



## Finding Jesus

I am thoroughly convinced that when a child is running towards a busy road that it is acceptable to yell at them for the sake of saving their life. Our precious Maritime Conference might just be heading down one of those roads in which God will

have to use stronger language to get our attention. Look at the early church that became real comfortable staying in Jerusalem when God had told them that they “shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Jesus allowed persecution to come to His church in order to scatter them to do the work that He had commissioned them to do. So, the words that I write might just be the precursor to what will take place in the not too distant future. I beg your forgiveness in advance for my use of heavy language in bringing my much-needed thoughts to you, the reader.

I was filling out a self-evaluation regarding our Maritime Conference and local churches a few days ago and one of the questions asked was “If your church were to burn down tonight, how many neighbors would miss your church?” That was a hard one to answer. Mark Twain once said “that the best cure for Christianity is reading the Bible.” We either believe what God can do in changing us or we just might be living a lie. I think Jesus called them hypocrites. I was listening to a Christian radio station and they were interviewing the concert workers who staffed the auditorium where many Christian and secular concerts were held. The staff said that they hated working the Christian concerts due to the fact that they found the Christian groups to be the rudest people. A fellow colleague of mine in Ontario ran seminars and conferences for her department. She had called me into her office one day and in distress unloaded her predicament. You see, the venues she used for her conferences would not want to rebook us after we had been to that certain hotel or conference center. I was puzzled as to why they would not want people from our church across Ontario to use their facilities. I asked her if they had given any reasons as to why they did not want to rebook us. The simple answer came back that the staff had never worked with such rude people before; they were especially demanding, as they were eating to excess and they would not leave room tips for the staff after leaving the hotel room a mess. OUCH! That one hurt deep.

## Trouver Jésus

Je suis tout à fait convaincu que lorsqu'un enfant court vers une route très fréquentée, il est acceptable de lui crier dessus pour sauver sa vie. Notre précieuse Conférence des Maritimes est peut-être en train de s'engager sur une de ces routes où Dieu devra utiliser un langage plus fort pour attirer notre attention. Regardez l'Église primitive, elle était devenue un véritable lieu de séjour confortable à Jérusalem, quand Dieu leur a dit qu'ils « seront Mes témoins à Jérusalem, et dans toute la Judée et la Samarie, et jusqu'aux extrémités de la terre. » Jésus a permis que la persécution vienne à Son Église afin de les disperser pour faire le travail qu'Il leur avait demandé de faire. Ainsi, les mots que j'écris pourraient être le précurseur de ce qui se produira dans un avenir pas trop lointain. Je vous prie de m'excuser à l'avance d'avoir utilisé un langage lourd pour vous faire part de mes pensées si nécessaires au lecteur.

Il y a quelques jours, je remplissais une auto-évaluation concernant notre Conférence des Maritimes et les églises locales et une des questions posées était « si votre église brûlait ce soir, à combien de voisins votre église manquerait-elle? » Mark Twain a dit un jour que le meilleur remède pour le christianisme est de lire la Bible: « Soit nous croyons ce que Dieu peut faire pour nous changer, soit nous vivons un mensonge. Je pense que Jésus les a appelés des hypocrites. J'écoutais une station de radio chrétienne et ils interviewaient les concertistes qui travaillaient dans l'auditorium où se tenaient de nombreux concerts chrétiens et séculiers. Les membres du personnel ont dit qu'ils détestaient le travail des concerts chrétiens parce qu'ils trouvaient les groupes chrétiens des plus impolis. Une de mes collègues de l'Ontario a organisé des séminaires et des conférences pour son ministère. Un jour, elle m'avait appelé dans son bureau et, en détresse, elle m'a confié des choses au sujet de sa difficile situation. Vous voyez, les lieux qu'elle a utilisés pour ses conférences ne voulaient pas nous louer à nouveau après que nous ayons été dans cet hôtel ou ce centre de conférence. J'étais perplexe quant aux raisons pour lesquelles ils ne voulaient pas que les gens de notre église de l'Ontario utilisent leurs installations. Je lui ai demandé s'ils avaient donné des raisons pour lesquelles ils ne voulaient pas nous faire une nouvelle réservation. La réponse toute simple est revenue à savoir que le personnel n'avait jamais travaillé avec des gens aussi grossiers auparavant, ils étaient particulièrement exigeants car ils mangeaient beaucoup et ne laissaient pas de pourboire pour le personnel après avoir laissé la chambre d'hôtel dans le désordre. OUCH! Ça, ça fait mal! Nous sommes un peuple que tous devraient vouloir réinviter à venir et à réserver de nouveau à cause de notre caractère semblable au Christ, mais le personnel de ces lieux voyaient un côté totalement différent de notre église qui n'était pas très attrayant. Comment apporterions-nous à ces personnes « le personnel » la merveilleuse espérance du message évangélique après avoir fait preuve d'un tel comportement?

We are a people who should be sought after to come and rebook because of our Christ-like character, but the staff of these venues were seeing a totally different side of our church that was not very appealing. How would we ever give those people (the staff) the wonderful hope of the Gospel message after our behavior?

Recently, I was listening to Dale Galusha (president of Pacific Press) as he presented a worship thought to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. He began to unravel what people are looking for in today's society, especially as it applies to our church. People are wanting real, tangible relationships. Relationships that are meaningful and uplifting. Within the church though, this might not be what is found by most people. It is heartbreaking that as people journey in search for faith they, unfortunately, find religion. When people find religion, they tend to get stuck in a very behavior oriented situation. Instead of falling in love with Jesus they basically fall in love with the Truth without the presence of the Saviour. Truth without relationship makes the truth very dry, stale and eventually the person will lose heart and drift away or come into conformity with all the others that tragically found religion without the relationship with Jesus. Try marrying someone without having a love relationship with them. We hopefully marry for love. When Christ claims His bride, will it be for relationship or that they behaved properly? A right relationship will lead to the right behavior for the right reason.

The whole purpose of spirituality is finding Jesus. The Pharisees knew much about God, but they failed to **KNOW** God. As Christians, our most important duty is to know Jesus, not just to know about Him. The more we know Him the more we will fall in love with Him. Only in Jesus, will all other things find its context. So religion without Jesus is just that ... religion. We must have Jesus and that relationship is only lived out through the work and power of the Holy Spirit.

The late Dr. A. W. Tozer, author and pastor, said, "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference." I tend to agree whole heartedly that this is what we are experiencing in all of our churches throughout North America today. In fact, Ellen White implies that when the Latter Rain is being poured out, there will be many in the church who will be totally unaware of this. Why? Revelation 2:4-5 (NLT) states: "You don't love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen!"

Récemment, j'écoutais Dale Galusha (président de Pacific Press) alors qu'il présentait un message de louange à l'Église Adventiste du Septième Jour du Canada. Il a commencé par dévoiler ce que les gens recherchent dans la société d'aujourd'hui, surtout en ce qui concerne notre Église. Les gens veulent des relations réelles et tangibles. Des relations constructives et enrichissantes. Dans l'Église, cependant, ce n'est peut-être pas ce que la plupart des gens trouvent. Il est déchirant de constater qu'en cheminant à la recherche de la foi, les gens découvrent malheureusement la religion. Quand les gens trouvent la religion, ils ont tendance à se retrouver dans une situation très comportementale. Au lieu de tomber amoureux de Jésus, ils tombent fondamentalement amoureux de la Vérité sans la présence du Sauveur. La vérité sans le relationnel rend la vérité très sèche, périmée et finalement la personne finira par perdre courage et s'éloigner ou se conformer à tous les autres qui ont tragiquement fondé leur religion sans la relation avec Jésus. Essayez d'épouser quelqu'un sans avoir une relation amoureuse avec lui ou elle. Nous espérons nous marier par amour. Quand le Christ réclamera son épouse, cela sera-t-il pour avoir eu une relation saine ou parce que chacun se sera bien comporté? Une relation saine amènera le bon comportement pour la bonne raison.

Tout le but de la spiritualité est de trouver Jésus. Les Phari-siens en savaient beaucoup sur Dieu, mais ils ne **CONNAIS-SAIENT PAS** Dieu. En tant que chrétiens, notre devoir le plus important est de connaître Jésus d'un point de vue relationnel, pas seulement de le connaître intellectuellement. Plus nous Le connaissons d'un point de vue relationnel, plus nous tomberons amoureux de Lui. C'est seulement en Jésus que toutes les autres choses trouveront leur contexte. Donc la religion sans Jésus n'est que ... la religion. Nous devons avoir Jésus et cette relation n'est vécue que par le travail et la puissance du Saint-Esprit.

Le regretté Dr A. W. Tozer, auteur et pasteur, a dit: « Si le Saint-Esprit était retiré de l'église aujourd'hui, 95 pour cent de ce que nous faisons continuerait et personne ne verrait la différence. Si le Saint-Esprit avait été retiré de l'église du Nouveau Testament, 95 pour cent de ce qu'ils ont fait s'arrêterait, et tout le monde auraient vu la différence. » J'ai tendance à être tout à fait d'accord que c'est ce que nous vivons dans toutes nos églises à travers l'Amérique du Nord aujourd'hui. En fait, Ellen White sous-entend que lorsque la pluie de l'arrière saison sera déversée, il y en aura beaucoup dans l'église qui ne le sauront pas du tout. Pourquoi? Apocalypse 2.4-5 (NLT) dit: « Tu ne m'aimes pas, ni moi ni les uns les autres comme tu l'as fait au début! Regarde jusqu'où tu es tombé! »

Certains n'aimeront pas ce que je vais dire, mais je prendrai le risque pour que peut-être une personne comprenne et demande à Jésus de commencer ou de raviver cette relation si nécessaire. En voyageant en Amérique du Nord, y compris dans notre propre district, je vois et j'entends beaucoup de discours religieux. Nous parlons de vérité, ce qui occupe une grande partie de notre conversation et cela ne me dérange pas d'entendre cela, mais ce qui me réjouirais serait d'entendre et de voir les gens parler de leur meilleur ami, Jésus, et comment cette vérité devient pertinente en Lui. Dans l'Esprit et dans la Vérité, nous adorerons Dieu, et j'ai peur que beaucoup d'entre nous manquent de cet Esprit. Je désire ardemment entendre ce témoignage vibrant que nous devons tous avoir avec Jésus. Une relation dans laquelle se trouve la Vie du Père. Un jour, on nous demandera peut-être de passer par ce que Jésus a traversé, et ces mêmes

Some will not like what I am about to say, but I will take the risk so that hopefully maybe one person will understand and ask Jesus for that needed relationship to be started or rekindled. As I travel around North America, and this includes our own district, I see and hear much religious talk. We talk about truth, which consumes much of our talk and I don't mind hearing that, but I really do miss hearing and seeing people talk about their best friend, Jesus, and how that truth becomes relevant in Him. In Spirit and in Truth will we worship God, and I'm afraid that many of us are missing the Spirit. I long to hear that vibrant testimony that we all need to be having with Jesus. A relationship that has the Life of the Father in it. One day we may be asked to go through what Jesus went through, and those same words will then come out of our mouths, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). A walk that resonates to the utter depths of our souls of our love for Jesus and love for all His people.

