

**OCT.
2023**

The STANSFORD Family

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH, MARYSTOWN, NL
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Dear Friends,

We thank you again for your continued interest in and support of our family and ministry. We know that many of you pray for us on a regular, even daily, basis. There is no way that we can express the appropriate amount of gratitude other than to say 'Thank You' at every opportunity. We appreciate, as well, our 20 supporting churches. Your sacrificial giving enables us to keep preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this needy area!

Our Vacation Bible School in July went well with children returning from last year as well as some new children. Several of them brought their parents and/or grandparents to the closing rally on Sunday morning. We had an opportunity to chat with them over lunch and get to know them a little better. We were hoping to get some of the young people to begin attending our mid-week youth program but a couple of them only came a time or two in the weeks following VBS.

August was a busy month preparing for and attending this year's instalment of Teen and Family Camp. Though we have had to shorten it by almost a day and a half (as a time and cost-saving measure), it was still a wonderful few days of fellowship and encouragement. Pastor Eli & Mrs. Christina McTague were wonderful guests, the preaching was helpful, hopefully the decisions made will be long-lasting, the food was delicious, and the memories will linger for a long time. It is such a wonderful time of unity as pastors and people from churches across the province meet together for a few days of spiritual nourishment and renewal!

A few years ago a man who faithfully attended our church asked Boyd to preach his funeral when the

Lord called him home. He knew the Lord as his Saviour and was prepared for eternity. His one request was "Please tell my family how to get to heaven." Early in September the Lord did call him home. Boyd preached at his funeral and tried to present the Gospel as clearly as possible. It is unknown whether anyone was saved or not but all who attended that afternoon are now without excuse. Our prayer is that many who were there that day trusted Jesus as their Saviour!

On September 10, we celebrated 20 years of God's faithfulness to Heritage Baptist Church here in Marystown. We had a couple of visitors out that day, and we enjoyed a delicious roast beef lunch together. One lady that was visiting had many questions about salvation and the Bible. We are hoping to soon be able to meet with her as she lives some distance from Marystown.

This fall we are an official sponsor of the Marystown Volunteer Fire Department's Junior Firefighter program again (We bring some snacks when necessary!). We are thankful for their investment in the youth of our community. We are also thankful for the opportunity to speak of Jesus to the group!

Though our attendance numbers have dropped recently as young people went away for school, people moved for work, and others have just stopped attending...we are thankful for those who have remained faithful. We are still making new contacts in the community and sharing the good news of the Gospel with anyone who will listen. We covet and appreciate your faithful prayers on our behalf. We are thankful for you!!

Christ's servants and yours,

The Stansford Family

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Sent by: Greater Vancouver Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC | www.gvbc.ca