sunday in 1997. While in the hospital suffering with heart trouble, early in the morning just before the break of dawn he slipped out of his bed, got down on his knees and spent some time in prayer. He got back into bed and while sleeping he saw a fruit tree loaded with fruit. He picked a fruit and put it in his mouth and as he swallowed he felt the healing virtue of our risen Saviour touch his heart. The next day the doctors did several tests and said there was not even a scar to be found. He had been completely healed.

- Vernetta Brown told of her battle with cancer and how God has brought her through when she felt she was not going to make it.

- Mae Blanchard told of her healing that took place on an Easter Sunday morning. She suffered with terrible migraines but God performed a miracle of healing and delivered her from them.

- Phyllis Patey, a new convert, testified of how the Lord healed her completely from anxiety attacks at the same time she gave her heart to Him.

Rev. Christopher Hewlett preached using John 19:38-40 as his text. It was a powerful, anointed message as he described the thrill of the Resurrecting power of God! Our Saviour had the power to lay down His life, and to take up His life again after being in the grave three days. They did not take His life but rather He willingly gave it up to fulfill the Father’s plan. We can be excited too, because this is also our hope and joy.

Pastor Howard Canning presented the message on Feet Washing. He used John 13:4-15 as his text. Many take this account as merely a lesson that Jesus taught on love and humility. So it is, but it is also much more than that. Jesus soundly expressed that it was an example for His disciples to follow, meaning us as well. He gave us a pattern exactly how to perform this ordinance, and told us to do even as He did to them. “Happy are we if we do it.” What a blessing we receive as we follow the example given by our Lord. The love of God is the key element in being able to perform this act of obedience.

A combined service at Roddickton concluded our weekend of Easter meetings. The choir opened with the song, “It is Finished.” What a wondrous work of redemption completed at Calvary. The plan of salvation was in place for the generations that would follow. Beautiful singing, testimonies of victory and an inspired message from the Word of God was given by Pastor Michael Ivany. He used James 1:21 and Mark 5:27 for his topic, “Application.” He described in detail some things we hear about that works so well but unless we apply it, we will never receive the end result wished for. We must not only have a knowledge of salvation and what a great work can be accomplished in our lives but the Blood of Jesus must be applied in order for us to receive the benefits.

May 12, we had a Family Morning Service dedicated to our mothers. Beautiful singing, tributes and messages gave praises to mothers to let them know how much they are appreciated for all they do. It is a known fact that mothers play a very important role in helping to shape the character and teach morals and principles of living in a child’s heart. What an awesome responsibility it is for mothers to be the example that God would like them to be. Proverbs 31.
A presentation was made to the oldest and youngest mother. The traditional presentation of the red and white roses also took place. At the end of the service a rose was given to all ladies present.

Englee

God has been so good to me, is a chorus we sometimes sing. Here at the Englee church we can surely attest to those words. Our services and prayer meetings are uplifting times for the saints.

1 Kings 8:10-11 “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.” Many times we experience this same presence of the Lord in the sanctuary. So much so that sometimes the ministers cannot stand to minister. These are awesome times indeed. One of our seniors made a comment in his testimony saying, over sixty years ago he was in meetings just like today’s services. We are truly enjoying this old-time religion.

Mother’s Day morning’s service was dedicated to our moms. The Sunday school junior department, along with others, paid tribute to those special people in our lives we know as mother. Individual presentations were given along with a time to present red roses to mothers in the audience from their children. As the congregation sang “Precious Memories” those whose mother had passed on were given the opportunity to place a white rose on the Bible. The Sunday school group performed in song, recitals and readings. The congregation was also treated to special singing. One of our Sunday school girls did a beautiful rendition of, “You Raise Me Up.” Another awesome solo was given by our pianist entitled, “Medals for Mothers.” There were congregational numbers as well.

In his comments, Pastor Michael encouraged the mothers that the best thing that they can give their children is to teach them about Jesus. Before the closing prayer each mom in the congregation was given a gift.

