

**The  
Davenports**

# Moving Forward

**June, 2019**

**Thunder Bay, ON  
Canada**

## Day Tight Compartments

Back in my early twenties, I took a Dale Carnegie Course. You may have heard of Carnegie's book "How to Win Friends and Influence People." It's been over thirty years since I took that course so I don't remember a whole lot but there was always one thing that stood out for me that I learned from taking that course. That was the principle of living in "day tight compartments." Another way to say it would be living in today only. I remember at that time of my life I was always worried about whether my car was going to break down when I got into it and that thought was consuming me. It's easy to look back on that and wonder why I stressed out so much over that but to be honest, I'm not sure that much has changed in my life. I'm no longer stressing out over whether my car is going to break down but I can assure you that there are too many days where I'm letting my concerns over various aspects of my life overwhelm me day to day. Jesus' words from Matthew 6:25 are pretty clear about this. He says "Do not be worried about your life ....." and then summarizes in verse 34 by saying "So do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will care for itself." Now I may not be worried about where I'm getting my next meal from or where I'm going to find some clothes, but there's plenty of other things that are occupying a significant amount of my brain power.

As I contemplate these thoughts and reflect on Jesus' words in verse 33 where He says to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you, I'm left thinking about this as it boils down to just TRUSTING Him. This begs the question inside me "Can I trust Him?" followed closely by "Will I trust Him?" You would think that a person my age having trusted God this long should have this figured out by now but I'm discovering brand new layers of trust that I'm being challenged into that I haven't walked in before. Can I trust Him with my future—my finances, my job, my friendships, my marriage? Can I trust Him to fulfill promises in my children's lives? What about those things that from my vantage point now seem literally impossible without a legitimate miracle? Some of these promises are long term and should I expect to have these promises fulfilled while I'm still alive or do I need to adjust my expectations?

It's easier to write about the concerns than my strategies for dealing with them. I love the day tight compartment encouragement as I believe it complements Jesus' words in Matthew but I'm challenged by exactly how I go about seeking the Kingdom of God first. My heart challenge in that is seeking out Jesus because I want to know Him more and not because that's a strategy to deal with my concerns or attempting to cash in on a promise that acts like a reward. My motives become such an obstacle. This is the faith journey friends. I'm running the race doing my best to strip off the weight and sin that slows me down and fixing my eyes on the author and champion of this way of life.

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

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## Family Update



We have a college graduate in our family! Simeon graduated with honours from the Confederation College Computer Programming course earning his college diploma. Simeon is planning to pursue his Bachelor of Science in Computer Programming at Lakehead University in the fall. We are waiting on the status of him being accepted in that program. Sim also just secured a summer job working at a local grocery store.



Our son Jacob returned back to Thunder Bay from California in March of this year. Please keep Jake in your prayers as he seeks out gainful employment and moves forward in his own journey of discovering what's next.



Karen and I had an amazing time in New Zealand seeing our friends there and then headed over to Perth, Australia to visit Alex who is serving in YWAM. It was so great to see her as it had been more than a year since our last in person visit. We enjoyed cheating Thunder Bay winter with an Australia summer and had so much fun exploring Alex's world and seeing so many new things. She is planning to return to the USA in September for her cousin's wedding and then will spend a couple weeks with us here in Thunder Bay.

This summer, Karen and I will be travelling down to Texas twice. In July we will get to have a reunion with some of our old Michigan friends and then in September, we'll be travelling down for the wedding of my niece who will be the first to get married of all the Davenport kids. We are also looking forward to spending some time in Mackinaw with my mom prior to the wedding.

## Ministry Life

Serving as a pastor and partnering with Redwood Park Church here in Thunder Bay has kept life busy. There is never a lack of things to do in a church our size. I've been having the privilege of teaching on Sunday mornings on occasion and when I'm not doing that, I've been leading courses, small groups, counselling folks, and overseeing prayer in the church. I'm excited to be returning to YWAM's Rendevous National Canadian Staff Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba in August this year where I'll have the opportunity to connect with my fellow YWAM Vancouverites that I rarely get to see.

I'm continuing to serve as an on-call Duty Chaplain with the Thunder Bay District Jail and the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre.