Maritime Conference, Moncton NB Canada

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Tillers of the Ground

f you walk into the Administration building at Burman University, you will be greeted by a bronze statue of the "Sower." It is one of my favourite statues that I have seen.

I have been pondering this parable that Jesus told and the deep object lessons that we can draw from such a simple story. Study with me as we dive into this parable.

In Matthew 13 the parable starts out by describing the sowing habits of a farmer. He went out to a field and started to liberally scatter seeds across a field. Some fell on a footpath and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on shallow rocky soil in which the seeds sprouted quickly, but wilted under the hot sun because they did not have deep roots and eventually died. Other seeds fell among thorns and they grew up and the weeds choked them out. And then we had the seeds that fell on "fertile" soil and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted.

We can look at this parable two ways, one applying it to ourselves and also applying it to the ground that we sow the seeds of the Gospel on. First, I want to look at the soil that you and I have the Gospel seed planted in and how that is growing in our lives. Then I would like to apply this parable to the ground that we sow seeds on and how that grows.

The four soils mentioned in the parable applies to us as individuals within our church today. Some of us are the hard-packed soil that the Good News has landed on, but it has failed to penetrate into the soil (heart) and the birds (devil) comes along and snatches it away. Now we can look outside the church for this to take place, but what if this parable can be viewed inside the church. What if we are the hard-hearted person within the church that the Good News has never ever penetrated our hearts and minds. We still stay in church and go through the rituals, but have no true sprouts coming out in our lives because we are basically hard people (stiff necked as the Bible says). I was recently talking to a friend of mine as he poured out to me in tears how certain church members are so hard-hearted and how much hurt they bring to church each Sabbath. No matter what takes place all they can do is complain.

Cultivateurs du sol

i vous entrez dans le bâtiment administratif de l'Université de Burman, vous serez accueilli par une statue en bronze du « Semeur. » De toutes les statues que j'ai vu, c'est l'une de mes préférées. J'ai réfléchi à cette parabole que Jésus a racontée et aux leçons profondes que nous pouvons tirer d'une histoire si simple. Étudiez avec moi pendant que nous plongeons dans cette parabole.

Dans Matthieu 13, la parabole commence par décrire les gestes habituels de semis d'un agriculteur. Il est allé dans un champ et a commencé à répandre généreusement des graines dans celui-ci. Certaines sont tombées sur un sentier et les oiseaux sont venus et les ont mangé. Certaines sont tombées sur un sol rocheux peu profond dans lequel les graines ont germé rapidement, mais les jeunes plants se sont fanées sous le soleil chaud parce qu'ils n'avaient pas de racines profondes et sont finalement morts. D'autres graines sont tombées entre les épines et elles ont poussé et les mauvaises herbes les ont étouffées. Et puis nous avons eu les graines qui sont tombées sur un sol « fertile » et elles ont produit une récolte qui était trente, soixante, et même cent fois plus que ce qui avait été semé.

Nous pouvons regarder cette parabole de deux façons, l'une est en l'appliquant à nous-mêmes et l'autre est en l'appliquant à la terre sur laquelle nous semons: les graines de l'Evangile. D'abord, je veux regarder le sol dans lequel vous et moi avons planté la semence de l'Evangile et comment cela grandit dans nos vies. Ensuite, j'aimerais appliquer cette parabole à la terre sur laquelle nous semons des graines et à la façon dont elle pousse.

Les quatre sols mentionnés dans la parabole s'appliquent à nous en tant qu'individus dans notre église aujourd'hui. Certains d'entre nous sont le sol dur sur lequel la Bonne Nouvelle a atterri, mais elle n'a pas réussi à pénétrer dans le sol (le cœur) et les oiseaux (le diable) arrivent et l'emportent. Maintenant, nous pouvons regarder à l'extérieur de l'église pour que cela ait lieu, mais que faire si cette parabole peut être vue à l'intérieur de l'église. Et si nous étions la personne au cœur dur au sein de l'église que la bonne nouvelle n'a jamais pénétré nos cœurs et nos esprits. Nous restons encore à l'église et passons par les rituels, mais il n'y a pas de véritables pousses qui sortent dans nos vies parce que nous sommes des gens durs (au cou raide comme le dit la Bible). Je parlais récemment à un ami à moi alors qu'il me versait en larmes combien certains membres de l'église sont si durs de cœur et combien ils sont blessés à

This is a hard dilemma since we as a church will deal with a person that smokes or breaks the Sabbath, but we rarely deal with the hard-hearted church member and the damage they make and leave behind.

I was recently watching a documentary on a church that was dying on all fronts and the pastor was talking about the cracks in the foundation of that church. She was talking about the cracks in people's lives that were preventing the church from growing. The pastor took a stand and asked one of the members to stop coming since most of the youth, young adults and young families were staying away from church because of this one hard-hearted member. When that member was asked to stay away till further notice, the church began to fill again with members who were no longer afraid to attend. That hard-hearted member then came back, a changed and more loving member.

Now what about that hard-hearted church member. What do we do with a person who comes to church every Sabbath and is a miserable member? Start to pray for that person. Over and over again there is only one way to deal with a person like this . . . PRAY FOR THEM! By praying for them you are asking the Holy Spirit to begin the work of tilling the hard ground of their hearts. Have the church pray for this person privately and see what God does to change their hearts. If after a period of fasting and prayer for this person we find that there is no change and the person still hangs onto their negative presence, then there are times when a pastor and the church board might have to have a very serious talk with them. You might be asking, "Isn't this harsh?" Yes, it is, but we also have to look at the damage it does to the church and to the tender new Christians and our youth and young adults that tend to be on the receiving end of their abuse. Now let's move on because there is a good point to the parable.

Then there was the ground that had shallow soil and many rocks in which the eager plant eventually died. Here we find a person who comes to church on fire, but because their roots do not go deep or lives by the sporadic frenzy of a gulp of water, their spiritual life eventually dies out. Now we might think that this person might drift away, but what if they continue to attend every Sabbath, but are dead inside? What do we do? Again, PRAY FOR THEM! Our prayers for our fellow travellers are so important, not only for their benefit, but for ours. Prayer changes us into the person that can reach and minister to others with a kind, gentle heart that is constantly being renewed by Jesus. We can be the person who helps remove the rock in others' lives and be the ones that waters others with the "Water" that never runs dry.

l'église chaque sabbat. Peu importe ce qui se passe, ils ne peuvent que se plaindre. C'est un dilemme difficile car, en tant qu'église, nous traiterons avec une personne qui fume ou qui rompt le sabbat, mais nous traitons rarement avec les membres de l'église au cœur dur et les dommages qu'ils font et laissent derrière eux.

Je regardais récemment un documentaire sur une église qui mourait sur tous les fronts et le pasteur parlait des fissures dans les fondations de cette église. Il parlait des fissures dans la vie des gens qui empêchaient l'église de grandir. Le pasteur a pris position et a demandé à l'un des membres de cesser de venir puisque la plupart des jeunes, des jeunes adultes et des jeunes familles restaient loin de l'église à cause de ce membre au cœur dur. Quand on a demandé à ce membre de rester à l'écart jusqu'à nouvel ordre, l'église a commencé à se remplir à nouveau de membres qui n'avaient plus peur d'y assister. Ce membre au cœur dur est ensuite revenu mais cette fois il était changé et plus aimant.

Maintenant, qu'en est-il de ce membre de l'église au cœur dur. Que faisons-nous d'une personne qui vient à l'église tous les sabbats et qui est un membre misérable? Commencez à prier pour cette personne. Il n'y a qu'une seule façon de traiter avec des personnes comme ça.... PRIEZ POUR EUX! En priant pour eux, vous demandez à l'Esprit Saint de commencer le travail de labourer la terre dure de leur cœur. Demandez à l'église de prier en privé pour cette personne et de voir ce que Dieu fait pour changer leur cœur. Si après une période de jeûne et de prière pour cette personne, nous constatons qu'il n'y a pas de changement et que la personne s'accroche toujours à son attitude négative, alors il y a des moments où un pasteur et le conseil de l'église pourraient avoir un entretien très sérieux avec lui. Vous vous demandez peut-être: « N'est-ce pas dur? » Oui, c'est vrai, mais nous devons aussi nous pencher sur les dommages que cela cause à l'Église et aux nouveaux chrétiens tendres et à nos jeunes et jeunes adultes qui ont tendance à être les victimes de leurs abus. Passons maintenant à autre chose parce qu'il y a un bon point à la parabole.

Ensuite, il v avait le sol qui était un sol peu profond avec de nombreuses roches dans lequel la plante avide est finalement morte. Ici, nous trouvons une personne qui vient à l'église et qui est en feu, mais parce que ses racines ne sont pas profondes ou parce qu'elle vit dans la frénésie sporadique d'une gorgée d'eau, sa vie spirituelle finit par disparaître. Maintenant nous pourrions penser que cette personne pourrait s'éloigner, mais que faire si elle continue à assister à chaque sabbat mais qu'elle est morte à l'intérieur? Qu'est-ce qu'on fait? Encore une fois, priez pour elle! Nos prières pour nos compagnons de voyage sont vraiment importantes, non seulement pour eux, mais aussi pour nous. La prière nous transforme en une personne qui peut atteindre et servir les autres avec un cœur bon et doux qui est constamment renouvelé par Jésus. Nous pouvons être la personne qui aide à enlever la roche dans la vie des autres et être ceux qui arrosent les autres avec l'« eau » qui ne tarit jamais.

Now how about that ground (person) where the seeds fall amongst the weeds. Oh, those weeds that we all think might be the cares of this world, well what if the cares of this world happen to have an Adventist spin to it. What if we are so enthralled with what is going on in the world in regard to last day events that we forget to mention Jesus at all. I was recently in a Sabbath School that I heard how much apostasy (according to the internet) is within some of our institutions and how Babylon and the Daughters of Babylon are doing this or that, but I failed to hear what Jesus is doing in their lives or the lives of others. Don't get me wrong, it is good to understand certain things, but when it comes out of our mouths with unbalance then it becomes a detriment and not something that leads others to hold onto Jesus more.

I will say this with some deep honesty and I might come across very bluntly. I am seeing that more and more of our people are starting to get choked out by so many various ministries preaching this and that, and it almost seems that we have forgotten about Jesus. You know how I know this? It is because this almost happened to me many years ago. I became so frenzied over conspiracy theories and what the church was doing wrong that I rarely talked about the wonderful work Jesus was doing in my life. I became more distrustful of people, especially in leadership, until God pulled me from that mindset and had my eyes opened that these people really had a deep relationship with Jesus and cared deeply for me and the church. I found if I focused on the conspiracy, then I needed another one to keep me excited when that one died down. Then one day I came to a conclusion. So what? What if this event happened because of a conspiracy? After 5 years of wasted excitement, I was left empty. I could have used that same energy to reach others to come to know Jesus and not a frenzied story. I eventually went back and apologized to each leader, to extend apologies for my behavior and my negative thoughts about them.

Mark Finley just spoke very frankly about some of those internet ministries that are causing so much frenzied hype out there, especially in our churches, and how we need to be grounded in the Word of God and to be balanced Christians. For some Seventh-day Adventists they need to have something to keep them looking or feeling moved or excited, and it usually does not revolve around a balanced walk with God. If you are getting more excited about what the Pope is doing and not what about Christ is doing in you, then I think we need to refocus back onto Jesus since it comes down to one thing and that is.... "It's all about Him."

Maintenant, que diriez-vous de cette personne (sol) que les graines tombent parmi les mauvaises herbes. Oh, ces mauvaises herbes que nous pensons tous être les soucis de ce monde, et si les soucis de ce monde ont une tournure adventiste. Et si nous étions si captivés par ce qui se passe dans le monde en ce qui concerne les événements des derniers jours que nous oublions totalement de témoigner de Jésus. J'étais récemment dans une école du sabbat où j'ai entendu dire combien l'apostasie (selon l'Internet) est grande dans certaines de nos institutions et comment Babylone et les Filles de Babylone font ceci ou cela, mais je n'ai pas entendu ce que Jésus fait dans leur vie ou celle des autres. Ne vous méprenez pas, il est bon de comprendre certaines choses, mais quand cela sort de notre bouche avec un déséquilibre, alors cela devient un détriment et non quelque chose qui pousse les autres à s'accrocher davantage à Jésus.