A few weeks ago a few of us were engaging in "shop talk." As we were hearing each other out with some of the challenges of ministry, one leader in the group said he felt like he was a fire-fighter and not a minister. Most of his time was spent putting out fires. When we were all finished talking, we all readily agreed that this was our most time-consuming task. None of the leaders went into ministry to put out fires, everyone entered ministry to seek and save the lost.

During 2018, the *Maritime Pulse* will be running four articles, written by Pastor Dave Hamilton, on Conflict Resolution. Pastor Dave shared his thoughts with me a few months ago and as I looked at his resources from Peacemaker Ministries it began to hit me how applicable this information was for all of our churches to understand and to put into practice. "Put into practice" does not just mean obedience to the truth, it also means living it at the heart-level. This can only be practiced rightly if the love of Christ does indeed dwell in the heart.

Here is a wonderful excerpt from the *Acts of the Apostles* to help guide us to become the church that Christ has called us to be. Please do not read the excerpt with the desire to bring this to someone else's attention. This is for you, the reader, to apply to your own heart and not for the purpose to reprove someone else. If this comes to mind while you read, ask the Lord to move upon you to have the message be applied to your own heart and mind.

"After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the disciples went forth to proclaim a living Saviour, their

paroles sortiront alors de notre bouche: « Père, pardonne-leur, car ils ne savent pas ce qu'ils font; » une marche qui résonnera jusqu'aux profondeurs de nos âmes, de notre amour pour Jésus et de l'amour pour tout Son peuple.

Il y a quelques semaines, quelques-uns d'entre nous s'engageaient dans des « discussions d'atelier, » tandis que nous nous écoutions les uns les autres sur certains des défis du ministère, un leader du groupe a dit qu'il se sentait comme un pompier et non comme un ministre. Il passait la plupart de son temps à éteindre des feux. Lorsque nous avons tous eu fini de parler, nous sommes tous tombés d'accord pour dire que c'était là notre tâche la plus dévoreuse de temps. Aucun des leaders ne s'est engagé dans le ministère pour éteindre des feux, tous sont entrés dans le ministère pour chercher et sauver les perdus.

En 2018, *Maritime Pulse* publiera quatre articles rédigés par le Pasteur Dave Hamilton sur la résolution des conflits. Le pasteur Dave m'a fait part de ses réflexions il y a quelques mois et, en regardant ses ressources provenant des *Ministères Peacemaker*, j'ai compris à quel point cette information était pertinente pour que toutes nos Eglises la comprennent et la mettent en pratique. « Mettre en pratique » ne signifie pas seulement obéir à la vérité, c'est aussi la vivre au niveau du cœur. Cela ne peut être pratiqué à juste titre que si l'amour du Christ habite bien dans le cœur.

Voici un merveilleux extrait des *Conquérants Pacifiques* pour nous guider à devenir l'Église que le Christ nous a appelée à être. Veuillez ne pas lire l'extrait avec le désir d'attirer l'attention de quelqu'un d'autre. Ceci est pour vous, le lecteur, afin de

l'appliquer à votre propre cœur et non pas dans le but de réprover quelqu'un d'autre. Si cela touche votre esprit pendant que vous lisez, demandez au Seigneur d'agir sur vous pour que le message soit appliqué à votre propre cœur et esprit.

« Après l'effusion du Saint-Esprit, lorsque les disciples allèrent proclamer au monde un Sauveur ressuscité, leur unique préoccupation fut le salut des âmes. Ils se complaisaient dans la douceur de la communion des saints;

ils étaient compatissants, prévenants, désintéressés, désireux de se sacrifier pour la vérité. Ils révélaient dans leur vie quotidienne l'amour que le Christ leur avait recommandé de cultiver, et par des paroles et des actes généreux, ils s'efforçaient de le faire naître dans d'autres cœurs. Les croyants devraient toujours pratiquer cet amour, et aller de l'avant, en obéissant à ce commandement nouveau. En vivant en communion étroite avec le Christ, ils seraient rendus capables de répondre à ses exigences. Leur vie magnifierait la puissance d'un Sauveur qui peut justifier par sa justice.

Mais bientôt un changement graduel se produisit: les chrétiens commencèrent à rechercher les défauts du prochain. Ils s'arrêtèrent sur leurs fautes, se livrèrent à des critiques malveillantes, et perdirent ainsi de vue le Sauveur et son amour. Ils devinrent plus stricts au sujet des cérémonies extérieures, plus difficiles sur les principes de la foi. Dans leur zèle à condamner autrui, ils ne virent pas leurs propres erreurs. Ils oublièrent de pratiquer l'amour fraternel que le Christ leur



one desire was the salvation of souls. They rejoiced in the sweetness of communion with saints. They were tender, thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth's sake. In their daily association with one another, they revealed the love that Christ had enjoined upon them. By unselfish words and deeds they strove to kindle this love in other hearts. Such a love the believers were ever to cherish. They were to go forward in willing obedience to the new commandment. So closely were they to be united with Christ that they would be enabled to fulfill all His requirements. Their lives were to magnify the power of a Saviour who could justify them by His righteousness.

Those who have never experienced the tender, winning love of Christ cannot lead others to the fountain of life. His love in the heart is a constraining power, which leads men to reveal Him in the conversation, in the tender, pitiful spirit, in the uplifting of the lives of those with whom they associate. Christian workers who succeed in their efforts must know Christ; and in order to know Him, they must know His love. In heaven, their fitness as workers is measured by their ability to love as Christ loved and to work as He worked.

But gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in others. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and His love. They became more strict in regard to outward ceremonies, more particular about the theory than the practice of the faith. In their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked their own errors. They lost the brotherly love that Christ had enjoined, and, saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss. They did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives and that, having shut the love of God out of their hearts, they would soon walk in darkness.

It is not the opposition of the world that most endangers the church of Christ. It is the evil cherished in the hearts of believers that works their most grievous disaster and most surely retards the progress of God's cause. There is no surer way of weakening spirituality than by cherishing envy, suspicion, fault-finding, and evil surmising. On the other hand, the strongest witness that God has sent His Son into the world is the existence of harmony and union among men of varied dispositions who form His church. This witness it is the privilege of the followers of Christ to bear. But in order to do this, they must place themselves under Christ's command. Their characters must be conformed to His character and their wills to His will" (*Act of the Apostles 547-549*). ■

Paul Llewellyn, President  
Maritime Conference

avait recommandé avec tant d'insistance et, ce qui était plus triste encore, ils n'avaient pas conscience de leur égarement. Ils ne se rendaient pas compte que le bonheur et la joie disparaissaient de leur vie, et qu'en bannissant de leur cœur la charité, ils allaient bientôt errer dans les ténèbres.

Jean, qui constatait ce relâchement dans l'Eglise, insistait auprès des chrétiens pour leur montrer qu'ils avaient un besoin constant de pratiquer l'amour fraternel. Ses épîtres sont dominées par cette pensée. « Bien-aimés, aimons-nous les uns les autres, écrivait-il; car l'amour est de Dieu, et quiconque aime est né de Dieu et connaît Dieu. Celui qui n'aime pas n'a pas connu Dieu, car Dieu est amour. L'amour de Dieu a été manifesté envers nous en ce que Dieu a envoyé son Fils unique dans le monde, afin que nous vivions par lui. Et cet amour consiste, non point en ce que nous avons aimé Dieu, mais en ce qu'il nous a aimés et a envoyé son Fils comme victime expiatoire pour nos péchés. Bien-aimés, si Dieu nous a ainsi aimés, nous devons aussi nous aimer les uns les autres. » Attirant l'attention des croyants sur le sens particulier qu'il faut donner à cet amour, l'apôtre écrivait: « Bien-aimés, ce n'est pas un commandement nouveau que je vous écris, mais un commandement ancien que vous avez eu dès le commencement; ce commandement ancien, c'est la parole que vous avez entendue. Toutefois, c'est un commandement nouveau que je vous écris, ce qui est vrai en lui et en vous, car les ténèbres se dissipent et la lumière véritable paraît déjà. Celui qui dit qu'il est dans la lumière, et qui hait son frère, est encore dans les ténèbres. Celui qui aime son frère demeure dans la lumière, et aucune occasion de chute n'est en lui. Mais celui qui hait son frère est dans les ténèbres, il marche dans les ténèbres, et il ne sait où il va, parce que les ténèbres ont aveuglé ses yeux. Ce qui vous a été annoncé et ce que vous avez entendu dès le commencement, c'est que nous devons nous aimer les uns les autres. Celui qui n'aime pas demeure dans la mort. Quiconque hait son frère est un meurtrier, et vous savez qu'aucun meurtrier n'a la vie demeurant en lui. Nous avons connu l'amour, en ce qu'il a donné sa vie pour nous; nous aussi, nous devons donner notre vie pour les frères. »

Ce n'est pas l'opposition venant de l'extérieur qui constitue le plus grand danger pour l'Eglise; ce sont les péchés entretenus dans le cœur des croyants. Ces péchés les mèneront au désastre et retarderont la marche de la cause de Dieu. Il n'est pas de moyen plus sûr d'affaiblir la spiritualité que de cultiver l'envie, la suspicion, la critique et la méfiance. D'autre part, l'harmonie et l'unité qui existent parmi les hommes aux dispositions variées formant son Eglise constituent la preuve la plus convaincante que Dieu a envoyé son Fils dans le monde. Ce témoignage élogieux doit pouvoir s'adresser à tous les disciples du Christ. Mais pour le rendre, il faut qu'ils se placent sous la discipline du Sauveur, qu'ils modèlent leur caractère sur le sien et leur volonté sur la sienne » (*Conquérants Pacifiques 488-490*). ■

Paul Llewellyn, Président  
Conférence Maritime

Translation by Guy Lacourse



## Secretariat Report

Teresa Ferreira, Executive Secretary

“We are leading the Christian denominations in yearly increase at a 1% rate,” proclaimed Elder G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division Executive Secretary, before a delegate body of 320 Seventh-day Adventist church members from around the North American Division (NAD) this past October 2017.

What does this mean, not just for the Maritime Conference, but for our church in Canada and the United States of America? As I look back over my years as a Seventh-day Adventist, I see a distinctness in our message that God has entrusted to this church, and as ‘Who we are’ has become lost in the fray of modernization and conformity, we have lost members (young and old). We have ceased to see the value in our purpose in the last days. As I look at my graduating class from Kingsway College, 85%+ of my classmates have left the church. As I look at my friendships from when I lived in New Brunswick as a little girl, the statistic is similar. As I look at my “Adventist” friends from my adult years, the startling reality remains that they are marginal Adventists at best. And my heart is grieved as I’ve watched my friends leave or remain in ignorance as to the particular call God has placed upon our small church. Yet, though we may be small in number, we are mighty in our message of ‘Hope’ and ‘Wholeness’ in a broken world!

The NAD 2017 Year-End Meetings brought about some interesting insights that I’d like to share with you. Please read the following information from their 2020 Vision presentation – I promise, you will be intrigued, surprised, not so surprised and hopefully, challenged!

“

The mission of the North American Division is:

To reach the North America Division and the world with the distinctive, Christ-centered, Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness.

