



Finding my Footing

Hello everybody! Welcome to another edition of Onward to Newfoundland. As of May 2nd, I have been in Newfoundland for six months. Six months has flown by. The Lord has sustained me through the winter. I, with God's grace, made it through the office move. Finally, as I sit here, the sun is shining; it's 56° outside, and life feels good.

I feel as if I am finally finding my footing on the rock. The Lord has been kind in allowing me to continue to build friendships and to see a group of guys my age begin to spend time together and build fellowship.

I never imagined how hard even the little things could be. For example, learning a new routine has proven more frustrating than I'd like to admit. Simple things, doing laundry, learning how to grocery shop here (like what store to go for which thing I need), implementing an exercise routine, have often felt exhausting. I honestly have felt tired since arriving in December. I am thankful that I am beginning to find my stride, tiredness is leveling out, and I am actually getting settled.

But the sun is out; the days are longer, and I feel as if I am finally finding my footing as I am building a little life here.



The Joy of Mission Teams

I helped host two mission teams that came in April. It was life giving. I loved getting to just spend time with these two teams, to encourage them, and to be encouraged by them.

The first team that came was from Spotswood Baptist Church. This was a team of high school students that came and served with Mile One Campus Ministry. With their help we were able to put on an outreach event! We had quite a few visitors, ate pizza together, shared the Gospel boldly, and we sang songs of praise to Jesus Christ on a radically lost campus.

The second team was from First Baptist Jonesboro. This was a group of older men, and my heart needed to have them here. They physically helped out our ministry a ton by helping us move and get the food bank squared away. They also personally ministered to my soul just by being here. It was great to be around some of “my kind” (southerners from the USA). More importantly, I got to see a team full of lay Christians that gave their time to come and serve our ministry because they believe in what God is doing here. Most of these men are in their mid 60s, and the oldest was 78. It was a joy to sit and hear their stories, how the Lord saved them, and how He is still working in their lives—well beyond retirement age.

Work Unto the Lord

One of the most successful events our college ministry had was our Finals Study Hall event. We made homemade pastries, made espresso drinks, and just gave students a quiet place to study. Yes, I did get to play barista, and I loved every minute of it. We even handed out roughly 17 *Who is Jesus?* books! Lord willing, this will be becoming a yearly event that can practically serve students amid the chaos that is finals.

I was placed in charge of our new Mile One Mission email update. We have changed the format from monthly to quarterly. I do enjoy the art of crafting something. Please pray for me, because though this might seem like “busy-work”, I hope to write newsletters to God’s glory and the encouragement our church partners. This is the same way I try to write this newsletter. Lord willing, people will see what God is doing here and have their hearts set on fire to see God move in a similar way where they live.

I had the privilege of doing some devotions on VOWR, an AM radio station here. They are a volunteer radio station that has been on the air since 1924. VOWR is a nondenominational station that hosts a daily devotion from different ministers around the city. I listened to one of the devotions the day I went in to record. The devotion I heard told us how the Holy Spirit was a woman, and encouraged the listener to “just accept what God has already given you”. There was no mention of faith in Christ. There was no gospel message. There was no application beyond “relax, just breath, and trust the wind.” This is the reality of most “ministry” here. The reason why Mile One pushes us to be a part of things like this is so that we can share a different view, a biblical view, of Christianity and the gospel to those who otherwise won’t hear it. I got to walk through the book of 2 Timothy in the format of five 5 minute devotions. As far as I am aware, there is a substantial older population that listens to this station. Please pray that God would use the teaching of His word, and that by the power of the Holy Spirit would encourage listeners to believe on the Lord Jesus, to be in their Bibles, and to find a local church that preaches the Gospel.

I also had some great conversations with the staff there. They were surprised to hear how many people have been attending Calvary. They showed remorse for how in decline nearly all of the mainline protestant churches are around the city. And they were interested to hear that we were planting churches in many of the areas where church attendance and faith in Jesus Christ have dwindled. Please pray that the volunteer staff of VOWR would (1) trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and (2) become part of a local church that teaches the Bible.

Finally, the Lord has allowed me to build a friendship with a local barista. When I first met this guy, I did not think that he was a Christian. However, he overheard a conversation I was having, and that led to him, his fiancé, and I chatting. Truth be told, I sinfully judged him incorrectly. Nevertheless, the Lord has changed this guy's life. Now he is going down the Catholic road currently, but he will tell you how Jesus saved him, and has made him a new creation. Trust me, his story is wild. Lord willing, we will continue to build a friendship, and I will be able to be a part of his discipleship story. Please pray for B. He works in a very spiritually dark atmosphere and is constantly around people who radically reject the gospel message. Pray that Christ would continue to grow him. Pray that he would be bold to not only tell those at his work about the gospel but that he would boldly live out the love of Jesus Christ to the very ones who would have nothing to do with Jesus. Pray that I would be able to humbly speak into B's life and challenge and encourage him.

Overall, whether I am preaching, meeting over coffee, writing emails, editing videos, or mopping floors—I pray that I do it to God's glory.

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

1 Corinthians 10:31



Learning from the Lord

I have had my fair share of wrestling with the Lord since being here. But unlike Jacob, I am not coming through a season where I have said “I won’t let you go until you bless me.” Instead, I have said something along the lines of “I don’t really feel like wrestling right now.”

April marks the month where I officially hit my culture shock era. The Lord has given me grace, and He continues to show me that I do not get everything right. Please pray that I would continue to trust the Lord through times of change and that I would have a grateful heart for the life that He is giving me here.



Joy in the Little Things

I have found much joy in the little things this month. If you know me, I love a good game night. The Lord has been kind in allowing me to find friends that do too.

I have been so thankful that spring has turned. If you didn't know, the sun is literally life giving. Seems to be another way that creation points to its Creator, because the Son is also life giving.

I met a Newfoundland dog. (Yes, I do like dogs.)

I got my new office set up. It is a joy to have my own little space to do work.

I got to experience my first hike of the year, which is building anticipation for exploring this beautiful island over the summer.

I tried my hand at wittling a little sword for a wood carving I was given.

I learned (although "learned" in a rough sort of way) how to hand sew to mend a few holes in some of my clothes.



The Month Ahead

May will begin the busy summer of travel and vision teams. I am excited to get to interact with potential new partners.

At the end of the month I will be back in the pulpit as I will be preaching Luke 7:18-35. I truly love when the Lord allows me to preach His word to His people. Please pray for me as I prepare. Pray that the Lord will be made much of. Pray that I would be humbled under His mighty word. Please pray that the Lord would grip my heart and use this passage to make me more like Jesus before I step into the pulpit and proclaim it to others.

I will also be going back home on June 1st. Please pray for traveling mercies, and pray that I wouldn't be distracted by the trip home as I prepare to preach.



Till Next Time

Thank you for continuing to pray for me. To those who are giving, thank you for sacrificing financially for me. If you are interested in supporting me financially, please click the button below. Once you do that, just choose M1M from the dropdown menu, and put my name in the note section.

As always, I would love to pray for you; feel free to email me at brodie@mileonemission.ca.

Your brother in Christ,

Brodie Starnes

Support the Mission