Je vais le dire avec une grande honnêteté et je vais peut-être le dire très franchement. Je vois que de plus en plus de nos gens commencent à être étouffés par tant de ministères divers prêchant ceci et cela, et il semble presque que nous ayons oublié Jésus. Vous savez comment je le sais ? C'est parce que cela m'est presque arrivé il y a de nombreuses années. Je suis devenu si frénétique au sujet des théories de conspiration et de ce que l'église faisait de mal que je ne parlais que rarement du merveilleux travail que Jésus faisait dans ma vie. J'étais devenu plus méfiant à l'égard des gens, surtout en matière de leadership, jusqu'à ce que Dieu m'arrache à cet état d'esprit et m'ouvre les yeux sur le fait que ces gens avaient vraiment une relation profonde avec Jésus et se souciaient profondément de moi et de l'Église. J'ai découvert que si je me concentrais sur des histoires de conspiration, j'avais constamment besoin de nouvelles histoires pour me garder excité quand la première ne m'apportais plus l'excitation. Puis un jour, j'en suis arrivé à une conclusion. Et alors? Et même si tel événement s'était produit à cause d'une conspiration? Après 5 ans d'excitation pour rien, je suis resté vide. J'aurais pu utiliser cette même énergie pour atteindre d'autres personnes et les amener à connaître Jésus de les abreuver avec ces histoires frénétiques. Je suis finalement retourné m'excuser auprès de chaque dirigeant, m'excuser pour mon comportement et mes pensées négatives à leur égard.

Mark Finley vient de parler très franchement de certains de ces ministères de l'Internet qui sont à l'origine d'une telle frénésie et surtout dans nos églises et de la nécessité d'être fondés sur la Parole de Dieu et d'être des chrétiens équilibrés. Pour certains adventistes du septième jour, il leur faut avoir quelque chose pour qu'ils aient l'air ou se sentent émus ou excités et cela ne tourne généralement pas autour de l'idée d'une marche équilibrée avec Dieu. Si vous êtes de plus en plus excités par ce que le Pape fait et non par ce que le Christ fait en vous, alors je pense que nous devons nous recentrer sur Jésus puisqu'il s'agit d'une seule chose.... « Tout tourne autour de Lui. »

Then we have that rare Christian who when that seed falls on him or her that they germinate and place their roots deep into Jesus and the Word of God. They drink deeply every day in prayer and reading the Word of God. They grow and grow until one day they produce a crop thirty, sixty or a hundred times what was originally planted. Wow! I want to see more Christians like that in our church, don't you?

Now what does this mean to produce a crop of 30, 60 or 100 times what was planted? Does it mean that one person leads that many to baptism? Let's look up Galatians 5:22, ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! The results that come from this Christian who has the Gospel planted on fertile ground produces the Fruit of the Spirit. Notice this one Fruit comes in a package and one grows in all those areas. We become more loving with joy abounding. We have an air of peace and patience when interacting with others within the church and with those who might think and believe differently than us. This type of growth also produces a kindness and goodness that people love to be around with the same faithfulness and gentleness that Christ has in dealing with all of us as sinners. Then the last one is self-control. The Bible tell us the tongue is the most misused organ in our bodies. Let us use it under self-control and lift people up instead of cutting them down. Our churches might just attract more to Jesus if this is the "fruit" that is produced.

Now let's switch gears and instead of looking at our lives and seeing what ground we are having the Gospel planted in, let's look outside to the ground that surrounds our communities. What do we as Christians and churches do if we encounter a community that is very hard to the Gospel message? We do what any farmer would do, and since Jesus is working through His church to plant the seeds of the gospel, He also uses us to till the ground around us too. Within the church we practice praying for each other (especially ourselves) and outside we use the same technique to till the ground. Pray for the work you are doing in tilling the ground of your communities around your churches.

What can we do to a hard-packed community that does not seem to look receptive to anything our church might do? We begin by praying for it. Then we begin the work of tilling the ground and we can do that by getting involved and learning the names of the people in our communities. At times, we are more concerned with them getting to know us, but Jesus got to know their names, He became their friends. I believe each church needs to be actively engaged in reaching without preaching.

Ensuite, il y a ces chrétiens rares qui, lorsque cette semence leur tombe dessus, germent et s'enracine profondément en Jésus et dans la Parole de Dieu. Ils boivent profondément chaque jour dans la prière et la lecture de la Parole de Dieu. Ils poussent et poussent jusqu'à ce qu'un jour ils produisent une récolte qui soit trente, soixante ou cent fois supérieure à ce qui a été planté à l'origine. Wow! Je veux voir plus de chrétiens comme ça dans notre église, pas vous?

Maintenant, qu'est-ce que cela veut dire de produire une récolte de 30, 60 ou 100 fois ce qui a été planté? Est-ce que cela signifie qu'une seule personne mène autant de gens au baptême? Regardons Galates 5.22, 23 « Mais le fruit de l'Esprit, c'est l'amour, la joie, la paix, la patience, la bonté, la bénignité, la fidélité, la douceur, la tempérance; la loi n'est pas contre ces choses. » Les résultats qui viennent de ce chrétien où la graine de l'Évangile a été planté dans un sol fertile, produisent le Fruit de l'Esprit. Notez que ce fruit vient dans un paquet et la personne croitra dans toutes ces dimensions. Nous devenons plus aimants avec une joie abondante. Nous avons une attitude de paix et de patience lorsque nous interagissons avec d'autres personnes au sein de l'église qui pourraient penser et croire différemment de nous. Ce type de croissance produit aussi une bonté et une gentillesse faisant que les gens aiment être autour d'eux avec la même fidélité et la même douceur que le Christ a dans ses rapports avec nous tous, pécheurs. Alors le dernier est la maîtrise de soi. La Bible nous dit que la langue est l'organe le plus mal utilisé de notre corps. Utilisons-là avec maitrise de soi et élevons les gens au lieu de les abattre. Nos églises pourraient attirer plus de gens à Jésus si c'est ce « fruit » qui était produit.

Maintenant, posons notre regard ailleurs et au lieu de regarder à nos vies pour voir de quel terrain nous sommes fait, regardons vers l'extérieur pour voir le sol qui entoure nos communautés. Que faisons-nous en tant que chrétiens et églises si nous rencontrons une communauté qui est très réfractaire au message de l'Evangile? Nous faisons ce que n'importe quel fermier ferait, et puisque Jésus travaille à travers Son église pour planter les graines de l'évangile, Il nous utilise aussi pour labourer la terre autour de nous. Dans l'église nous prions les uns pour les autres (surtout pour nousmêmes) donc pour l'extérieur, utilisons la même technique pour labourer le sol. Priez pour l'œuvre que vous faites en travaillant le sol de vos communautés autour de vos églises.

Que pouvons-nous faire en faveur d'une communauté très fermée qui ne semble pas réceptive à tout ce que notre église pourrait faire? Nous commençons par prier pour cela. Ensuite, nous commençons à travailler le sol et nous pouvons le faire en nous impliquant et en apprenant le nom des gens de nos collectivités. Parfois, nous sommes plus préoccupés par le fait qu'ils apprennent à nous connaître, mais Jésus a appris à connaître leurs noms, il est devenu leurs amis. Je crois que chaque église doit s'engager activement à évangéliser sans prêcher.

We, as Seventh-day Adventists, can begin that same tilling work with those who have the rocky soil and the weedy soil. Begin to pray and as we integrate more into our communities that surround our churches, we will be able to help remove those rock and weeds that kill and start bringing life into those communities. Just by hosting cooking/health classes, depression recovery, marriage enrichment seminars in our communities, we can begin that tilling work of helping people realize physical, mental and emotional health without yet planting the Gospel seed. We must till the ground before we plant the seeds—at least that is what a normal farmer would do. Maybe we have tried too hard planting seeds without first tilling the ground.

Then we will also encounter soil that, after a year or two of tilling the ground, is fully ready for us to sow the seeds. Remember what happens when we sow in well tilled soil? Yes, exactly, we will see amazing results! In fact, Jesus says that the harvest is great and the workers are few. So, what does Jesus ask of us? Yes, pray! And when we pray, we will see that this great harvest will have harvesters for the harvest you and me. We are the farmers that till the ground, plant the seeds at the right time and also harvest the amazing crop that God has promised us would take place. We so often focus on praying for harvesters in the field when we should also realize that Jesus has promised us a great harvest too and that this is actually a promise of a mind-boggling harvest and workers to do the work. Just as long as the 1st hour workers stop complaining about the 11th hour workers getting the same wages.

There is one more item that I would like to mention. To get to this place in which our churches have to learn to till the ground before planting the seeds, we have to understand that God might expect us to come out of our comfort zones or pews. This will take innovation and sacrifice to accomplish. I am a firm believer that we have to fish where the fish are. We have been fishing in barren areas with no results. Putting the nets out on the other side of the boat brought some complaints from the disciples, but netted a huge catch of fish. Ellen White specifically tells us to live in the country, but work the cities. For far too long we have been enjoying our country abode while the location where the fish are, have very little fishing going on. This is where we have to come out of our comfort zones (pews) and begin to reach our urban centers.

"If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision." EGW, Christ Object Lessons, p. 173.

En tant qu'adventistes du septième jour, nous pouvons commencer le même travail du sol avec ceux qui ont le sol rocheux et le sol couvert de mauvaises herbes. Commencez à prier et à mesure que nous nous intégrons davantage dans nos communautés qui entourent nos églises, nous serons en mesure d'aider à enlever ces roches et ces mauvaises herbes qui tuent et commencent à donner vie à ces communautés. Simplement en organisant des cours de cuisine/santé, des cours de guérison de la dépression, des séminaires d'enrichissement du mariage dans nos communautés, nous pouvons commencer ce travail de labour en aidant les gens à améliorer leur santé physique, mentale et émotionnelle sans tout de suite planter la graine de l'Evangile. Nous devons labourer le sol avant de planter les semences, du moins c'est ce que ferait un agriculteur normal. Peut-être avons-nous essayé trop fort de planter des graines sans d'abord labourer le sol.

Ensuite, nous rencontrerons aussi un sol qui, après un an ou deux de travail du sol, est tout à fait prêt pour que nous puissions semer les graines. Vous vous souvenez de ce qui arrive quand on sème dans un sol bien labouré? Oui, exactement, nous verrons des résultats étonnants! En fait, Jésus dit que la moisson est grande et que les ouvriers sont peu nombreux. Alors, que nous demande Jésus? Oui, priez! Et quand nous prierons, nous verrons que cette grande moisson aura des moissonneuses pour la moisson—vous et moi. Nous sommes les fermiers qui labourent la terre, plantent les graines au bon moment et récoltent aussi la récolte étonnante que Dieu nous a promis de produire. Nous nous concentrons si souvent sur la prière pour avoir plus de moissonneurs dans les champs alors que nous devrions aussi nous rendre compte que Jésus nous a aussi promis une grande moisson et que c'est en fait la promesse d'une moisson abondante avec aussi des ouvriers pour faire le travail. En autant que les travailleurs de la 1ère heure cessent de se plaindre que les travailleurs de la 11ème heure recoivent le même salaire.

Il y a un autre point que je voudrais mentionner. Pour arriver à ce point où nos églises doivent apprendre à labourer le sol avant de planter les graines, nous devons comprendre que Dieu pourrait s'attendre à ce que nous sortions de nos zones de confort ou nos bancs d'église. Il faudra innover et faire des sacrifices pour y parvenir. Je crois fermement que nous devons pêcher là où il y a du poisson. Nous avons pêché dans des zones infertiles sans résultat. Placer les filets de l'autre côté de la barque a suscité quelques plaintes de la part des disciples, mais a provoqué une énorme prise de poisson. Ellen White nous a spécifiquement dit de vivre à la campagne mais de travailler dans les villes. Depuis bien trop longtemps, nous profitons de notre maison de campagne alors que l'endroit où se trouvent les poissons est très peu fréquenté par les pêcheurs. C'est là que nous devons sortir de nos zones de confort (bancs) et commencer à atteindre nos centres urbains.

We have been spreading ourselves thin (our pastors especially) in trying to pastor a three-church district and having very little results. Let us start focusing in the urban areas in which there is much potential to catch much fish (large harvest) and all of us need to participate in this in order for it to work. Remember, we are not here to make it easy and comfortable for our own experience, we are to seek and save the lost. That means "going" and not staying to reach the lost. I know these are difficult words for some to read, but for too long we have tried to keep dying churches alive and soon we will have to start closing them. Either we begin fasting and praying for our dying churches to revive or we start to come together in our urban areas and focusing our efforts and resources to where the harvest is great. Hard words, but very true words. Ted Wilson just preached a sermon to a group of people and said exactly the same words. It is time for us to take the needed steps forward to reach a dying world and that will take sacrifice and a willing spirit to engage in active ministry in seeking to save the lost.

Paul Llewellyn, President Maritime Conference



Paul Llewellyn, and others, have preached about us having a servant's heart. This picture, taken at Pugwash in 2018, shows that Paul is willing to do what needs to be done, regardless of his office in the conference.