Mission is the purpose of an organization. It’s the destination point around which the church directs the totality of its efforts. The North American Division Executive Committee, representing 58 conferences, missions, and thousands of churches within its borders, adopted this statement (on left) on October 28, 2011.”

# Reach

**Reach.** “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (MH 143; emphasis ours).

# Christ-centered

**Christ-centered.** In all things Christ is preeminent (Colossians 1:18). Christ forms the basis of all belief and practice. His character is our pattern for godly living.

**Hope.** Our church has been charged to reach North America and the world with a distinctive message. It is a message illustrated by Sanctuary truths, modeled in the life of Christ, communicated by the prophets throughout the ages and expressed in the Three Angel's Messages of Revelation 14:6-12. This special, Christ-centered message points prophetically to His second coming—a concept embroidered in our very name, Seventh-day Adventists!

## Hope

**Wholeness.** Our distinctive, Christ-centered message not only points toward the future—it adds more abundant life to the present! Hundreds of scientific studies have confirmed the benefits of our Adventist message of health—health of body, mind, and spirit. Sabbath rest nourishes the soul. Our ideas of education and community development involve developing the whole person—physical, mental, spiritual, and social—in preparation for eternity.

## Wholeness

“Know thyself,” said Socrates. “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Christ said best, “for which of you, intending to build a tower, since it's not down first, and count the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it” (Luke 14:28).

It is timely that we count the cost at the present time. Our Division is beset both with huge challenges and big opportunities. How we approach them determines the extent to which we advance the mission of our church.

Organizations are transformed for one of two reasons: they either “*feel the heat*” or “*see the light*.”

—Dick Huseman

**FEELING THE HEAT:** A rapidly growing secular audience with the gospel

**FEELING THE HEAT:** Adventist schools becoming more and more difficult to finance

**FEELING THE HEAT:** An aging membership and work force

**FEELING THE HEAT:** Need for a more responsive, effective church organizational structure

**FEELING THE HEAT:** A diverse somewhat polarized membership both culturally and ideologically



**SEEING THE LIGHT:** Active, committed immigrants fuel church growth

**SEEING THE LIGHT:** The use of media in new and creative ways

**SEEING THE LIGHT:** A greater potential for church collaboration with health-care and higher education

**SEEING THE LIGHT:** Numerous examples of youth and others serving the world

**SEEING THE LIGHT:** Many new church plants offer hope for the future

## Research Findings

Over the past five years the North American Division has sponsored or co-sponsored several important research studies that describe the Adventist work within our territory. In addition, national and international studies performed by such groups as the PEW Foundation and the Barna Group provide research findings that help us understand the public context in which we live and work.

- **Public:** The PEW Research Center's Religious Landscape Study indicates continued decline of mainline Protestant and Catholic Churches with corresponding growth in "nones" (persons with no religious affiliation) up to 23% from 16% in eight years.
- **Public:** Barna Poll of American public's awareness of Adventists. About 20% of Americans had never heard of Adventists (2014); 43% had heard but didn't know enough about the Church to give an opinion.
- **Church:** A Research Report on the Perceptions and Priorities of North American Division Church Leaders (2014). This study of 317 Adventist leaders at the conference, union, and Division levels indicates that their greatest concern (by far) was for the pervasive secularism pressing in upon the Church and especially our youth.

- **Members: North American Division Mega-study (2012).** Nearly 8,000 members in 250 randomly selected churches described facets of church life making it one of the most representative studies of our general membership. An update for 2015 was recently published.
- **Health: The Loma Linda Health Study II** continues to report on research on Seventh-day Adventists. The study that first focused on California Adventists has been extended to the entire country based on intriguing findings linking church health to longer life.
- **Mission Offering: Giving in the North American Division (2016).** Giving for missions is sharply down particularly from younger generations who give to particular, familiar causes.
- **Adventist Schools:** Over one hundred Adventist schools have closed in the past ten years. School enrollment has dropped by 13,680 since the mid-seventies even with a significant increase in church membership.
- **Youth:** Several studies point to the challenges facing the Church in engaging youth and young adults to function actively in their local churches.

The North American Division administration has recommended two courses of action in order to explore opportunities and respond to challenges: Six Building Blocks and later, three committees.

### **The Six Building Blocks**

To address NAD's opportunities and challenges, six strategic initiatives were developed in 2012 to provide a missional focus for the Church. These became known as the Building Blocks, a foundation for the promotion and development of our message of hope and wholeness.

- 1. Transformational Evangelism.** Our goal is to change the culture of the local congregation and the culture of his community using "Christ's methods alone" (Ministry of Healing, page 143).
- 2. Young Adult Life.** Our goal is to find it inclusive ways of making young adults an integral part of the ministry of the Church in the North America Division. We wish to increase the retention number of young adults to at least 60 percent.
- 3. Adventist Learning Community.** Our goal is to develop and utilize the resources that are created by the many educational institutions and resource centers in the church at-large and present them in one online location that can be utilized without charge by members, internal organizations and those outside the church.
- 4. Refugee and Immigrant Groups.** Our goal is to develop methods and ministries to reach each cultural group that arrives in our territory.
- 5. Social Media.** Our goal is to provide access to and understanding of the potential of big data usage to our churches, conferences and unions so that these tools can be used effectively in our work.
- 6. Women in Pastoral Leadership.** Our goal is to double the number female pastors employed by the church in the next five years, and to educate our membership in terms of the effectiveness of women pastors.

## Three Committees

In April 2014, several hundred leaders convened to identify what they considered the top concerns of the Church.

- I. **Mission to Contemporary Audiences.** Clarifying identity, evangelism strategies & membership training and programs
- II. **Education.** Developing innovative strategies, programs for student evangelism, and alternative funding streams
- III. **Church Structure.** Recommend areas for streamlining, exploring the re-distribution of tithe, and examine the current organizational complexity.

**Step 1: A MISSION-FOCUSED TEAM**

**Step 2: OUR THREE MISSIONAL TARGETS**

**Step 3: OUR VISION: Bold, actionable goals!**

**Step 4: KEY SUCCESS INDICATORS**

**Step 5: OUR STRATEGIC DASHBOARD**

”

If any of you have any thoughts or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact Teresa Ferreira at [teresa.ferreira@maritimesda.com](mailto:teresa.ferreira@maritimesda.com). ■



**Treasury Report**  
Ed Sharpe, Treasurer

“The light of the gospel shining from the cross of Christ rebukes selfishness, and encourages liberality and benevolence. It should not be a lamented fact that there are increasing calls to give. God in His providence is calling His people out from their limited sphere of action, to enter upon greater enterprises. Unlimited effort is demanded at this time when moral darkness is covering the world. Many of God’s people are in danger of being

ensnared by worldliness and covetousness. They should understand that it is His mercy that multiplies the demands for their means. Objects that call benevolence into action must be placed before them, or they cannot pattern after the character of the great Exemplar” (*Counsels on Stewardship* page 14).

Due to an estate donation our deficit has been reduced to \$80,672 at October 31, 2017. We anticipate ending the year with a surplus.

Our tithe is running 9.15% ahead of last year at the same time.

We acknowledge the mercy of God in answering our daily prayers for a sense of fairness, honesty, and generosity in all our members. ■



## Education

Teresa Ferreira, Superintendent

We often reflect on the stories of Gideon and his fleece test or Gideon and his obedience in taking down the ‘high places’ in Israel that dishonoured God or Gideon and his victory with only 300 men. But rarely do we speak of Gideon’s thoughts of his own greatness after these events, and his impatience in waiting for God’s direction. Concerning Gideon’s later choices, Sister White in Patriarchs and Prophets, Chapter 52, tells us,

*“The people were led away from God by the very man who had once overthrown their idolatry. There are few who realize how far-reaching is the influence of their words and acts. How often the errors of parents produce the most disastrous effects upon their children and children’s children, long after the actors themselves have been laid in the grave... Words and actions have a telling power, and the long hereafter will show the effect of our life here... This thought gives an awful solemnity to life, and should draw us to God in humble prayer that He will guide us by His wisdom. Those who stand in the highest positions may lead astray. The wisest err; the strongest may falter and stumble. There is need that light from above should be constantly shed upon our pathway. Our only safety lies in trusting our way implicitly to Him who has said, “Follow Me.”*

I have been taking time to **ponder, pray and pursue** God’s vision for Adventist Education in this Conference.

Checks and balances are a part of life. To gauge one’s progress is important for growth and development. If we are never assessing our relationship with God or our performance at work/school or the importance of our connections with family/friends, then we never have a standard or benchmark from which to grow and excel.

You see, we are all uniquely and wonderfully made by a God who loves variety. And so He desires us to grow and develop and constantly

assess where we stand, lest we forget from where we’ve come, where we’re going and how we arrived there. I am reminded of the words in Sister White, *“God’s plan of life has a place for every human being. Each is to improve his talents to the utmost. Faithfulness in doing this, be the gifts few or many, entitles one to honor”* (Child Guidance, pp. 293).

I attended an Adventist Education Summit for all of Canada in Toronto, Ontario a few years ago. Please see some of the following statistics and points of interest taken from this Summit:

- Adventist Education is Mission driven to promote **hope** and **wholeness**
- NAD School enrollment in 1976 was 76,000... but has dropped to 51,000 (and in the Maritime Conference to 61 students)
- We lost 14,000 young people from our church in 10 years
- We lost 170 Adventist Schools in 10 years
- 8 out of 10 youth leave the Adventist Church
- 81% of students said that Adventist Education had either a somewhat or very great influence on their **faith development**
- Evangelism is first generational—the best way to get a second generation is through Adventist Education
- With Adult Evangelism, only 2% stay in the church; with **Student Evangelism**, 34% stay in the church
- We are the largest faith-based school system in the world
- We are seen as the technology leaders in private education
- **30%** of our children are in Adventist Education (as opposed to only 11% for Catholics and 8% for Lutherans)—but where are the **70%**
- We are **uniquely** and **the only** system able to deliver a system-wide curriculum founded and grounded in the Bible

What does the word **change** mean?

Dictionary.com says, *“to make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it should be if left alone.”* Is **change** ever necessary? As Christians, we believe **change** is inevitable when a life is connected (truly connected) to God...that there must be a **difference** seen! So, we could very naturally say that **change** becomes the **difference**.

How does *change* then happen?

According to the Bible:

**Daniel 2:21:** “He *changes* times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.”

**1 Corinthians 15:51-2:** “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be *changed*—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be *changed*.”

According to the world, *change* happens over a series of events, it can be found in many forms—in an understanding of growth, in an opportunity for renewal, in a recognition of a need, in a desire to seek excellence. As the Maritime Conference Education department looks to the future, the assessment of *change*

will be seen, experienced, enacted in our understanding, opportunity, recognition and desire for a *difference*.

*Change* is exciting and new; it brings about a sense of discovery and identity. And as Adventist Education in our Conference steps into its future, God’s plan for the *differences* we will see spiritually, academically, physically and socially will come through your prayers and continued support of growing an environment of Excellence in a world of mediocrity. God desires a *change* in us that triumphs *difference* found in *transformed Excellence* for Him.

