

1. Saying Hello! ... Visitors at the End of Summer Picnic! Throughout the calendar year we have several picnic/fellowship outings as a church family. Most of the time those that attend are the faithful families. Encouragement is always given to bring a friend or invite someone to visit. Perhaps, for those that regularly attend church we cannot understand how awkward or intimidating it may be for an "un-churched" person to come ... especially to a small, traditional, conservative church. We have found that extending an invitation to a little less formal event (a picnic or game night, etc.) is sometimes the key to getting them in the door the first time. By no means are we compromising biblical truths or standards ... just seeking other ways to break-the-ice in getting the unsaved to come to a church function. Well, on the last Sunday evening on August, a wife and daughter came to the picnic. Her husband had been attending the morning service or the mid-week service as his work schedule had allowed. All three came to the outing and had a wonderful time ... getting to know some of the others, eating good food, playing games and crafts, and most importantly listening to gospel hymns and a simple gospel message that followed the meal. This was the first time that either mother or daughter had ever heard that kind of singing or the gospel message in their lives! Help us by praying, as we endeavor to continue reaching this family with the love of Jesus Christ and His glorious gospel!

2. Saying Goodbye! ... It is inevitable that as some come ... others go. Hinton Baptist Church has had to say goodbye to some wonderful believers in the past few months. One was a single young lady that had recently been baptized and was soaking up the Bible preaching like a sponge. She had begun an in-depth discipleship program with my wife and then, ... she left. Her work transferred her back to the Edmonton area. Praise the Lord! there is a good bible preaching church not 10 minutes from where she lives on the north side of the city and she is faithfully attending the services there, as her work schedule allows. We also had to say goodbye to a family from Ontario. Again, seasonal work brings people to town and then takes them from town! We trust the Lord to see them again in the spring. Sometimes, even the short goodbyes take their toll on a church family. One of our dear ladies has been absent from "her spot" Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesdays as well. We had to say goodbye to her for almost 3 months due to a surgery for an organ transplant. She is recovering well and asked us to pray that she would be home in Hinton for Christmas. It is hard to believe but, ... we have said goodbye to a little over 25% of the church family in the last four months! The Lord knows all things and all reasons. May He be honoured in all that is done.

Thank you for the continued prayers and support. It means so very much to know the "life-line" of prayer support is going to the throne of our Heavenly Father ... a throne of grace in the time of need! May God richly bless you during this special time of year!

God Bless, Shane Davis, Pastor