



Cassidy the Builder



Princess Vivian



Baby Beatrice

OMF International - Canada
10 Huntingdale Blvd
Scarborough ON
M1W 2S5 Canada
(905) 568-9971
www.omf.org



Snow Angels!

have you HURD

February 2025

Beth & Scott Hurd
28 Phylis Street
Ottawa, ON K2J 1V2
scott.w.hurd@gmail.com
Skype: scott280614
Messages: scott.w.hurd@gmail.com

W I N T E R 2 0 2 5 - N E W O P P O R T U N I T I E S

With every new year we receive a precious gift: a doorway to new opportunities, perspectives, and challenges—all of which will shape us in (hopefully beneficial) new ways!

Our end to 2024 and the beginning of 2025 was definitely eventful—filled with moments of deep grief and loss and, at the same time, many reminders of the Lord’s gracious hand upon our lives.

After many months of precious time caring for her at home (as she had wished), we mourned the passing of Beth’s mother on December 11, just a few weeks shy of her 87th birthday. Scott had been with Anne and family in the US leading up to this time, and was able to bring Anne and her newest little one, Beatrice, to Parry Sound to meet her Great Nana and to share a precious few days together with her and Beth. We shared together in a wonderful service of celebration for her life as wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. We continue to miss her greatly, but the legacy of her love for family and all that she has meant to so many will live on indefinitely.

The beginning of the New Year took a bit of an unfortunate turn. On

Opportunity Knocks

January 2, while heading north from Barrie to Parry Sound in bad weather, Beth hit a patch of icy road and the car rolled into the ditch on the opposite side of the highway. Providentially, she was able to completely avoid the oncoming traffic and escaped with only minor aches and injuries (despite having to be extricated from the car through the sunroof). The next few weeks involved a lot of activity with physiotherapy and making arrangements for a replacement vehicle. We were able to head to the US on Jan. 23 in a replacement car to provide support for Anne and Coleman and family, all eight of whom were then testing positive for Covid. We spent three very full and snowy weeks with them “doing life”, loving children and grand-children, and navigating Covid, Influenza A, and various other sniffles and effects, after which we returned to Canada mid-February. Our three-year-old granddaughter (Deborah) announced that the newest family member, Beatrice (not quite six months), was now ready to join the Cap’n’s Pirate Crew because she was heard to be saying, “Arrrrrr!”

The intense beginning to this new year has provided a number of very important and precious lessons:

- 1) Circumstances can change instantly: this certainly has reinforced for us the need to be deeply grateful for all that we have and enjoy in the present, and to make the most of every single day given to us. We simply do not know what tomorrow will bring.
- 2) Being deeply committed to the work and purpose we believe God has given us to do in His strength does not prevent us from experiencing (possibly significant) challenges and hardship: this is a key reminder that we are still very much part of a difficult, challenging, fallen world, and we can (and should) expect there to be hardship associated with that.
- 3) We trust in a merciful, gracious God who, even when we don’t fully see or understand, is working things together for the good of those who love Him: the critical reminder here is that God is with us throughout the good and the bad, including in those times of challenge and hardship mentioned above. We can testify

Give thanks to God for:

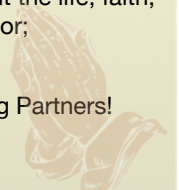
- The life, love, and legacy of Beth’s mother, Irva May Stewart (1937-2024);
- Preserving Beth’s life and health through the serious car accident in January;
- The blessing of family—parents, children, grandchildren;
- God’s faithful provision for OMF Canada throughout 2024 and into this new year;
- A new Director for Mobilization;

Please pray for:

- Beth’s dad, Gord, as he adjusts to living alone, and that we will be able to support him however most needed;
- Key positions we need to fill for OMF Canada, including:
 - Long-term successor for our Guesthome Manager
 - Our National Director search process

- Faithful stewardship of the Lord’s provision and for full provision for our 2025 ministry activities;
- The Lord’s continuing blessing on the production of a film about the life, faith, and work of Hudson Taylor;

Thank you to all our Praying Partners!



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

to innumerable instances where God graciously held or protected or healed or comforted us in some very challenging times.

As we look to the rest of the year to come, it is with the anticipation that God is not finished with us yet (in both senses—in continuing to remake us in His image, and in providing us opportunities and direction to be found in His service), and in this we can rejoice!

We are experiencing one of the snowiest winters in Barrie in a very long time. The banks around the driveway and entrance to the house are now approximately 7 ft (2.13m), so throwing the snow aside has become a much more significant cardio workout! Our Ontario granddaughters, however, think it is magnificent!

We continue to work through the sale of our home in Ottawa, and trust that the Lord has the right plan and timing for that to come to closure.

In another few weeks we will be thinking about maple syrup season once again. Lots of snow means lots of potential!!!! Stay tuned.

We continue our search for the next National Director for OMF Canada as part of our long-term succession planning and trust that the Lord will lead us to the person of His choosing in the months to come.

The next few months we will be taking things as they come, with visits to Parry Sound, getting more connected with our church here in Barrie, and various OMF-related activities for us both. Please do pray for upcoming speaking engagements for Scott (in June, as part of a special Missions evening with the Korean Philadelphia Presbyterian Church in Toronto), and for continuing wisdom and grace to know how best to support our family in their various locations.

Blessings in Christ,
Scott & Beth



Family Together!



'Tis a snowy winter aboard the Black Pearl!



Snow Fun!



Violet turns two!



Snow train in Barrie

Andrew & Claire
(with Adara, Vivian, & Cassidy)

Andrew and Claire continue to settle in to Barrie, and Andrew has taken a new job (leaving Shopify in early February). He's now working as a tow truck operator as part of a recycling and salvage business, retrieving vehicles that are destined for scrap/recycling. Adara and Vivian continue to love school and are active in many extra-curricular activities (swimming, dance, Beavers, etc.). We are enjoying a real Canadian winter™ in Barrie, with 7-foot snowbanks surrounding the entrance and the driveway!



Anne, Coleman and Family

Anne & Coleman
(with Samuel, Eleanor, Miriam, Deborah, Violet, & Beatrice)

Anne and Coleman and family have been dealing with a lot of medical challenges and illnesses of late, including COVID, Influenza, and various other maladies. Coleman has taken a couple of months' leave from his pastoral responsibilities to help manage all the challenges of a houseful of active, inquisitive children! Violet (just turned two while we visited) seems to learn new words and phrases daily, and actively explores every single corner of her ever-widening world. Eleanor has started weekly horse lessons that will encompass training, caring for, and riding the horses. Samuel enjoys exploring the vast world of Minecraft and is learning much about building and navigating the worlds therein. Miriam and Deborah continue to enjoy their "Tiny Pines" preschool programme and grow in exciting and creative ways.