

“On Mission Together”

Saskatchewan Conference of MB Churches

Director’s Calendar

April

28 – Grace Community Church (Herbert)

May

5 – Grace Fellowship (Saskatoon)

5 – Carmel Pentecostal Church
(Saskatoon)

12-16 – B.C. NMT/NFLT

19 – TBD

24 – SKMB Ex. Bd. Mtg.

28 – Grace Community Church (Herbert)

26 – TBD

27-30 – B.C. PCO

June

3 – Wynyard Gospel Church

9 – Wynyard Gospel Church

13 – CCMBC AGM

16 – TBD

23 – TBD

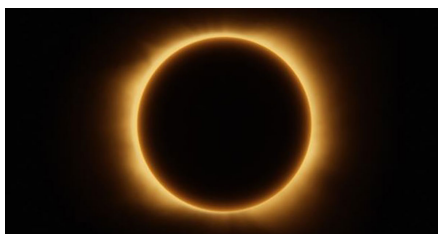
24 – SKMB Ex. Bd. Mtg.

28-30 – African Leaders Conference
(Regina)

Please pray for traveling mercies.

The Sun Stopped Shining

When things went dark, God prevailed.



“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”

Psalm 23:4 NLT

“I would rather walk with God in the dark than go alone in the light.”

Mary Gardiner Brainard

On April 8, 2024, millions of people from around the world watched a total solar eclipse of the sun. Many traveled to place themselves in the Path of Totality where they would experience the moon completely blocking the light from the sun. It was an event of a lifetime for all. For some it was an impactful emotional or spiritual experience. I was most affected by the scenes of darkness I watched on TV. It was literally like nighttime in the middle of the day!

This astronomical event made me think about another time when darkness struck during the middle of the day. As Christians, we read these words every Good Friday from the Gospel of Luke: “It was now about the sixth hour (noon), and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour (3 pm). For the sun stopped shining” (Luke 23:44-45a). Nearly 2000 years ago, after Jesus had already hung on a Roman cross for three hours, the sun was divinely darkened during the crucifixion of Jesus. It was not an eclipse which lasts only minutes, it was a darkness over Calvary that lasted some three hours.^[1] Luke’s testimony – “The sun stopped shining” or as another translation reads, “The light from the sun was gone (NLT)” – caused a distinct disquiet in my spirit. The people who were in the Path of Totality in 2024 experienced darkness for mere moments, the people at Golgotha would have experienced a supernaturally orchestrated darkness for three hours! As those who crucified Jesus sought to snuff out the Light of the World by nailing him to a Roman cross, the greatest physical light of the world was being darkened by the hand of God. I now have a greater appreciation for the centurion at the foot of the cross who could not help but exclaim, “Surely this man was the Son of God.” As well, I better grasp why many who witnessed the blackout on that Good Friday were terrified and “beat their breasts” at what was happening.^[2] Another translation reads: “They went home in deep sorrow.”

The April 8th solar eclipse was amazing, but in and of itself was likely life-transforming for none. The darkness over Jerusalem – over Calvary – was momentous, but it too was likely life-transforming for none. However, what was unfolding in the darkness at Calvary was not only spiritually cosmic, but historically cataclysmic! In the darkness Jesus was bearing upon himself the sins of humankind. What was unfolding in the darkness was Jesus’ work for our atonement, expiation, redemption, rescue. What was unfolding in the darkness was the battle for our souls. It was the greatest expression of love: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). What was unfolding was a rescue: “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the

Director of Ministry

Rev. Philip A. Gunther

Call or text:

306-533-6191

Email: phil@skmb.ca

604 Webster St.

Saskatoon SK S7N 3P9

Website & News Letter

Administrator

Heather Filazek

Email: office@skmb.ca

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forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14). And, although some form of solar eclipse happens annually, the darkness at Christ’s crucifixion will never be repeated: “Christ died for sins once...” (1 Peter 3:18).

Have you ever considered what the darkness over Golgatha may have symbolized? For me, the three hours of mid-day night symbolized:

- **The galactic battle between God and Satan.** Here was a conflict between good and evil, light and dark, forgiveness and condemnation, salvation and judgement, heaven and hell.
- **Humankind’s wickedness and blindness.** The darkness of the human soul. In her book *Contemplating The Cross* Tricia McCary Rhodes writes, “God gives them a sky that matches the blackness of their own hearts.”^[4]
- **God’s wrath and judgment.** In Scripture, darkness is associated with God’s wrath and judgment. For example, the Lord plunged Egypt into darkness as a demonstration of God’s judgement against Pharaoh. Isaiah writes that at the coming of the Lord’s judgement, “The rising sun will be darkened” (Isaiah 13). Amos writes that when the Lord brings judgement he would “make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight” (Amos 8).
- **A tangible expression of Isaiah’s prophecy coming to fruition:** “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:4-6). Again, Rhodes writes, “With every second, Jesus swallows more of mankind’s sin. Every disobedient deed...flows like poison into his very soul.”^[5] “Evil fell into the heart of Jesus,” penned Timothy Keller.^[6]

[CLICK HERE to read entire article](#)

Pastors Credentialing Orientation
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