

**SUMMER 2020** ~ Many were and have been affected by the government lock-downs and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hinton Baptist Church was no exception. Whether we agreed or not, the town closed the building in which we rented space for the church services, and for the first time in almost 13 years we had no place to meet. It was decided to commit the need to God's care and guidance, purchase a 20'x40' tent, and continue to hold Sunday services in the parking lot until the tent was erected on the East River Rd. property.

We thank the LORD for answering prayer! He provided a permanent meeting location in only three weeks time. The building is located less than a kilometer from our previous location. No longer would the church have to worship the Lord while "putting up with" magic shows, business parties, weddings, etc. The Lord is good all the time! The building does need work; the vast majority of which is cosmetic. Little by little, as funds allow, we will paint, remodel, build, and beautify the meeting place of the Hinton Baptist Church to the glory of God!

**FALL 2020** ~ As the days shortened and the leaves began to turn a golden yellow, the church families gathered at the East River Rd. property for an "End of Summer" picnic. It was a good time for all that attended. In the late fall and early winter months the cases of the virus began to rise in Hinton, as well as across most all of Alberta. This led to tighter restrictions and more pressing mandates from both local and provincial governments. Once again, we found ourselves coming before the throne of Almighty God seeking His guidance in decisions concerning how, when, and how many of the church would meet at any given time.

Praise the Lord for His help! We will serve God with a clean heart through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ; We will serve God with a clear conscience, not being dictated to or lorded over by any individual or group. Restrictions have varied from province to province ... some churches completely closed; others allowed to meet with very limited attendance. Currently, we have a province-wide restriction for places of worship set at 15% of the fire code building capacity. The Alberta government has determined it is "safe" for 20 individuals, plus staff, to worship the Lord in our building.

**PRAYER REQUEST ~ Pursuing God ...** Government restrictions (and fear) have served to thin the ranks a bit. Please pray that those who have remained obedient to God's mandates, will follow hard after Him. Paul pressed toward the mark ... David panted and thirsted ... May we pursue God. **Wisdom, Discernment, Grace ...** How do we remain good citizens, and yet serve the Lord with a clean heart and clear conscience? Do we begin to explore ideas that are a reality for believers in other countries around the world by going "underground"? How to combat the miasmas of fear and uncertainty, driven by media, that arrests the hearts and minds of so many? How do we truly comfort and guide people that have been affected by death, anxiety, isolation, etc.?  
**Faith ...** To keep our eyes upon the Lamb of God. Even so come, Lord Jesus.



God Bless, Shane Davis & Family