



Church-planting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

May 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,

What a privilege to be involved in gospel ministry! As a way to clarify the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have been trying to emphasize that there are three ways to live - the irreligious way, the religious way, and the gospel way. The Bible presents the gospel as the antidote to irreligion and religion. Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 illustrates these 3 distinct ways. There are two worldly approaches to God which are wrong and will leave you lost and alienated from God:

- * Moralistic approach (elder brother):
- * Relativistic approach (younger brother):

The only way to approach God is on the basis of sheer grace through Christ.

The gospel is, therefore, radically different from both irreligion and religion. Irreligion operates on the principle of self-acceptance, and obeys “self” as lord. Religion operates on the principle: “I obey, therefore I am accepted”. The gospel operates on the principle: “I am accepted through Christ by sheer grace, therefore I obey.”

In his latest book, Tim Keller states:

“The Christian gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.”

- Timothy Keller, [*The Reason For God*](#) (New York, NY: Dutton, 2008), 181.

Update on Prayer Request

Thanks to all of you who have been praying for my work situation in the public school in Leask. I am still waiting to hear, but the administration is trying to do everything in its power to work the schedule out so that I would teach only every second day. At first it seemed like an impossibility, as the teacher who would have teamed up with me for half-time each, took a job in another school. However, in just the past week, another teacher has expressed interest in possibly teaching half-time. I should find out what the Lord has worked out with regards to this in the next couple of

weeks. Should the “every other day” schedule work out, I would be freed up every second day to focus on Jesus’ mission and the church planting in Saskatoon.

Gospel Opportunities

At the public school where I teach, I meet weekly with a young Christian man (grade 12) for discipleship. The Lord has also provided several opportunities for another boy to meet with us occasionally. This young man is totally un-churched, and from a very difficult home environment. He has been asking me a number of good questions. The other day, I drove him home after a chess practice (I am the chess coach at our school). He was asking about Jesus coming back. I was able to focus on the gospel of the cross and Jesus as the only Savior for sinners, as we discussed Jesus’ return in power. He started to ask me about “when” Jesus might return, and then he interrupted himself saying, “I guess it really doesn’t matter, because now I’m ready.” Please pray for this young man. I am hoping that he may end up in Saskatoon at the university so that I can continue to connect with him.

A couple of weeks ago, I had an opportunity to meet for coffee with a man who was a self-proclaimed humanist. I asked him what hope he had found in any of the philosophies he had tried to follow. He stated blankly, “None.” I opened my Bible and showed him passages of great hope for sinners found in Jesus and His completed work on the cross. He has been coming to meet with us on Sunday mornings, and seems to really appreciate the exposition of Scripture. He told me the other day, that this truth really makes “sense” and clearly explains not only the condition of the world, but also his own situation. Before, he viewed Christianity as simply another religion that leads to pride and a judgmental spirit, but now he sees that the true gospel of Jesus is not a religious philosophy, but good news of a gracious Savior for hell-deserving sinners. He has seen that the gospel leads to true humility. Please pray for this man and others that God brings across our path.

Cheryl and I are in the process of volunteering with the Saskatoon Open Door Society which reaches out to refugees and immigrants to our country and city. The “host” program matches us with a family new to Canada to befriend and help settle in to their new “home.” There are also opportunities to help different people learn and practice English.

It is one of our goals to love and serve the city for God’s glory and their good (Jer. 29:4-7). We do not want to be assimilated into the culture, nor separate ourselves from it. Our desire is to incarnate our Lord, embracing the call of God to act as a missionary into our culture (Matt. 4:19; Acts 16:20; 17:6). We are hoping that volunteering to serve newcomers to the city will be a means to make this a reality.

Ministry Support

Thanks to each of you who have sacrificed to give of your resources to help fund our ministry here in Saskatoon. The Lord has graciously provided several gifts for us this past month totaling \$950. Most were one time gifts, but we are hoping that some may consider us and the church-planting ministry here for regular support. Continue to 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

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. Currently, we have one young man, Sammy Whitehawk, who will be interning with us this fall. Learn more about

our intern program and leadership training on our discipleship page here:

<http://grace.ids.org/discipleship>

The Move! – Cheryl and I are now in our new house. I really appreciate being able to use one of the bedrooms as a study, instead of the kitchen table! May this house be used up for the Lord in loving and serving people for His glory and the advance of the kingdom!

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 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

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
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”.

You may also make donations online at: www.idscanada.org

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.

In-Depth Studies
3324 E. Enid Avenue
Mesa, Arizona 85204-4836

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..."

