

**WESTLOCK GOSPEL CHAPEL**  
**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – May 29, 2020**



**This Sunday:** We will be having two identical services at 9:30am & 11:30am. Tim Wilson will be speaking. Note: The elders have reconsidered having communion until we get pre-filled communion sets. **Maximum capacity will be 50 people per service, if you would like to attend and haven't registered by 1pm Friday, you can still register by phoning or texting Tim Wilson at 780-206-7885. You must pre-register to attend.**

**Weekly Message Recording:** This week we resume audio only available on our website:  
[www.westlockgospelchapel.com](http://www.westlockgospelchapel.com)

**Friday, May 29 – Online Youth Group**

The youth are meeting online via Zoom. If you would like to join, contact Tim Gurnett, [timliz@telus.net](mailto:timliz@telus.net)

**Wednesday Morning Prayer:**

Wednesday morning prayer at 7am at the Chapel.



**Thursday & Friday**

Registration for the Sunday services will begin Thursday and close on Friday at 1pm. You must register in order to attend to ensure we have no more than 50 people.

**Pastoral Contact Info:**

If you need to speak to the Pastors of Westlock Gospel Chapel please give them a call at:

Tim Gurnett – 780-349-6092, email: [timliz@telus.net](mailto:timliz@telus.net)

Tim Wilson – 780-206-7885, email: [timwwgc@gmail.com](mailto:timwwgc@gmail.com)

Chapel Office – 780-349-4555, email: [wqchapel@telusplanet.net](mailto:wqchapel@telusplanet.net)

**Our Office Hours are: Monday-Friday 9am-1pm**



**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for our missionaries who continue to work both remotely and out in the mission field. Pray for wisdom for the future, as well as safety wherever they may be. Pray that they will be able to reach many more with the Gospel, and that the hearts of the people will be softened to receive the gift of salvation.



**Missions:**

**The Dickson's**

**Lockdown:** In France, we have been in strict lockdown from mid-March till mid-May. We are now able to go out to stores, but meetings are still disallowed as well as traveling more than 100km from our home. Here are some of the bad and good aspects we have experienced during this time:

**The bad :**

- about 30,000 French people have died in this epidemic
- not being able to go and visit our children and grand children
- no « real » fellowship through physical gatherings with believers

**The good :**

- spending lots of time together as a couple in a pleasant living space and in good health
- discovering new ways of sharing the Gospel through video conferences. We have actually seen an increase in people « attending » Sunday services.
- Reaching across oceans : Brad was able to preach « in » a Church service in Canada and share in a Missions meeting « in » Hong Kong ! Our international students have mostly flown home but continue to connect to our Bible Studies from places like Taiwan, Korea, Slovakia, Denmark, Germany ... Most of them are not yet believers, please pray !



- Giving pastoral care and doing discipleship through video conference. Catherine has been busy morning to evening calling people to get their news, praying and training.

- Brad was able to work more on his commentary.

### **On the road again ...**

There is a need for church planting in Manosque, a city of about 60,000 people with only one evangelical church. We prayed about it and the Lord showed us that He wants us to go there. In the week we decided we should go, God provided two young tent making couples to help us in the project! Lord willing, we plan to move in the summer of 2021. We will be filling you in on more details about this new project as we go along. Thank you for your faithful prayers and giving! You are precious to us.

You can connect with the Dickson's by email: [b.dicksonfrance@icloud.com](mailto:b.dicksonfrance@icloud.com)

### **The Engler's**

Correction to last week's newsletter: Garry is in the Keir Care Centre in Barrhead, not Shepherd's Care. If you would like to be in touch with them, they would love to hear from you! You can mail letters to: 5404-54 Avenue, Barrhead, AB, T7N 1C4.

### **Wedding Shower:**

The wedding shower for Joel & Kimberly is up on our YouTube channel. You can view it at your leisure by going to this link: [Joel & Kimberly's Shower](#)



### **Mount Carmel News**

Good news! In response to the Alberta government relaunch strategy Mount Carmel anticipates being able to run their program in person come September. Due to smaller class sizes and the flexibility of programming, they expect they can make any adjustments that are required as the relaunch continues. Go to their website for further information: [www.mountcarmelbiblecollege.com](http://www.mountcarmelbiblecollege.com)

### **Deacons Financial Report:**

April Income: \$27,811, Expenses: \$25,042

Thank you to all who donated electronically through e-transfer, and those who have dropped off or mailed cheques to the Chapel. Praise the Lord for His continued provision!