Nous nous sommes dispersés (nos pasteurs en particulier) en essayant d'être pasteur dans un district à trois églises et en ayant très peu de résultats. Commençons par nous concentrer sur les zones urbaines dans lesquelles il existe un grand potentiel de capture de poissons (récolte importante) et nous devons tous y participer pour que cela fonctionne. N'oubliez pas que nous ne sommes pas ici pour rendre notre propre expérience plus facile et plus confortable, nous devons chercher et sauver les perdus. Cela signifie « aller » et non pas rester dans l'attente pour atteindre les perdus. Je sais que ce sont des mots difficiles à lire pour certains, mais pendant trop longtemps, nous avons essayé de maintenir en vie des églises mourantes et nous devrons bientôt commencer à les fermer. Soit nous commençons à jeûner et à prier pour que nos églises mourantes reprennent vie, soit nous commençons à nous réunir dans nos zones urbaines et à concentrer nos efforts et nos ressources là où la récolte est abondante. Des mots durs, mais très vrais. Ted Wilson vient de prêcher un sermon à un groupe de personnes et a dit exactement les mêmes mots. Il est temps pour nous de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour aller de l'avant afin d'atteindre un monde en voie de disparition, ce qui demandera des sacrifices et un esprit de de bonne volonté pour nous engager dans un ministère actif pour chercher à sauver les perdus.

Paul Llewellyn, President Conférence Maritime Translation par Guy Lacourse



The Yarmouth church members are glad to welcome Pastor Dave Hamilton, his wife Cheryl and children Nathan, Rebekah and Andrew as pastor for our congregation since Pastor Courtney Dookie and his family have returned to Fort McMurray.

We appreciate their dedication to serving God, their willingness to work hard taking care of three churches, their friendliness and their musical abilities. It is so nice to have some more young people in our church.

We thank God for blessing us with this family.



Secretariat Report

Teresa Ferreira, Executive Secretary
If any of you have any thoughts or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact
Teresa Ferreira at teresa.ferreira@maritimesda.com.

Creeping Compromise flipped

Is your church a living light?

Returning from Lake Havasu, Arizona in the US where my family and I attended the local Adventist Church while on vacation, I see a very similar pictured church to most of our churches here in the Maritimes — few in membership, a graying population in attendance, no children (literally zero, as the three pastors' kids were away at another church), and a newly assigned pastor fresh out of the Seminary at the pulpit, trying to breathe new life into God's church, as he speaks about the hardened hearts of the Adventist Church Leadership during the 1901 General Conference! As I read the chapter in *Patriarchs & Prophets, The Rebellion of Korah* (Chapter 35), there's a very extreme lesson we can learn here, applicable to this Time, Age and our Conference. In travelling to our churches, I see this idea of a *flipped* creeping compromise that has happened within our Church (and I mean North American Division Church). We have held fast to our traditions according to the recommendation of the Church Manual or NAD Working Policy or GC Working Policy...but have we loved as Jesus loved?

"I see a whole missing generation from our Maritime Churches, and it saddens my very soul, because it's my generation."

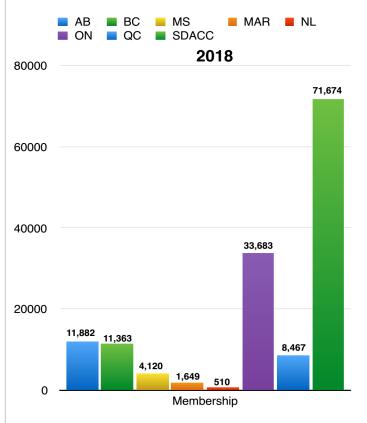
The Children of Israel were so dead-set against the belief that their own sins, their own strong-headedness could lead them to wander in the wilderness instead of stepping into the Promised Land that they believed the incited untruthful, rebellious talk of Korah against leadership (Moses and Aaron), and ultimately, against God!

"Jesus, the Angel who went before the Hebrews, sought to save them from destruction. Forgiveness was lingering for them. The judgment of God had come very near, and appealed to them to repent. A special, irresistible interference from heaven had arrested their rebellion. Now, if they would respond to the interposition of God's providence, they might be saved. But while they fled from the judgments, through fear of destruction, their rebellion was not cured. They returned to their tents that night terrified, but not repentant. They had been flattered by Korah and his company until they really believed themselves to be very good people, and that they had been wronged and abused by Moses. Should they admit that Korah and his company were wrong, and Moses right, then they would be compelled to receive as the word of God the sentence that they must die in the wilderness. They were not willing to submit to this, and they tried to believe that Moses had deceived them. They had fondly cherished the hope that a new order of things was about to be established, in which praise would be substituted for reproof, and ease for anxiety and conflict." (Patriarchs & Prophets, p.402)

CANADA

Churches & Companies

CONF.	CH.	CO.
AB	68	16
ВС	82	16
M-S	34	3
MA	27	4
ON	131	27
QC	42	11
NF	8	3
TOTAL	392	80



The TRUTH is in the Numbers...

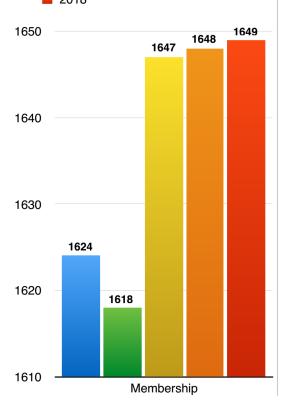
STATISTICS

"Statistics is a branch of mathematics dealing with the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of masses of numerical data."

(Merriam-Webster)

It's the time of year for statistical reporting as preparations for our Annual General Meeting / Financial & Statistical Review are underway, and analyses are happening of our finances, membership growth and vision within our Conference.
Statistics drive a raw data glimpse at an organization and/or church's health. So, are we healthy?

■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018



"When our church members have a better understanding of Bible truth, they will arouse from their drowsy slumber and will be ready to devote their money for the cause of God, and to give themselves in earnest labor under the guidance of the Holy Spirit." (EGW)

Letter.190.1907

70

The number of students currently enrolled at Sandy Lake Academy (SLA). Please see the Principal's Report on SLA as we move this school to become a 'flagship Blueprint' school in the Maritimes. What does this journey entail? The word flagship denotes...

"the finest, largest, or most important one of a group of things (such as products, stores, etc.)." (Merriam-Webster)

...quality and significance above everything else within a 'product' (is Adventist Education a product — absolutely!) branding. As for 'Blueprint'...please read EGW's book, *Education*, then ask me. :)

The Best Statistical Report in the Bible

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and [a]sold their possessions and goods, and divided[b] them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [c]to the church daily those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:44-47

- Statistics facilitate comparisons.
- Statistics are helpful to those who have to restructure and make effective the existing organization.
- Statistics give guidance in the formulation of suitable policies.
- Statistics can be very useful in decision-making processes.

"In GOD we trust. All others must bring data."

(W. Edwards Deming)



Membership SDA Church, General Statistics

Geographic Region	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Growth 5 Years *(last year)
World	18,143,745	18,478,982	19,126,438	20,008,779	20,727,347	2.58m *(2.13m) 14.24% *(11.90%)
NAD	1,184,395	1,201,366	1,218,397	1,237,004	1,249,715	65k *(70k) 5.52% *(6.00%)
United States	1,109,034	1,124,457	1,140,080	1,166,672	1,178,364	69k *(74k) 6.25% *(6.75%)
Canada	66,579	67,897	68,977	70,332	71,351	5k *(5k) 7.17% *(7.40%)

Membership

- 2,583,602 members were added to the church in the last 5 years
- **516,720** members/year
- 1,416 members/day

Total Tithe for the Global Church

Year	lithe	
1870	\$21,822	
1900	\$510,259	
1930	\$6,230,362	
1960	\$59,132,241	
1990	\$659,924,400	
2010	\$2,037,618,294	
2014	\$2,455,475,981	
2015	\$2,284,438,954	
2016	\$2,292,110,326	



Treasury Report Ed Sharpe, Treasurer

As you know from the previous *Pulse*, 2018 has been a very expensive year for the Maritime Conference. As a result we will have a deficit for 2018.

The material for our 2018 Audit has been uploaded to the Audit Portal. The General Conference Auditors will be in the office March 18-21, 2019.

Much prayer has been solicited and engaged in over the last 5 months and it has helped significantly. We finished 2018 with just \$5,000 less tithe than 2017 which was a record breaking year and we managed to break the \$2m mark for only the second time in our history.

January, 2019 began well with a \$16k increase in tithe over 2018. Months can fluctuate from year to year so continue to pray that our members will be honest in their financial dealings with God. He will bless.

Did you know that our honesty in financial matters with God can be an agent of spiritual growth? "In our use of money we can make it an agent of spiritual improvement by regarding it as a sacred trust, not to be employed to administer to pride, vanity, appetite, or passion" (AH 368.2).

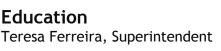
And pray for wisdom as we review our expenses and practices with a view to not having services suffer. This may alter the way we have done things in the past. Are you willing to co-operate with possible changes, to think outside the box, to at least give change a try, acknowledging that what we have been doing has not resulted in growth, only lots of maintenance? Do we want to be that little gerbil, running faster and faster on the wheel that is going...nowhere? May God grant us all the same Spirit that motivated the early Christian church to get off the launch pad and into orbit.

Do you have a Will?
The Maritime Conference believes having a Will is so important for your family that we are willing to contribute \$200 to ensure our members get one professionally prepared.
For details contact Ed Sharpe (506) 857-8722, Ext 205.

For those interested in the pricing for meals and accommodations during campmeeting at Camp Pugwash, this information is found below. Contact Jullie Bannister for booking accommodations and more information at info@maritimesda.com or 506.857.8722 Ext 201.

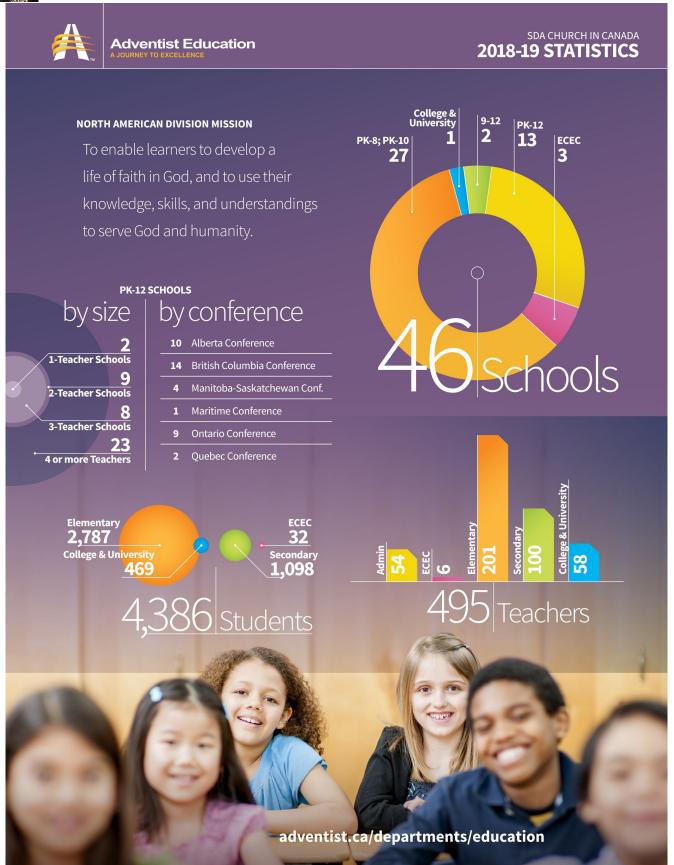
	Camp Pugwash 2019 Rental for:	<u>Total</u> Campmeeting	<u>Daily</u> Rate	<u>Seasonal</u> (May 15-Oct 15)	<u>Air</u> Conditioning
Camp	Kentar ioi.	Campineeting	Nate	(May 15-0ct 15)	CM-\$25
Camp	Cabin-Rustic	\$238	\$35	\$614	Seasonal
Pugwash	Single/Double Cabin-Rustic	\$267	\$40	\$699	\$150
	Barracks	\$291	\$40	\$783	
rental	Youth Cabin (sm)	\$318	\$47		Pets/Dogs
	Youth Cabin (lg)	\$334	\$47		\$25 per unit
and	Guest Cabin (if available)	\$357	\$52		
meal	The House of the Asia has been	\$00 5	\$40	\$642	
charges	Trailer w/electric hookup	\$205	\$40	\$643	
6	Paradise	\$334	\$47	\$937	
for	Trailer Park (new)	\$351	\$49	\$1191	
2019	Tents (in designated areas)	\$154	\$22		
	Tent w/electric hookup	\$178	\$31		
	Private Cabin renewal			\$828	
	Meals: Breakfast/Supper \$9.50	Dinner \$10.50	Children	under 6 yrs \$6.0 0	per meal







Sandy Lake has been very busy with their program. I will let them fill you in on all the details.



Sandy Lake Academy Stephen Kibbee, Principal The Hiding Place

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart" (Deuteronomy 6:6). From Feb. 25-27 I had the privilege of attending a "train-the-trainer" program in Columbia, Maryland pertaining to the NAD *Encounter* Bible curriculum. As you may be aware, the Elementary and High School Bible curriculum has been completely revamped within the NAD. The primary purpose of the Adventist Encounter Curriculum, as outlined at encounter.adventisteducation.org/approach.html, is as follows:

"For all our students...to have a solid, deep, and personal knowledge of the truths of the Bible (Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs); to respond to Christ's invitation to live in a lifelong, vibrant relationship with Him; and be passionate about the salvation of others."

