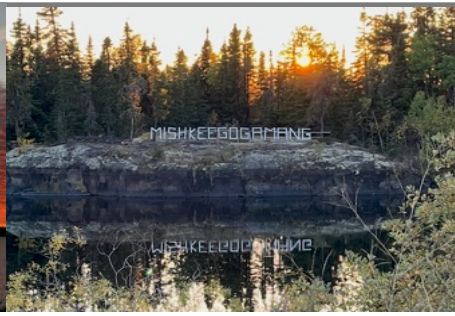




Praise the Lord:

1. God protection during the fires
2. Good attendance last week.
3. New chairs in the auditorium
4. Carpet in the Children's room

Please Pray for:

1. Successful surgery on August 14 and restored hearing in Bob's deaf ear.
2. Deborah upcoming surgery, August 26
3. Finding someone to cut 1.5 cords of wood for the winter.
4. Our people will see the importance of church attendance.
5. Plans to paint the church floor and repair the ceiling.

Isaiah 46:10b “. . .My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”

The month of July seemed to revolve around the wildfires that plagued much of Ontario. We are thankful that the Lord graciously spared our area and our people from the fires' destructive force. Here in Pickle Lake, the smoke was our biggest challenge. We only experienced a few days of heavy smoke, but it remained much longer on the reserve.

Because of the smoke and poor air quality, the Chief and Council decided to evacuate the elders and those with health concerns. We remember heading down to church one Sunday and feeling like we were walking through a ghost town. On one occasion, no one came to the service. The three of us, including Deborah, sang some songs and shared Scripture before locking up and heading home. It reminded us of the days of COVID.

The only road south was also closed for several days as fires burned nearby. Thankfully, our electricity was out for only about ten hours, although cell service was down for nearly a week. Amazingly, we still had internet access, which allowed us to make calls over Wi-Fi.

We are thankful that the fires have now been brought under control in our area, although the wildfire situation has shifted farther west. Through it all, we have seen the Lord's goodness and protection.



Special Kids:

Please pray for the Munroe family. A father of nine kids recently passed away. The circumstances were unfortunate. His children have been raised by relatives. He came around quite a bit to see them but wasn't really involved in their lives. His oldest son and neice attend the Safe Zone Club. They have taken this very hard.

Fires are a natural part of how God cleans up and renews His creation. One firefighter helped us understand just how vast northern Canada is. He explained that some fires are so remote that it can take a two-hour helicopter ride just to reach them, and then firefighters still have to find a water source to fight the fire. Many times, these fires are simply monitored because so much of the northern region is wilderness.

August brings new challenges and opportunities for us. As I write this, we are travelling to Winnipeg to catch a flight to Toronto for Bob's surgery on August 14. We plan to return on August 19 and then make the eight-hour drive home on August 20. Lord willing, Bob hopes to preach on August 23, depending on how he is feeling.

Then Deborah and I will travel to Thunder Bay for her surgery on August 26. We plan to stay there until September 2.

Once we return home, our attention will turn to preparing wood for the winter. Bob will need to take it easy for a while after surgery, so we are looking for someone to cut about 1½ cords of wood for us. It will need to be cut and split in September so it has some time to dry. We have decided that this will be our last year of burning wood. Bob's back just cannot handle it anymore. We currently have one propane stove in the front of our home, and we will need to add a second one in the back to help keep the house warm. We will still have our furnace to help during those bitterly cold days.

Since we were unable to plan a VBS this year because of the uncertainty surrounding the surgery dates, we decided to use the time to make some improvements inside the church. As time has allowed, we have been working on upgrading the building. People are very pleased with the new chairs and carpet, and plans are underway to spruce up the walls and flooring as well.

We are thankful that even when our plans change, the Lord continues to give us opportunities to serve Him and improve the ministry He has entrusted to us.