### **A Pastoral Reflection and Devotion** - (May 29, 2020)

#### **Government Restrictions on Church**

There are a lot of views (and conspiracy theories) right now regarding COVID-19, including opinions about the response from churches. I wanted to briefly take some time to share my thoughts about the restrictions and freedoms we have been given from the AB government during phase 1 of relaunching Alberta.

Last week I was part of a call initiated by the government, which included over 1000 religious leaders in the province. For two hours we were involved in discussion with Premier Jason Kenney and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Hinshaw regarding the reopening of churches. This conversation followed the announcement and guidelines upon places of worship (and other businesses) to reopen.

Overall I was very encouraged by the conversation and the respectful and humble response the Premier and Dr. Hinshaw demonstrated. I think it is noteworthy that at the time of the call we were the only province (and likely only state in North America) to receive permission to gather in groups larger than the restricted number for other indoor gatherings. This seems to indicate recognition of the priority and necessity of faith based meetings from a government point of view and their commitment to listen to the requests of the faith based community.

In saying this, some people have still argued for a form of prejudice or persecution upon churches because of the differences in restrictions between restaurants and churches. After listening to the answers from the government to these questions, I'm satisfied the reasons for such differences are practical, rather than prejudicial (even if some of them aren't fully thought out).

For example, the patrons at a restaurant are generally not gathered together for a large social gathering, but a small party. This means contact is expected to be minimal between diners who are not at the same table. On the other hand, a church meeting is a purposeful meeting among all members in attendance and interaction is likely between all in attendance. Those who eat at a restaurant can also often be contacted via information provided with their credit card should an outbreak occur, whereas an attendance record for churches was suggested (not mandatory) to contact individuals should an outbreak occur, because such contact information is not available via credit card.

I do believe the government recognizes the importance of church in people's lives and they listened to the majority of callers on the meeting who called for church attendance to be based on seating capacity. Therefore, I'm hopeful, and we should be in prayer, that the number of people who can attend is increased as phase 2 begins. In the same way I'm optimistic singing will be welcome (even if it has to be with masks on).

I admit there's much not to like about the restrictions on us, yet, we are instructed in Romans 13 to submit to the government (unless it clearly contradicts Scripture). Therefore, following God's command should be a joy, a privilege and a necessity, even if we don't like what we're instructed to do. We are in a unique time of world history, yet Scripture remains relevant and it must be accepted as the authority in the lives of believers. Realistically, this does not apply only to our response to COVID, but in every area of our lives.

Finally, if you have questions, suggestions or concerns over the way the government or the elders have handled this situation I'd certainly be happy to chat through these with you. I would only ask that you first consider your motivation to share and that you be in prayer for both the government and the elders at WGC. As believers we should also ensure we follow the biblical instruction to think of others as more important than ourselves (Phil. 2:3-4) and not judge others for their personal views on COVID and how Christians should respond (e.g. Rom. 14; 1 Cor. 10:23-33). However, I certainly don't have all the answers and have much to learn, so I'd be glad to chat with you if we can constructively and biblically see the Gospel advance in our lives and the community.

For Christ and His glory!

Tim Wilson

### **Awana:**

- Trish Ehrenholz has recorded YouTube videos for the last two lessons of the "Evidence of Grace" Truth & Training book that the grade 3 and 4's worked on this year. Here are the links for those lessons: [Lesson 4.6](#) [Lesson 4.7](#)
- **We encourage those who are still working on their books to get those finished up as soon as possible. Our Awana leaders are looking forward to celebrating your accomplishments with you! You can contact one of the directors or the Chapel office if you have questions.**



### **Electronic Giving (Interac E-transfer):**

1. Go to your internet banking.
2. Select "Send money using Interac E-transfer"
3. Register if you have never completed an E-transfer before. Follow the steps given.
4. Use the e-mail [wgchapel@telusplanet.net](mailto:wgchapel@telusplanet.net) to send the E-transfer to.
5. **Auto Deposit is now set up. You will no longer need a security question & answer.**

**\*Note: We would like to encourage you to continue the use of e-transfer giving now that we are returning to having services again, to reduce the handling of paper money. However, we will also have an offering basket available on Sunday mornings if you prefer to give that way.\***

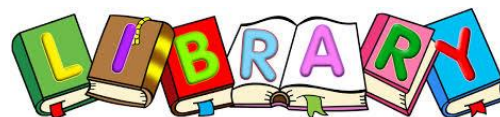
### **Devotional Booklets:**

The Chapel has the current weekly Power for Living devotionals and new June, July, August Our Daily Bread and The Word for You Today devotionals available for pick up. Please use hand sanitizer upon entering the building before you take any resources.