Thank you to SLA teachers, Mrs M. Boehner, Mrs G. Walker and Mr R. Scott, for putting together the news. ■

## News From Sandy Lake Academy

### Terry Fox Run Update

Friday, Sept. 22, dozens of energetic students ran and walked in the Terry Fox Run. But the real work had been done before the 10 kilometre run. Seventeen of the students collected a total of \$667.51 in donations for the Terry Fox Foundation. Remarkably, two students in grades 7 & 8 accounted for nearly half of the total, and these two students are the real heroes of this year’s Terry Fox Run at Sandy Lake Academy.

Isaac Forrest, motivated by the fight against cancer that his friend Hayden is experiencing, raised \$187.51, while Laura Botross raised \$126. Both students are new to Sandy Lake Academy this year. Great job, Isaac and Laura!

The class which raised the highest total, was the grade 7/8 class with \$352.51, followed by the grade 1-3 class with \$130, Primary/Junior Primary with \$95, the grade 4-6 class with \$80, and the grade 11 class with \$10. Every dollar counts, and we are proud of your fundraising efforts for this worthy cause of cancer research.

### Dartmouth Church Visit

On Sabbath, Sept. 30, some students from grades JP-6 visited Dartmouth SDA Church. The students led out in the praise time by sharing some verses from scripture, as well as their favourite praise songs. Later on in the service, they played *Jesus Loves Me* on the handbells and one student played her violin. It was a blessing to visit and serve in one of our constituent churches.



### Elementary Kids Club

This year, the grades 1-6 students had the option to join a Kids Club on Thursday afternoons. This club, sponsored by Mrs. Boehner and Mrs. Walker, is a bit different than the Drama Club of the past two years. Sixteen students gather in the gym after school each Thursday for some good old-fashioned team building games. They will also be doing some different service projects throughout the year. So far, it has been a great success!

### Green Schools Nova Scotia

On Monday, Oct. 23, Green Schools Nova Scotia visited the grades 1-3 and 4-6 classrooms, sharing with the students stories, songs, and crafts (using recycle items). All of these things centered around how we can learn to take better care of this earth that God has left in our care!



### Pastor Appreciation and Principal Appreciation

October was a very special month for our grades 1-6 students. We honoured our Pastors and our Principal as it was both Pastor and Principal Appreciation month.

On Friday, October 27 we had a special assembly to thank Mrs. Westhaver for all she does at our school. The Elementary teachers created a video for her where the JP-6 students pondered the question, “Just what happens in the principal’s office all day?” We all shared a good laugh at some of the suggestions. From dancing to pencil throwing, Mrs. Westhaver got some good tips on what a principal should be doing. Our grades 1-6 Kids Club members had also prepared a special craft that was presented to her.

After assembly, we headed upstairs for our Pastor Appreciation event. Our three local pastors, as well as two retirees, were invited to come and enjoy milk and cookies with the students in grades 1-6. We shared some fun and laughter together as the pastors and their wives each took a turn in the “hot seat” to answer some questions. We also prepared two special videos to thank them for all they do. We hope to share these videos with all our Conference Pastors at our upcoming Workers’ Meetings in January 2018.

Our time together came to a close as we had a special candlelight singing of the song “Go Light Your World.” The pastors were presented with a candle from the students as a thank you gift as they left.



### Practical Arts

This year the grades 1-6 students are doing many different activities for their practical arts class that happens every Wednesday afternoon. Some of the activities they have done so far include computer coding, making lasagna, swimming, and one of their favourites is participating in our version of the Amazing Race. For the Amazing Race the students are grouped into teams which then get to “travel” to different countries around the world. While visiting that country, students have to perform a task. Based on how well they perform the task, each team receives points. In June, the team that has the most points will have won our Amazing Race! (Sorry, no free vehicles or large cash sums for our reward!) In October, students visited the state, Alaska. While there, they learned about the Iditarod Race. Their challenge was to create a dog sled in which they had to carry water, supplies, and accommodations.

## Remembrance Day

Corporal Matthew Burke, an AVS Tech from the 423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron based in Shearwater, Nova Scotia, visited with the grades 1-6 classes on Nov. 8th. He shared with the students

some of the ways he serves Canada by helping to fix the Sea King Helicopters. He also shared stories with the students about being deployed to the many areas that have been affected by the natural disasters, like Turks and Caicos, as well as Dominica. He came well-prepared with a slide show, videos and a poster for each student to take home. The elementary students hope to keep in touch with Corporal Burke as a service project to send him and some of his team members letters and little care packages, while

they are deployed. Another special project the students were excited about was writing letters of encouragement to an alumni student, Jordan Graça. He is currently in training to join the US Military. Since his graduation, Jordan has often visited our elementary classrooms, and the students miss him.

## Christmas Outreach

Throughout the school year, SLA likes to remind their students about how it is better to give than to receive and how we should always help others. Following the words found in Acts 20:35, "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" This year, for the Christmas season, the SLA Elementary will be hosting a Giving Green Christmas. This will be a day in which gently used items that have been donated will be set up like a flea market for students to buy for their family and friends for 50 cents. Students will then get to take these items home the next day, all wrapped and ready to put under the tree. All the money that is raised will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities Atlantic. As well as flea market type items, the SLA Elementary is also accepting financial donations and the following baking items (because which kid doesn't like baking at Christmas time?) for the Ronald McDonald House pantry until Dec. 18th: chocolate chips, rolled oats, vanilla, cocoa, vegetable oil, ziploc bags and/or parchment paper. On Dec. 19th, a representative from Ronald McDonald House will be visiting the students to accept their donations.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Christmas Concert

Sandy Lake Academy invites you to celebrate the birth of our Saviour at our  
**Annual Christmas Concert**  
**The Birth of Our Saviour**  
 on **Thursday, December 21,**  
 at **7:00 pm.**

There will be several opportunities for you to contribute to our music program:

A free-will offering will be collected during the program.

Immediately following the concert:

Selling—MasterPeace T-shirts (\$15),  
 Homemade Cards (\$2 each or 3/\$5),  
 Cookbooks (\$10),

Past concert DVDs (\$5),

Bake sale. If you are able to donate items for the bake sale, it would be greatly appreciated!

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Parker Street Food Bank. ■



## Camp Pugwash

Teresa Ferreira,  
Camp Ministries Director



### Dates for Camp Pugwash for 2018:

Camp Open	mid May
Camporee	May 18-20
Spiritual Emphasis	June 1-3
Staff Orientation	June 17-24
Blind Camp	June 24-29
Junior Camp	July 1-8
Teen Camp	July 8-15
Specialty Camp	July 15-20
Workers' Camp	July 15-20
Campmeeting	July 20-28
Couple's Retreat	September 14-16
Health Ministries	September 26-30
Camp Close	mid October

### Camp Pugwash Supporters:

As I step forward into the role of Camp Ministries Directorship, I am humbled by God's call. I keenly see myself as a servant of the Camp and the people who have loved and enjoyed it! Everywhere I go stories are shared with me about Pugwash days, whether Campmeeting or Summer Camp, of which I fondly remember both myself.

Pugwash has served the Maritime Conference as a spiritual ground where relationships have grown, friendships have been established and deepened, and God's faithfulness has been experienced. It is a privilege to be entrusted with such a call.

This year, my goal is to envision where God wants to take Camp Pugwash. What is our purpose? How does He want our facility used? What are areas of focus He'd like us to consider? What resources are out there to help us in our endeavour to share Jesus with young and old alike?

I ask for your much needed prayers as God reveals His plan. And please ask yourself, what is my role in God's vision for Camp Pugwash?

As you think fondly on your Pugwash experiences, do you not want other children to have those same rich memories?

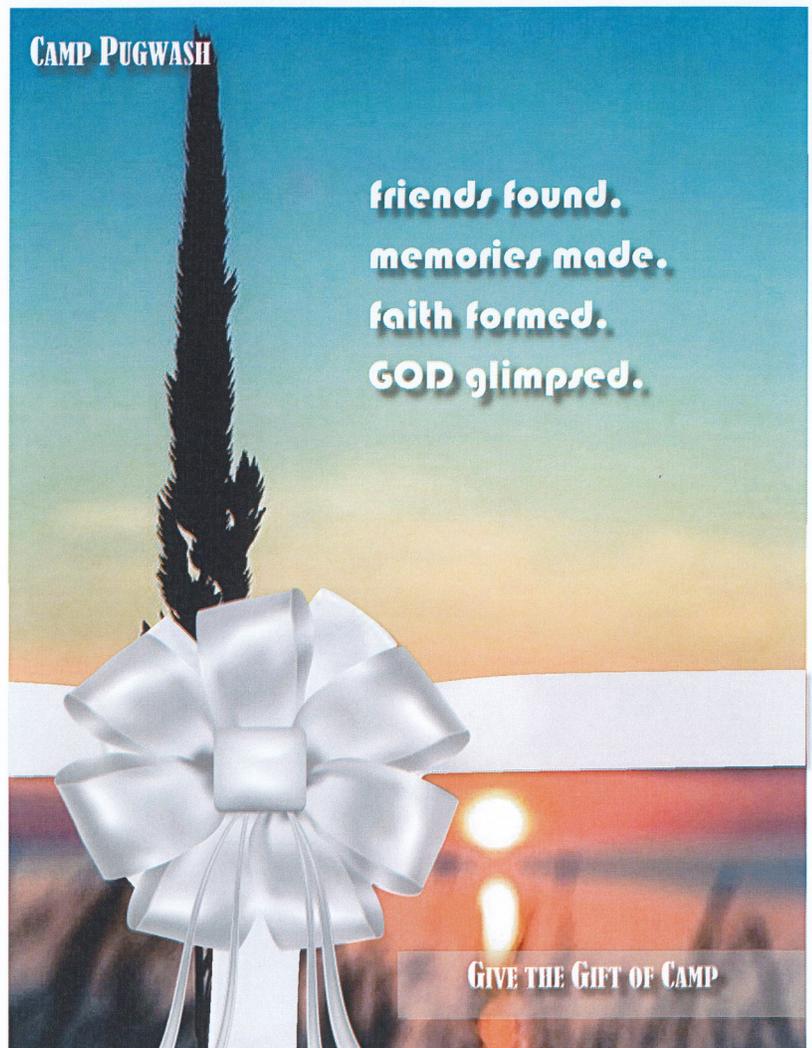
Give the gift of Camp Pugwash to a child or young person in your area.

**Contact Teresa Ferreira at**

**506.609.1386 or**

**[teresa.ferreira@maritimesda.com](mailto:teresa.ferreira@maritimesda.com)**

**to secure their experience at Camp Pugwash for this upcoming 2018 Summer OR if you'd just like to donate to the facility's growth. ■**





**Prayer Ministries**  
Erna McCann, Leader

### ... a word from Prayer Ministries

As the year 2017 winds to a close, and we look forward to 2018, so a chapter in Prayer Ministries ends and a new one begins.

