

VAN'T WOUT FAMILY



In May of 2016, we lost our home to the wildfires in Northern Alberta. Our family evacuated to Calgary and we were blessed to be able to put our daughter Sophie in Trinity Christian School for the last two months of the school year. Trinity opened their doors to us and helped when we needed it most. The teachers, administration and families of the school prayed with us, gifted to us and generally loved on us so well that when it was time to go back to Fort McMurray at the end of the school year, we did so with full hearts. What we didn't know at the time, was that God would use our time in Calgary and Trinity as preparation for His plans.

Our first few months back in Fort McMurray were a whirlwind of activity and a flurry of emotions. We had to find a place to live, furnish it with EVERYTHING and deal with insurance on our loss. It was tough. The city as a whole was grieving and it was not uncommon to get hugs from complete strangers in the middle of Walmart or Canadian Tire. But the people were resilient and determined to rebuild. So were we. And then everything changed... the company my husband worked for decided that they wanted him and his team in the Calgary office permanently. Suddenly, we were switching gears and planning a move back to Calgary. Although the loss of our home was difficult, there were blessings in the turmoil. There was no headache of a home to sell, no things to get rid of, and no problems with our insurance claims! God had cleared the path. So we realigned our focus and began the transition to Calgary. And there was no question where Sophie would be going to school... she was headed back to TCS! No hesitations, just full confidence that God had planned it all along. We circled TCS on a map and told the real estate agent to find us something within 20 minutes of the circle.

And on July 2, 2017, we moved into our current home. We love it here. Looking back, I can see so many things that God used to "prosper us, and not to harm us... things to give us hope and a future". When we were in the middle of the storm, God found good and used it to bless us. Trinity Christian School was a huge part of that blessing. Sophie will start grade nine in September and we will miss our Trinity family when she is done. But it won't be the last of us...our granddaughter Amelia will start kindergarten in the fall as well! And she is the first of several so we'll be hanging around the corridors for a few years yet!

Daphne van't Wout