What a noble aim! The guestion remains...how? Early in my first year as a Bible teacher, I was awakened to a fundamental truth: my instruction was only as effective to the degree to which I myself was being instructed by God. To put it another way, I could only water the seed of faith in students to the extent that I was watered by God. In Ellen White's words, "Only by love is love awakened" (Desire of Ages, 22). This is a fundamental premise of the Encounter curriculum as well, which identifies teacher transformation as a key ingredient of student transformation. No, God does not *need* us in the process of transformation as if we add some power that He does not possess. Rather, He makes it our privilege to shine so that this light may be reflected in others. In reflecting the light of Christ, we ourselves continue to be "transformed into the same image from glory to glory..." (2 Cor. 3:18).

Consider this transformative counsel from the pen of Ellen White:

"In order to interest our children in the Bible, we ourselves must be interested in it. To awaken in them a love for its study, we must love it. Our instruction to them will have only the weight of influence given it by our own example and spirit" (Education, 187).

Do you share the same dream as SLA, to see our children transformed by the Word of God? Let us not cast the stones of criticism and blame when our children are falling short of the glory of God.

Instead, remember your part: to be watered by God so that the children around you can be watered, to reflect His light so that the children around you can shine for Jesus. Each of us must decide for ourselves: Where will I hide the light of God's glory? Will I hide it in my heart, that God may take hold of it and shine it out to others? Or, will I take that light and "put it under a basket" (Matt. 5:15)?

On behalf of SLA, our prayers go out to you as you seek to hold up before our children the matchless love of Jesus. We earnestly seek your prayers as well, as teachers and leaders, that our hearts may be transformed daily by the love of Christ so that our students may be touched by that transforming power as well.

Present Picture

Culture—It has been a blessing to serve with such a supportive and united staff this year. New families who visit the school are impressed by the close family atmosphere maintained at the school. Both staff and students are currently journeying through Leif Koester's 50 Days of Praying Against Criticism compilation as we seek to more deeply establish a spiritually supportive school culture.

Curriculum—Small curricular changes have been made this year as we strive to bring more practical learning into the curricular program. Additions include Landscaping and Gardening, Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship, and Woodworking: Canoe Building. Health is now offered for grades 7-10. Expectations have been raised in course planning and assessment to better ensure that student instruction and assessment is more closely aligned to curricular standards. SLA continues to offer practical skills courses to supplement the formal curriculum. 2019 technology grant money will go toward growing our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program.

Enrollment—Current enrollment sits at 71, 6 higher than the 65 estimated in the 2018-2019 budget. Concerted efforts for student retention are being under-taken by school administration so that, coupled with new enrollments for 2019-2020, we may achieve overall enrollment growth for next school year.

Programs and Events—SLA staff and School Board began the year together by participating in a Staff Consecration Service at the Tantallon church. Teachers attended the NAD Teachers' Convention in Chicago this past summer. We recently hosted a science fair for SLA students. 15 students will be participating in a Music Clinic at Wisconsin Adventist Academy from April 3-7. SLA added an After School Program for JP-6 students this year.

Financial—Since August 1, debt to the Conference has been reduced. By God's grace and generous giving, there is a collective yearning by school leadership to see this debt reduced to 0 before next school year so that new monies may instead go into program development and reserves. Governance—The SLA School Board has grown in its function as a governing board under the leadership of Teresa Ferreira, who is working closely with the Board Chair Ben McBeth and Principal Kibbee in the establishment of proper process and protocols. All Board members received Board training in January 2019 from Teresa. Audit, Finance, Administrative, Personnel, and Building sub-committees have been established and have already improved efficiency and the utilization of expertise in the governing process.

Growth Areas—A few items have been identified as growth areas for the school. The first is the heart transformation of students toward a more service-oriented life, and the incorporation of more service into the curricular and extracurricular program. The second is the establishment of more spiritual programming at the school in the form of prayer groups, Chaplain-led Bible study, outreach groups, and discussion/support groups. The Spring 2019 Week of Prayer (March 25-29) will directly address these areas. The third is the dorm. Concerted effort in recruitment throughout the Conference is necessary in order to continue to make them both viable and vibrant.

Personnel—New staff that have joined us this year are Mrs. Claudia Alor (After-School Care), Mrs. Melanie Kibbee (HS Math), Ms. Shawna MacFadzen (1-3), Pr. Peter McPherson (1/3 time Chaplain), Mrs. Tarah-Liz Springer (HS General Studies), and Brooke Zebeljan (Dormitory Dean). Anthony Jones (Burman University B.Ed. Afterdegree) will be joining us in 2019-2020 as the new HS Math teacher to replace Mrs. Kibbee (MAT leave).

Physical Plant and Grounds—Improvement this year include abundant decluttering and purging to maximize available space and improve inventory management, ceiling tile replacement, upgrades in door hardware, extensive work to meet fire code, ground beautification, creation of outdoor classroom (in progress), math room update, new oil furnace and boiler (Irving insurance claim).

Upcoming intended improvements within the next six months include new glass exit doors (front and back), floor renovations, whiteboards, student bathroom renovations, completion of lockdown alarms, exit path landscaping, outdoor Spring planting, and gym floor painting and sealing.

Spiritual Program—The Fall 2018 Week of Prayer was led by Pr. Ricky and Stephanie Schwarz. His testimony made God more real in the eyes of many of our students. The school Chaplain Pr. Peter McPherson has blessed students in chapel and taught numerous Bible classes. He and the school Principal continue to work together to more clearly define his role within the school program. Staff worship has been very well attended and meaningful this year. Friday Chapels have been alternating between full school and separating out to just Elementary or just High School.

Future Focus

Service—The motto of SLA is Service Above Self, and the aim of developing students who live to serve is ever before us. Contemplate the divine direction, "Those who reject the privilege of fellowship with Christ in service, rejects the only training that imparts a fitness for participation with Him in His glory" (White, Education, 264); reflect on the fact that true education "prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (White, Education, 13).

Responsible Stewardship—Continuing to move SLA toward a healthier financial standing remains of ut-most importance. God's word calls us to a life unencumbered by crippling debt with he words, "Owe no man anything but to love one another..." (Rom. 13:8); it calls us to save for when needs arise with the counsel, "Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it" (Prov. 21:20). Eliminating our Conference debt and establishing a healthy level of financial reserves will be of paramount importance in developing new school programs that will move us closer to God's ideal for His school.

Program Development—The pen would fail me here if I were to include all the references to the dignity, character development, purity, health, and strength that comes from practical labour. Though it has begun as a seed this year, SLA leadership intends to continue to water our gardening program so that, by faith, it will develop into the ripe fruit of student spiritual growth and blessing. This Spring, we intend to complete work on our outdoor classroom, which will be complete with raised planting beds where students can learn from the Master Gardener.

Beyond agriculture, it is my dream to see a curricular program at SLA that offers options for students working toward their High School diploma. As STEM grows in importance both with provincial and SDA educational curriculum developers, it is my hope that SLA will be able to offer a complete second "stream" of curricular programming focusing on "hands on" practical learning for students pursuing careers in trades and small business/entrepreneurship. As a general principle, we have been commissioned to offer practical educational programs that prepare students for "real life":

Many of the branches of study that consume the student's time are not essential to usefulness or happiness; but it is essential for every youth to have a thorough acquaintance with everyday duties...An education derived chiefly from books leads to superficial thinking. Practical work encourages close observation and independent thought. White, Education, 216, 220.

With God giving grace, guidance, and growth, we may yet catch a glimpse at SLA of an educational ideal that is "higher than the highest human thought". We hope that you choose to join us or continue with us in this journey.

SANDY LAKE ACADEMY UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 18-22 March Break

March 29-31 Jesus to the Nations Conference

April 3-8 Wisconsin Music Clinic
April 18 Parent-Teacher Meetings
May 31 Early Registration Deadline
June 14 Graduation Vespers (7pm)

June 15 Spring Concert

June 16 Graduation Ceremony (1pm)

To keep up to date with what is happening at SLA, visit:

Website: www.sandylakeacademy.ca Facebook: www.facebook.com/

SandyLakeAcademy

Twitter: @SandyLakeAcdmy Instagram: SandyLakeAcademy



Sandy Lake Academy Offering April 27, 2019

Sandy Lake Academy will be the recipient of the Maritime Conference Advance offering on April 27.

As the only Seventh-day Adventist school in the Maritimes, Sandy Lake Academy is providing a vital ministry for our youth and their families. Students are immersed in a strong academic program with solid Christian standards and are guided by dedicated Christian teachers and dorm parents.

Your sacrificial giving is crucial to enable Sandy Lake Academy to continue its ministry to our students and their families—daily impacting their lives for Christ. Your generous donations are always welcome and needed.

Please give generously! Thank you.

To make a donation or to obtain program information, please visit our website or contact us as follows:

Steve Kibbee, Principal

Email: principal@sandylakeacademy.ca

Tracy DeMerchant, Admissions

Email: secretary@sandylakeacademy.ca

Phone: 902-835-8548

Scholarship form is on page 37. ■

"When a man breathes an intensely earnest prayer to God, there is in that intensity and earnestness a pledge from God that He is about to answer that prayer exceeding abundantly" EGW, Prayer, 72

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEKEND

MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2019 CAMP PUGWASH

with

Dr S. Joseph Kidder

Experiencing God"

Friday Night: 7:00 pm **Experiencing God's Power**

Sabbath Morning: 9:30 am **Personal Evangelism**

> 11:00 am **Escape from Iraq**

3:00 pm Sabbath Afternoon: **TBA**

Sabbath Night: 7:00 pm **Experiencing God's Grace**

Meet Dr. S. Joseph Kidder

Following more than 20 years of successful pastoral work, S. Joseph Kidder has been teaching at the SDA Theological seminary at Andrews University for the last 18 years. He travels extensively,



teaching people and churches how to have a vibrant and authentic walk with God. The main thing about Dr. Kidder is that he loves Jesus and wants everyone to love Him

Meet Michael Brown Kyle and Jackie Howard Youth Speakers

Michael Brown serves as an elder at the Auburn SDA Church in Maine. He loves digging deep into God's word.

Kyle & Jackie Howard are new-Ivweds since just

last September. Kyle and Jackie are active in Young Adult Ministries.

"Why I don't Like Church"

How to Marry a Prostitute

The Lovesick God

It's a Heart Problem

Why I Love the Church

Cost is \$50 per person or \$100 maximum for family of 2 or more if registered by May 15; from May 16 on cost is \$65/\$130. Michael Brown and Kyle & Jackie Howard are coming to speak to the youth "Why I Don't Like Church"-\$30 per person. There is a program for children age 6-12. Let us know how many children and their age that are coming. We do need for you to register and let us know how many people plan to eat in the cafeteria, so the dietary staff can plan the simple meals. We are not able to accommodate special dietary needs, come prepared.

Submit registration form and monies by May 23, 2019 to the Maritime Conference office. Contact Jullie Bannister at info@maritimesda.com or fax 506-853-7368 or phone 506-857-8722 Ext 201.





Children's Ministries Lorie Neily, Director

As I am writing this, I can't help not looking out my picture window at the beautiful blue sky. I can hear the whistle of a red cardinal sitting on a branch in a nearby pine tree. Oh the promise of spring!

Catch the Wave with Jesus

Plans are beginning for the Spiritual Emphasis weekend coming up on May 31 to June 2. We have offered this program for school aged children 6-12 for the past three years. If there is **sufficient interest**, a pre-school program may be offered. If you are planning to come this year and have a child 3-5 years old, please contact me at **lorie.neily@maritimes.com** I need to know as soon as possible, with a deadline of April 30, 2019.

Campmeeting 2019

Oh the fun we will have this year as we visit the Serengeti. It will be an exciting adventure for our younger participants. Plans are in the works for our juniors and teens as well. I am excited because Camp meeting 2019 promises again 10 days of spiritual enrichment in our children's lives. Please continue to pray for God's blessing as we prepare these programs for our children and young people.

I would like to invite everyone to continue to pray earnestly for our children and their parents/ guardians and all those that are influencing our children in a spiritual way. Children, God's littlest lambs are so much in need of tender love, kindness and protection even more now. Please include the little ones that are in war torn regions of the world and those in your neighbourhoods that may not have all that they need, including emotional support.

Registration	Form Spiritual Emphasis Weekend May 3	1-June 1, 2019 Camp Pugwash
Name(s)		
Address	P	hone
Email		#YOUTH \$30.00 each (please register to
Cost: \$50 p	oer person or \$100 maximum for family of 2 or more, i	f registered by May 15.
	# of children age 6-12 (no additional charge/but complete co	nsent form with names/ages/allergies/photos)
Meals:	# in family requesting meals for weekend or	just need this # per meal selected:
Accommod	lation Request:	Sab Breakfast Sun Breakfast
Cabin:	Single (room alone)	Sab Lunch Sab Supper
	Double, Roommate	
	Family cabin, # in immediate family	(Those staying in cabins will need to
Other:	Trailer site – electrical only (playground field)	bring bedding and *portable heaters {*if you have one, as we have a limited
	Seasonal: Cabin # Trailer #	supply at camp}.)

