

## A NOTE FROM YOUR ROSEBUD MISSIONARIES

It has been a while since I wrote a newsletter! But we are still here in Rosebud, sharing Christ, and the hope of Forgiveness, Resurrection, and Life Everlasting. We enjoyed our Lenten and Easter seasons, and the fun of the midweek services, and the joy of celebrating Easter.

The week after Easter we had the privilege of baptizing 3 people. 2 babies and a teenager.

It was fun baptizing the babies. One family thought that maybe they could not have children, but they did! So it was a real joy to baptize a baby from a family I met the day I was ordained. The other baby was also from a family I am really close to. One of the good things is that both of these families have gone through lots of struggles, but our Lord Jesus stays with them, leading them through the ups and downs of life. It is on days like this one, where you get a chance to look back and see that God doesn't give up on us, but he leads us even through the valley of the shadow, into the paths of righteousness. He is there with us.

The baptism of the teenager was a little different, and sad. I baptized him at the hospital, as they knew he was not going to live. He had been with some friends after school, and he was accidentally shot by one of his friends. The grandma knew he had not been baptized, and they called me and asked me to do so. I did, and shortly after, he went to heaven.

After that, some people questioned me about the baptism. "Did it work? Is he in Heaven?" The ultimate answer is that only God knows. But I do know that God put his promises into the water of Baptism, and that we can trust those promises. He did not ask to have the life support measures attached to him, and he did not ask for the baptism. But we did both things. The hope and comfort of the promise of baptism is that Baptism washes away our sins, saves us, and ties us to Christ's death and resurrection, and places His name upon us. Baptism is not magic, but rather, God attached the promises to the baptism, and God keeps his promises. It is not the strength of our promises, but the strength of God's promise. I am just glad I got the opportunity to try, and it gives hope to me and the families, that heaven is opened. I also know that he had heard the message of life in Christ before that time. Of course we continue to pray and encourage the family as they go through this time. As well as the family of the friends who were involved, as they need and desire forgiveness also.



We had fun building a ramp to our back door. One of our members was in need of it, proposed the idea, shared some money to help fund it, so we built it. The fun thing is we did it together, and by ourselves. The people in the photos are some of the first members of our church.

I realized the other day that this May will be 20 years that Lori and I have lived here. We moved here in 2016 to serve with my dad as a vicar, and then was ordained the following year. Life has not been boring since! It won't be long and Titus will be doing something similar, as he is wrapping up his first year at seminary.

Thank you all for your generous support through the years; Prayer, cookies, supplies, money, words of encouragement, and of course more prayer. We pray that God continues to bless the people here with faith in our Lord Jesus, and that the life we have in Christ is shared not only here, but where you live also.

In Christ, Pastor Andrew Utecht, Lori and boys.

