



## Church-planting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

March 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,

February seems to have flown by. As with every month, we have much for which to be thankful to our God. Indeed we have found His grace to be sufficient. One of the Scriptures I was able to meditate upon this past month was 1 Timothy chapter 1. True theology leads to love (verse 5), mission (verse 12) and praise (verse 17; see also Romans 11:33-36). Another area I have been pondering as I have reflected upon the gospel and the mission Jesus has for us is the whole idea of community. God did not set out to save a group of disconnected individuals – He set out to redeem a people – a new humanity. He is building a new community in which he is the central participant. Thus people need to experience church as a network of relationships rather than a meeting you attend or a place you go. I truly pray that this is what people experience in Grace Fellowship for the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Coaching with Acts 29***

I have begun the mentoring process with the Acts 29 church planting network. My “coach” is a real quality guy – David Whitehead – from Manhattan, NY. David has been a part of the Tim Keller church planting team with Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. He is currently church-planting, as well as coaching for the Redeemer Church Planting Center and Acts 29. You can visit David’s new church website here: <http://www.gracenyc.org/index.html> and read more of his bio here: <http://www.gracenyc.org/pastorbios.html>

I can already see the potential benefits of this process. Please pray for us as we connect via internet and phone that this relationship might be used of God to better equip and groom me to be a vessel fit for and effective in the mission of our Lord here in Saskatoon. May I also be able to encourage David in some small way.

### ***Prayer Request***

In addition to the above prayer request, I would appreciate prayer for my scheduling for the upcoming year. Leask Community School, where I teach, will be working through their staffing profiles over the next couple of months. I have approached the administration about the possibility of team teaching with a fellow teacher, which would have me teach full days every second day. This would be a half time position, which would drop my income somewhat, however it would free me up every other day to focus on Jesus’ mission and the church planting in Saskatoon. A second option I have requested is a transfer to a school closer to Saskatoon ( Leask is 70 miles north of the city). I would greatly appreciate your prayers in this regard.

### ***Ministry Support***

Thanks to each of you who have sacrificed to give of your resources to help fund our ministry here in Saskatoon. At this time, if my teaching time decreases, I am looking for an additional \$400 a month in regular support to meet our expenses. Please pray that the Lord might bring us in touch with those who might share our vision for church planting in Saskatchewan and consider it a joy to be a part of our labour here.

### ***Intern Program***

Should resources be gathered above the \$400 that I need, I would like to start a fund to help support interns. Our church-planting vision will only move forward as new leaders are raised up and trained to carry on the mission of Jesus. Learn more about our intern program and leadership training on our discipleship page here: <http://grace.ids.org/discipleship>

***Gospel-Centered Studies*** – Our *Gospel-Centered Life* series continues in 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.

We are focusing on the gospel because it 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 are not trying to promote 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!

***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.

***The Move!*** – Cheryl and I will be moving to a new home on April 1 of this year. We have until April 14 to be out of our apartment. The next month and a half will be busy with packing and moving and setting up in our new house.

As of April 1<sup>st</sup> our new address (and the new address of Grace Fellowship and In-Depth Studies Canada) will be:

Murray and Cheryl McLellan  
730 Lamarsh Lane  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7W 1B6

Our phone number will remain unchanged: (306) 244-IDSC or (306) 244-4372 for those of you who need the numbers!

I will include a picture of the place, for those who missed it last month. 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.

via e-mail to Murray: [murray@ids.org](mailto:murray@ids.org)

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

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

Or AFTER APRIL 1, 2008

Grace Fellowship  
730 Lamarsh Lane  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, CANADA  
S7W 1B6

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...”*