Email: info@maritimesda.com or Fax: 506.853.7368





Maritime Pulse Page 17 March 2019

The Legacy...

The establishment of a vision for any church, institution, organization...camp, is vitally important to its growth and sustainability. *Where there is no vision, the people perish,* to quote Proverbs 29:18. And this lasting testament from the Biblical book of wisdom rings true today for our dear camp. As the most lovely jewelled treasure in our Conference, let us celebrate its wonderful legacy. A legacy that has touched lives, assisted with conversion decisions, inspired lifelong marital commitment, served as peace for souls and rest for the weary, and a playground for FAITH & FUN to flourish together. Visitors, members, guests, campers, speakers, and the young and old alike can be found walking the shores, praising in the Youth Tent, riding at the Horse Barn, praying in the Prayer Chapel, becoming family in the Cafeteria and worshipping in the Auditorium at Camp Pugwash; let us never lose sight of its true purpose — to glorify God!

The Vision...

Second Timothy 3:14-15 instructs us, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus". WOW! Our Camp is to be a training ground for educating young people that they might be found connected to the legacy of Christianity, Seventh-day Adventism and Christ. So what are we doing about this!?

- Faithfully utilizing the Prayer Chapel as a quiet place for spiritual development and growth
- New Developing a Prayer Walk around the camp grounds (AdCom & Erna McCann)
- Newish Implementation of a Spiritual Period in the regular Summer Camp Life Schedule
- Spiritual themed Summer Camp Program Consumed for Jesus
- New Event 2 WEEK Intensive DiscipleTrek Bible Camp where invited Youth and Young Adults
 delve DEEP into our 28 Fundamental Beliefs and the Word of God!
- For a natural worship setting, the development of a bonfire, amphitheater designated area between our Prayer Chapel and Boat Shed, overlooking the ocean
- New Event MC Education department Outdoor Schools, where nature is connected with spiritual development for 3-4 days, hosted at Camp Pugwash for Grades 5/6; 7/8; & 9/10 (separately) — Fall 2019
- New Event MC Education department Senior Survival, where nature is connected with spiritual development as we prepare for the Cosmic end to this Great Controversy (using EGW's book, The Great Controversy) for Grades 11/12 — Fall 2019
- New Event Sandy Lake Academy Student Association Leadership Retreat April/May 2019
- Newish Event PrayerShop 2019 Prayer Retreat May 10-12, 2019
- New Event Fall Prayer Retreat September 6-8, 2019

Summer Camp Dates...

The weeks for Camp are as follows:		Other Camp Pugwash Events and Dates		
Directors' Leadership Camp	June 9-17	Camp Opens	mid May	
Staff Orientation	June 18-23	Prayershop 2019	May 10-12	
Blind Camp	June 23-28	Pathfinder Camporee	May 24-26	
Junior Camp	June 30-July 7	Spiritual Emphasis	May 31-June 2	
Teen Camp	July 7-14	Workers' Camp	July 21-26	
RAD Camp	July 14-21	Prayer Retreat	September 6-8	
DiscipleTrek	July 14-26	Camp Closes	mid October	
Campmeeting	July 26-August 4			

Potential Passion Projects...

The Potential Passion Projects (with donor support) are the following:

- Waterfront blowups & dock
- Prayer Walk
- Bonfire/Amphitheater Worship place
- Ropes Course
- ATVs & Track
- Gymnastics equipment
- Electrical upgrade
- · Auditorium insulation and heating
- Storage Facility
- Playground continued enhancement
- Birdhouse updates (sponsor a birdhouse and we'll match the funds!)
- 'You Are Here' maps around the Campground
- Enlargement of the Freezer/Office/Nursing section of the Cafeteria building
- Youth Cabin and Barracks refresher of paint/flooring, etc.

Pick a project near and dear to your heart or simply pray for its development
— your support is appreciated in any capacity!

Every Camp Pugwash project, every Camp Pugwash development is for the purpose of leading the young and old alike to the understanding that...

Jesus is always only one choice away & He desires to be in relationship with you!

Consumed



[(faith) + (fun)] www.camppugwash.com

2019 CAMPER APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE VERY SOON.
WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR YOUR LINK TO THE 2019 SUMMER CAMP CAMPER APPLICATION.



THIS IS THE MOST EXCITING THING WE HAVE EVER SET OUT TO DO IN CAMP MINISTRIES!



CAMP PUGWASH

AGES: 15-19

WEBSITE: www.camppugwash.com

PURPOSE: Take your relationship with Jesus to the next level!

DiscipleTrek Fast Facts

WHY

- >To expand the ministry of our camps from Gospel Centers (must keep this going strong) to Discipleship Centers too.
- >To present the framework of truth we as Seventh-day Adventists treasure, in the light of God's loving character. These truths will be presented, experienced and valued.
- >To engage our young adult staff members in sharing their SDA faith, and building teen campers confidence in doing the same.
- >To deepen faith in keeping with Hebrews 5 and 6 (milk to meat).
- >Most importantly, help campers develop their daily personal walk with Jesus during this 2-week camp.

WHO

- >Teen ages 15-19.
- >Teen must choose to join this discipleship cohort and apply by completing a statement of why they want to be part of DiscipleTrek and what they hope to experience, along with 2 recommendations.

HOW

- >The Youth Department comes alongside Camp Directors and Conferences who want to offer summer discipleship stepping stones for their older teens who are ready by choice.
- >The Core Staff and Presenters become local camp employees for the term of the DiscipleTrek program. The Maritime Conference pays for their wages (if applicable), travel and related expenses to assist the camp as they initiate this dynamic ministry.
- >Pastors, Chaplains, Youth Pastors, and Pathfinder leaders reach out to 15-19 year olds, affirm those they feel are ready and encourage them to pray about it.



DiscipleTrek Fast Facts

WHEN & WHERE

DiscipleTrek Pugwash: Jul

July 14-26, 2019

VISION

Though Jesus' vision and last words before ascension were, "Go ye therefore and make disciples", unfortunately the discipleship "stepping stone" (a place and program to become a follower) is not well established or readily available for teens in our church. Pairing Jesus' commission with another familiar and relevant vision, articulated by Ellen White, helps validate the DiscipleTrek opportunity further.

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained...how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come,--the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!" Counsels to Teachers, Parents and Students p.555

DiscipleTrek is an effort to become more intentional about teen discipleship in the context of camp, a place young people like to go.

#DT'19





French Ministries Guy Lacourse, Director Maritime Pulse Page 22

March 2019

The Bouctouche Company is going strong with a new annual planning for its different activities for 2019. This year it will include a Health Expo that will be held July 7 at the Farmer's Market facilities in central Bouctouche.

The Bathurst Group is also officially organized and is actively looking to rent space in the city to host its activities of worship and outreach.

The Moncton French Church (a.k.a. Dieppe church) has also reestablished an active presence, centered around a few leaders and is now meeting every Sabbath in a house. They have people in Bible study and also meet Mondays for prayer and study the Word of God. They have temporarily been placed under the guidance and responsibility of the French Ministries Department.

For 2019, we are asking for church planting funds through the Plant 1000 program where Bouctouche, Bathurst and possibly Dieppe (Moncton French) will file for help. Such church planting money will help in establishing a stronger presence and developing the many outreach activities.

Provided that Bouctouche receives the needed funds, we are planning to film and stream our worship and Bible seminar programs on the Web. The funds will be used for equipment purchases.

For Campmeeting, we expect to have our regular activities with a speaker for the week (retired pastor Tom Leblanc) and translators to help with the English speaking sector.

Regular articles are also written for the magazine *Le Messager*, telling of the life and activities of the French speaking church community of the Maritimes.

Continue to pray for us as we endeavour to bring the eternal Gospel of Jesus and the Adventist message for our times to the community we serve.

La Company de Bouctouche se porte bien avec une nouvelle planification annuelle de ses différentes activités pour 2019. Cette année, il y aura une Expo Santé qui aura lieu le 7 juillet aux installations du Marché des producteurs fermiers, au centre de Bouctouche.

Le Groupe de Bathurst est aussi officiellement organisé et cherche activement à louer des locaux dans la ville pour y tenir ses activités de culte et d'évangélisation.

L'Église française de Moncton (aussi connue sous le nom d'Église de Dieppe) a également rétabli une présence active, centrée autour de quelques leaders et se réunit maintenant chaque sabbat dans une maison. Ils ont des personnes en étude biblique et se réunissent aussi le lundi pour prier et étudier la Parole de Dieu. Ils ont été placés temporairement sous la direction et la responsabilité du Ministère aux Francophones (French Ministries).

Pour 2019, nous demandons des fonds pour l'implantation d'églises par le biais du programme Plant 1000 où Bouctouche, Bathurst et peut-être Dieppe (Moncton français) demanderont de l'aide. De tels fonds d'implantation d'églises aideront à établir une présence plus forte et à développer les nombreuses activités d'évangélisation.

Pourvu que Bouctouche reçoive les fonds nécessaires, nous prévoyons filmer et diffuser nos programmes d'adoration et de séminaires bibliques sur le Web. Les fonds seront utilisés pour l'achat d'équipement.

Pour le Campmeeting, nous prévoyons avoir nos activités régulières avec un conférencier pour la semaine (le pasteur à la retraite Tom Leblanc) et des traducteurs pour aider avec le secteur anglophone.

Des articles réguliers sont également écrits pour la revue *Le Messager*, racontant la vie et les activités de la communauté ecclésiale francophone des Maritimes.

Continuez à prier pour nous alors que nous nous efforçons d'apporter l'Évangile éternel de Jésus et le message Adventiste pour notre temps à la communauté que nous servons.

"In prayer, "God turns Himself over to the will of His people. When Christ becomes our all in all, prayer lays God's treasures at our feet." E.M. Bounds, *Prayer*, p. 177



Dust Bunnies in the Baptistery

by Don Jacobsen

A pastor friend of ours was dolefully reflecting on the glacial growth of his church. The only thing he could find regularly in the church baptistery were dust bunnies. As he pleaded with god to help him understand what needed to change he seemed to hear the Lord say, "Your people eat each other alive—I can't trust you with new members. Your people have become carnivores (he was sure that was the word the Lord used). It's cold in here. You have to be strong just to survive as a member."

"But Lord, what can I do to change that atmosphere?" the pastor asked. "Well, it permeates the whole church," he seemed to hear back; "so let the Board attack it." And they did. At its next meeting the Board members confronted the sinful ambiance that had developed in their congregation and threw themselves in repentance on the mercy of God. And He did not disappoint them.

After a significant period of deep heart-searching it was plain that the issue was serious enough to bring it to the church as a body. In a business session they took an action that they would no longer countenance any word of criticism; that if anyone spoke negatively of another—member, pastor, guest, conference leadership—that anyone hearing the criticism was authorized to simply turn and walk away. They declared a church-wide moratorium on criticism.

And it worked. Not overnight, for sure, but within a few months the climate changed. The son began to shine. The grumble factor faded and joy replaced it. Not long after, a lady who had not previously attended appeared at the door during a worship service. Friendly greeters asked her if she was new to the area. No, she had just been reading her Bible and had come across some questions she couldn't answer. When she inquired of her pastor he told her that if she felt strongly about the issues she should perhaps contact the Seventh-day Adventist church.

A few weeks later they were scheduling a date for her baptism. And she's not the only one. Members were learning that their church was a safe place to bring friends; that they would be hugely welcomed. Meanwhile that new lady ... she's an assistant Sabbath School teacher now. And you'd have a difficult time finding any dust bunnies in the baptistery.



Book Recommendation...*Prayer Warriors* by Ron Halverson

This powerful workbook on becoming a prayer warrior is divided into thirteen chapters designed for a full quarter's worth of weekly studies. It was designed to teach and train a special and extraordinary group. Welcome to the Special Forces branch of God's Earth Army—the prayer warriors, who conduct a secret warfare with amazing public results.

Ron Halverson reminds us that we live in a war zone. Because we face satanic strongholds in our lives we must learn the battle skills and tactics we need to defeat the enemy. We are challenged to put on the whole armor of God and 'don't leave home without it.' The book covers the importance of knowing your enemy (he is not just "some pesky Gremlin-like creature who's always hanging around playing nasty tricks"). Even more important is knowing your Prince and Leader intimately.

Make no mistake—the real war is no video game, but is a spiritual war . . . eternal and deadly. And there are no non-combatants. Though our enemy is real; the good news is that he is not all-powerful. He might be big but not as big as our God! We are encouraged that Michael's army still fights today by our side and we have the privilege of calling on the angels to come to our aid in time of battle. Angels in the Heavenly Army are fellow warriors with our Earth Army and are commissioned to minister to us.