Some of our folks are battling cancer and others very ill as well. We ask you all to help us pray that God will bind the power of cancer and cast it from us. We are holding on in hope and faith that the answer is on the way. As another summer approaches we pray that you will have a safe and happy one. God bless.

South Brook

Winter time may be long and cold in Newfoundland but it doesn’t damper our spirits when we enter the house of the Lord to worship Him. Winter symbolizes death but spring brings a fresh start when everything is changing and promising new life and new hope. Trees, plants and grass begin to turn green and start emerging from the ground. During Easter we celebrate Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and the Resurrection from the grave, giving new life to all those who respond to His call.

John 5:21 “For as the father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”
On Palm Sunday we were privileged to have one of our retired Pastors, Pastor Grant Cassell and his wife, Joan, from Englee to visit us. He presented the Word in the evening service taking his text from Ephesians 6:10-14. “...Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness.” We thank God for the truth which we still hear preached in our modern world.

Easter Sunday morning we had our ordinance service. Pastor George brought forth the word of God, using John 20:7 as a starting point. “And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped in a place by itself.” He brought out the point that His work was not finished, Jesus still had work to do before He descended to His father. After supper was ended the ordinance of the washing of the saints’ feet was observed. Jesus said, “Happy are ye if ye do these things.”

Following Sunday school in the afternoon, Anetta Fifield had baskets of fruit prepared for the children to deliver to the seniors of the town. It was a blessing to see the smiles of joy as each one received the gift. When we bring a smile to the face of another, it helps to create a world where we care about each other and can help brighten someone’s day. Luke 6:38 “Give and it shall be given unto you.” To God be given all glory and praise.

Birchy Bay

Praise God for His faithfulness! Our hearts overflow with the goodness of God every day. As we look around and see the beauties of spring with its warmth and promise of new life our hearts also bud with great expectations from our Lord. Winter passed us by quickly as we worked busily for God. Brother Claude had surgery this winter and was unable to attend church for several weeks. He says in his testimony, “When the church doors are open I want to be there.” So on February 3, we took church to him. We gathered at bro. Claude’s and sister Verbena’s home for a time of worship. It was wonderful service.

We hold services on a monthly basis with the residents of the Twillingate Manor but the service on February 10, was truly a highlighted one. It was so sweet to see the Spirit of the Lord touching the hearts and lives of the seniors.

February 17, Travis, Alva and their son, Colin, visited us from Roddickton. It is always a blessing when the brethren stop in for a weekend. Travis and Alva helped with the music during the services. Colin treated us to a musical prelude on the accordion, “Just a touch of the Master’s hand.” What a blessing to see our youth using their talent for the Lord.

On March 3, Rev. Christopher Hewlett and his wife, Patsy, visited us for services. Saints living in Grand Falls joined us as well. We had a wonderful time together. The services were filled with the presence of God. Pastor Chris blessed us with two uplifting messages from the Word of God, “Love in Action” and “The Return of Christ.” Our souls were fed during Sunday meetings and later we gathered at the parsonage to feed our natural bodies. We had a great time of fellowship, catching up and encouraging each other.

During our Easter services we were blessed. When we visit the seniors we are blessed, and blessed at our ladies fellowship nights. The chorus says, “I am blessed.” We praise our Heavenly Father for His blessings upon His church here in Birchy Bay as we await greater things to come.
While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. Genesis 8:22.

Spring has arrived, a season of warmer weather and nature coming back to life. As Christians, we are given new life and new mercies every morning, and the Psalmist likens us to a tree planted by the rivers of waters that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Thus far in this year God has answered prayer for us. On January 20, in our Sunday evening service after the message had been preached and an invitation song been sung, a gentleman was led by his sister and brother-in-law to an altar of prayer. It was a beautiful picture to see a sinner coming down the aisle to be saved. It brought much rejoicing in the house of the Lord.

