



As a Christian, I believe that the closer one comes to Jesus the more vulnerable he or she becomes. In Christ we should not be hiding our past or present since Christ knows every aspect of our lives. The hard part of being transparent is that it is hard to do in an Adventist setting. I believe too many of us have the head knowledge of what our church believes, but we lack the heart connection with Jesus that will bring the head knowledge to bear fruits. So many of us in church these days are wearing masks, that we no longer can be honest about our past or things we are struggling about in the present. I hope and pray that we will move towards this kind of Christianity in every church in the Maritimes.

I have not told many people this story about myself and now I am disclosing it to a whole conference. My ambition is, that hopefully, if there is someone walking the same path that I found myself on, that they will redirect their life back to a saving relationship with Jesus. By the way, I believe a saving relationship with Jesus means it begins in the heart and manifests itself by bringing others to Jesus.

About 13 years ago I was feeling disillusioned by our church with the lack of growth and meaning within the church. I had been watching too many young people leave through the back door of the church. I was enjoying teaching religion to our students at Crawford Adventist Academy in Toronto as I watched many come to know Jesus as a personal friend and to share Him with their friends. But when they went back to their respective churches they did not have a good experience. I had been teaching our youth the precious message of the matchless charms of Christ, but they were encountering a different message when they returned home and to their churches. I revisited my old teaching grounds last June and I found the youth still struggling with the same thing today.

When a person is enjoying the message of Christ's saving grace and wanting to live more fully in Christ, Satan will be close behind to make sure he can do all he can to change the path of that person. Even though I had been enjoying the fruits of our most precious message, my relationship with Christ was soon to fall prey to the devil.

I was leaving teaching and moving to the conference office in Ontario to begin my new position as Camp Director/Associate Youth Director. When one leaves the

En tant que chrétien, je crois que plus on s'approche de Jésus, plus on devient vulnérable. En Christ, nous ne devons pas chercher à cacher notre passé ou notre présent puisque Christ connaît tous les aspects de notre vie. Ce qui est difficile quand on veut être transparent c'est qu'il est compliqué de le faire dans le contexte adventiste. Je crois que beaucoup d'entre nous ont une bonne connaissance de ce que notre Église croit et enseigne, mais nous n'avons pas cette connexion de cœur avec Jésus qui puisse permettre à la connaissance de porter des fruits. Beaucoup d'entre nous dans l'église ces jours-ci portent des masques, ce qui nous empêche d'être honnêtes au sujet de notre passé ou à propos des situations dans lesquelles nous nous débattons dans le présent. J'espère et je prie pour que nous progressions vers ce genre d'un christianisme honnête et de cœur dans toutes les Églises des Maritimes.

Voici une histoire à propos de moi que je n'ai pas raconté à beaucoup de gens et que maintenant je vais divulguer à toute une Fédération. Mon ambition est, j'espère, que s'il y a quelqu'un qui en ce moment parcourt le même chemin sur lequel je me suis retrouvé, qu'ils redirigent sa vie vers une relation salvatrice avec Jésus. Au fait, je crois qu'une relation salvatrice avec Jésus signifie qu'elle commence dans le cœur et se manifeste en amenant les autres à Christ.

Il y a environ 13 ans, je me sentis désabusé par notre église en voyant le peu de croissance et combien l'église paraissait insignifiante. J'avais vu trop de jeunes qui quittaient par la porte arrière de l'église. J'aimais enseigner la religion à nos étudiants à l'Académie Adventiste de Crawford à Toronto alors que je voyais de nombreux jeunes en arriver à connaître Jésus comme ami personnel et à le partager avec leurs amis. Mais quand ils sont retournés dans leurs églises respectives, ils n'ont pas vécu une bonne expérience. J'avais enseigné à notre jeunesse le précieux message d'un Jésus aux charmes ineffables, mais ils faisaient face à un message différent lorsqu'ils rentraient à la maison et dans leurs églises. En juin dernier je suis retourné là où j'étais enseignant et j'y ai trouvé des jeunes qui luttent toujours avec la même chose aujourd'hui.