The prayer team would like to say a huge thank you to Diane McGiverty for all the leadership and hard work she has done in getting this Prayer Ministry off the ground in our conference, and for following the guidance of our Heavenly Father in setting up a call where we can pray together, and a team to share the load and work together to minister in prayer. The Prayer Chapel would still be a random idea had it not been for her inspiration. Diane, you will be missed, more than we can express, and yet we know that you will always support us in prayer. We pray God's richest blessings on you in what He is leading you into, and look forward to watching that all unfold! We love you!

As we move forward, we want to continue to encourage each of you to spend time in prayer, communicating with our Heavenly Father; getting to know Him, and His plans for you, your family, your church, your community, and anything else that might be in His heart!

My goal, coming in, and standing on the foundation already laid under Diane's leadership, is to have our churches become Houses of Prayer, just as Jesus said they should be. I am eager that each one of us has a living connection with God, and is experiencing answers to prayer in our own hearts and homes, as well as seeing God work in the lives of others in answer to our intercessions! We have a tender Father in heaven, who is more eager to give us the kingdom than we are to receive it. Aren't you glad He is also able to make us as eager as He is!

"Father, I ask You to bless each one reading/hearing this with all the spiritual blessings, emotionally healing, character changing, and eager desire for You, that You have for them! Cleanse them from any flaw that is unlike You, and apply the merits of Jesus' blood to each area. Baptize them with the Holy Spirit, filling them completely with the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that He brings. Make them so in harmony with You that community people think they *are* You! Change their families and communities through them. Show Yourself to be perfect (holy) through them, as You have promised, for I ask it in the precious name of Jesus - Amen." ■

#### **Come join us:**

Daily, from 5am - 6am, or 9pm - 9:30pm by Zoom\* or telephone\*\*.

Or join our weekly prayer and devotional on Thursday mornings from: 5:30 - 6:30am

(personal requests begin at 5:15am) by Zoom\* or telephone\*\*.

THEN, to join a meeting click on the 'Zoom icon', then click on 'Join a Meeting' and type in meeting ID number: 821-431-194.

Finally, click 'Join', and you will be with us!

\*\* Connecting by telephone: call 1-(647)558-0588

(Canadian long distant charges apply unless you have a phone plan), and enter meeting ID: 821431194.

## Maranatha Comes to the Maritimes!

Seventeen Maranatha volunteers from across Canada and the United States joined local volunteers in Truro to work on a building project at the Truro Seventh-day Adventist Church. The volunteers had a really positive can-do attitude. Volunteers skilled in framing, roofing, plumbing, installing doors and windows, exterior siding, and, of course, cooking, helped to make this project become a reality!



Roof trusses being lifted onto small addition.



Larger addition with roof trusses in place.

The spirit of sacrifice and commitment was one thing that really impressed us. The Maranatha volunteers worked six days a week for almost three weeks, and not every volunteer was in perfect health. One volunteer, a skilled contractor, was still recovering from the side effects of his cancer treatments during the previous year, and sometimes had to stop for a short nap in the afternoon to regain his strength. Another volunteer had a broken ankle, and was still wearing a cast, so after doing as much as she could to help with the building



project she spent the rest of the day helping cut out a new set of Betty Lucas felts to be used in one of the two new children's Sabbath school classrooms.

During the building blitz one volunteer from Florida received reports about the devastating effects of hurricane Irma and was concerned about potential damage to her home. We asked her if she needed to go home, and she responded, "God brought me here to work on this project in Truro, so He will take care of my home in Florida." She praised God afterward that her home received only minor damage from the hurricane!

The purpose of this building project is two-fold. First, the Truro church has struggled for many years to meet the needs of families with young children, primarily because of a lack of facilities in the children's divisions. The larger addition will house two new Sabbath school classrooms and a mother's room. We believe God wants us to make children a priority by providing excellent Sabbath school classes and other programs to help young people grow spiritually, especially since we do not have an Adventist church school in Truro.

The second purpose is to improve the exterior appearance of the church so everyone in the community can recognize this as a church. I have met people who have lived in Truro for many years but didn't realize this was a church. Once this project is finished, it will be much easier to advertise special programs for the community by simply telling them that "it's at the church across from Walmart."



A **matching donation** has been pledged to match all donations (dollar-for-dollar) made before December 31, 2017 - **up to \$20,000!** If we can reach this \$20,000 matching goal then we'll have all of the \$50,000 of additional funds that were originally needed to complete this project.

We are only a small congregation and would really appreciate your prayers and financial support. If you would like to donate, make the cheque payable to the "Truro SDA Church" and write "Church Building Project" on the memo line. Mail to: Truro SDA Church, c/o John Cessford, Treasurer, 193 MacDonald Rd, Shubenacadie NS B0N 2H0.

Once sufficient donations have been received, we still need to install the insulation, vapour barrier, drywall, floor covering, trim, and paint the two new additions. If you would like to volunteer to help with some aspect of this project please contact Pastor Dave Hamilton (Cell: 902-759-0008), or David Streifling (Cell: 902-577-7000).

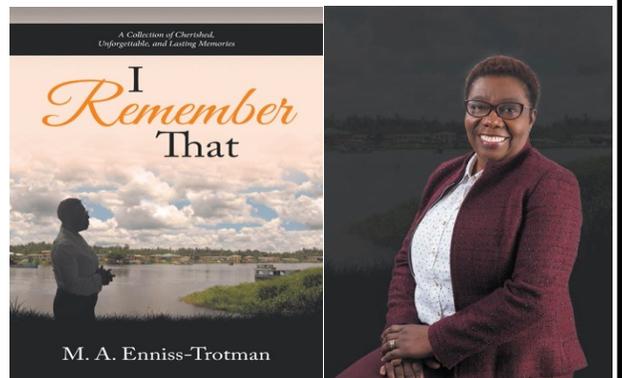
To see more photographs as the project progresses, please visit our website at [trurons.adventistchurch.org](http://trurons.adventistchurch.org) and click "Church Building Project" on the menu bar at the top of the page.

It is our vision that with the Holy Spirit's blessing the Truro SDA Church will become a prominent center of spiritual influence and evangelism in the Maritime Conference. We solicit your prayers that men and women, boys and girls, will find the LORD here, in this place. ■

Pastor Dave Hamilton & David Streifling  
Truro Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Maritime Conference would like to congratulate Margaret Ennis-Trotman, Board member of *It Is Written Canada and Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank*, and member of the *Halifax SDA Church*, on the publication of her memoir *I Remember That: A Collection of Cherished, Unforgettable, and Lasting Memories*. Born and raised in Guyana, the only English-speaking country in South America, Margaret wrote this book in memory of her parents and because she believes our past does influence our future; that life experiences play a pivotal role in shaping who we are; and there is great value in preserving them for posterity.

*I Remember That* explores family connections, childhood memories and spiritual experiences and offers details about another side of the world through light-hearted portrayals of small town life, traditions and social and cultural musings from half a century ago.



**DISCOVERY MOUNTAIN** returns with all-new holiday episodes! This special six-part holiday season is called "The Perfect Gift." Kids and "kids at heart" are invited to listen to this award winning podcast, perfect for long drives! Stream the audio at [discoverymountain.com](http://discoverymountain.com), or download the first 3 seasons from your favourite podcast platform, such as iHeartRadio (just added!) and iTunes.



**Pathfinder/Adventurer Ministries**  
Bill Harrington, Director

**Pathfinders “Why”**

When I began in Pathfinders a few years ago, it was my intention to introduce the young people to nature. Going on hikes to see what nature held in store, setting up a weather station at home or bird feeder, keeping a list of all the birds identified, wild flowers seen, and seashells collected, to instill within their minds the beautiful things God has given for our happiness.

Then there was camping, learning how to survive in the summer and winter. Learning how their bodies are so wonderfully made that they can survive in the varied weather conditions and that it could be fun.

**PATHFINDERS FALL CAMPOREE**

On September 22-23, 2017 there was a Pathfinder Camporee in New River Beach NB. Three clubs attended (New Glasgow, St Stephen and Tantallon).

Friday evening, some of the boys made bannock and cooked it over the camp fire. We sang some songs around the fire accompanied by Daniel, Nathan and Justin on their guitars. We also spent some time viewing the stars that evening and Kelly McCann showed us how to photograph the stars.

Geoff Moretto (Tantallon) presented a worship thought on Sabbath morning.



To enable the children to realize that there are people in the church that really care. That these people gave up their time and resources so the young people could see what God wants them to be. That the gentleness and caring of their leaders was a reflection of Jesus. Guiding them to want to be leaders in the church now and in the future.

Where are the children in our churches who need us now, the children in our communities who need someone that cares? This can be so beneficial to us, as older folks, for those who never had the opportunity to be part of God’s other book (nature). This would give us a chance to share what we have learned. “For the Heavens declare the Glory of God and the firmament show His handiwork.” ■

Then the Pathfinders spent time identifying and looking at trees with information from Cheryl Hamilton (New Glasgow). We went to Sheldon Smith Fish Hatchery in the afternoon to view Arctic Char trout in tanks.



They went for an afternoon hike around Barnaby’s head.

Denise and the Tantallon Pathfinders presented information about snakes, followed by a foam snake craft on Sabbath evening.



Sunday morning Brenda Henry of the Fundy Flyers presented an object lesson with paper that is torn to make a paper airplane, a rocket and then turns into a cross when it is unfolded. The Pathfinders were given paper to make paper airplanes. We had beautiful weather and the small group made for a warm bonding experience between the clubs. ■

**FUTURE CAMPOREES**

The spring camporee is set for May 18-20, 2018 at Camp Pugwash.

**NEWS FROM THE CLUBS:**

**St Stephen:** The Bay of Fundy Flyers Pathfinders, based out of St. Stephen NB, started up its year on September 20. We took part in the Fall Pathfinder Camporee (Sep 22-23), which was held at New River Beach in New Brunswick and had beautiful weather. During the camporee we learned about trees, reptiles and visited Sheldon Smith Fish Hatchery.

In October we had a food drive for the St. Stephen Food Bank.

On October 16 the Bay Of Fundy Flyers and the St. George Pathfinder club had a joint meeting and interviewed Deputy Mayor Faith Avery as part of the Christian Citizenship honor.

(Photo: Members of the Bay of Fundy Flyers and St. George Pathfinders with St. George Deputy Mayor, Faith Avery.)

On November 11, we held our Pathfinder Induction with the St. George Pathfinder club.

Also in November our club helped collect gravy for the St. George Food Bank.

The Pathfinders have completed the Bird, Christian Citizenship and Card Making honors; the Adventurers have completed their Friend of Animals, Feathered Friend, and Outdoor Adventurer awards.

December 12 will be our last meeting before Christmas and we will start in the new year on January 9. ■



**Children's Ministries**  
Lorie Neily, Director

Let it snow, let it snow, a catchy tune that often expresses a child's wish or maybe even a prayer from those that truly love the snow. For some of us, it takes a little more time to embrace the wonderful season of winter.

**Sandy Lake Academy Visit**

I had the pleasure of visiting Sandy Lake's elementary children at the end of September during their morning devotional time. What a wonderful place to visit. Our time together revolved around the topic of the great horned owl and how wonderfully God has created and provided for all of His feathered creatures.

