



## **Dear Supporters and Friends**

We apologize for not keeping in touch a little more. Many things had happened since Shawn's last report about a year ago. We have so much to share with you.

As many of you were aware, on August 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, Shawn left New Brunswick to work with the Central church of Christ in Winnipeg. He jumped right in the thick of things since the first day he started on September 1<sup>st</sup> and never looked back. It has been non-stop action for him. He was involved in as many aspects of the congregation life as time would permit him. He preached three times a month, four if there was a fifth Sunday. He helped out in their many outreach programs such as FriendSpeak, Celebrate Recovery, Clothing Giveaway and the Transportation Ministry. He also had many opportunities to study with people and together with the efforts of some members, we praised God for the 16 baptisms between October 2016 and October 2017. Shawn also made many connections with church members, spending time talking, encouraging and helping them. He participated and helped with many church activities and events. It has been a busy and fruitful year to say the least.

While Shawn kept busy with the Lord's work, Chieh was occupied with work of a different kind. She had an eventful winter. Shovelling a few feet of snow was not fun but it got done. She had the good fortune of practising her winter driving right after the first snowstorm. She was stuck in snow going uphill (twice in a day on her way home) and the car swerved when she went downhill too fast. She skidded when she tried to avoid a deer and fell a few times on our icy driveway. Cleaning snow off the car in blistering wind early in the morning to get to work was no fun. She was thankful for remote start. She had new found admiration for how sturdy Canadian women are. She learnt to be independent with chores and repairs around the house that Shawn used to do and appreciated him that much more.

The final offer on our house was confirmed on July 24, 2017 (after two conditional offers fell through because our buyers were having trouble with the sale of their house). This ended an almost two year process since we first put the house on the market in August 2015. Initially, we were just trying to get rid of the mortgage. The home selling effort took on a more urgent turn in 2016 when we realized that the church here in Saint John was losing two families which would make it impossible for the work to continue due to the reduced giving with their departure. The realtor kept telling us we only needed that one qualified buyer. Two realtors, twenty one showings and three open houses later, that buyer finally appeared and everything fell into place really quickly.

We had hoped to visit the Halifax church in NS before we left but time was tight for us to make that four hour trip. However, we managed to worship with the Moncton congregation on August 27<sup>th</sup>. We said goodbye to the house that was our home for seven years on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The sale of the house successfully closed on August 30<sup>th</sup>. We left Saint John and stayed overnight in Woodstock so we could visit the Agyares, a Christian family of five from Ghana, in Beechwood (about three and a half hours from Saint John). We started our trek out west on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

We were thankful to the elders at Winnipeg who had granted us permission to visit some friends and supporters along the way. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we stopped in Stratford ON to visit Marj Hoover, Paul and Deborah Dale and had lunch together. Shawn had interned at Stratford for about one and a half years between 2008 and 2009. We regret we were not able to visit more members of the Stratford church because of the time crunch. From Stratford, we drove to Kitchener ON and had dinner with Walter and Elaine Hart that evening. As always, we enjoyed the conversations and ended the visit with a game of Skip-bo.

We arrived in Barrie ON on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We were able to spend some time with Tim and Diana Johnson. Tom and Hillary and their children were also there for a visit, so it was really good to be able to see them too. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we met with Karl, Debbie and Mitchell Klemm for lunch before we continued our journey west again.

We stopped in Thunder Bay and Kenora but there were no more visits as we wanted to get "home" quickly. We finally arrived in Winnipeg on September 6<sup>th</sup>, stopped in at Scott and Dorie Johnson's to get the keys to our rented apartment. Our worldly belongings arrived on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our new life in Winnipeg started off with us helping at the annual clothing giveaway on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We helped at the Youth Rally from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. Chieh also attended the annual Ladies Day on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, a month after we arrived, we were finally able to have company over for meals and games, something Shawn really missed being able to do while he was in Winnipeg as he was staying with church members and did not have a place of his own to entertain. Since then, we have had more people over. It is always encouraging to get to know each other this way.

Since September 2017, Shawn is able to share preaching duties with the arrival of a second minister. He now preaches twice a month. He also teaches Sunday morning Bible study with an elder on a rotation every two weeks. We divide our time participating in various ministries and activities such as 55+, Young Couples & Families Bible Study, weekly FriendSpeak Program, International Group Get Together, congregational potlucks, baby and bridal showers, clothing giveaways, potlucks and more potlucks, visits with members and having members over. Shawn has on-going Bible studies with people who are interested. Together with a group of members, we audit a GLBC course every fall taught by Paul Birston. Opportunities are aplenty here. There's never a dull moment for us.

We have many people to thank for this past year as we lived apart and waited for our house to sell. You have encouraged us through your prayers and cards, whether as individuals or as a congregation. We are so blessed to have you with us on this journey since Shawn started Bible College in 2004. We wish we could visit every one of you on our way to Winnipeg but we could not.

We will always remember your kindness and are grateful for your prayers, gifts and how you have laboured with us all these years. Nothing encourages us more than to know that the support money you have faithfully provided to us over the years is now being used to help in other works.

As we write this new chapter of our lives, we do not know how it will pen out. But we know who holds tomorrow. Through all this, we are once again reminded that God is faithful and mighty and He answers in due time - *HIS time, not OURS*. He has timed all this perfectly so that we are where we are today.

Thank you for upholding us with your prayers. May God bless you richly in return for your kindness to us.

*To God be the glory!*

Here are our new contact details. Please continue to stay in touch.

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2018  
Happy New Year!

With love and gratitude,

*Shawn and Chieh*  
*December 2017*