

*Reaching Fort Worth for Christ!*

# The Texas Connection



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## Following God's Call to Fort Worth, Texas



God truly showed us His hand at work when He called us to pick up and move from Cochrane, Alberta to Fort Worth, Texas. We arrived at the border expecting to spend quite a bit of time there with papers and paperwork, but it was almost as fast as driving through a busy McDonald's drive-through. We spent more time in line, than we did at the window. The US Custom's official just took our Canadian Visa's, asked us where we would be heading and welcomed us back to the United States! We planned to drive through Albuquerque on the way to Texas to see Jason, Shannon and Addy (our grandson) but that was over the allotted mileage for the trip. God provided for us in that we had to pick up the truck elsewhere and for our trouble they gave us a free day and 500 extra miles. (just what we needed, praise God!) It was a longer journey than our move to Alberta—about 2300 miles, and it was not without some bad weather and difficult roads, yet we knew that God was with us, keeping us safe, all the way here. I know that many of your prayers were answered as we saw God intervene in some difficult driving conditions. Thank you for praying and thank you for giving as we were preparing to leave! Each of you made this move possible and for that we are eternally grateful!

### Special points of interest:

- Following God's Call to Ft Worth—this page and more
- More Pictures
- Our Call to Fort Worth , Texas
- FAQ
- Prayer Requests



## SVCC—2nd Annual Basketball Camp



Just a few weeks before we left for Texas, Symons Valley Community Church held its second annual “Upwards Basketball” Camp at Valley Creek Middle School in Hidden Valley (part of Symons Valley) and the attendance was incredible! God really blessed as we had around 111 enrolled compared to 39 enrolled last year! All week long our volunteers shared the good news of Jesus with these wonderful kids and when all was said and done, 20+ children and 1 parent made first-time professions for Christ! Praise God—He is good! We had an awards ceremony and pizza party at the school on the last day of camp and invited all the parents to join us for the festivities. We couldn’t have done these things without the help of five wonderful people from Tennessee who spent their time and resources to travel to Calgary as a Basketball Camp Missions Team to help us minister to these people. Jeff and Jesse will be doing all the follow-up. It will be interesting to see what God does next at SVCC.

### SVCC Family Helps With Move



Oh, where did it all come from?...we only lived here four years! Again, we had to give away “stuff” as we prepared to load the 26’ U-Haul to head down to Texas. Part of the stuff that was hard to part with was the Rapture-mobile (our gift Volvo) and the little Expo. Deb had tears in her eyes when they loaded the Volvo for its last ride...it was a reliable car (ugly—yes; but it got us where we needed to go for over 2 years). Our church family, seminary and convention family chipped in to help us load and clean up. What a blessing they are to us! We have remained in touch with most of the church plant since we left and the groups are continuing to grow and add new people. Just recently we were sent a picture of Arthur and the church standing on the banks of Bowness lake. Arthur was one of the first people to accept Christ a few years ago and he decided it was time to be baptized—Praise God! Please continue to pray for Ian’s salvation (pictured below).

**The “Rapture-mobile’s” Last Ride**

**Carol, Mike, Debbie, Ian**

**One Last Look**



## God Provides Transportation Shortly After We Arrive

God provided a new used car for us! Before we left we decided to give away the Volvo to the Kidney Foundation and also give away the Mitsubishi Expo. The Expo was a gift from God and we wanted to bless another student perhaps who had moved to Canada without a car. We left the Expo in Jesse Morales' care to give away when the opportunity arose. Upon arriving in Texas we rented a car and continued to pray for God to help us find reliable transportation and He did! The Assistant Dean of my degree program had an assistant who was moving to plant churches in New England and he needed to sell his car. God worked out the purchase and licensing and now we are driving a 1997 Ford Taurus GL. It has been maintained well and with a 4 cylinder engine it is good on gas—praise God! It needed some work though: I had to put on brake pads, a new belt tensioner and buy some new tires, but God helped us with every detail.