I feel the need to apologize, my plans for this fall were side tracked due to some health concerns, but I am happy to say all is well now and I look forward to a new start in January. I will be in touch with all the churches via email very soon to find someone that would be willing to be my contact for children's ministries.

Wishing you and all the wonderful kids of the Maritimes, God's riches blessings. ■

## The Power of Thoughts

By: Sania Dookie, BSW, MA, RSW

*“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...  
(Proverbs 23:7).”*

Recently while I was listening to my husband’s sermon, I was reminded of how important it is to spread awareness about how our thoughts impact our very existence. When Jesus referred to sin, He helped us to understand that sin was more than the action, but what is conceived in the mind. There is no definitive definition of the word ‘thought,’ but what we do know is there are two types of thoughts: automatic thoughts and constructed thoughts.

When we have an automatic thought, we usually do not have control of it, in fact, we don’t notice what the automatic thought was until we focus on the constructed thoughts which usually derive from it. The constructed thoughts are those thoughts which we continue to build upon in our minds, we are aware that we are having a certain thought process and allow the trail of thoughts to continue. Now, our thoughts occur or are constructed based on our environment and what stimuli is emanating from it. By looking to Jesus we become changed, this change occurs from the inside out and is directly derived from what we have been allowing our minds to feed on.

One can conclude by now that our thoughts do play an important part in the way we live. Hence, we find the enemy trying to gain control of our minds. There is a model we often use in our work with clients to help them understand how thoughts play an important role in how they are experiencing their mental health struggles.

### Thought cycle

Thoughts generate feelings that would reflect it, which leads to us behaving or acting based on how we feel. This in turn causes us to reap consequences whether good or bad, which generates a new thought cycle. In psychotherapy, we call this a vicious cycle if the thoughts generated are usually negative as illustrated in the diagram on right.

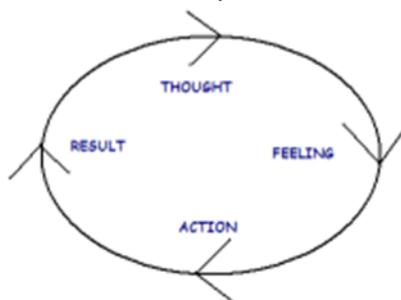


Diagram adapted from <http://www.wellness-and-weight-loss.com/change-your-mind.html>

## Thought/Cognitive Distortions

There are generally ten thought distortions that when practiced, causes or nurtures mental health disorders:

1. All or nothing thinking—looking at things in absolute black-and-white categories.
2. Overgeneralization—viewing a negative event as a never ending pattern of defeat.
3. Mental filter—dwelling on the negatives and ignoring the positives.
4. Discounting the positives—insisting that accomplishments or positive qualities do not count.
5. Jumping to conclusions—making conclusions without definite evidence, this involves, mind reading or predicting that things will turn out badly.
6. Magnification or minimization—blowing things out of proportion or minimizing their importance.
7. Emotional reasoning—reasoning and dictating life from feelings.
8. “Should” Statements—placing unrealistic demands on self and people.
9. Labeling—using circumstances to define who you are.
10. Blame—blaming self and carrying guilt for something that is not entirely one’s fault.

As can be seen from the above, faulty thinking can cause a lot of harm to one’s experience in life. Proverbs 23:7 states, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...” The way we think creates neural pathways in our brain. Whatever thoughts we allow to permeate our minds, these thoughts leave eternal impressions on our minds.

### Changing thought patterns

Creating a virtuous thought cycle can change toxic or destructive thought patterns. As the apostle Paul encourages in Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Fill your presence with things that are positive and nurturing, seek the face of God moment by moment. By beholding God, we become

changed. The best way to conquer negative thoughts is to focus on what is good and nurturing. “Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee” (Isaiah 26:3).

Another tool when integrated in our life-style, creates healthy neural pathways in our brain which changes negative automatic thoughts into positive automatic thoughts; this in turn produces healthy constructive thoughts. This simple tool is, to live in ‘thanksgiving and gratitude.’ “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). The act of giving praise and thanksgiving, uplifts the mind, body and spirit.

In conclusion, our thoughts have a direct role in how we experience life, spiritually, physically, relationally, and mentally. Even though we don’t directly have control over our automatic thoughts, we can change them over time by dwelling on things that are

positive, uplifting, encouraging and pure. We can nurture a virtuous thought cycle by making God through the scriptures the center of our daily living and practicing an attitude of gratitude. Only then will we be more positive and prevent mental health disorders.

#### **Next quarter we will discuss living an integrated life.**

*The information provided in this column and future columns only serve as a guide and should not be used in any way to diagnose or treat a disorder. If you find you need support, speak to a qualified professional and/or consult with your Pastor or mental health care provider.*

#### References

Grohol, J. (2017). 15 Common Distortions. Psych Central. Retrieved on December 4, 2017, from <http://psychcentral.com/lib/15-common-cognitive-distortions/> ■

*Sania Dookie has a BA. in Social Work and MA. in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy. She is a Registered Social Worker with NSCSW and currently serves as Director and Mental Health Therapist with Therapeia Psychotherapy and Life Coaching Services. Sania supports persons through individual counselling, couples therapy and group facilitation and psycho-education. Her desire is to see people live and experience Christ completely both psychosocially and spiritually. You can reach her by email at: [sania.dookie@therapeiapsychotherapy.com](mailto:sania.dookie@therapeiapsychotherapy.com).*



## **Welcome our new Pastor**

We want to give a warm welcome to Pastor Jordane Smith. Pastor Smith comes from the Mississauga area, in which she was serving at Crawford Adventist Academy.

Jordane is a graduate from Burman University and holds a Bachelor degree in Religion. She enjoys children’s ministries, including Pathfinders, and vespers/worship programs. Jordane has written and performed many Christian songs.

We are very pleased that she could join our pastoral team beginning in the month of November and we wish her wonderful success in ministry. She has been assigned to the Charlottetown church on Prince Edward Island.



## Health Ministries

Stephanie Schwarz, Director

### The Blessing of Being Active!

Winter is here, and it may be easy for some of us to hide away from the cold weather, and sit by a nice warm fire inside! But just remember there is an important factor in our lives that help us to live a longer, happier life that is just as important in the winter months as it is in the summer. This important area in our lives is regular exercise or activity. The CDCP, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, states that regular exercise controls weight, lowers the risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and strengthens your bones and muscles. It is also an effective way to increase mental health, and your overall mood. Regular activity increases our chances to live longer, healthier lives!

It is recommended that just thirty minutes of exercise on most days of the week is adequate. Choose a variety of exercises, and focus on things you actually enjoy doing. Some excellent exercise options include—hiking, biking, walking, swimming, snowshoeing, gardening (yes this can be done in the winter!). Remember physical activity is meant to be a blessing!

There was a study done on areas that have been termed “Blue Zones” of our planet. Blue Zones are areas with groups of people, like the Seventh-day Adventists living in Loma Linda, California, that have a high population of people living past 100. It was found that they were not marathon runners or gym members, but they lived a lifestyle that caused them to move! To be active. They had their own gardens, active hobbies, and not all of the modern conveniences. They enjoyed each stage of life where they were at, and chose to focus on doing things that they were able to accomplish at every stage in their lives. So this week choose to take the stairs, start a garden, or try taking a walk through the snow in nature.

Here is a little story about how James and Ellen White learned a lesson from God about the importance of exercise.

James and Ellen had been working very, very hard, but they were constantly encountering problems. Even church members gave them a hard time by being critical about almost everything they did. This made James feel sad and discouraged. Soon, because of stress and overworking, James became very ill—so ill that he could hardly get out of bed. Ellen loved her husband and wanted him to get well. When she prayed for him, God showed her

that the best way to help her husband was to encourage him to stop thinking about himself and to make an effort to be cheerful and happy. God also showed her that she must help James get up and exercise, even though he felt weak.

James didn’t want to exercise. He thought that if he exercised, he might be in danger of having another stroke. Even doctors in those days believed that sick people shouldn’t exercise. But Ellen knew better.

One day Ellen sent her son, Willie, to buy three hoes—one for her, one for himself, and one for James. She gave her husband a hoe and encouraged him to work with her in the garden. James was still weak, so he couldn’t do much, but he took the hoe and made some motions. Day after day Ellen encouraged her husband to do useful labor, and as the days passed, James was able to do more and more.

When harvest time came, Ellen knew that even

though their neighbours were busy with their own haying, they would come and help James with his hay, since he had been so sick. So she went to all the neighbours, explained James’ need of exercise, and asked them to let him know they were too busy if he asked them to help with his hay harvest.

James did ask the neighbours for help, but to his surprise, all of them said they were too busy. When James told Ellen the news,

she said, “Well, let’s show the neighbours that we can do the haying ourselves.” So James helped Ellen and Willie bring in all their hay.

Ellen’s plan worked. It took months of effort, but soon James was as strong as ever and once again doing God’s work. Ellen knew without a doubt that God had restored her husband’s health using the simple remedy of exercise.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15).

Enjoy the Creamy Green Bean Casserole recipe on page 23. ■



## Creamy Green Bean Casserole

Preparation time: 15 minute(s) | Cooking time: 30 minute(s)

Number of servings (yield): 8

Serves about 6-8

### Ingredients:

#### Beans

2 quarts water

1 tsp table salt

1 1/2 pounds fresh green beans, trimmed and cut into bite-size pieces  
or 2 12-ounce packages frozen cut green beans

#### Sauce

10 ounces mushrooms (I used a combination of regular button mushrooms and shiitake)

3 cloves garlic, minced

pinch cayenne pepper (this can be omitted)

Salt to taste

Mrs. Dash "Garlic and Herb" to taste

2 tablespoons whole wheat flour

3/4 cup vegetable broth

1 tablespoon lemon juice

3/4 cup soy creamer (or try unsweetened almond or soymilk)

#### Topping

1 1/2 slices whole grain or gluten free bread

1 tablespoon coconut oil

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/2 onion slightly pre-cooked

### Instructions:

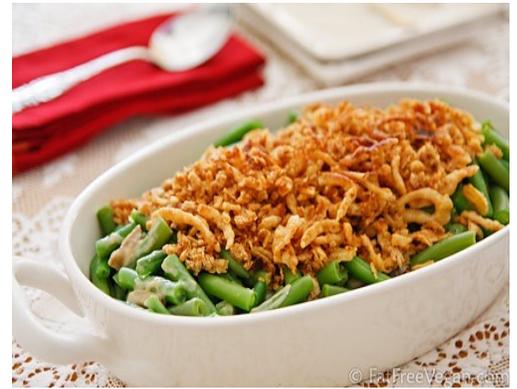
Beans: Bring the water to boil in a large pot. While it's heating, cut up the beans. Add the salt and beans to the boiling water. Cover and cook for 6 minutes. Drain beans in a colander, and then spray for a minute with cold water to stop the cooking. Let beans drain in the colander, shaking every now and then to get off all the water.

Sauce: Trim and discard the mushroom stems and chop the mushrooms into pieces. Add a small amount of oil of choice and water to pan and heat it. Add the mushrooms, garlic, cayenne, salt, and Mrs. Dash. Cook until mushrooms are very soft and exude their juices. Whisk the flour into the vegetable broth and add to the mushrooms, along with the lemon juice. Simmer, stirring, until mixture thickens. Add the soy creamer or milk and simmer until thick, about 5 to 10 minutes. Adjust the seasonings and stir in the beans.

