

Helping to Establish, Equip & Encourage the next generation of Canadian Church Planters, Pastors & Missionaries

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THIESSEN**



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Unexpected Changes & Challenges

This letter is a few weeks later than originally planned for a couple of good reasons.

First, as we were concluding the week of Candidate Training at the BMFP home office, I received a call from my sister informing me that my mom had suffered a stroke and was in ICU. I headed home early the next morning not knowing how serious her condition was. Thankfully, they did catch it quickly and within 6 hours of the onset of symptoms had run a catscan revealing a blood clot in her brain which they were able to successfully remove.

Mom spent the next month in rehab and is now back home with us. She suffered no paralysis, but is now on blood thinners and as a result stairs are no longer an option for her. So two weeks ago we played "musical bedrooms" as we moved Mom up to our master suite, Cindy and I to a smaller bedroom on the main floor, and our son to the basement.

Secondly, on July 5, I awoke to a hypertensive crisis. My blood pressure was 227 over 121. I spent 6 hours in emergency where they put me on medication before running several tests and releasing me. The last month has been full of appointments and testing for both my mother and I. I have received good results on most fronts. My blood pressure is also in a good place thanks to the meds. However, the ECG revealed that I have a dilated aorta and my specialist is sending me to a vascular surgeon for a consultation. This does not necessarily mean surgery, but they want to rule out an aortic aneurysm.

Through all of this I have experienced an extraordinary calm, knowing that I am in God's capable hands and He inhabits all my tomorrows!

Report on Recent & Upcoming Opportunities

Summer is slower for meetings but I have had the opportunity to fill pulpits for churches in southern Ontario for several Sundays in August. Our schedule gets busier in September and October with several missions conferences and a revival meeting in western Canada. I will also be traveling to North Carolina for our Field Administrator's meeting and a church planting meeting at the home office of Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples.

Prospects for Canadian Missionaries & Church Planters

Over the course of the last several weeks the Lord has connected me with several men who are interested in planting churches in Canada, and others who are considering the foreign mission field. All of these are great prospects for BMFP. Pray that my ongoing conversations with these men and their pastors would be productive.

As you are also aware of, I have been working with a church on the east side of the Greater Toronto Area in keeping the pulpit supplied with preachers and assisting in their search for a pastor. It's now been thirteen months and still no pastor to announce. I have been working on a possible solution but there are obstacles to overcome. I had told this church from the beginning that I could not guarantee we will find a pastor, but I gave them my commitment to stay with it until we find a resolution. Please pray that we will find that soon.

Prayer Prompts

Thank you for your ongoing prayers in our behalf! Here are a few of our ongoing prayer concerns.

- Joel continues to work on his driver training and applying for work. Pray that God will open a good employment opportunity for him this fall.
 - Pray for Cindy as she has plenty of responsibility on her plate. Assisting in caring for Mom, ministry involvement at our local church, and employment to help meet our financial needs.
 - Pray for my next door neighbour, Jerry. I have shared my faith with him and he is open. Pray that the Lord will provide me another opportunity to speak with him soon.
 - Pray for the health needs of my mother, Margaret.
 - Pray that I will hear from the vascular surgeon soon, and either alleviate the concern, or have God's sufficient grace to proceed with surgery.
- Never stop praying for the next generation of labourers (Matthew 9:38). We desperately need them here in Canada and around the world.

By His Grace & for His Glory,

Brian & Cindy Thiesen

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