## More Traveling Pictures



L to R

**Top left:** Looked up to spot several wild deer at a gas station in Montana. Reminded us of Alberta

**Top right:** The Continental Divide—What a sight!

**Bottom left:** Remind me never to take this road out of Salt Lake City in a truck. Steep hills, really sharp curves and one lane most of the time! ('twas scenic though)

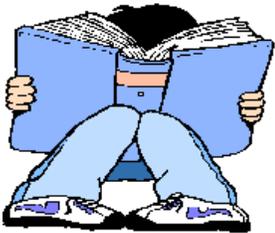
**Bottom right:** Arches National Park—this area, when it flattened out, looked like the surface of the moon! Thankfully most of the mountain driving was over before the big storms hit! More on pg 6 & 7



## Partnering Opportunities

You can partner with us in several ways, by your...

- **Prayer Support:** Commit to pray for us at least once a week.
- **Financial Support:** Commit to give to help support our work on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis or by a special gift to help us get by.



- **Semester Sponsorships:** Commit to help with Mike's books or Seminary tuition fees.

We would be so blessed to consider you as our partner in our new ministry in the greater Dallas / Fort Worth area! However, we want you to know that we would never want to compete with your giving to your local church. Rather we would ask that you would consider your pledge as an "above and beyond" gift to support this ministry.

Your prayers, along with your support, (regardless of size) continues to make the difference!

God has big plans for us to reach people for Jesus in Texas, just as He has in Canada, and you can be a big part of that!

## Prayer Requests



***And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."***

***Philippians 4:19***

- Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will prepare people we meet in Texas to be open to the gospel.
- That God will provide a place for us as seminary housing is full and there's 100's on a waiting list.
- That God would show us where we are to serve as MSC missionaries.
- That the Holy Spirit would give us wisdom and insight into His will and His purposes for the move He has placed before us.
- That God will shape us to match the assignment before us.
- That God will provide a way for us to make ends meet as rent is high (\$900+) in SW Fort Worth.

## Call to Fort Worth cont...

Every time someone would ask me what I was going to do after I graduated, I would say, “Well, since I’m still pastoring the church plant in Symons Valley, I guess I’ll just continue with the MDiv here while I’m here on a student visa. And every time I said that, I felt a tug deep within that God was saying, “that’s a good plan Mike, but it’s not my plan.” I felt no real peace about our staying here and continuing on. So after a while, I opened up to Debbie about this unsettledness and she said she felt that God was telling her the same thing. We both began to pray for God’s direction and His answer was very clear. We were to move to Fort Worth to finish my MDiv, Deb was to get a new job and I was to remain a MSC missionary with NAMB serving in evangelism or church planting. At Christmas we talked with the folks at Southwestern and I found that I was eligible to enter the Advanced track MDiv. This meant that many of the courses I had already taken in the undergrad would transfer to the MDiv and wouldn’t have to be repeated. I was told that I would have to make up the hours, but that could be accomplished through Concentrations added to the MDiv. I wanted to concentrate on evangelism and expository preaching, but God clearly directed me to choose what makes my heart beat—evangelism and church planting. I suppose God has big plans for us in the area of church planting in Dallas/ Ft Worth as we have been so involved in it while we have been here. So, I took the next step of faith and applied and God began to swing the doors wide open for us in every area. I was accepted in January and gave Symons Valley notice of our intended move at the end of July. I began praying that God would provide a replacement for me in a timely manner and I also prayed that he would be Canadian, as Canadian pastors are usually more readily accepted. God is answering my prayer as Jeff Jones and his wife Erin, have been attending regularly. Jeff is a fellow “Canadian” MDiv student and has shown a calling to preaching and teaching and being a part of our new church.

Both Deb and I can’t thank you enough for your investing in our lives, praying for us and supporting us as we attempt to reach people for Christ. Thank you in advance for your prayers during this new step of faith He has set before us. Only God can accomplish what He has in store for us and it will come to pass because of your faithful prayers & support. God bless you all!

*In Him, Mike*

## Prayer Requests...cont...

- That God will provide funds for my new tuition as a SWBTS Graduate student.
- That God will provide a car for Debbie when we arrive in Texas as she will have to be able to get to work while I’m in classes.
- That God’s will, will be done in our lives as He moves us back to the States and that He would work out His will for your own life through your faithfulness as you listen to His voice directing you as you walk with Him.

**“...and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.”**

***Ephesians 6:19***

Took a break from mountain driving



Entering Idaho...so green!



