

**The
Davenports**

Moving Forward

July, 2020

**Thunder Bay, ON
Canada**

Still Waiting

I was just reviewing my newsletter from December of last year. In that letter, I mentioned that it felt like big changes were on the horizon. Here we are in July of 2020 and that's EXACTLY where we remain. We are, for sure, on the cusp of change. We all process change differently. For some of us, change is scary and for some of us, change is exciting. I'm a BOTH/AND type of guy so I'm definitely experiencing that feeling of anticipation for what's next while I'm living in the "not yet". At the same time, trying not to be completely freaked out. Wow. Have you ever been there?

There is a learning process I'm smack in the middle of right now. To be honest, that process has been kicking my butt! I want answers. I want specifics. And I wish I could share with all of you what that is but alas, I don't know myself. What I do feel is that God told me yesterday that I need to have peace in Him, not peace in a plan. Hmmm. I needed to hear that because as an administrative and organized guy, I'm a big planner. I've been taught that to succeed, one must have a plan. One must be prepared. So succeeding WITHOUT having a specific plan looks much different for me. I'm so thankful for my amazing wife Karen who helps keep me grounded in this truth.

If your life looks ANYTHING like mine over the last few months, it has meant a slowdown and a shifting of priorities. The COVID lockdowns have meant having to figure out ways to continue on with ministry that have been unlike anything we've had to do before. Online services, stay at home church, ZOOM meetings and phone calls have been the primary form of ministry. Working from home was an enjoyable novelty for about 2 weeks and since then, it's exposed more of the true me in which I've had to admit that live human beings are more important to me than I've thought. Preaching to a camera just hasn't been anything I've signed up for. I'm longing for a return to "normal" yet not knowing if that's going to be possible. I'm not yet ready to believe all the "experts" who have said normal is never coming back. There is hope in me that they are at least partially wrong and although we may see some changes, the DNA of humans longing to connect is going to happen and when it does, I plan to be there.

As I sit here today, I'm reminded of an old phrase that has floated around for years. You've probably heard it many times. It says "Please be patient. God isn't finished with me yet." I say that today because I'm learning more about who I am while I wait on God. I hope that on the other side of this season is the freedom that I long for. That's also my prayer for you. Wherever you are and whatever place your life is in, that you will find the freedom and the peace that is yours in Jesus.

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*“Trust steadily in God,
hope unswervingly,
love extravagantly”*

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Please do NOT put our names on checks. Include a note in your envelope that the contribution is for Mark & Karen Davenport—YWAM Thunder Bay.



YWAM

It's been my pleasure over the last 6 months to be serving on the YWAM Canada board as the Treasurer. It's been great getting to spend time with some of my fellow YWAM'ers across the country. I've had the chance to see some new ministries of YWAM Canada spring up. Recently, we've seen new ministries launch in the Niagara region and also in Kelowna, BC. Our regular board meetings have offered me the opportunity to interact with the leaders of these ministries and offer insight and input into the structure of their new ventures. I've been able to utilize some of my experience working in church administration to offer input to these new ministries. As new ministries begin to take shape, it's so important that there is an infrastructure to help them succeed and seek the protection they and their participants need to operate in healthy and safe ways. I'm grateful for the leadership that has emerged on the board and want to see these relationships develop.

Davenport Family Prayer Needed

Regarding Davenport Family news - our daughter Alex continues to serve at YWAM Perth, Australia and we're so thankful that FaceTime keeps us connected with her. She's presently helping to lead a Biblical Core Course (BCC) which is expected to end in August. At that point, she is unclear what is next for her although she intends to stay with YWAM Perth in some capacity. She has been dating a great guy named Josh for the last 18 months and their relationship seems to be moving forward. We are continuing to pray for them as they work on figuring out what's next in their lives.



Simeon is going to be starting his second year at Lakehead University studying computer programming. He's doing great at his job at Metro Foods and working a lot over the summer. Karen continues to press on at Erickson's law firm being her amazing self as a master of administration.

My son Jacob needs your prayers. He's going through a very tough season right now and that has put strain on Karen and I as well. I am asking for prayer for him and us as we try to help him navigate his life. Although this is the last item in this letter, it's probably the most important one right now.