

“Northwestern Ontario News”

Update and Prayer Letter from the Rasmussens, your missionaries to NW Ontario

In Everything give thanks for this is the will of God. . .

June 2019

We have been blessed:

1. God's protection during forest fires.
2. The safe arrival of the new pastor and family.
3. Great attendance at the mission and Safe Zone.
4. Opportunities to influence kids for Jesus
5. Tax issue resolved

We ask prayer for:

1. Kids Barbecue on June 22.
2. Special Service to welcome the new Pastor to community, June 23.
3. VBS July 22-26
4. Citizenship process
5. Deb's MRI, June 25

Thank you for your prayers! Fire season is upon us! Thursday, June 6, around 3:15pm, a fire started just on the outside of the town near the cemetery. Because of our dry conditions, it grew extremely fast. As a result, three kids from safe zone were trapped in town and stayed with us until after 9. Before long, it threatened the first house into town that belongs to friends. We saw God's control over the directions of this fire. While being held back, it jumped across the road and headed southeast toward a large garage. With a slight change in wind it went around the garage, crossed another road and headed south, leaving the radio station and all buildings intact. It was a time of uncertainty and anxiety for many in town as our only road was cut off by fire. Evacuation by air was weighing in the balance. Five water bombers flew endlessly over our home and back to the fire. Friday and Saturday, ground crew began their assault on the outskirts of fires and hotspots, which is still labeled, "out of control". Throughout all this the town/service personnel have done a great job, of which our youngest, Deborah, is part. We have loads of MNR people here with mobile units, tents spread over the hillside and the constant rumble of air traffic. We help where we can with food to our own local firefighters or a place to stay if needed.



Your prayers are needed! These past two weeks have been packed with unusual activity but great opportunity. Saturday, May 25, Pastor Moore and his family arrived in Pickle Lake. Monday, May 27, was Mel Coles (52) memorial service. He was

the Constable on the reserve and a neighbor of ours. Pastor Moore visited Mel the day before he died and we felt vital that he was here. There was great opportunity to talk with people and meet others from the reserve.



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Tuesday, May 28, there was a funeral for Eric Dalzell (55), the fire Chief and head of EMS (ambulance). This was probably one of the most difficult funerals we have attended. Lots of dressed Fire/Ems personnel standing along the walls. The Gospel was clear and the challenge given. The most difficult part was the "last Call" when dispatch calls for Eric by his code number and there's no answer. There were tears and then the words, "rest Eric, we'll take it from here."



Then, on Wednesday, May 29, we received a call from the reserve about a need for Bob to conduct a funeral for a young boy (2) who was died after a bed fell over on him. They asked for a service on Wednesday and then the funeral on Thursday. So, Bob and I went down on Wednesday. This was terribly difficult for the parents. On Thursday, May 30, we held the funeral for the young boy. Pastor Moore, his wife and one of their teen girls came with us. Each funeral has a meal in which we were invited. This was quite a week for a new pastor to arrive. I guess you could call it "an initiation". Then, one of our church member's father passed away. But this funeral was out of town on Friday and didn't involve us. Yet, it effects our church. At the same time, a young man in our church found out that his estranged dad was dying and he needed to go talk with him about the Lord. On the way back they hit a deer and totaled his mother's car (she was driving). He went out for a week of training and then found out his dad passed away Monday, June 10.

Tuesday, June 4, we loaned our car to our new pastor so he and his oldest son could get to the airport to fly back to Toronto area to finished their home and bring back things that couldn't fit in the truck. They will be gone for about 10 days, so Bob will be filling the pulpit for another 4 services. Then, of course, the fire started. It's been a crazy two weeks and it's not over yet. **Keep us in your prayers!**

This will be our last week for Safe Zone since school will be getting out next week. But the kids want to stop in from time to time. It's so wonderful to see the relationships blossom. The mission services are also well attended. We are still praying for a breakthrough before it's too late for them.

We are so blessed this week to have 5 men come up from Woodcrest Baptist Church to cut wood and possibly do a few projects that we are not able to do. Please pray for protection and God's blessing on them.