I was beginning to think we were on the moon...but it was Utah



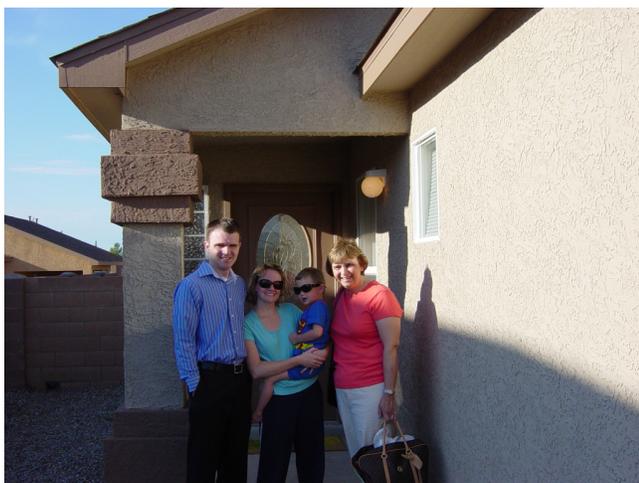
Arrived in Albuquerque...gave Addy a ride in the truck. Deb was so happy!



Jason, Shannon, Addy and Deb



Finally after four days....our off ramp to our apartment



Our apartment on the second floor



They left us a Welcome Basket of goodies when we arrived

Deb making a to do list for unpacking...arrayg



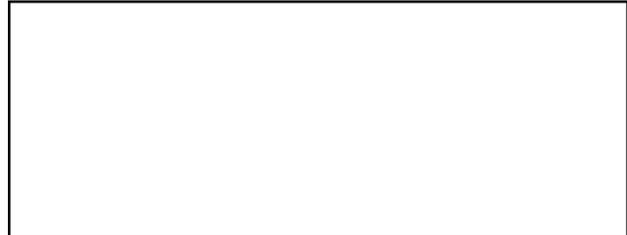
## Bishop Family Ministries

Mike & Debbie Bishop  
3713 Bradford Creek Dr. #328  
Fort Worth, TX  
76116

Phone: 817-731-6161  
Online Newsletter: [www.living4jesus.com/MS](http://www.living4jesus.com/MS)  
E-mail: [mbishop@living4jesus.net](mailto:mbishop@living4jesus.net)

Reaching Fort Worth for Christ!

We're on the Web!  
[www.living4jesus.net](http://www.living4jesus.net)



evangelism discipleship ministry  
fellowship worship prayer  
**On Purpose**



## Frequently asked questions and other news...

Here's some answers to the more frequent questions we've received.

### Q: How about the newsletter?

**A:** I am so sorry for not getting these out more often. I have posted this newsletter to the website so it can be read, as it is older news. I have started newsletter after newsletter and it seems that I get sidetracked by ministry, studies and life and I know that is not fair to you. You need to be kept in the loop and I ask your forgiveness.

We have sent out prayer cards and thank you cards, but nothing really can replace a newsletter. So I am working now on a recap of the 1st year in Ft. Worth to send out. In it I will be announcing how you will also be able to access the Newsletter Online at our website. Maybe that will help me get these out more often to stay in touch.

### Q: Is there anything you need?

**A:** We really covet your prayers! Please pray that God will meet our minimum support needs per month as we remain MSC missionaries. We are thankful for His provisions and we know God will provide. As

God leads, ask if you can help us with our support. Your prayers and support really make a difference!

### Q: What will you be doing in Fort Worth?

**A:** I will be attending SWBTS and serving as a MSC missionary in one of two areas which is still up in the air. The areas would be either in evangelism at a church needing a staff person but not having the funding to bring someone on, or in church planting—helping another planter in their church planting efforts. Most church plants cannot

afford a pastor, much less someone to help out, so the support I receive not only blesses us but it also blesses the people who we would serve in an unpaid staff position. To receive MSC support a MSC missionary must put in a minimum of 20 hours a week. In church planting 20 hours would be a dream, but it really ends up being much, much more. I could just go out and get a job, but God wants me to continue on as a MSC missionary for His plan and for His own reasons, which remain unknown to me at this writing. I have learned, though, that the only place to be is in that place of pure faith, trusting Him for everything that we need!



**We are filled with thanks to the Father as you help supply our needs and make our ministry in Everman possible!**