



The Byrer Family

Missionaries to Alberta, Canada



August 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we headed into Northern Ontario for meeting with more Canadian churches. The farther North and West we head, the longer the drive between churches. The distances between churches that preach the gospel and believe the Bible are staggering. Spending most of my saved life in the South where there is a Bible preaching church on nearly every corner, it is heart wrenching to drive through literally town after town with nothing. The people in these towns just keep on going, blindly pushing forward into an eternity of unknowns. It is not that they do not want to know the God of Truth, it is the fact that there is no one there to tell them about Him. The gospel the majority of Canadian churches know is a social gospel. A social gospel that tells them how to live a good life, be a good person, help others to do the same and yet they die and go to Hell. I am all for living good and doing good but outside of the Lord Jesus Christ this "do good" mentality is pure self righteousness. In the meantime, folks up in Canada are slowly but progressively becoming more and more disenchanted with modern day organized religion and one by one they are rejecting all of it. They see their friends and family live and die, things move forward and as they approach their own end, any sense of hope is sucked from their conscience.

Our journeys lead us up to the Northern outpost of Pickle Lake, Ontario. While up there we were exposed for the first time to the natives of the 50 mile band. It was here that the Lord showed me a people that the gospel is a foreign language. A race of people again right here in North America who need the gospel preached. A distinct group of souls that have generation after generation of kids growing up not knowing the saving Grace of Jesus Christ. A group of souls that know only the temporal peace that comes from a bottle. Praise the Lord for what He is doing in Pickle Lake with Brother Sweat and his family but they are only one family trying to reach one tribe. There are hundreds of tribes with hundreds of thousands of natives in Canada that have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel. They need to hear.

As we pulled into Manitoba we drove through Winnipeg which is a town of over 750,000 souls. A town this size in the southern U.S.A might have as many as 40 independent Baptist churches in it. Some would say that number is a little exaggerated so let's say a town this size would have about 20 churches in it. Sound a little high yet, how about 10 churches trying to reach 750,000 people in the U.S.? Winnipeg has 3 independent Baptist churches! Not only that, Winnipeg is a magnet for Philipinos. They are pouring into Winnipeg and there is no one there to reach them with the gospel. Brethren, there is a tremendous need for men to come to Canada with the good news. There are about thirty four million souls nationwide here in Canada and a mere handful of churches fighting the fight.

Please pray for Canada, that eyes are opened and hearts are softened for this needy field and that the Lord of the harvest would send forth laborers for the laborers are few. Although the work in Canada is a slow and deliberate one, it is truly white and Canadians are starving for something REAL. We are still on track to be on the field next fall. That being said, from the time the Lord first showed me Canada to the time that we are projecting being on the field, five years will have passed. During all of this time I have tried to be as sensitive as I can to the Lords leading and in by no means have we hesitated or stalled. I am confident that each one of our steps have been placed by the Lord yet to some it may look like it takes forever to get on the field. Five years may seem like a long time but it can take eternity for a man to get to the field when he doesn't surrender ALL and step out by faith by this calling. It is worth the risk, step out! Trust God and give Him EVERYTHING! Souls are sick and dying and they need to meet the Great Physician. Pray for Canada, the men and churches that are already here and for the men whom the Lord has been dealing with about going.

In His Service,
Brother John Byrer

...Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick ~ John 11:3

Sending Church

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