Topping: Put the bread, oil, and salt, into a food processor and pulse until crumbly. Pour into a bowl and add the onions. Stir to combine.

To Assemble: Put the green beans into an oiled casserole dish and top with the onion mixture.

Bake at 425 F for about 15 minutes. If you are not serving this right away, refrigerate the topping separately; bring to room temperature before sprinkling the topping on the casserole and baking for about 20 minutes or until hot throughout.



# NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:

## DARTMOUTH

### *Sobeys Special Meal at Soup Kitchen*

December 1 was a special day at *The Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen*, which is affiliated with the Dartmouth SDA Church. Sobeys-Clayton Park and Sobeys-Panavista brought, cooked and served a lovely four-course meal to our soup kitchen guests. Five different managers, brought together by Sue Vaillancourt, Sobeys-Clayton Park bakery manager, came and used their expertise to create a dinner.



The first course was a spinach salad, topped with nuts, seeds, fruit, etc. The next course was a savoury creamed squash soup, (which was a huge hit). This was followed by a hearty vegetarian spaghetti loaded with veggies, vegetarian meat and cheese. Dessert consisted of individual truffles. The people were very impressed and since then have been asking us if Sobeys is going to come back and do this again. We hope so, since after the event Sue was quoted as saying, "I feel like a million bucks."

### *Health Fair*

On Sunday September 24, 2017, Dartmouth Adventist church held a community based Health Fair. There were stations set up with everything from a fitness test, massage, lung capacity, blood pressure and sugar readings and many more.

Everyone had a health profile done and received a goody bag with books, magazines, and lots of great info.



Special guests were Pastor Ricky Schwarz and Stephanie VanWart Schwarz (pictured above in front of the Sunlight banner). Approximately 40 people participated, including members of the community and church members. Delicious, healthy snacks were served and it was a fun and informative day.

## FOX POINT

### *Community Health Fair/Workshops*

In September our community held a health fair which we were invited to participate in. Erna and Daniel McCann set up a table with her natural personal and home care products, and gave out samples, recipes and information to the people who came by. One of the ladies, who stopped to talk, was the program coordinator for the new Wellness Center in Chester NS. She was very interested in everything, and asked if Erna would be willing to come do a workshop or seminar for the community. Erna thought it was a great opportunity and said yes. Later, a date in November was set. Eleven people attended, and enjoyed the presentation and demonstrations. Everyone took home samples to try, as well as recipes, and now they're asking Erna to come again in February and March!

## MIDDLETON

### *Shawn Boonstra Series*

During the evenings of October 27-29, the Middleton church hosted *A Pale Horse Rides* by Shawn Boonstra. Following each presentation, we had a time of food and fellowship with our guests who expressed how much they enjoyed the program and that they would be interested in coming to another similar presentation in the future. We are grateful to our loving God for these encouraging blessings.

## HALIFAX

### *Women's Ministries Gifted Program*

Have you ever wondered what your gift is to help spread the Good News about Jesus? After circling the closest answer to the 20 statements, women from Halifax and Dartmouth were surprised to find out what gift was probably theirs. After identifying our gifts as closely as possible, we divided into five clusters for 30 minutes, after which we came back together and shared our main points.

The clusters were as follows:

1. Teaching
2. Shepherding/Evangelizing
3. Supporter
4. Counsellor
5. Leadership

A very nice time of fellowship and learning was the result of this GIFTED SEMINAR and plans are to continue in depth to put our gifts into practice. Thank you to our Women's Ministries leader, Cindy Scott, for bringing us together for such a profitable time. If interested in getting information about this Gifted Seminar, contact Cindy Scott at limeblossom74@gmail.com.

### *Music in Halifax*

Our welcome song and music was written by the pianist, Stuart Cherenfant, and goes like this:

Welcome to the Halifax Church on this wonderful Sabbath day.  
We smile, we sing, we greet our friends;  
God smiles our way.  
Welcome to the Halifax Church where we worship on this day of rest.  
Welcome to the church where you'll feel blessed.

Pictured are some of the instrumental musicians who bring beautiful music each week at the Halifax church. One interesting feature is that they range in ages from 11 to 84. They, along with our praise team, inspire the congregation to sing wholeheartedly to the Lord.



Pictured is eight-year old Joshua MacLaughlin having the special music for the Halifax church service on December 9. The church aims to involve its youth as much as possible in the activities of the church. During the sermon, the speaker also involved two children, Obed Harun and Katya McBeth, to read each scripture used.



### *Week of Prayer*

WEEK OF PRAYER was done differently this November. Instead of a general meeting in the church, five or six people opened up their homes and invited members living nearby to join them for the eight readings presented in the ADVENTIST WORLD REVIEW. Our Prayer Ministries leader, Cindy Scott, had arranged for each person to have a copy. Some unexpected blessings came as a result.

### *ESL Program*

The English Second Language program began September 26 at the Halifax church and ended December 5. It will begin again January 16. Four students attended and very much appreciated the four volunteers who were willing to give of their time and energy to help them as they adjust to their new culture.



(Pictured from left to right are Bill Estey and Nicole Luttrell, instructors; students Emmanuel, Carlos, Oksana and Sarah; Margaret Ennis-Trotman, lead instructor and Cynthia Lewis, program administrator.)

### *Plans For New Church*

At its December 2, 2017 Halifax Church Business meeting it was voted to sell the existing church and rental properties at Parker Street. Plans will be made to build a larger, more functional and more accessible church building on the Sandy Lake property. A building committee was chosen and further committees will be in place soon. We ask that you remember this large overdue project in your prayers.

PERTH-ANDOVER

**Foundations of Faith, the Reformation Continues**

Our church recently hosted “Foundations of Faith, the Reformation continues” presented by Doug Batchelor, via satellite. This nine-part series was designed to encourage God’s people in living and proclaiming Jesus’ final message to the world.

Before the meetings began, we earnestly prayed that hearts would be moved by the Holy Spirit as invitations were mailed out throughout our community.



We were greatly encouraged by the guests and church members that attended night after night. Every evening light refreshments were available, which served as an opportunity to visit and answer any questions. Some of our new friends have expressed a desire to have Bible studies and one has been attending church services.



(pictured above: left to right: Noah, Jacob, Olivia, and Jacob helping out.)

How grateful we are that seeds have been planted and hearts have been drawn to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

happened next. That little boy beat, he played like a pro. Never underestimate a three year old. He definitely put a smile on every face that day. He is one of our bell players and he is doing fine. We are now into our second year and learning to play harmony. Such sweet music to the Master’s ears, I am sure of that. We play songs like *Be Still My Soul*, songs with a message. We are making plans to play for

SAINT JOHN

**The Saint John Bell Heirs**

Under the direction of Marjorie Akerley.



Some time ago a thought came to me, “Order a set of hand bells.” I did some praying, and wondering if it would be a good idea. Finally I stepped out in faith, and ordered a set, not really knowing how it would pan out. My thought on it was to try and bring the old and young together in doing something. We always seem to be separated in so many ways. After receiving the bells, I brought them to my Sabbath school class. There was one young girl named Tiffany, who happened to be there that day, and I asked her to play *Amazing Grace* on the bells with me. She did very well, it was a bit tricky as we had to play more than one bell each, more than one note that is. It went so well, I asked if we could give a demonstration prior to the church service, to show those who might be interested, how easy it was to play them. The bells are color coded, which makes it easy for those who can’t read music. I started to get some interest slowly. The youngest player now is three years old. Let’s just say that didn’t go too well at first. All I could say was, “O boy, O boy, O boy.” Finally he decided to get involved and his grandmother, Ruth McQuinn, would try to hold his hand that held the bell, to help him to know when to play. That didn’t go too well either, he wanted to do it on his own, which of course we didn’t think that would be a good idea. The day came when we were scheduled to play special music for the church service. We had our little prayer first, then off we went. Now you are not going to believe what he held two bells, one in each hand, and he never missed a beat. He played like a pro. Never underestimate a three year old. He definitely put a smile on every face that day. He is one of our bell players and he is doing fine. We are learning to play harmony. Such sweet music to the Master’s ears, I am sure of that. We play songs like *Be Still My Soul*, songs with a message. We are making plans to play for Kennebec Manor Nursing Home at least once a month.

## YARMOUTH

### **Wanted: Stories of Faith**

Yarmouth Church would like your help. We want personal stories of faith, answers to prayer or testimonies for a book that we are putting together. Each story should be 400-450 words long. The book will be in a devotional format. We are praying that we will be able to publish this book to raise funds for our church building project. It would be helpful if you could send it by email so that it wouldn't need to be re-typed.

We would also need a paper copy with your signature on it stating that this is an original story and giving us permission to use it and allowing us to edit it for space and correct grammar. You can also give your story a short title, mention an appropriate Bible verse to go with it and tell a lesson you learned from the experience.

We would like to have one or two sentences about the author and their location.

We would also welcome suggestions of a title for the book.

If you are willing to give a story to us, please email Bonnie Parsons at [bonniesands@yahoo.ca](mailto:bonniesands@yahoo.ca), call 902-307-1885 or mail to 816 Gavel Road, Tusket NS B0W3M0.

## BAPTISMS

**David Hunt** was baptized on November 18, 2017 at the Halifax church by Pastor Kevin Scott, shortly after attending Pastor Scott's series of meetings. Some friends and relatives attended meetings with him. David is very active in sharing Jesus with relatives and friends. He has his own business and some clients request that he visit them outside of work to study the Bible together. One attended his baptism.



**Carla Simms** and **Dorothy Smith** were baptized on November 4, 2017 at Dartmouth church by Pastor Kevin Scott and are warmly welcomed as members of the Dartmouth church.



## BIRTH

**Ava Brielle Cherenfant** was born November 21, 2017 to Falisha and Stuart Cherenfant of Halifax NS. A sister for Anaya. A baby shower was held at the Halifax church shortly before Ava was born.



## MARRIAGE

No one can deny that the camp grounds at Pugwash are special! There have been many a couple who have met there and went on to get married. Well it's happened again! This time it was our dear sister Barb Allen and Pugwash's own Gilbert Cooke who has benefited from its charm.

Barb and Gilbert were married on October 29, 2017 at the St. George SDA Church. Pastor Victor Chant officiated.

It was a beautiful wedding from start to finish.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by Penny Ford to a solo by Julie Cheney. Barbara's daughters Pam Mursic and Penny Ford were the matrons of honour. Andrew Cooke, the son of the groom, was the best man and Laurie Mosher was the groomsman. There were attendees from NB, NS, ON, AB, Washington State and California.

Brian Ford, son-in-law of the bride, was the Master of Ceremonies. The delicious food was catered by the Chants, which included eight beautifully decorated cakes created by Yvonne Chant, sister of the bride.

We are so happy for Barb and Gilbert and pray that God richly blesses them as they make Him the center of their home in Pugwash.

Submitted by Susan O'Dell.