The prayer warriors on the nightly Zoom prayer call dusted off our copies of this workbook and extended our evening prayer call in order to spend a few minutes revisiting Ron Halverson's challenge to us to become experts in communicating with God.

We have been so blessed and encouraged that we are excited to invite you to join us in this challenge to take up the weapons of our warfare. The shield of faith and our one fighting weapon the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The Bible then carries the Holy Spirit's power breathed into each passage and promise—the Word packs the power of God Himself.

Our churches could greatly benefit by using this workbook as our training manual along with the Bible, our 'Manual of Arms.' Fellow prayer warriors let's polish our swords.

Save the Date for Prayershop 2019! May 10-12 Everyone Welcome!

Topic: Follow the Lamb

Cost: \$25/person (Prayer Ministry Leaders are free) Register before April 30th: to Erna McCann,

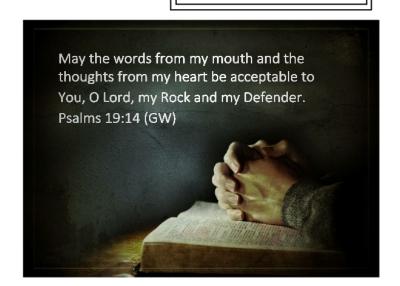
by email ernajoy.1@gmail.com or by text 902-489-9215

Two Paths of Offence

Someone offends me. I choose to: Tell someone all Go directly to God in or about it. prayer. He listens to me and The listener begins to think less of my gives me His (better) offender. perspective. They join me in I feel PEACE! The speaking negatively "need" to speak to about my offender. others is gone. * I have succeeded * I have honoured in causing another God by valuing unity over the (very)

in causing another person to sin; creating division in relationships; making myself more upset by rehashing the details over and over; DIRECTLY, KNOWINGLY, WILLFULLY disobeying God's Word by acting according to my flesh rather than submitting to the Spirit.

Author ~ Unknown



temporary pleasure

of gossiping and

gaining sympathy from others.

Two Paths of Insecurity

I have a personal insecurity. I choose to: Compare myself Take my emotional orwith others and needs and pain to criticize them in God in prayer. order to feel better about myself. God gives me a better perspective The listeners begin about myself. to think less of the person I criticize, and so do I. I begin to view myself the way that God sees me and I They join me in begin to view others being critical of the way that God others. sees them. I feel loved and I feel guilty and valued by God and isolated and even this sense of identity more insecure and I improves all my react to my relationships. insecurities by repeating the cycle. I have: I have succeeded in: An understanding Causing others to of how much God sin; values me;

Creating division

in relationships;

according to the flesh instead of

Reacting

the Spirit.

heart;
• Love for others.

Peace in my

Author ~ Leif Koester



Pathfinder MinistriesBill Harrington, Director

Each club has to provide a safe place for our children, a place where they can be children and not be stressed by trying to be first; a place where they are taught not TO BE THE BEST BUT TRY AND DO THEIR BEST. There seems to be so much stress put on our children to be number one in sports, school and even in church. The club has to be a place where there is a calming environment, as well as the home and church. A place to learn about God and what He has done for us, what He has given us in nature, to give our children the opportunity to smell the roses and all the other wonderful sights, sounds, and smells that nature provides.

There are so many materials available to get you started on your road to having a great Pathfinder or Adventurer Club in your church, get in touch with me if you need help by email at harringtonhaven@bellaliant.net.



Maritime Camporee

The spring camporee is set for May 24-26, 2019 at Camp Pugwash NS.

From the reports I received from the clubs they are engaged in doing community events, trying to get in as many winter time activities as possible, even camping (something that I enjoyed doing with the club).

They are working on raising money to go to our local camporee at Camp Pugwash the weekend of May 24-26, and the international one in Oshkosh WI August 12-17. We have several clubs going, including: Fredericton with 7, New Glasgow with 5 and Tantallon with 8. As of last weekend all the tickets, including ones for the week and day passes have been sold out. So, that leaves the only way you may get one is if someone is unable to go and puts their ticket up for sale. Hopefully all who wanted to go from the Maritimes have been able to purchase theirs.



Continued from page 25

Zoom Prayer Call

On our early morning Zoom Prayer Call we have been focusing on asking God to change the climate of our hearts and lives, and being a positive influence of sweetness in our churches. Here is the quote and story that the Holy Spirit used to get things rolling:

Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from Him. This is why the church is so weak. Many indulge freely in criticism and accusing. By giving expression to suspicion, jealousy, and discontent, thev vield themselves as instruments to Satan. Before they realize what they are doing, the adversary has through them accomplished his purpose. The impression of evil has been made, the shadow has been cast, the arrows of Satan have found their mark. Distrust, unbelief, and downright infidelity have fastened upon those who otherwise might have accepted Christ.

Meanwhile the workers for Satan look complacently upon those whom they have driven to skepticism, and who are now hardened against reproof and entreaty. They flatter themselves that in comparison with these souls they are virtuous and righteous. They do not realize that these sad wrecks of character are the work of their own unbridled tongues and rebellious hearts. It is through their influence that these tempted ones have fallen (COL 340.3).

We are looking for a group of French people to join in starting a prayer meeting by Zoom internet. Anyone interested can contact Marcella Arsenault by email at marcella.arsenault@gmail.com or phone at 506-387-4787. ■

"For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper." Psalm 72:12

CAMPMEETING 2019 July 26 - August 3, 2019 Tilling the Ground

Many people are requesting information on the Campmeeting speakers earlier in the year. We have been inviting many speakers and have confirmed the following thus far for 2019:

Gary Blanchard

Pastor Gary has served as a Bible teacher, chaplain, youth pastor, district pastor and most recently as the Texas Conference Youth Director. His motto is "making ministers for the Master." He loves seeing young people "rightly trained" and empowered to be God's army of youth. Gary has traveled around the world preaching the Three Angels Message and inspiring young people to do the same. Some of his messages can be viewed at rightlytrained.org and youngtexasadventist.org. Pastor Gary's gifts are encouragement, preaching and leadership, and he daily seeks to "walk in the Spirit" so that he can be a contagious reflector of Christ.



John Bradshaw

In January 2011, John Bradshaw became It Is Written's new speaker/director. In his two decades of ministry, John has held more than 100 evangelistic series. His series have spanned 6 continents and impacted thousands of lives in hundreds of cities. From working internationally on evangelistic projects, to speaking at conferences and events, to authoring books, to working at home base in Chattanooga, Tennessee, John continues to energetically lead the It Is Written ministry team and impact the world for Christ and His soon return.



Mark Finley

Mark Finley and his wife, Ernestine "Teenie" have have been involved in Christian ministry for over 40 years—preaching, teaching and offering spiritual growth workshops, conducted over 100 evangelistic series that have spanned the globe with sermons translated into over 50 languages. In April 2016 the Living Hope Church Growth and Evangelism Training Center was opened in Hay Market, Virginia. Classes focus on the Christ-centered Biblical principles that the Holy Spirit has guided him into in evangelistic proclamation and church growth with younger pastors and lay people. The Living Hope School of Evangelism and Southern Adventist University established a Master's Degree in Comprehensive Evangelistic Outreach and Mission with the curriculum beginning in July 2017.



Vandeon D. Griffin Youth Speaker

Pastor Griffin served as the Youth Director of South Central Conference for 10 years and President of BAYDA (Black Adventist Youth Director Association) for 7 years. He also served as the Director of Sabbath School/Personal Ministry and Prison Ministry of South Central Conference. Currently, Pastor Griffin serves as the Associate Youth/Young Adult Director of the North American Division—Columbia, MD. He covets the prayers of the saints in this new assignment. Pastor Griffin has a passion to see people on fire for the Lord, doing what he has called us all to do "be a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).



Tom LeBlanc French Meetings All Campmeeting

Tom LeBlanc is well known among our French community and brings a wealth of experience on practical Christian living.



Mike Lemon

Mike Lemon is the new speaker, director for "It Is Written Canada." He and his wife, Rene, are both teachers, 100% organic, Non-GMO, sweet and sour lemons. Rene is the sweet one. They love sharing Jesus with others and have worked in ministry and education positions in Canada for the last 20 years; before that, they worked in South Africa as teachers, and Mike was also a pastor. They have come to "It Is Written Canada" from Fountainview Academy in BC, where they have ministered for the last 12 years. They have two amazing daughters, Jo-Ann and Miclain, who love to travel, make meaningful connections with people from all walks of life, and share their vibrant faith in God.





Health MinistriesStephanie Schwarz, Director

Attitude of Gratitude

I read a quote the other day that told me what impacts health of the body and soul more than anything else. Can anyone guess what that is? Well, here is the quote: "Nothing tends more to promote health of body and of soul-than does a spirit of gratitude and praise" (MH 251). So what was it? Gratitude and praise! Gratitude and praise tends more to promote health than anything else. More beneficial than what you eat, more than what you do—is your attitude! "It is a positive duty to resist melancholy, discontented thoughts and feelings—as much a duty as it is to pray" (MH 251). That is powerful! Prayer is our connection, our communication to God, but not all communication is optimal. This shows us how to best communicate with God and with others.

How many of you have seen the "Facebook challenge" that was being shared, to list 3 things you are grateful for over 5 days? How many of you have done it? So many people are realizing how important this is! Scientific studies are now showing that having an attitude of gratitude is good for your health. Being thankful is a brain booster, it also strengthens your memory. It is good for your mental health, you tend to get better grades, you are a better friend to others, and you sleep better! A study published in the Applied Psychology Health and Well-Being magazine, stated that people who took 15 minutes each night to write what they were grateful for in a journal before bed, fell asleep faster, and stayed asleep longer! Being thankful reduces depression, and benefits the heart by lowering blood pressure.



Being thankful strengthens your relationship with your significant other as well. A 2010 study published in the journal *Personal Relationships*, found that taking the time to focus on the positive gestures your partner makes can help you feel more connected and satisfied in your relationship. Just taking a few minutes every day to tell your partner one thing you appreciate about them can go a long way toward strengthening your bond.

It is no wonder that God gave us this prescription a long time ago. He tells us over and over to give praise and thanks.

Philippians 4:6 tells us not to worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. We are called to come to Christ in thankfulness. Praise Him for who He is, and His great love for us.

First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. This is what God's desire is for us. He knows that this is necessary for our life on this earth. Psalms 106:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever!"

This week I challenge you to take time every day and in every prayer, to give thanks to God for something He has done for you and for a specific attribute about Him. And then on each day this week, at least once, tell your significant other or friend one thing you are grateful for about them, and document it in your journal. Watch as the bonds of love grow stronger between you and God, and between you and others.

If any church is interested in hosting a Health Expo or having me come to speak at your church or present health talks, contact me at health@maritimesda.com.

Stephanie Schwarz is a Registered Nurse and Certified Health Coach.

Campmeeting 2019

July 26-August 3

Tilling the Ground

Loren Seibold How to Have a Happier Family

Loren Seibold pastors several churches in the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. Writes for several magazines, including <u>Signs of the Times</u>, <u>Ministry</u> and <u>The Adventist Review</u>, and as well as edits a newsletter for pastors called <u>Best Practices for Adventist Ministry</u>. His wife, Carmen, is an ordained minister and a hospice chaplain. They love gardening, travel and reading.



Lee Venden and Marii Venden

A pastor, educator, and presenter for more than 29 years, **Lee** has sought to know Jesus better and to help others accomplish that as well. He has authored three books and co-authored the internationally popular website, www.allaboutjesusseminars.org.

Marji Venden has a particular interest in helping children understand that they too can have a personal friendship with Jesus. As an educator for more than 12 years, and mother of two children, Marji loves to assist parents who are seeking to guide their children into a relational understanding of Christianity.



Anyone interested in cleaning the main washrooms or small bathroom by the auditorium???

Email Jullie at info@maritimesda.com ■



Youth Ricky Schwarz, Director

Youth Sabbaths Across the Maritimes

The Maritime Conference has been gifted with so many wonderful youth and young adults that want to live for Jesus. Our churches have been given an amazing opportunity in which they can use these God given young people and their many talents to help in the work of uplifting the young and old in the Maritime Conference.

Since October 2018, three of our churches in the Maritime Conference have participated in a one day Youth Sabbath (St. George Oct. 20, Halifax Oct. 27, and Fredericton Feb. 23). At each of these events the local youth and young adults were given the opportunity to lead out in their local church service. Sharing with church members and guests the many gifts and talents that God has given His church through them. In Matthew 9:37, 38 Jesus said to His



disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." This is just as true today in the Maritime Conference as it was the day Jesus spoke it to His disciples. Yet, these Youth Sabbaths have helped to demonstrate that God has given His churches here in the Maritime Conference "more labourers," and they have come in the form of our youth and young adults. These three youth-led events help to show that our young people are ready and willing to not only do the work of God in the church, but also to encourage those outside of our church walls to join them in living for Jesus Christ.