On February 4, we visited an unsaved man diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. The Pastor read selected scriptures to him and before praying with him, asked him if he wanted to be saved. He cried out at that moment in tears and said, “I don’t know how to pray.” With encouragement he began to pray and we knew the moment the Spirit of God gave him the witness that he was saved. To God be the glory! He passed away on February 13, his funeral service being officiated by Pastor Kirby. It was so much easier knowing he had made his peace with God.

On April 7, a lady came from Ottawa to visit a family member for the weekend. Sunday morning she wanted to attend church. Her daughter and grandson came with her. From the moment she entered the church the Spirit of God dealt with her and she couldn’t hold back the tears. It was with encouragement of the saints that she came forward and gave her heart to the Lord. Later she witnessed to how peaceful and calm she felt. It was a time of great rejoicing.

On Good Friday we held our ordinance service, the Lord’s Supper and Feet Washing. We are so thankful for those who had a desire to be obedient to the Lord’s commands. It was during the foot washing ceremony that two of our sisters received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. One of those sisters came to the service with a swollen lump on her foot. The great physician instantly healed her. The Spirit of God moved wonderfully in our midst and everyone left being encouraged.

The Easter season came to an exciting close as the church celebrated and declared that “JESUS SAVES!” This being the theme of our Easter Singspiration, our evening opened with the young adult choir singing, “Jesus Saves,” introduced with a violin/piano prelude by Tula, pianist, Lena Gillingham, and lead vocalist, Myles Hancock. This was followed with the song, “Got Saved” by Chad Thompson. We were thrilled to hear our children and youth as their praises rang out “I Believe” and yes, this group of children truly do BELIEVE. They always bless our hearts with how they sing with such great passion.

Our combined choir sang, “Jesus Saved Me” including both adult choirs and the children’s choir with some of our youth, Hogan and Dawson Randell accompanying on the acoustic and bass guitars. Also, a well-known hymn, “Since Jesus Came into my Heart,” was sung as a congregational. To add a special touch to this hymn some of the Sunday school children came to the platform to lead out the verses. Later the men sang “Three Rusty Nails” complimented with a reading of how it might have been from the perspective of a little boy if he had been the one to sell the three nails to the soldiers who nailed Jesus to the cross. We were able to put ourselves in the position of this little boy and as the listeners we were reminded of the great price our Lord and Saviour paid for the sins of the world that we might receive salvation. The Spirit of God was faithful as we closed with the song, “Just as I am/I Come Broken.” We could sense the Spirit resting upon us and knew that souls were being dealt with.
It is our prayer that those who came out to witness this hour of special singing were blessed to have been there. We pray that souls will know that our Saviour still lives today and that He still saves and changes lives. Thank God for another Easter season where we could ring this message loud and clear to all that might hear.

“Mom, the Heart of the Family” was the theme of our Mother’s Day program. The Sunday school children opened up with, “I see Jesus in you.” It went on to say “I wanna follow Jesus because I see Him in you.” It’s important for our children to see those spiritual qualities in our mothers and to strive for that same faith in their lives. Each class displayed their own love for their mothers and how their mothers have shaped them into the people they are becoming today. They each have been showing the amazing selfless love that exudes from their mother. Jaxon Hancock got up to pay tribute to his mom and how over the last year and half her shoulders have been his strength to lean on when he has been so weak. A mother’s love is like no other and she will give the world for her children. A duet was brought forth as those who have lost their mother laid a white rose on the Bible in remembrance of her. A mother’s love is truly a blessing and something to be thankful for each day. The program ended with the song, “More Than Enough.” Our mothers go out of their way to care for their children just like our Heavenly Father cares for us. God bless our mothers and may we remember to cherish each moment we have with them while they are living.

Let’s keep before the Lord in prayer. We are expecting great things to happen!