## OBITUARIES

**COOK, Elma Iveline—80**, of Barnesville NB, passed away on Friday, September 8, 2017 at the Saint John Regional Hospital. She was born in Saint John NB, on May 24, 1937, wife of the late Fred Cook and a daughter of the late Ruel and Anna Belle (Verner) Totten. Elma, who most people referred to as



Gram, was talented in many ways. She taught herself to play the accordion and enjoyed sharing her music with others. The church was blessed by her accordion playing. She was a talented quilter who provided baby quilts to the newborns in the community. She and her sister, Vera, made 345 baby quilts and other quilts that were given to people in need. She made many costumes including those used in the church Christmas programs. Elma was continuously knitting, making crafts and preserves. Gram loved animals and cared for many over the years including her herd of goats, feeding deer in her backyard, and getting up every 4 hours to bottle feed orphaned lambs in her kitchen. Family was very important to Gram. She came from a large family and loved her brothers and sisters dearly. She had her own large family and loved each and every member. She was always available to make a meal, babysit, make a costume or just be a shoulder to cry on. Elma is survived by her daughters: Cindy McGrath of Barnesville NB, Bonnie Martin (Terry Bastarache) of Saint John NB, Tanya (Tim) Floyd of Titusville NB, Terena (Mark) Olsen of Barnesville NB; sons: Rick (Roberta) Cook of Salt Springs NB, Frank (Tanya) Kelemen of Barnesville NB; grandchildren Michelle (Dr. Luan) Le, Natasha (Jason) Leblanc, Carla (Chris) Scribbans, Tera (Adam) Barrett, Dawn VanWart (Jody Duplessis), Jason (Robin) Floyd, Jonathan (Shaunna) Floyd, Tom Floyd, Todd Floyd, Trevor Floyd, Frank Kelemen, Craig Kelemen, Zachary Kelemen, Taylor Burke, Alex Burke, Anna Olsen; twenty-three great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; sisters: Lois Perry, Vera Northrup; brothers Cecil Totten, Lorne Totten and Robert Grant; sister-in-law Irene Boucher; several nieces and nephews. Besides her husband and her son, Frank's dad, she was also predeceased by her infant sister Joyce Totten and brothers Norman Totten, Leonard Totten and Roy Totten.

**DALEY, Steve—96**, passed away peacefully at The Briarlea in Moncton NB, on October 18, 2017.

Born in St. Margaret's NB, he was the son of the late Hugh and Elizabeth Daley. Steve is survived by his daughter Heather (Daley) Tam and son-in-law Elliott Tam of Wardner BC; stepson Ed McMackin and wife Holly of Creston BC; five grandchildren, Mariah and Caleb Tam, Patrick, Catherine and Michael John McMackin; four great-grand-children; brother Everett (Jackie) Daley, and sisters Edna Daley Landry and Ethel Arsenault. In addition to his parents, Steve was predeceased by his wife Edith (Kierstead) Daley, four sisters, and one brother.



**FROST, Helen Grace Cooke Akerley—93**, passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at Kennebec Manor with her family by her side.

Born on April 25, 1924, she was a daughter to the late Norman and Lillian (Chambers) Cooke. Helen was a woman of faith and was a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church for over 70 years.



She spent her life in service to others, and that service expressed itself with her work as a Licensed Practical Nurse, her operation of the Helen Grace Manor Special Care Home, and through her extensive volunteering with her church, and several charitable health care organizations. Helen will be fondly remembered by her loving family, her children: William (Marjorie) Akerley, Aubrey (Doreen) Akerley, Marilyn Murphy, Ruth McQuinn and Krista (Ross) Galbraith, her step-children: Wallace Frost, Jean Smith, Linda Smith and Deborah Graham, sisters: Ivy Henry and Freda Stewart, her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, along with several nieces, nephews and members of her extended family. Besides her parents, Helen was predeceased by her husband Norman Frost, seven of her siblings, two grandchildren, a daughter-in-law, two sons-in-law and a step-daughter.

**YOUNG, Marie Phyllis**—77, passed away on Friday, November 24, 2017 at the St. John and St. Stephen Nursing Home, Saint John NB. She was born in Darlings Island NB, on November 11, 1940, a daughter of the late Alexander and Mary (Gallant) Northrup and wife of the late Ralph Young.



Marie worked twenty-eight years as an operating room technician and also spent two years working in neurosurgery. She enjoyed reading, but it was the outdoors that she enjoyed the most, where she kept herself busy working in her garden and attending to her duties of a bee keeper. She faithfully attended the Barnesville SDA Church and served her church family in various ways including elder and member of the Schaber Memorial Junior Academy Board. She loved going to Pugwash for camp-meeting. Marie is survived by her son Keith Young (Valorie Davis) of Saint John NB; sisters Betty Northrup of Titusville NB, Wanda (Rick) Gosselin of Saint John NB; brothers Ken (Trudy) Northrup of Vanderhoof BC, Leonard (Charlene) Northrup of Petitcodiac NB; several nieces and nephews. Besides her parents and husband, Marie was predeceased by her sister Helen Northrup.



**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

**Halifax church AY GROUP**, under the direction of Ziporah Nyanchama, is alive and well. A Week of Prayer was held in September with guest speaker Ricky Schwarz. Weekly topics included Dating and Christians and Technology. The youth also presented a musical concert which was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed.

**MISSING OUT ON CHURCH JUSTIFIED!** Yes, several members skipped church one Sabbath in November, and instead, went to Souls' Harbour to help with the noon meal and to share their love and warmth with many badly needing it. Souls' Harbour is an organization established in Halifax to care for those in need.

The Halifax church welcomed Francoise Uwamahoro as a member of its church on October 28, 2017. She grew up in Malawi but came to Halifax from Burundi. We are blessed to have so many students from other countries who often make a contribution to our church. ■



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The Maritime Pulse is available for viewing on the Maritime Conference website at [www.maritimesda.com](http://www.maritimesda.com)

This edition will be available for viewing within the next few days.

**Ten Days of Prayer**

As you are making plans for the beginning of the new year, remember that resources are available for the *Ten Days of Prayer* from January 10-20, 2018.

The website has all the information you will need to lead your people in this prayer experience together. [www.tendaysofprayer.org](http://www.tendaysofprayer.org). This year the emphasis is *Jesus Our High Priest*. Check it out.

The Revival and Reformation website: [www.revivalandreformation.org](http://www.revivalandreformation.org) also has information to enable you to have a day of Prayer the first Sabbath of each quarter. There are other valuable resources on that site as well. Browse around and see what is available for your own spiritual walk.

You can also connect with the NNE Conference prayer line each morning 6:30-7:15 am ET. See details below.

**MARITIME CONFERENCE OFFICE**

The Maritime Conference office will be closed from

Fri. December 22, 2017  
thru  
Sun. December 31, 2017

Open January 1, 2018

Enjoy this holiday time with your family and friends.



January 11-20, 2018

NNEC Morning Prayer Line

6:30-7:15 AM ET

605-468-8026 pin: 310654#

(not a toll free number)

- *Theme: Steps to Personal Revival*
- *Focus: Being Filled with The Holy Spirit  
Personally AND Corporately*
- *Daily Seasons of Prayer & Devotional with  
Pastor Bob Cundiff & Pastor Bob Sailer*
- *Free Book ([www.inverity.org](http://www.inverity.org) to download or order)*
- *Don't miss this! It's a great way to start your day!*

"Revival need be expected ONLY in answer to prayer". EG White 1SM 121

**Worthy Student Scholarship Fund**

Christian education plays such a vital role in the character development of our children, preparing them for citizenship in Heaven. There are families who are struggling financially to provide their children with an education in a spiritual setting among Christian friends and teachers.

Let's all do our part to ensure that no student in the Maritimes is deprived of reaping these invaluable benefits.

Please contribute on a monthly basis to the Worthy Student Scholarship Fund. Make an investment in a young person's life that will offer eternal dividends.

Please make your cheque payable to Sandy Lake Academy and mail it to:

Treasurer, Sandy Lake Academy  
435 Hammonds Plains Road  
Bedford NS B4B 1Y2

Thank you. ■

**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](mailto: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 March 1, 2018.

**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](http://www.maritimesda.com) and is the easiest way to view the Maritime Pulse.

**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 World magazines. If you're not receiving these magazines, please contact your clerk, or Jullie Bannister at the conference office at Phone 506.857.8722 Ext 201, Fax 506.853.7368 or Email [info@maritimesda.com](mailto:info@maritimesda.com).

**MARITIME CONFERENCE CALENDAR 2017-2018**

<b>December</b>	Christian Hospitality Focus	
Dec. 21	SLA Christmas Program	SLA
Dec. 22-31	Maritime Conference Office Closed	Moncton
Dec. 23	Maritime Advance	Offering
Dec. 30	13th Sabbath-Euro-Asia Division	Offering
Dec. 30	Canadian Evangelism	Offering
<b>January</b>	Friendship Evangelism Focus	
Jan. 1	Maritime Conference Office Open	Moncton
Jan. 6	Day of Prayer	
Jan. 8	Clerk 4th Qtr Statistical Report Due	Conference
Jan. 13	Maritime Advance	Offering
Jan. 13	SS & Church Attendance Count to be taken	
Jan. 13-20	Religious Liberty Week	
Jan. 14-16	Maritime Workers' Meeting	Conference
Jan. 21	Board of Directors Meeting	Video
Jan. 27	Religious Liberty	Offering
Jan.	Summer Camp Staff Applications Available	
<b>February</b>	Family Life Focus	
Feb. 3-24	Black History Month	
Feb. 10	It Is Written Canada	Offering
Feb. 10	Christian Marriage Sabbath	
Feb. 10	Health Ministries Sabbath	
Feb. 10-17	Christian Home and Marriage Week	
Feb. 17	SS & Church Attendance Count to be taken	
Feb. 17	Christian Home Sabbath	
Feb. 24	Maritime Advance	Offering
<b>March</b>	Women in the Church Focus	
Mar. 1	Maritime Pulse Deadline	
Mar. 3	Women's Day of Prayer	
Mar. 3-10	Adventist Youth Week of Prayer	
Mar. 7	Summer Camp Staff Applications Due	
Mar. 10	Adventist World Radio	Offering
Mar. 17	Disabilities Awareness Sabbath	
Mar. 17	Day of Hope	
Mar. 24	ARM Safety Sabbath	
Mar. 24	Maritime Advance	Offering
Mar. 31	13th Sabbath-Inter-America Division	Offering
<b>2018 MISSION INVESTMENT PROJECTS</b>		
Lake Union and North Pacific Union		Offering

**MARITIME CONFERENCE OFFICE HOURS**

The Maritime Conference office is open Monday through Thursday  
7:30 am to 5:30 pm  
Worship time 8:30 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 Ext 207  
Treasurer Ed Sharpe Ext 205  
Asst Treasurer Françoise Ringuette Ext 206  
Admin. Secretary Jullie Bannister Ext 201

Our FAX is 506.853.7368

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



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This comes at Christmastime to bring  
A special Christmas prayer  
That God will bless you day by day  
And keep you in His care,  
And at this special season  
And throughout the coming year,  
May He guard and guide you lovingly  
And keep you ever near.

*Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:2*