The themes of these Youth Sabbaths have been, "The Flip Side: Acceptance vs Rejection," "Do you Love Jesus," and "Why Jesus." "Why Jesus" was the theme of the most recent youth Sabbath in Fredericton. This theme was chosen to challenge



those in attendance to know for themselves why believing in, and following Jesus Christ is not just an intelligent choice, but the best and most important choice of your life.

Youth Sabbaths are a great experience and opportunity for our more experienced members to disciple, equip, encourage, and unite with their young people that God has entrusted to their care. We look forward to seeing more of these Youth Sabbaths across the conference in the upcoming years.

The Youth Sabbath Speakers included: Teresa Ferreira, Ricky Schwarz, Zlatan Ljuljdjurovic, Frank Kelemen, and Catherine Joudry

Fredericton Youth Sabbath

By Ricky/Zlatan Ljuljdjurovic/photos Catherine Joudry On February 23, 2019, there was a Youth Sabbath held in the Fredericton SDA Church. During this day, the young adults were given opportunities to

take part in a church service and share with others the gifts God has given them. This was done to show others that there are young people that are ready to do the work of God and as well as to encourage others to set up for Jesus.

The theme for that Sabbath was "Why Jesus" which would address to the congregation why we should choose to follow Jesus. It was a great experience and a good opportunity to grow the young people of the Maritime Conference.



"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3

Upcoming Youth Events:
Spiritual Emphasis Weekend
Camp Pugwash
May 31—June 1, 2019
\$30.00 per person (registration)

\$30.00 per person (registration on page 16)

Theme: Why I don't like "Church"

Have you ever felt that there is something wrong with the "Church?" That it just doesn't feel right or something seems to be missing? If you've ever felt this way, take comfort—Jesus feels the same way. During this weekend, we will unravel the truth behind why Jesus says that the condition of His church makes Him feel sick and His plan to make her irresistibly attractive again.

Speakers:

Michael Brown: serves as an elder at the Auburn SDA Church in Maine. He loves digging deep into God's word.

Kyle & Jackie Howard: are newlyweds since just last September. Kyle and Jackie are active in Young Adult Ministries.

Message Titles:

How to Marry a Prostitute The Lovesick God It's a Heart Problem Why I Love the Church

Scripture:

Hosea 2:14 "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speck comfortably unto her."

"Sweet hour of prayer that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne, make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return sweet hour of prayer."

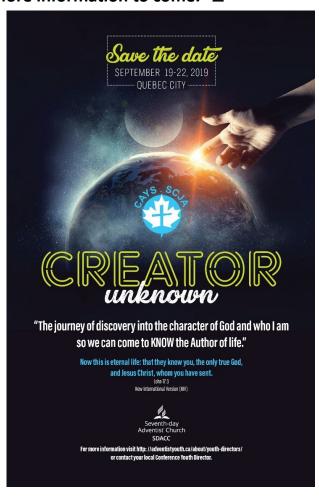
2019 Campmeeting Youth Tent Speaker: Camp Pugwash July 26-August 3, 2019 Pastor Vandeon D. Griffin

Pastor Griffin served as the Youth Director of South Central Conference for 10 years and President of BAYDA (Black Adventist Youth Director Association) for 7 years. Currently, Pastor Griffin serves as the Associate Youth/Young Adult Director of the North American Division—Columbia, MD. He covets the prayers of the saints in this new assignment.



Pastor Griffin has a passion to see people on fire for the Lord, doing what he has called us all to do "be a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

2019 SDACC Youth Convention: Quebec City QC—September 19-22, 2019 More information to come. ■



NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:

DARTMOUTH

Elevator Project

The Dartmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church is seeking help with an important project.

For the past six years we have been running a soup kitchen from the church basement. Unfortunately we have been having issues with accessibility to our building. We have three vision impaired guests who come with seeing-eye dogs, we had an elderly lady who had to carry an oxygen tank and various people with walkers or wheelchairs who cannot participate due to accessibility issues.

Led by God, the fundraising team began to look into the possibility of getting a small elevator to make our building accessible to all. We applied for and were awarded a \$50,000 Federal Government grant towards this project. We were given the grant in February of 2018 with one year to complete the project. However, due to new U.S. tariffs and such, the project is going to be much more costly than we originally thought. We are looking at an additional \$75,000 to \$100,000.00 to complete the work on the elevator. We are trying to fundraise; however, with a small team we can only do so much. The government has given us an extension until the end of August 2019 to complete the work or we will need to give them back the \$50,000.00 grant.

We feel this is something that was led by God and is a worthy cause. If anyone feels the desire to help us with this project, no amount is too small. Remember the lady with the two pence? She was truly blessed by giving and we know that God can and will multiply what we give and also bless the giver.

Our online giving page now has an elevator fund tab. Thank you and God Bless.

[Said the angel,] "Press your petitions to the throne. and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure." EGW, Early Writings, 73

HALIFAX

"Officers are a gift to the church,"

Agape Feast

so spoke Pastor Gary Belhomme at the Agape program Friday, Feb. 15. This statement was fully realized when six ladies from the social committee (pictured below right) prepared an Agape meal and program with the theme "Love One Another." One of many touching highlights happened during the testimony period. A visitor, thinking a Bible study was going on but stayed for the meal, expressed how happy he was for such good food and fellowship and said, "I have no family here, but now I consider this church as my family."

Following is an explanation of the hearts/cross—At the beginning, each person pinned a red heart on the cross

indicating the giving of his/her heart to Jesus in total commitment. A white sheet was then draped over the cross, representing Christ's Righteousness, and when the sheet was later removed, everyone's heart had turned from red to white indicating the cleansing from sin by the precious blood of Jesus!





Pictured L to R: ladies who organized the inspiring Agape program: Falisha Cherenfant, Robin Fredricks, Ashley Rolle, Shelley Rose, Oratile Mogae and Cynthia Lewis, Leader.

35th Anniversary of African Heritage Month

To mark the 35th anniversary of African Heritage Month in Halifax, the Sabbath school dept. hosted a special program to acknowledge the unique history of Black Seventh-day Adventists living in Nova Scotia and their contribution to the Halifax church. Embracing the theme "Motivated by our History, Pursuing our Destiny," the Sabbath School focused on the rich Adventist heritage—the history and growth of Adventism—of the more than 25 countries from which black members have immigrated to Halifax.

This year's theme aligns with the 2019 provincial theme, *Our History is Your History*, and fits with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent whose goal is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent as they strive for full inclusion in all aspects of society. To understand and share the truths of our common heritage in Christ through awareness, dialogue and learning will help us share Christ in the marketplace and fulfill Jesus' prayer "that they may be one as we are one" (John 17:11, NIV).

Dressed in traditional garb, and building on the vision of reconciliation and the goal of understanding each other as a community, the Adventist youth also joined in the celebrations by hosting small group discussions on how race can impact the spreading of the gospel in Nova Scotia and potential solutions to this challenge. One of the highlights of the afternoon's program was a Spoken Word piece titled, Being Black in North America. Here is an excerpt that resonated with the audience.

"I mean, being black in North America is great, we are free right? If you said "yes," you must be living a perfect life right now, but for me and other people it's not great.

Well, is there hope? Will there be change—for our futures; for our children; and our children's children? Will we ever be united? The only person who knows that is God!!

I mean if you look at Revelation 7:9-10, it says that when Jesus comes back, all individuals of different nations, who speak different languages will be united before the throne of God. Therefore we need to start the unity on earth, because we are

all saved by the blood of Jesus at the end of the day.

So when you ask yourself what being black in North America means to you, don't focus on the negatives. Focus on how to be good Samaritans through Christ and combat the racism that plagues our country. And hopefully, being black in North America is something that you are proud of because I know Jesus is proud of you."

Excerpted from *Being Black in North America*, Spoken Word by Renee Noel.



(These beautiful ladies sang a medley of Christian songs from Africa during Black History Month. Representing six countries, from left to right, Talent Ndlovu from Zimbabwe, Adeline Ishimwe from Rwanda, Kemunto Moro Ogoti from Kenya, Nicole Jean-Baptiste from St. Lucia, Grace Ingabire from Rwanda and Mildred Syabeenzu from Zambia.)

(An enjoyable musical rendition for Black History Month by Katya McBeth, Oratile Mogae, Faith Belhomme and Samara Belhomme.)



"It is not too much to say that all real growth in the spiritual life – all victory over temptation, all confidence and peace in the presence of difficulties and dangers, all repose of spirit in times of great disappointment or loss, all habitual communion with God – depends upon the practice of secret prayer." [Unknown author, *Kneeling Christian*, p. 9]

Health Ministries

Natalie Wilson, Halifax Health Ministries leader, had the privilege of attending the Health Ministries Summit, HEALING OF THE NATIONS, held in Albuquerque, NM from January 20-26/19. Over 40 course instructors presented timely topics on healthful living, some of which Natalie shared live on the internet for our benefit.

Pictured right is Natalie's first opportunity to share from this summit, choosing a very important and teachable audience, the children of the Halifax church during their story time! Following the story, she introduced her assistants for the Health Ministries Department who, standing with her, are Kenisse Trotman, David Hunt and Dr. Bobby Rajan.

Pictured is a sample of cards given to the many children during Natalie Wilson's children's story on health.

The church looks forward to many helpful and healthy programs from Natalie's profitable time spent at this Health Summit.

Firehall Visit

On Health Emphasis Day the Health dept was on a mission. Bring a heart healthy meal and appreciation to the firemen at Station 2 on University Drive in Halifax. We wanted to let them know that we care. It was a surprise for them and a blessing for us!

ST GEORGE

Connecting with the Community

On Dec. 9, the St George congregation welcomed family, friends and neighbors to our annual Christmas concert. Poems by our young members, songs by talented singers interspersed with a narration and sweet treats were shared to honor the birth of our Lord.

Having spent the month of December gathering food items, we delivered 511 pounds of dried goods in support of our local food bank on January 4. To further that support, the ladies learned to knit slippers, some of which were donated as well as mitts, toques and headbands.

The church fellowship hall was beautifully decorated for a spaghetti supper fundraiser on February 10. We look forward to many more opportunities to welcome family, friends and neighbors to fellowship with us.







Pictured are a few of the St. George women who help plan and cook for the events for the church and community; as well as the welcoming table setting for the spaghetti supper.

"Whatever may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend." EGW, Christ Object Lessons, p. 173.



important to her and she was a devoted and active member of the Moncton Seventh-day Adventist Church. Patricia was also a homemaker and housewife which she loved. She enjoyed caring for her family and always being there for her boys. A mother's love is special and her kindness and patience was something they could always count on. She liked knitting and made afghans for everyone in the family. She enjoyed camping and cherished many fond memories that were made around the campfire. Patricia will be remembered for her sweet smile and her generous heart. She will live on in the hearts of her loved ones forever. She will be deeply missed by her sons, Gary Colpitts (Kim) of Hillsborough NB, Roger Colpitts of Stoney Creek NB and David Colpitts (Carolyn) of Ottawa ON; her treasured grandson, Ryan Colpitts; her precious great-grandsons, Bentley and Rowan; sister, Ruth Chartand (Marcel) of Elgin NB; brother, William "Bill" White of Hopewell Hill NB. She will also be missed by nieces and nephews and by all her church family and friends. Besides her parents she was predeceased by her beloved husband, Wilfred (2003); brothers, Herman and H. Allison.

Forbes, Samuel Joshua—25, Joshua Forbes was born June 23, 1993 and passed away February 11, 2019. Josh enjoyed cooking, video games, movies and

music. He truly shone when telling jokes and stories. He completed the tourism management program at NFCC and then went on to pursue his dream of culinary arts. He was a devoted follower of The Lord, Jesus Christ and was a unique and caring individual who touched the lives of all he knew. Despite his battle with Sickle Cell and other



adversities Josh was a fighter and a conqueror. He was pre-deceased by his father, Samuel. Left behind to cherish his memories are his devoted and caring mother, Barbara Forbes, his step-father, Doran Langille, grandparents, Elfloy Newry, Randollian Newry and Collette Forbes, his two sisters, Sam and Kelly, his brother, Branden and his brothers-in-law, Ali Williams and Joshua Montgomery, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, relatives and friends.

Foster, Clarence -65, of Halifax NS, passed away December 14th, 2018. His presence as a loving

husband and father will be missed by his devoted wife, Trish; daughter, Cheryl and granddaughter, Trina. He was a deacon and a well-loved member of the Dartmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church. He excelled as a cartoonist and at Toastmasters. He was a gentle, kind human being who was honoured



by the premier of NS for overcoming adversity.

