

GRACE CHURCH

NEWS



By Grace for Grace!

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- **Pastor Don**
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Brian Thordarson Answers the a Big Question. (Part 3)

How did a Ukrainian Catholic Church become an Evangelical Church?

On Sunday November 23, 2008 there was a unanimous vote that we at Grace Church would buy, and renovate this beautiful house of worship. I was so excited that I had a slight heart attack and ended up in the hospital. While I was there I received a phone call from 'Don' who wished me well and that the Bishop and his entire staff were praying for me. I recovered.

Don came to Thunder Bay, and around the banquet table he gave the keys to our pastor (Don Gillett) and a sacred icon from the Bishop (Image Left). He also gave us his testimony how Jesus changed his life. He truly was a man of God.

Renovation started on February 27 of 2009.

There were walls to be removed, stairs to be added, handicap washroom to be constructed to meet the new codes and an elevator to be installed plus everything had to be painted at least 3 coats to cover up the angels, gold, pillars and vines plus new tiles and carpets. Oh yes the broom closet would be the tunnel into the office building the former residence of the priest and his family. This building had a major renovation also. What I thought an impossible task, God came through again and again. On Father's Day June 21, 2009 we had our first worship service under the chandelier and scaffolding draped with paint tarps and the smell of construction. We sang our theme song "To God be the Glory".

3 years later on Father's Day we celebrated the burning of the mortgage and of course we sang "To God be the Glory". This was truly God's will.

Amen



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Check out our website:
gracechurchthunderbay.com
to keep informed or to
view our sermons for
Grace and Dorion
Churches.

Our email address:
gefc@tbaytel.net

Offerings and tithes can
be given to the church via
e-transfer to
GraceEFC@tbaytel.net or
by dropping them off at
the office or sending
them by mail.



Last week was hard; hard because I love to share.

I love to share all kinds of things: songs, stories, ideas, food, news and even new places that I've discovered along the way.

I often shared songs with our son, Andrew, and he with me.

When we learned a new song at DBF last week, I wanted to share it with Andrew. Why? Because it was a song that described his way of thinking and living. He would have loved it as I do.

The hard part was not being able to share it as Andrew is living in the fulfillment of his faith; living with Jesus. It's what he longed for. It's what he lived for.

A profound sense of loss can often cloud our joy in the knowledge that someone we deeply love is living in heaven without the trials, pains and uncertainties of this world.

This certain knowledge is based on the many promises of the Bible, affirming the reality of heaven and the confidence of living there eternally.

2 Corinthians 5:8 "Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord."

Ah, there's the wonderful word – "home".

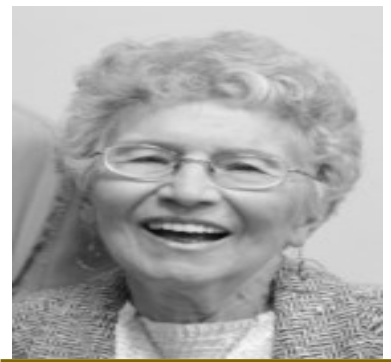
"Where's Andrew?" - "O, he's at home."

"How's he feeling?" - "Just fine, thank-you; never better."

"What's he up to these days?" - "Anything he wants."

I still want to share that song with him but that will have to wait.

P.S. The song is: Christ Is Mine Forevermore by CityAlight.



Maureen Harvey

Greetings and Comments from an Octogenarian and fellow member of this church who has been asked by Vivian to share some of my ideas.

First I want to shout out a big Bravo! for the Sept. 8th Church Newsletter. It contained so much information about the ongoing activities of members of our church family that many others have not been aware of. Hopefully those others will be inspired to join in or create other ways to keep in touch.

Vivian said "You have lots to tell" and indeed I have—but where to start?

Well I thought I would simplify it for you by eliminating the first 80 or so years of my life with the simple statement: "I have seen God at work in many places and many ways."

Jerome and I arrived back to Thunder Bay from missionary service in Africa in 1980 and attended the first service of the newly forming EFCC church-named Central EFC. There we remained as members. Many stories can be told of God's working since then. Ask some of the people who have been around for some of those years.

Now, in the unique times we find ourselves, how am I (or we) living as a people who know God and have the answer to life's most important questions? I am more and more involved in praying for the missionaries I do know in a number of different countries around the world. I am excited to know that in Iran approximately 60% of young adults regularly contact Christian programs to learn about the Christian faith. They do this "in the Cloud" so they won't be found out. Groups of believers call themselves "Followers of Jesus" and they meet together in small groups, even though their passports officially still say "Muslim"

China is once again going back to "difficulties" that challenge Christians to "remember" their Faith in new ways. There have been many people from the Middle East who have moved to countries in Western Europe and become citizens, bringing their customs and traditions with them. They are not evil or violent and just want to live at peace. They Do bring their religion with them.

Here is an example from Wikihow.com of what you might see or be told in or around a mosque:

HOW TO CONVERT A CHRISTIAN TO ISLAM

1. Know why you want to convert this person. 2. Have a clear understanding of Islam....Pray 3. Prayer is the number one factor here.

If you want to convert your Christian friend to Islam, you have to tell Allah first! Tell him how you feel, really open your heart to Him, so He can see how devoted you are, and so that He can help you overcome this victory. Remember to pray daily.

Seeing this poster reminds me of the need to be informed of what people around the world need praying for, and then pray. I find I'm more faithful in regular prayer if I am being joined by someone else.

I know God is working all around us, and as we learn more of the needs we will want to pray more, and soon we really do know God better. If we are praying with others (i.e. a small group or by phone) we also end up getting to know each other- and low and behold, we have become a small group.

Give me a call if you care to join me in learning what God is doing in our world right now, and figuring out how best we can pray. He cares and wants us to pray.

News & Such

Prayer Meeting

7:00 pm Wednesday October 7, in the sanctuary
Please use the front door to enter, social distancing
and masks are required,

Annual General Meeting 2020 and Budget & Elections Meeting

Will be held on
Sunday November 22, 2020
More details will follow

The Unclouded Day –

The passing of my missionary friend, Sister Ingram was an unclouded day. She wanted “The Unclouded Day” sung at her memorial service. I had never heard of the song.

We drove from Vancouver, through the mountains, that day, to Slave Lake, arriving just in time for the service.

Brother Andrew was speaking on behalf of the family. There was a feeling about him, like he was talking to us in his kitchen. I don’t remember a word he said.

He was my favourite Christian. I remember when my heart was knit to his. One time, at a special meeting in Calgary, he stopped preaching and said – “sometimes I wake up in the night and I feel all alone.” He had a large enthusiastic church and a large family.

Later that day I ran into him outside Sister Ingram’s door. He showed me where she passed away, outside her door. That was the unclouded day the angels picked her up, birds twittered; she was satisfied, fulfilled, at peace. A church stood on the lot next to her house.

Then did they sing the “Unclouded Day” Written by Reverend J K Alwood

Oh, the land of cloudless day,
Oh, the land of an unclouded sky,
Oh, they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,
Oh, they tell me of an unclouded day.

Oh, they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
Oh, they tell me of that land far away,
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day

And so on – pure loveliness



Bev Roxburgh