

Community Tutoring Program

By Laura Rushton

Another school year has begun, and this means that our Community Tutoring Program at Oak Park has returned for another season. I would love to say that there were shouts of joy all through the classrooms when school started again, but to be honest, school isn't always fun for kids. For some, it's actually really hard: a place where they don't feel like they belong; a place of embarrassment or strife; a place where they wish they could be invisible.

Our goal in the Community Tutoring Program is to help these students understand that they are capable, loved, and accepted. We work with students in Grades 1-12 and offer them, to the best of our abilities, a comfortable, safe and caring space to learn, to talk about their day, and to be encouraged. We play learning games, work through homework questions and sometimes just talk and build relationships. Beyond meeting the needs of the students, we hope to meet the needs of their families as well. When parents come to drop their students off, they are welcomed in; we have a conversational ESL program that is starting up (for the guardians), we offer information on food programs, as well as the opportunity to gather free bread, school supplies and clothing. We have had proposals to add a free counselling service when needed, and our hearts are wide open with the hope of how this service could help meet the needs of these families. We believe that when the family's needs are met, the children can thrive.

God has blessed this ministry in many ways: with people who volunteer freely on Thursday nights to care for these families, with an abundance of supplies, and with your prayers. When we look around the room and see students coming back, week after week, laughing while learning, and being encouraged, we know God is at work. Last year we saw growth in numbers every week, starting with two students and eventually having close to 20 (until June when it slowed down again). Students were bringing friends, saying, "see, doesn't it feel better now that you understand it?" and we saw them return. We had parents saying, "I come and my child is laughing and learning... that never happens." This year we are already seeing new faces (and old) and our hearts are encouraged. God is good, and we continue to pray that He will allow us to be His hands and feet for this ministry.



Community
Tutoring

BY OAK PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Free tutoring for Grades 1-12
- Thursdays 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- Register @ oakpark.ca/tutoring

Oak Park
**Life
Groups**

A stylized green oak leaf with a white vein, positioned to the left of the text "Life Groups".

Join a Life Group. Contact alvin@oakpark.ca



Joy/Full: A Study in Philippians

Does the Apostle Paul play favourites? Surely not... but then again, when it comes to the churches he founded, guided, taught, mediated, and prayed for, it does seem like the little church in Philippi (Northern Greece) had a hold of his heart in a unique way! Now it certainly wasn't a perfect church; it had its share of problems and concerns. However, there is something about the way they partnered with him in his ministry and generously supported him that solidified a special bond between the apostle and the church. Come join us as we explore this short, but powerful letter that Paul writes to this fledgling Christian community. Though he was detained in prison chains, he still couldn't help extolling the joyful life the gospel invites us all to.

Join us Sundays at 10am as we worship and learn together.

Promises of God

This series gave me an opportunity to think more deeply about how the promises of God have presented themselves in my life. It was a privilege to have the chance to piece together paintings that reflect those promises and to share them with you each week.

All four pieces were done on 3 ft x 3 ft boards with a black background and grayscale acrylic paint. I also added a little splash of colour for the week 2 painting. Although I could never create images that fully capture the wonder and beauty of these promises, I hope they will still be meaningful to you as God reveals how true they are in your own life.

The Promise of Peace

I first drew this image a few years ago during the most unpeaceful time in my life. I tried to imagine what it would look like to be completely at peace and what came to mind was a sleeping child being carried by her father. I learned that even while life was going sideways, God's promise of peace was still true. His peace was there even though my emotions said otherwise. There were no warm, fuzzy feelings while I drew this. All I had in those days was a stubborn will to trust that I was being held by faithful, everlasting arms.



The Promise for a Future

It amazes me how flowers can spring up between the cracks in a sidewalk or a dry desert floor. Flowers are so delicate and yet they have the ability to buckle concrete. This is the kind of hope that is offered to us. It is beautifully persistent and it breaks through any barrier in its path. It is constant and will never fade away, regardless of our circumstances. It's not a hope that rescues us from our difficult situations, but one that brings us through to the other side.



The Promise of Generosity

For this promise I painted two sets of hands overflowing with water. I like the image of sharing water because it's something we all need in order to survive and because of that, it's something we might be tempted to keep to ourselves during a drought. Sharing that water might cost us something when we feel like we don't have enough. I once heard something about generosity that has stuck with me - just because something comes to you, doesn't mean it's meant for you. When we practice generosity, we allow the water that's been given to us to trickle down to others. And as any generous giver will tell you, what is gained in the giving far outweighs the cost.