Toronto

When we think about God’s goodness, there is just too many to mention. But one thing in particular we can thank Him for is the salvation He offers to all who would trust and believe Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, February 24, Pastor James Olatunji, who was visiting his daughter, preached the Word of God in his native Nigerian language, Yoruba. Tobi helped interpret his sermon for the benefit of those who do not speak nor understand the language. He took his text from Psalm 32:1-11, 1:1-2, 3, and 4. He spoke about “Living a Holy Life,” that if we want to make Heaven we have to live above sin. He shared his experience of being converted from an unbelieving young man who persecuted Christians, to a devoted follower of Christ. He encouraged us to follow God and let Him be the center of our lives.

The first of the 2019 Youth Focus event took place on the 6th of April at our church location in Toronto. It was attended by approximately fifty people comprising of regular attendees of the church and other guests. Young folks who had gone to university in Ottawa took the time to travel down to be part of the program. They also brought a friend. It was such a delight to see the commitment and desire of these young ones to participate in this event. We pray God will bless their commitment.

The event started around 2:00 PM with an informal meet and greet session, an opportunity for participants to interact with one another, do some singing and an opening prayer was done by sis. Norma. After a brief introduction, our guest speaker, bro. Tony Ademuyiwa, the music leader from our Anthony Village congregation, who happened to be vacationing in Canada, shared from his wealth of knowledge and experiences in the gospel. He titled his presentation “Be a leader, Be successful.” “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows
the way,” a quote from the John C. Maxwell. A review of leadership qualities using numerous Bible texts was the foundation of his presentation. Some of the leadership qualities he encouraged the audience to emulate included: integrity, humility and meekness, (Numbers 12:3; Exodus 3:11) honesty and discipline, good communication and decision making with total dependence on God for guidance, empowerment and delegation (Exodus 17:8-16; 18:19-26). An additional quality he spoke about was the importance of accountability. He related the Bible account in Exodus 32:7, the story of Israel’s backsliding when Moses was with God to collect the law. He used a quote from Arnold H. Glasow, “A good leader takes little more than his share of the blame and little less than his share of the credit” to drive the point of accountability.

He wrapped up his session by challenging the audience to practice what they have learned – turn their knowledge into practice. That charge was supported with a quote from John 13:17.

Our second presenter, Rev. Sola Adesope, the pastor of our work in Pullman, Washington State, gave a marriage seminar and also tapped into his professional domain to provide some career and academic guidance to our youth.

The presentation pulled from numerous Bible text on marriage - Genesis 2:18, 22–24; Matthew 19:3-6; Ephesians 5:22-32; 1 Peter 3:1–7. He was very practical in his presentation approach, providing visuals to illustrate some of his comments. He stated that marriage is a contract before both God and man. He showed the youth a picture of a marriage contract and the marriage certificate.

Winnipeg

Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of God shall still my heart and tongue employ - George Thomas Smart

Our praise soars to God Almighty for another season, and a time of refreshing from the Lord.

These praises stem from Acts 2:47 “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Since the last quarter of 2018, more and more members have been added to the church and this addition has also given a good problem in that the present place of worship is over filled to capacity.

The services and prayer meetings have been Spirit filled with the presence of God having control.

Music Department

We are blessed with additional choir members with the majority of them playing their musical instruments during our services. How thankful we are for these dedicated men and women. Music is an integral part of our services and we thank God for it.

Sunday school

The increase in members has also given us growth in our Sunday school. The beginner and primary classes thrill us with their memory verse recitation and singing as part of the Sunday school openings. They sing with such an amazing enthusiasm.

Nigerian visitors

Recently, we were privileged to have a few of our parents visiting from Nigeria and they are delighted with the program of the gospel work in Winnipeg. They are a great source of encouragement to our young congregation.

Easter Program

This Spring, in appreciation to God for the risen Saviour, the choir and orchestra held an evening of
music captioned: “He is Risen.” Among the songs rendered were: *He is Risen, Christ is Risen Today*, by G.F. Handel, from Salem’s pain, *Lead me to Calvary, The Holy City* and other melodious tunes.

The second part was mostly sing along. Testimonies of victory were incorporated in between.