Mallet, Marie-Mai -57, of Heathbell NS, passed away February 13, 2019 at Victoria General

Hospital, Halifax NS. Born in Moncton NB to Jeanette Despres and Francis Mallet (late). Marie-Mai was an avid gardener and in general natural living enthusiast. Marie-Mai graduated from Mathieu Martin High School in Moncton. Marie-Mai completed



computer training in Montreal QC and was an accomplished computer database programmer, working in Montreal and later for Blue Cross in Moncton. Marie-Mai studied health at Loma Linda University in California. She was a research assistant participating in ground breaking research promoting health. Marie-Mai became an alpaca farmer and learned how to process alpaca fiber and produce exotic varns. Marie-Mai was full of pure strength and passion for whatever goals she set to reach. Despite having low finances, she knew how to budget and survive independently. She was very resourceful with whatever she owned and taught her daughters the same. Whatever she wanted to be done, she made sure it was going to be done efficiently. Marie-Mai was full of ambition, energy and beaming smiles. She was known to greet you with her fresh garden vegetables and homemade wool products. Survived by her daughters Elianna MacKinnon and Simone MacKinnon; mother Jeanette Despres; sisters Patricia Chervet, Francine Mallet, Colette Dupuis, Gabrielle Fisher, and Claire Ale; and brothers Joseph and Roger Mallet.

"It can easily be shown that all want of success (and all failure in the spiritual life and in Christian work) is due to defective or insufficient prayer..." [Unknown author, *Kneeling Christian*, p. 9]

Soper, Marie Faye-92, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2018 at Northwood Ivany Place,

Bedford NS. Born July 15, 1926 at Fox Point NS she was the youngest child of the late Frederick and Jennie (Longard) Coolen. Marie retired in 1985 after a 36 year career in the Halifax office of the H.J. Heinz Co. of Canada Ltd. She was a lifelong member of the



Seventh-day Adventist Church, a caring Christian lady who always related to others with loving kindness and grace. A talented musician, she served as a church organist for over 50 years. She was also an accomplished needle woman, creating exquisite needlepoint and other beautiful objects. Marie is survived by her brother, Floyd Coolen, Bedford NS; niece, Myrna (Don) McAnally, Sorrento BC and special family caregivers: nephew, Reid (Margaret) Coolen, Fox Point NS; niece, Nancy (Donnie R.) Harnish, Mill Cove NS; nephew, Harry Soper, Dartmouth NS. She will be fondly remembered by several generations of relatives among the extended Coolen and Soper families in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. She was predeceased by her parents, husband, Donald; brother, Sanford and sister, Violet.

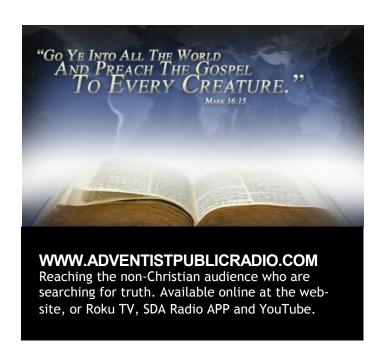
"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." 1 John 5:14,15

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

St. George church women gathered at the home of Julie Cheney for an evening of worship, games, good food and gift exchange to solidify our bonds of friendship.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

St. George church joined many other members across North America in ten days of focused prayer from January 9-19. During that time we also spent an evening together watching *The War Room*, a powerful testimony to the power of prayer. ■







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fire songs and, most
importantly, get to know
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Spring Prayer Retreat May 23-26, 2019

Cost: \$75.00 per person if paid by May 8th \$125.00 after May 8th (US\$)
Families Welcome, children 12 & under are FREE

Name:
Age group:13-2526-4041-6061+
Address:
Phone:
Email Address (print clearly)
List any special needs, allergies or gluten free:
Names and ages of children attending:
Preferred Roommate/s:

Make cheque payable to:

NNEC Prayer Retreat
Send to: Christine Penney

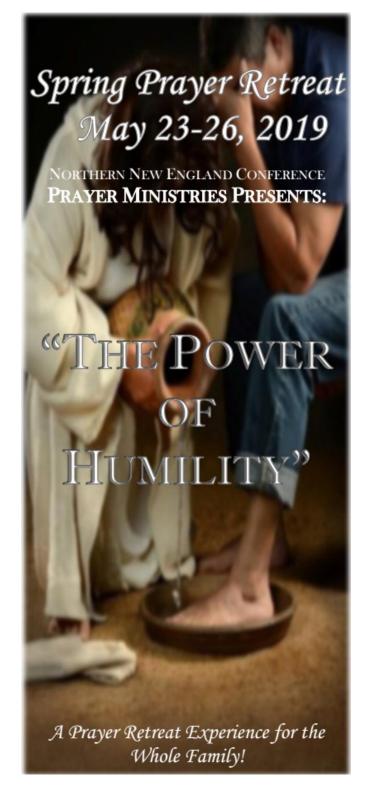
147 Ellis River Rd, Rumford, ME 04276

(payment must accompany registration form) Housing questions: thankfl@roadrunner.com

For more info. contact Paula Roeloffs at paula.roeloffs@gmail.com or 802-989-0909.

The Maritime Pulse is available for viewing on the Maritime Conference website at www.maritimesda.com

It will be available for viewing within the next few days.



"If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision." EGW, Christ Object Lessons, p. 173.

Maritime Conference Sandy Lake Academy Scholarship

The Board of Directors and Administration of the Maritime Conference is pleased to continue to offer funds for scholarships to support Christian education in the Maritimes.

The scholarship will be administered by the Maritime Conference Administrative Committee in consultation with the Maritime Conference Education Superintendent.

Purpose of Scholarship:

To financially support non-Sandy Lake Academy constituent students from Seventh-day Adventist families living in the Maritimes to attend Sandy Lake Academy.

Amount Available:

\$3,000.00 per student per school year for dormitory students. \$1,500.00 per student per school year for non-dormitory students.

Qualification:

- 1. Parents or student must be a member of a Maritime Conference Seventh-day Adventist Church living in the Maritimes.
- 2. Student must be in grades 9 12.
- 3. Student must maintain an acceptable grade in all subjects.

Disbursement:

The scholarship will be paid on behalf of the student directly to Sandy Lake Academy.

The scholarship will be disbursed in two payments:

Dormitory students: \$1,500.00 end of January. Non-dormitory students: \$750.00 end of January. Dormitory students: \$1,500.00 end of June. Non-dormitory students: \$750.00 end of June.

Any student who does not attend for the entire term will receive a pro-rated scholarship commensurate with the time period in attendance.

Application:

All applications for the scholarship must be submitted to the Conference by August 15.

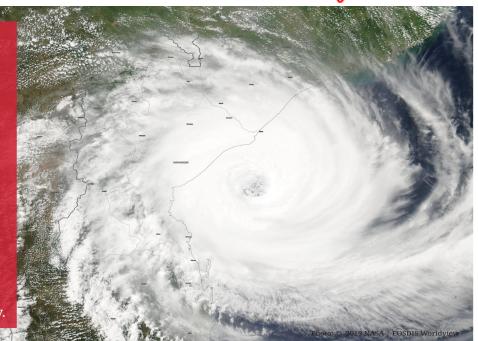
Maritime Conference Sandy Lake Academy Scholarship Application Form			
School Year Applied For:			
Name of Parents:			
Address:			
Phone Number:			
E-mail Address:			
Church of Membership:			
Name of Student:			
Age:			
Grade:			
Signature of Local Pastor Recor	nmending Student:		



In the wake of Cyclone Idai in the countries of Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, ADRA is responding to those affected. Food, water, shelter kits, hygiene kits, and other much needed supplies are being provided to those in need.

Donations can be made at www.adra.ca/hurricanes or by calling 1.888.274.2372.

Your assistance is urgently needed. Please give generously.





Adventist Development & Relief Agency

20 Robert Street West Newcastle, ON L1B 1C6

1.888.274.ADRA (2372) ADRA.ca



ABC MARITIME BOOKVAN April 16-17, 2019

Please note: This is the only ABC bookvan delivery in the Maritimes until campmeeting time.

The ABC will try their best to fill your orders now and for campmeeting.

Contact the ABC for prices, as they are changeable.

You can pre-order/pay for orders to be picked up at campmeeting too.

Those involved in the cafeteria or snack shop for summer camp and campmeeting may want to put the order in for delivery on this run, as next delivery isn't until July 23 or so.

Place orders of book and food items by calling:

800.765.6955



ABC Christian Bookstore

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ABC Maritime Bookvan Delivery



Maritime Pulse

The Maritime Conference Pulse Committee recommends that we adopt as a mission statement "to encourage and nurture the Adventist Church Fellowship in the Maritimes by promoting and sharing personal ministry and evangelism tools and experiences." Do you have any personal ministry experiences to share with our readers? Email them to info@maritimesda.com.

Thank you to each one who has contributed. Please remember that the Maritime Pulse is posted on the Conference Website for public viewing. Check with the individuals your articles are reporting about for permission to use the story in the Maritime Pulse.

The next Maritime Pulse deadline is June 1, 2019.

Distribution of Maritime Pulse

The Maritime Pulse is distributed electronically via email to the churches. A few printed copies are sent to the elders in the mail as usual. We recommend you send this pdf file or the website link directly to your church members who have computers/internet access.

A reminder that the Maritime Pulse (present and past copies) is available for viewing online at www.maritimesda.com and is the easiest way to view the Maritime Pulse.

MARITIME CONFERENCE OFFICE HOURS

The Maritime Conference office is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Worship time 8:45 am Please Note:

We are closed on Friday.

For your convenience we have a mail slot in the front door area for you to drop off any envelopes when we are not open.

Leave a message at 506-857-8722.

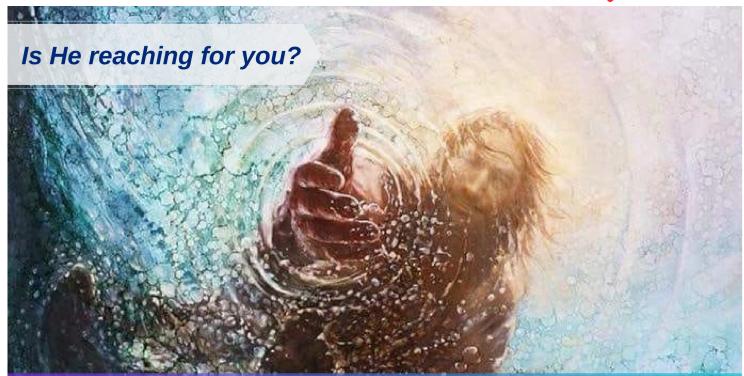
President Paul Llewellyn Ext 202
Exec. Secretary Teresa Ferreira Cell 506.609.1386
Treasurer Ed Sharpe Ext 205
Asst Treasurer Françoise Ringuette Ext 206
Asst Dept Dir. Jullie Bannister Ext 201
Our FAX is 506-853-7368

Mailing Address:
Maritime Conference of SDA
121 Salisbury Road
Moncton NB E1E 1A6

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Please be sure to let your church clerk know if your address has changed or will be changing. This helps to keep our records up-to-date, as well as ensuring that you will continue to receive the Messenger and Adventist Journey magazines. If you're not receiving these magazines, please contact your clerk, or Jullie Bannister at the conference office by Phone 506.857.8722 Ext 201, Fax 506.853.7368 or Email info@maritimesda.com.

MARITIME CONFERENCE CALENDAR 2019				
March Mar. 23 Mar. 23 Mar. 24 Mar. 30 Mar. 30	Women in the Church Focus ARM Safety Sabbath Maritime Advance AGM/FSR/Visioning Meeting Mon NAD Evangelism 13th Sabbath-S. Africa-Indian Ocean Div.	Offering ncton Church Offering Offering		
April Apr. 6 Apr. 8 Apr. 13 Apr. 13 Apr. 13 Apr. 20 Apr. 27 Apr. 27 Apr. 27 Apr. 29-May 5 Apr.	Stewardship Focus Missionary Magazines Promotion Clerk Statistical Report Due Stewardship Sabbath SS & Church Attendance Count to be take Cdn Christian Record Services Literature Evangelism Sabbath Education Sabbath Sandy Lake Academy Screen-Free Week Summer Camp Registration Forms	Conference en Offering Offering		
May 4 May 4 May 5 May 10-12 May 11 May 11 May 15 May 18 May 18 May 23 May 24-26 May 25 May 25 May 31-Jun. 1	Youth Sabbath Disaster/Famine Relief Joseph Kidder Seminar Early Registration De Single Adults Sabbath SS & Church Attendance Count to be take Joseph Kidder Seminar Registration Dead	en		
June Jun. 1 Jun. 8 Jun. 8 Jun. 14-16 Jun. 15 Jun. 18-23 Jun. 22 Jun. 23 Jun. 23-28 Jun. 29 Jun. 29 Jun. 30-Jul. 7	13th Sabbath-South American Division Cdn Indigenous Ministries Junior Camp Ca	Offering d SLA Offering Video Imp Pugwash Offering Offering Imp Pugwash		
	I INVESTMENT PROJECTS on and Southern Union	Offering		



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this adventure, you will know! This could be the most important two weeks of your life and we are pumped about it!

Each day will be filled with all the good things of camp including first class recreation opportunities, solitude in our natural wonderland, and daily progress in understanding the great mysteries of God through dynamic experiences! What could be more fulfilling and deeply fun than this? Probably nothing!

Camp Director:Teresa Ferreira



Trek Leaders:
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