



## Church-planting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

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

Christmas 2015

Dear Friend of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

I always love it when I walk into a mall or business at this time of year and over the sound system hear words such as:

*“Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled...”*

and

*“Christ by highest heav’n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin’s womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*



Glory to our risen King! As we approach the end of 2015 and the dawn of a new year on our calendar, we do so in great hope and anticipation for what our Lord has in store. He has prepared good works for us to walk in as His workmanship – given a new identity through his amazing gospel. Christ in us – the hope of glory – and our heart desire is to “incarnate” God in the face of Jesus through the Spirit to a needy world.

The past year has been filled with heartaches, joy, disappointment, encouragement, exhaustion, exhilaration, and above all much ongoing grace from the true and living God that we know as our Abba Father! In other words – a normal year in the adventure of church-planting.

### Grandpa and Grandma

I am just sitting down after a day with our 17 month old grandson, Jachin. The depth of my understanding and appreciation of the love the Father has for us has grown since becoming a grandparent. Whether Jachin is happy or cranky or messy or seeking his own way even though it could be to his own hurt – my unchanging love and desire for his ultimate best motivates my every action.

We can’t wait for Christmas to get some time with our 7 month old granddaughter, Fiona, when our oldest son, Blair and his wife, Angela, visit from Calgary.

The picture on the right is when the cousins were together at Thanksgiving.



### **Our new church plant in Warman**

Things are off to a great start for the Warman campus – officially launching their Sunday morning service in September of this year. There are between 60-80 people who are regularly participating; and we have 3 active Gospel Communities and are in need of starting a 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Gospel Communities are smaller groups ranging in size from 12 to almost 30 people – learning to live out their Gospel identity as a Spirit-filled family of missionary servants. These Jesus-followers make up our core group in Warman.

Here is a link to our vision video: <http://vimeo.com/110089432>

### **Baptisms**

We have 3 baptisms coming up on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. We also had 3 this summer. These times are always exciting as new followers of Jesus identify with their Savior and His people.

Two of these young women are from China. It has been exciting to see them come to a growing understanding of the Gospel and watch their love for Jesus blossom which brings about the obedience of faith through the eye-opening, heart- changing Spirit!

To hear one of the testimonies from this summer, follow the link here:



<http://gracesask.com/sermons/forget-not-his-benefits/>

### **Chaplain**

God has opened the door for a wonderful opportunity for me. I was invited to take on the volunteer role as chaplain for the Saskatoon Police Service. What a privilege to serve the 700 amazing men and women who serve our city so faithfully! Please pray that I would serve them well and represent Jesus in this context.

Though I have a badge – for some reason I don't get a gun or a Taser. ☺ I think everyone is safer that way!

### **Four Interns**

Since sending out a group to begin the church campus in Warman, we have continued to grow in Saskatoon. We are bringing on four young men to intern with us at our Saskatoon campus. I am really excited about this. Perhaps one or more of these men will be sent out from here to begin a new work in another area of Saskatoon or beyond. I will introduce you to these guys in a future newsletter.

### **To American supporters!**

In the grace of God, one of our Acts 29 churches in the States has agreed to support our church planting endeavors here in Saskatchewan. Should you like to receive tax receipts, support for us can be directed to:

River City Church  
323 Main Ave  
Fargo, ND 58102

Make sure to designate the check for: Murray McLellan in Canada. We are thankful to Brett Moser and the saints of River City for this ongoing service to us.

## A Big Thank You

On behalf of all of us in Grace Fellowship, I praise God for each of you who are partnering with us in seeing Christ-centered churches established in Saskatchewan and beyond. Your gifts and prayers are enabling us to minister here for the sake of the One who loved us and gave Himself for us and sent us with the mission of making disciples. There are so many stories from the last 6 months left untold in this letter, but I praise God for the lives being changed in and through the Gospel.

May you find great refreshment in the Good News message that God became one of us, to show us His love, to forgive us our sins through the perfect righteousness and finished work of Jesus, to put an end to religion, and to restore His kingdom and establish a world-wide family in relationship with Him. The curse has been lifted from us – and it was placed on God’s dear Son, so that His blessing – taken from Jesus – was placed on us, as we were adopted as God’s dear “sons”. Praise God, Jesus is risen and has now deservedly been given the name that is above every name! The redemptive work has been accomplished and is finished – resulting in peace with God! Simply amazing!

Keep running to Jesus to find your identity, refreshment, and strength.

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 <http://gracesask.com> 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  
118 Chan Cres.  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, CANADA  
S7K 5N8

Ph. (306) 244-4372  
E-mail [murray@gracesask.org](mailto:murray@gracesask.org)

Make cheques payable to “Grace Fellowship”.

You may also make donations online here: <https://gracesask.com/give/>

(Unfortunately we are not able to provide a tax receipt for out of country giving, unless given as noted below:)

Note: If you live in the United States and would like to receive a tax-deductible receipt, please direct your gift to: River City Church; 323 Main Ave. Fargo, ND 58102 and designate it for Murray McLellan in Canada.

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

Acts 28:31

*“The story continues...”*



**ACTS 29**  
churches planting churches