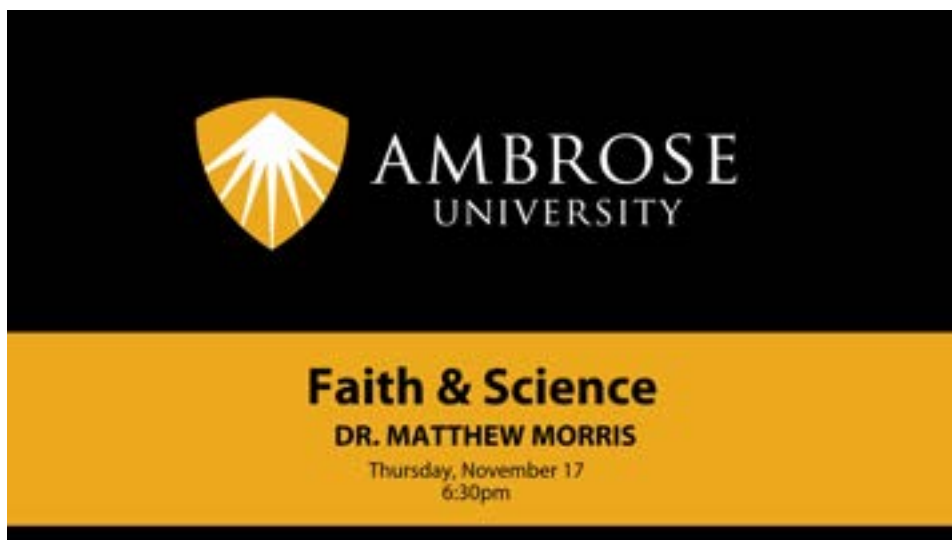


The Promise for Guidance

I've always been terrible at directions. I grew up in a town so small we all basically shared the same backyard and yet I still managed to get lost on my way to a friend's house. My husband tries to give me directions sometimes, but his method contains confusing info like street names and exit numbers. Unless it involves Google Maps or a continual string of light-up arrows on the highway, I just keep getting lost. Thankfully, God's word is set up with a different guidance system that is accessible even to the directionally impaired. He's given us an internal compass through the Holy Spirit and He will always lead us home.



By Elena Hiebert



Although the media often portrays science as being in conflict with the Christian faith, the truth is that the Church needs science - and not just a science constrained to prove biblical passages. Science, when free to pursue theories to their fullest extent, can edify and enrich the church in surprising ways. Science also needs the church. Historically science has found its reason for being in Christian theology. Most pressing today science needs an engaged community of believers that can offer hope in the midst of environmental despair. In this talk, Dr. Matthew Morris will explore some of the varied ways that science is a gift to the Church, and the Church is a gift to science.

Dr. Matthew Morris is the Co-Chair of Science and studies the genetics of freshwater fishes. Dr. Morris lives in Calgary with his wife (Danielle) and three kids (Celeste, Lochlan and Calder), and together they attend Oak Park Church of Christ.

Register at www.ambrose.edu.



CHURCH-WIDE EVENT

This 'choose your own adventure' event is packed with fun activities for all ages. This is a team event and is open to everyone! You can gather a team of 8-10 people (with your Life Group perhaps, or some other friends) and register together, or register individually and we will assign you to a team.



Oak Park Missions Update

Graceland Ministries - Jay and Colette

We were privileged to have Jay and Colette visit Oak Park this summer and we really enjoyed the time with them and their very informative update of their ministry in Poland. They also spent time visiting other supporting churches in Alberta, Nova Scotia, and PEI before flying back to Poland on July 31st. Such a whirlwind of activity! They returned feeling somewhat overwhelmed by the tasks ahead of them. There is a "crisis fatigue" in the country with the Pandemic followed by the war in Ukraine, leading to a refugee crisis and economic concerns due to skyrocketing inflation. Fuel prices are up 70%. It is very clear that we must keep them in our prayers during this very difficult time.



The good news is that God continues to provide. They have one woman who has returned to assist with the teaching program this Fall as well as a married couple who were there for September. We are so happy to hear that Oak Park's very own Lisa Proudfoot wrote some of the new curriculum for them. A special blessing is that one of the refugees supported by Graceland is now assisting them as a full-time team member; she assists Colette with her mobility and helps in many other ways at Graceland. Two of the refugee families that were being supported felt they had to return home despite the continued war in Ukraine, so please pray for them. It is so difficult for them to be separated from their families.

Colette began intensive rehabilitation when she returned and continues now twice a week with hopes of walking again. Way to go Colette! This is the 25th year of their ministry in Poland. Let's praise the Lord for that and keep them in our prayers. Their message to us – "The Lord is with us and He is using YOU to encourage, uplift and support us. Thank you for your partnership. It means so much to know you are with us."

Pioneer Bible Translators - Norm and Jill Weatherhead

Norm continues to work from his home here in Calgary on the translation of the Bible into the Akukem language. After praying and preparing for two years, the national Akukem translation team and a national PBT literacy trainer were able to hold Literacy Fluency Workshops. To get between the two villages, these men (along with their supplies) had to walk through difficult jungle paths for three hours. After all the time and work spent translating the Scriptures into the local

language, it is very exciting to see the people gather to learn to read and be able to read the Bible in their language.



Norm spent time this summer travelling to five of the churches that support him; he travelled from Alberta to PEI, Nova Scotia, and Illinois.

In August, the translation team back in Papua New Guinea began the long journey back to the office in the city of Madang to begin another stage of the translation process. During this time, the country of Papua New Guinea was in the final stages of counting votes for the election of members of parliament; this was of concern because elections can be very difficult times over there, as machete fights often break out between opposing party members. After the last of the questions in both the book of Mark and Luke were resolved, Norm began the 'Final Advisor Check,' which was completed on September 7th! What a special day! After three years, the Gospel of Luke is almost complete; it is currently being checked over by someone outside the translation team. Translation work is such a long process!

