

September 2024 Update

STANSFORD FAMILY

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH | MARYSTOWN, NL | HBCMARYSTOWN.COM

Please accept our sincerest apologies for the length of time since our last letter. Time slipped past us, and we did not realize it had been so long since our last update. Here is a quick overview of what we have been busy with in the last few months beside our regular Sunday services, mid-week meetings and retirement centre services.

In April and May we had the opportunity to visit four supporting churches - to be involved in a youth conference, as well as give a report and thank the churches for their faithful support. Sarah and some of the ladies from our church were able to attend two ladies' meetings hosted by other churches on the island. Boyd had the privilege of leading two of his relatives to the Lord over the phone and the internet due to the distance between them. Praise the Lord for the technology available to make this possible! In June, Boyd was invited to the local public high school's graduation ceremony to pray for the graduates. It was as wonderful opportunity to present the hope of the Lord Jesus Christ to the youth and families of our community.

During the month of July, we hosted our annual Vacation Bible School on Wednesday evenings. Our numbers were up a little this year, and we were pleased to meet several new families! Please pray for our continuing follow-up, outreach, and transition into our fall program. Boyd also had the privilege of helping another supporting church repaint their auditorium. This was another little way to say thank you for their faithful prayer and financial support over the last 21 years!

August brought the annual Teen & Family Camp week. This was our 17th year of camp, and we had one of our biggest groups yet! It was a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual refreshment. Following camp, Boyd was honoured to preach the Gospel at

the funeral for his cousin who had passed away unexpectedly.

Each summer seems to come with a theme of ministry for our family in our community – some years it has been roofing, other years it has been different types of construction – this year it seems to be mowing grass! Several neighbours and a police officer friend have needed help with their lawns this summer, so we have been going up and down the street mowing grass. It always affords us an opportunity to let them know about the love of Jesus! From previous summers we have collected some roofing and construction tools, and recently we were given a self-propelled lawn mower...the Lord is allowing us to use these gifts to bless others.

Though our church attendance hasn't grown much numerically as of late, it has been consistent, and we are encouraged to see some spiritual growth taking place. We have added extra fellowship time to our services (such as Coffee & Conversation before our Sunday morning service and a monthly lunch), and the fellowship has been sweet and encouraging.

We are looking forward to some exciting things in the next few weeks. This week marks the beginning of year number 20 of homeschooling for our family...Carly enters grade 12, Levi will be in Grade 3, and Kalynn begins Kindergarten! In two weeks we will travel to St. John's for the national pastor's conference hosted by First Baptist Church. We are looking forward to seeing many friends from across the country in our province. After that we will celebrate our 21st church anniversary!

We deeply appreciate your continued love, prayer, and financial support of our family and ministry. Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless our efforts as we seek to take advantage of every opportunity He gives us.

WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS, BOYD AND SARAH STANSFORD AND FAMILY