



Notes from the
Cottrills



September 2023
edition

So far this summer we've had the privilege to serve in 8 churches and even one camp. An important part of this visit has been giving reports on the ministry in Mexico, "declaring all that God has done" (Acts 14:25-28).

But we have also tried to be an encouragement, and to teach from God's Word. We presented the *Where did the Bible Come From?* Seminar, looking at the amazing history of the Scriptures, responding to common attacks, and even looking at current and future challenges as we continue to bring God's Truth to the world. Jim also taught a seminar on *The Environment*, studying the surprising biblical teaching about our world and universe, and how it clashes with many of the world's views.

We were privileged to attend Nathanael's graduation from High School, on the 10th of June at the Zion Evangelical Missionary Church in Didsbury, Alberta. Being with a home school class, many of the students were meeting for the first time.

Congratulations, Nathanael!



When you live in a different country than most of your family, you're often trying to pack months and years of visits into a few days, or even a few hours! We have been blessed to spend a little time with Hannah and Nathanael, and with Shari's parents, and Jim's Mom, who are all in Three Hills Alberta now.

Shari's sister Amy and her family were visiting from Ethiopia, giving us a chance to renew acquaintance, and to get to know their youngest, whom some of us had never met in person (he's eight)!

One special afternoon, Shari's brother Jeff and his family joined us, bringing that side of the family all together for the first time in many years (pictured above, in the Red Deer River valley). These are unusual blessings! We praise the Lord for these times.



Unusual Summer

"You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter."

Psalm 74:17

Maybe for some people this has been the most "usual" summer in a long time! But for us, it has been quite different - for a number of reasons, as you can see!

But unusual or not - Psalm 74 reminds us - God my King owns the stars and planets, and has set the earth and its seasons in their place (Psa 74:12-17). Even an "unusual summer" - is in His eternal plan.

"The boundaries of the earth..."

The globe pictured shows Earth as it was during this year's summer solstice in the northern hemisphere (the longest day of the year - the 21st of June).

Where we are in Alberta, most rain comes over the summer, peaking around the 1st of July. Oddly, the summer is also the *sunniest* season, and temperatures tend to peak early in August. The last full day of summer is the 22nd of September.

This summer we enjoyed having visitors from Mexico! Ezequiel and Esther, and their two sons, were here for two weeks, joining us in ministry, and also being tourists. You'll remember their names from our last letter - Ezequiel is one of the pastors at our church in Ixtapaluca. We enjoyed having Ezequiel share with many here about what God is doing in Mexico from his perspective. He has been especially encouraged to see God working in the lives of youth through our church, and also to see the church growing in its outreach and missions focus.

Meaningful Worship



Hannah and Nathanael both started new jobs this spring/summer! **Hannah** is working in housekeeping at Prairie College. **Nathanael** is working at the Golden Hills Lodge (a senior's independent living facility), in the kitchen and wherever he's needed. He is also working part time at Prairie College, also in housekeeping. We're thankful that God has provided work for them!

Ministry continues in Canada for the rest of the summer and into the fall! We will be visiting several more churches, and will be doing the *Where did the Bible Come From?* seminar once or twice more, Lord willing. For our current speaking schedule, check out <http://bit.ly/tour-23>



Please be in prayer for Jim's Mom, Beth, who had a fall and broke her hand. She's doing well, but it will take time to go through the physiotherapy and general physical healing. Please pray that God would continue to give wisdom for her future.

Grace & Peace

Jim & Shari
Hannah, Nathanael

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