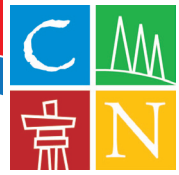


# A ministry of the whole church by the whole church

## Lent 3: God's Provision

God's mercy sustains us in trials, and he provides for us "in a dry and weary land where there is no water."



Last summer, Anglicans in northern Saskatchewan were praying for water. On Sunday, June 7th, the atmosphere was "eerie with a smoky, red-orange sky," says Bishop Hawkins. This sky was to darken and remain filled with smoke for weeks to come, seeing over 12,000 evacuated, destruction of huge swaths of forest and numerous homes.

Several weeks later in Prince Albert, Bp. Hawkins was asked to organize a meal for the next day: a benefit concert for evacuees had been planned, and supper was needed. But how to feed 500 with only 24 hours notice? Bp. Hawkins explains, "I called one person and they started to call around." And then, in what he describes as his "proudest day as Bishop of Saskatchewan," volunteers prepared a meal for 500. "It was a really happy time—a wonderful meeting of people, urban and rural, Indigenous and non-Indigenous. And the fact that our 2 congregations, Birch Hills and Muskoday—one's off-reserve and one's on-reserve—coordinated that way was also exciting and moving," he says.

This sense of *mamuwe*, of partnership in the Gospel, has been building for some years. Diocesan Indigenous Bishop, Adam Halkett, works side-by-side with Bp. Hawkins. During the crisis, Bp. Halkett's ministry continued even though his own home in Montreal Lake Cree Nation was gravely threatened. He worked tirelessly— inviting evacuees to Sunday service at St. Alban's Cathedral, providing support to families and organizing meals.

And Anglicans across Canada donated nearly \$35,000. Bp. Hawkins said, "The Primate's Fund called it a 'solidarity grant.' And the greatest treasure was just that: our people knew their Church was with them."

### Prayer:

*"Dear Lord, thank-you for uniting us as your church, your body here on earth. Help us to love and care for each other. In your name, Amen."*



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