The program was wrapped up with a short sermon by Brother Samson Jimaza who referenced 1 Corinthians 15:19-20, emphasizing that the hope of humanity is dependent on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The congregation prayed before the delicious dinner which followed, hosted by the members of the church. A total of hundred were in attendance.

**Mother’s Day**

May 12, we celebrated our mothers. The occasion was very special as grandmothers and mothers were acknowledged. The men sang, “Faith of our Mothers” and Sister Dorcas Oyeniyi brought the message encouraging the parents to be Christian examples in their homes while taking her Bible references from Proverbs 31.

Afterwards, the men treated the women to a sumptuous meal prepared by themselves in appreciation to the mothers. It was a great time of fellowship.

Conclusively, we solicit your prayers as we are in need of more space and convenient place of worship that the good Lord will do it. We look forward to a wonderful summer to make exploits for the Lord.

**Langley**

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

We certainly are a blessed people! When we look around and see all that God has done for us, we have a resounding shout of PRAISE THE LORD!

God has been faithful to our congregation through another winter season and into spring. We have been experiencing the presence of the Lord and have claimed many answers to prayer. We have been strengthened and drawn closer to God and one another through the bond of prayer.

We are particularly thankful for the way God has been blessing three initiatives that our branch has had the privilege to undertake.

- **Monthly Sunday young people’s meeting** – This has been a time of spiritual growth demonstrated right before our very eyes. Many young congregants are taking on responsibilities in the House of God, such as ushering, directing music and presenting an object lesson from the Word of God. This thrills our hearts to watch the church of tomorrow in action.

- **Ladies Group** – The women of our church get together approximately once a month on a Saturday to enjoy fellowship, activity and food.

- **Combined Services with the Seattle congregation.** Langley hosted the Seattle saints in the fall of last year. The Langley saints visited Seattle on May 5. Both services were tremendously blessed with great music, preaching and fellowship in the Lord. We intend on having two such meetings a year going forward, should Jesus tarry.
There is so much more that could be written to give glory to our great God, however, space on this newsletter would not suffice to let us proclaim in totality what God is doing. If you want to see what God is doing in Langley, then please join us for our special meetings from September 18 - 22, 2019. You do not want to miss it!

Calgary

The last four months have been a period of spiritual growth and renewal in the Calgary church, with God adding to our numbers. A family from Australia was recently added to the church and has been a blessing to both the Sunday school and music ministry. We also had the privilege of having a service of testimony at one of our meetings; our brethren in attendance testified of the goodness and blessings of God upon their family and their jobs.

In the month of April, we had an opportunity to host the annual Easter concert to commemorate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Among the songs rendered were “The Trumpet shall sound,” and “The Resurrection Morn.” An African medley, titled “Mee ya” (meaning crown Him) featured our choir singing praises to the Lord in their local African languages. We had the honor of having bro. Tony Ademuyiwa, one of the music leaders from WECA Headquarters, as music director for the concert. Friends, families and other Calgarians came to experience the thrill of the Easter celebration as the true meaning of the season was reiterated through songs and orchestration. There were over 120 attendees. The children performed songs and Bible recitation centered on the resurrection “He is risen, He is not here, come see the place where they laid Him” was one of the recitals by the children as they reminded us of the resurrected Saviour.

God has been gracious to us by adding a total of three babies to the church in the last month. We pray and look forward to them growing in the Lord.

We are assured of His resurrection power at work in our lives and continue to rely on His unending grace and mercies in the coming months.

Edmonton

Easter is always a blessed season that reminds us all about God’s love to the world in sending His only begotten Son to pay the price for our redemption. At the Apostolic Faith Church, Edmonton, we are glad to celebrate this wonderful love of God through music. Our brethren from Calgary came over to Edmonton to praise God with us. We were also blessed with the presence of Brother Tony Ademuyiwa from Nigeria. He directed the choir during some of the choir rehearsals that preceded the concert.

