



## Church-planting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

February 2008

*“You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth...” Acts 1:8*

Dear Friend of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

God is glorious. His glory consists in the overwhelming and overflowing beauty which stems from the sum total of all His attributes working together in perfect harmony. I am humbled in the knowledge of the true and living God who has condescended to reveal Himself to us – in the Word (written and living). I want this God to be known for who He is in truth, and to be adored and honored. To that end we seek to preach Christ and Him crucified. For it takes redemption to free man from his enmity against God and his blindness, before the glory of God can be revealed and treasured in the heart of man.

If God is going to be known and worshipped in spirit and in truth, we must herald the Word of God that others may share in the joy of knowing God in and through Jesus Christ by His Spirit. Below I have highlighted a few of our attempts to do that to the glory of our King.

### ***IN-DEPTH STUDIES CANADA***

***Upcoming Seminars*** – February 10, 2008 is the date for our winter seminar.

Looking at significant doctrines for the church and the resulting mission.

**Three one-hour sessions on Sunday Feb. 10, 2008  
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Sutherland Hall  
Teacher: Murray McLellan**

**10:00 a.m. Session 1 – *A God-centered Theology* (Will take place during our Sunday morning teaching time).**

**12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch @ the Hard Wok Buffet (next door to the Sutherland Hall).**

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Session 2 – *A Christ-centered Focus***

**2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Coffee break**

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Session 3 – *Focusing on Jesus’ Mission***

**4:00 – 4:30 p.m. Q and A**

Within each seminar, there is plenty of time for interaction - discussion and questions are encouraged. There is no cost for the seminar, but it would be helpful if participants pre-registered via e-mail to Murray: [murray@ids.org](mailto:murray@ids.org)

For more information, contact: Murray McLellan (306) 244-4372

Our purpose for these seminars is to encourage, build-up, and stir-up a zeal in the Body of Christ as a whole for the Lord Jesus Christ and the so-great salvation found in Him alone! Our desire is that Christians would be stirred to love and good works through the amazing truth of the Scriptures, and that, as a result, they would spread a passion for the glory and supremacy of God in all things for the joy and satisfaction of all peoples - in their churches, their communities, and beyond.

***Gospel-Centered Studies*** – This winter we have a number of community groups meeting in various homes across the city of Saskatoon and one in Leask. Our desire is to gather people with whom we have been building relationships and provide a context to talk about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This winter's series is: *The Gospel-Centered Life*.

The gospel is the means of entry into God's kingdom, but not only that, it is also the key to ongoing spiritual transformation. The gospel transforms people in their entirety (not just their eternal destinies), and therefore the gospel has to do with work, leisure, family, church, money, sex, friendships, decisions - everything! The gospel is not just about the ABC's of the Christian life; but the A to Z. You don't start with the gospel and then move on to something else. The gospel is the power of God for both salvation and sanctification.

We aren't promoting a new program, a fresh fad, a short-cut for spiritual formation, or ten steps to something. We are upholding Jesus and the transforming power of His gospel!

***Evenings of Theology*** – Our “Evening of Theology” classes, will begin again in February. This year we are planning on meeting once a month on a Sunday evening. What could be better than an evening of theology, fellowship, and chicken wings! The topics will be varied, but will mostly focus on foundational doctrines of the Bible (i.e the authority and sufficiency of Scripture; the nature and attributes of God etc.)

***Online Discipleship*** - Skype has provided a free program that enables us to have online meetings. Currently I have weekly discipleship times with two young men, and occasional connections with a few others. I find that I am greatly encouraged by these times, and I hope that I am able to impart some mutual encouragement and teaching for them as well.

***Acts 29 Coaching*** – I have been set up with a coach (i.e. mentor) for church planting. My coach is David Whitehead from New York. David has been a coach for church planting for a number of years with Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City where Tim Keller is pastor. His experience and wisdom will be a huge help to me, as I seek to grow in Christ and labor in His kingdom. May this relationship be used of God for my training and the promotion of much fruit for the glory of our God.

***The Commute to Leask*** - I have been striving to redeem the time during the 3 hours of commuting to school in Leask Monday through Friday. During the hour and half drive to Leask in the early

morning, I use for prayer, and listening to the Word on CD (Thanks for the gift again, Bill!). On the way home, I tend to listen to various messages. I am currently listening to a series of conference messages by Steve Timmis of “The Crowded House” in Sheffield, England. Steve is the co-author of *The Total Church*, a great book on the church. In fact, I gave each family in our church a copy of this book for Christmas.

**New Home** – Cheryl and I will be moving to a new home on April 1 of this year. It is not a big place – 575 square feet; but it has 2 levels, giving us 1150 square feet. There is also an unfinished basement into which we can move our items we currently have in storage. In addition, there is a cement pad for a future garage – Lord willing, one day. And the best news – our mortgage payment, will be less than what we were paying for our apartment, along with our storage unit! (The taxes will be a bit higher, so in the end it should balance out). The Lord provided the house through an acquaintance before it actually went on the market. Thus, we were able to make the purchase at slightly less than the current market value. Ahhh, now back to packing things up...

Here is a picture of the place. May it be used up for the Lord in loving and serving people for His glory and the advance of the kingdom!



I am very thankful for those of you who are faithfully committed to my support which allows me to work part-time, freeing me some time to pour myself into people with the ministry of the Word and prayer.

Please keep us in your prayers. We are striving to be faithful. May the Lord be magnified!

By His grace and for His glory,  
Murray

Please visit our web site for more information on our ministry in Canada, and pray for us as we seek to have God glorified in everything we do.

If you have a desire to support the church-planting and teaching ministry of Murray McLellan you may do so by sending a cheque to:

Grace Fellowship  
104 - 235 Kingsmere Blvd.  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, CANADA  
S7J 4J6

Ph. (306) 244-4372

Make cheques payable to “Grace Fellowship” and designate them “for Murray” or to “In-Depth Studies Canada”.

Note: If you live in the United States and would like to receive a tax-deductible receipt, please direct your gift to In-Depth Studies in Arizona and designate it for Murray in Canada.

You may make donations online at: [www.idscanada.org](http://www.idscanada.org)

If you would like to talk with me about all that is happening, please give me a call (or e-mail me and I'll call you. We have a long distance package now, so I can call anywhere in Canada or the U.S. for “free”.)

“Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God  
and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ...”  
Acts 28:31

*“The story continues...”*