Presently Norm and Jill plan to travel to Madang in February or March of 2023 to finalize the book of Luke. Let's all praise the Lord for this progress and pray that many of the Akukem people will come to know Jesus and grow in their faith through their access to the Scriptures.



Healthcare + Ministries - Paul and Mary Davis

Healthcare + Ministries had a very special opportunity to support the health care of the poor in India with the purchase of an endoscopy unit for the Asha Kiran Hospital. Dr. Vinod, the Internal Medicine specialist, had requested this unit because his patients are typically unable to travel to a large urban centre for investigation and treatment. The hospital is located in an area where many patients are unable to read, navigate the public transportation system, or find city accommodations or diagnostic clinic locations. They are very pleased to now be able to help their patients in this way.



In Haiti, Pastor Loten's church at Cypion is presently meeting under tarps which have been repeatedly damaged by winds and heavy rain. Funds were sent for the purchase of a solar water pump, so they can obtain water to prepare cement and start construction of their church building. We pray that this will be an encouragement and a practical help to them during this difficult time in Haiti, and that little by little, they will be able to complete their church building.





FEED THE CHILDREN

Oak Park is collecting the following **NUT FREE** food items for Tsuut'ina students attending local schools:

- Jumbo Size Boxes of Cereal
- Granola Bars
- Fruit Cups
- Juice Boxes
- Fruit Leather/Bars
- Ritz Cheese Sandwich Crackers
- Cup O'Noodle / Noodle Bowls

This will be on-going throughout the school year and is in partnership with the Tsuut'ina Food Bank.

Please drop off donations to Pastor Dawn, with note "Feed the Children".
Thank you!

Youth Group Update - PYPA

For the weekend of October 14th-16th, a group of youth from Oak Park attended the youth conference "Prairie Young People's Association" at Bow Valley Christian Church. It was a great conference where we had lots of fun together and learned about hearing, trusting, and following Jesus. David Ross, who is a professor at Alberta Bible College, shared with us from John 10 about Jesus being a Good Shepherd. He also explained how following Jesus leads us to life more abundantly now so that we can live full lives knowing Jesus.

Over the weekend there were also workshops covering different topics. The youth were able to choose two workshops each to attend. Some of these included understanding why we can trust the Bible, a model for Christian friendship, hearing stories of how people have trusted Jesus, and even a guided painting class to create a piece of art to remember the theme.

One highlight from the weekend was an Amazing Race activity. We raced around downtown Calgary completing different challenges that took us to places like Stephen Avenue, the Calgary Central Public Library, and the Wonderland Statue. It was lots of fun and we finished at the base of the Calgary tower. We enjoyed a great weekend together learning about God and the abundant life He offers, and participating in some wonderful activities.

By Pastor Ben





YOUTH GROUP

FRIDAY NIGHTS
7-9 PM
GRADES 7-12

Infinitely More Campaign Update

The faith that has been exemplified by Oak Park during the Infinitely More Campaign is incredibly energizing. We have been traveling on this road with many changes for a couple of years now. At this current moment we have a lot on the go.

We are waiting to hear back from the provincial government about the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant. This grant could mean up to one million dollars towards our project. We expect to hear about the final decision by early 2023 at the latest.

Our application is with CCDC (Church of Christ Development Company) for the financing portion of the project. They have approved our request for a loan consultation and a meeting has been set for early December. CCDC is well-known to us and we do not anticipate any issues with securing the loan. They also continue to hold their lending rate at 2.75% which is remarkable considering the financial climate right now.

Most excitingly, our congregation has been faithful in honoring the pledges made towards the project. In total, including some early donations in 2020-2021, we have received over \$100,000 in honoured pledges. This number increases weekly. Early giving reduces borrowing costs and saves Oak Park money in the long run.

One of the next major events will be a special congregational meeting planned for early 2023. More information will follow as planning is finalized with our Board and construction team. Please make sure and come out to the Lunch-and-Learn on November 13th to learn more and have a chance to ask questions.





Eat Well. Spend Less.



Any one can order one or more Good Food Boxes.

Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

| | | |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| LARGE | 40 lbs | \$35.00 |
| MEDIUM | 30 lbs | \$30.00 |
| SMALL | 20 lbs | \$25.00 |

| ORDER BY | 2021 | DELIVERY DATE |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|
| January 18 | | January 27 |
| February 15 | | February 24 |
| March 8 | | March 17 |
| April 12 | | April 21 |
| May 3 | | May 12 |
| May 31 | | June 9 |
| September 6 | | September 15 |
| September 27 | | October 6 |
| October 25 | | November 3 |
| November 29 | | December 8 |

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email office@oakpark.ca



Clothing Rack Ministry

Open for *FREE* Business
Thursdays from 9-12



MEN'S PRAYER MORNING

Wednesdays @ Oak Park
6:30-7:30am
Coffee Provided



Did you know Oak Park has an app? Download to your smartphone to access online sermons & event information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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