### Guidelines for Using the Chapel Library:

There are wonderful resources, books, audio & DVD's to inspire you in your Christian walk available in the Chapel's library. The library is open during office hours.



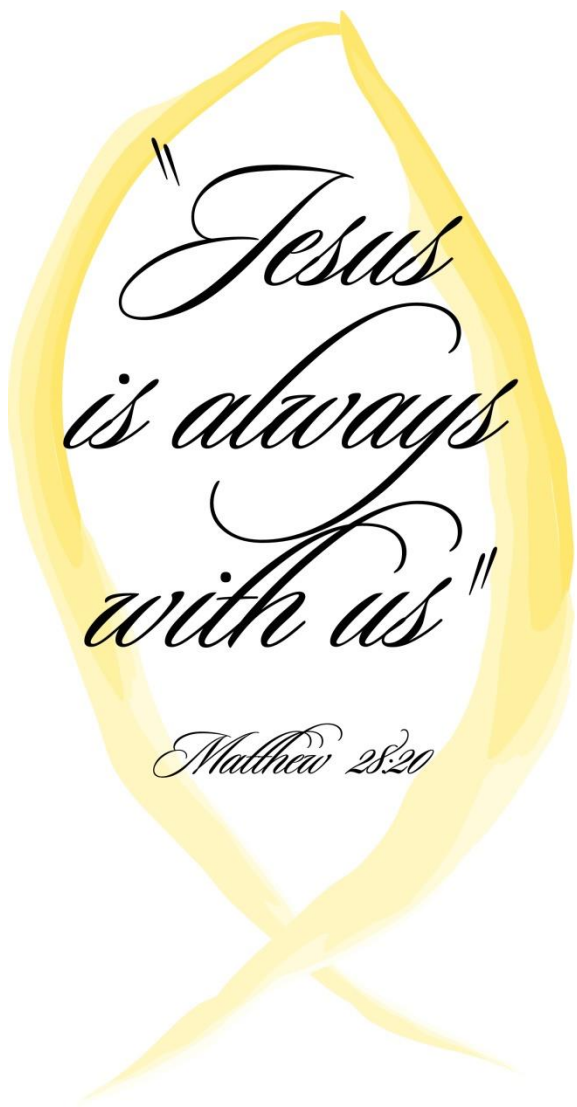
**In light of how the coronavirus can spread, please take all necessary precautions to keep the items safe for the next persons who handle them, ie. by washing your hands and refraining from coughing or sneezing on the books and resources. If that should happen, please immediately disinfect with an antibacterial wipe.**

Your carefulness and consideration of each other is appreciated by all when using the library.

**Note: There will be no access to the library during the Sunday morning services. A drop-off box will be available for returning items only.**

### Prayer Chain:

We would like to encourage joining the prayer chain to stay connected and be in prayer for the needs of the congregation and beyond. If you would like to join, contact Tim/Liz Gurnett, 780-349-6092, or Judi Bidne, 780-349-7079.



### PAUL THE APOSTLE WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- |           |                    |                   |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ANANIAS   | DAMASCUS           | PREACHING         |
| APOSTLE   | EPISTLES           | ROMAN CITIZEN     |
| ARRESTED  | GALATIA            | ROME              |
| ATHENS    | GENTILES           | SAUL              |
| BAPTISED  | IMPRISONED         | SERVANT OF CHRIST |
| BARNABAS  | JERUSALEM          | SHIPWRECK         |
| BLINDED   | LETTERS            | SILAS             |
| CHURCH    | LIGHT              | TARSUS            |
| CONVERTED | MISSIONARY JOURNEY | THESSALONICA      |
| CORINTH   | PAUL               | TIMOTHY           |