On Palm Sunday, our Sunday school lesson was on the Lord’s Supper/Foot Washing. Brother Sanjo Fasola presented the Word of the Lord in the morning devotional service. We were reminded of the need to have a culture of forgiveness. Jesus showed us a good example of forgiveness when He prayed for those who nailed Him to the cross. “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
On the evening of Palm Sunday, we had an Easter music concert. Some of the renditions in the concert included: “The Trumpet shall Sound” (GF. Handel) “God so Loved the World” Matt Crocker and Marty Sampson, “Resurrection Morn” William J. Gaither, “Exceeding Glad shall He Be” GF Handel, “Hosanna to Jesus” Rev. J.H. Martin/C.C. Pratt, etc.

A children’s program was featured at the interval period of the music concert. The children sang various inspiring songs and recited Bible verses on Easter messages. It was indeed a blessed evening of music. We were happy to see a good turnout for the concert.

On Easter Sunday, many of the brethren from Edmonton church travelled to Calgary to worship God and celebrate Easter season together. We had a blessed time at the Easter music concert in the evening of Easter Sunday in Calgary. We are looking forward to a time that we will all be with Jesus Christ our Redeemer in glory land, where we will forever sing praises to the Lord God our maker.

**Fort McMurray**

What a joy it is to send greetings and to rejoice together in the goodness of God. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing of birds is come… Solomon 2:12. We welcome spring. It is such a vivid reminder that our God reigns. Signs of new life are refreshing indeed, truly the handiwork of the Lord. April month in Fort McMurray was a month of prayer for the saints. In 2016 God laid a burden on our hearts to have daily prayer for the thirty days of April. We were encouraged to seek God for our church family and our city at the time. We experienced the sweet presence of the Lord. Our all-knowing Father was preparing us for an unknown event. May 3, 2016 our city rapidly became a burning inferno. No doubt the experience is deeply etched in our memory, but more deeply etched in our hearts is gratitude and praise to our God who brought us to safety that day. The anniversary of the fire gives us the privilege as a church family to remember God’s tender loving mercies. Once again on May 3 we had an opportunity to have supper together and remember God’s goodness to us. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and good food but most of all to celebrate that God brought us to safety and continues to bless His children. Our month of prayer provided the opportunity to draw near to God during the days leading up to Easter. Prayer prepared our hearts to celebrate the depth of Christ’s love revealed to us from the old rugged cross.

Palm Sunday, we enjoyed a wonderful celebration and praise service with our Sunday school. The object lesson told the account of that first Palm Sunday. We drew particular attention to the part the children had in that celebration and how important it is today for children to sing and shout, “Hosanna to the King.” God still wants children to praise Him. Waving palm branches and singing the chorus, ‘Sing Hosanna’ became a praise that touched our hearts. The presence of the Lord moved among us. Each one was given a rock to be reminded that every day is a day to praise God. We concluded the Sunday school session...
with “Get all Excited, Go Tell Everybody That Jesus Christ is King.” That is our mission and we want to be faithful.

The evening service was set apart for the Lord’s supper and feet washing. We know the significance of this important ordinance but how important it is to focus on what Christ’s sacrifice means for us. The beautiful songs that were sung and the Word of God drew us into the presence of the Lord. Another wonderful family time where God’s Spirit strengthened the bond renewed and refreshed! Again God confirmed, “If ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them.”

Easter Sunday began with a sunrise prayer meeting. How thankful we are that although the resurrection was over two thousand years ago we still feel that power. We were blessed to celebrate with God’s children and remember the sacrifice of our Savior and insurmountable love He bestowed on us then and now. That love is imbedded in our hearts. Nothing compares to the price Jesus paid for us. If it were not for Christ’s willing death, we would still be dead in sins. If not for His resurrection, we would have no hope of eternal life. With grateful hearts we rejoice and give thanks to God for such wondrous love. What life-changing news! Jesus died for sinners, He rose again, He lives today and He’s coming back.

We thank God for the household of faith and pray He will richly bless you. We covet your prayers that God will help is in this part of His vineyard to share the love of Jesus to a broken and lost world.