Quand une personne savoure le message de la grâce salvatrice du Christ et veut vivre plus pleinement en Christ, Satan se fera très proche afin de s'assurer qu'il puisse faire tout en son pouvoir pour changer le chemin de cette personne. Même si j'avais savouré les fruits de notre précieux message, ma relation avec le Christ allait bientôt être la proie du diable.

Je quittai l'enseignement pour aller servir dans les bureaux de la Fédération d'Ontario afin d'y prendre mon nouveau poste de directeur du camp/directeur associée de la jeunesse. Quand on quitte la ligne de front de notre travail avec les

front lines of our work with youth to move to the “corporate headquarters” you get thrown into a totally new perspective and a paradigm shift was going to take place. My eyes began to slowly come off Jesus and it was slowly directed toward our leadership. It was as if my eyes were beginning to be covered by a dark veil and I started down that road of becoming critical of leadership and for the most part of all our workers and members.

I was soon handed a video to watch. I tried to say no and that I was not into those type of issues that were being taught on the video, but I decided to take it and watch it. Some of the items presented hit a strong cord in my life, since in my teenage days my brother and cousin had freely taught their ideals of the occult world and I was familiar with what the speaker was talking about. It had a lot of sensational items being presented in the message, so I accepted more videos in the same series since it had piqued my curiosity.

I soon found myself engrossed in the messages being presented and became very paranoid of the political world around me. If you might have guessed already, the videos focused on many conspiracy theories floating around on the internet and within our church. My eyes were slowly being diverted from the matchless charms of Christ, to a message that began to focus on the outward actions of my life and not what was happening in my heart and with my relationship with Jesus.

With my current paranoia of conspiracy theories, I now viewed much of what was taking place in the Adventist church in the same light. The church, as a whole, could do no right and I began to think that many of the leaders had gotten their education from another large Christian denomination. In fact, I started to think that all aspects of our church had now been infiltrated. You might think that I am making this up, but it is entirely true. I began to mistrust everyone in the church and if they did not think entirely like me, they must be blind or false teachers.

It was at that time, God began to send some of the same leaders that I had been working with in the office to give me wise counsel, to avert my involvement in the various ministries and conspiracy theories that I was currently immersed in. Of course, my first reaction was to think that they were not speaking for Jesus, but for someone else. When God is trying to get a point across to someone, He will always send multiple people into our lives to get us looking in the direction He would like us to go, even if we might not listen too well at first.

That sweet relationship with Jesus, that I once had, was now being diluted with a false religious fervor with

jeunes pour passer au « cartiers généraux de l'œuvre, » on se voit parachuté dans une perspective totalement nouvelle et un changement de paradigme allait s'opérer. Mon regard à commencé à lentement se détourner de Jésus pour lentement se diriger vers notre leadership. C'était comme si mes yeux commenceraient à être couverts par un voile noir et j'ai glissé sur la route de la critique contre le leadership et contre la plupart de nos travailleurs et membres.

Bientôt on me donna une vidéo à regarder. J'ai essayé de dire non arguant que je n'étais pas intéressé par le genre de questions qui étaient enseignées sur la vidéo, mais j'ai décidé de la prendre et de la regarder. Certains des articles présentés ont frappé une corde sensible, car durant mon adolescence, mon frère et mon cousin avaient enseigné librement leurs idéaux concernant le monde occulte et j'étais familier avec ce dont l'orateur parlait. Il y avait beaucoup d'éléments sensationnels présentés dans le message, donc j'ai accepté plus de vidéos de la même série, car le message avait piqué ma curiosité.

Je me suis vite retrouvé absorbé par les messages présentés et je suis devenu, disons-le, très paranoïaque au sujet du monde politique qui nous entoure. Vous avez probablement déjà deviné que les vidéos se concentraient sur les nombreuses théories du complot flottant sur Internet et au sein de notre église. Mes yeux étaient lentement détournés des charmes ineffables du Christ, pour se tourner vers un message dont le sujet se concentrait sur les actions extérieures de ma vie et non sur ce qui se passait dans mon cœur et avec ma relation avec Jésus.

Avec mon actuelle paranoïa alimentée par les théories du complot, j'ai été amené à voir une grande partie de ce qui se passait dans l'église adventiste selon le même éclairage. L'église, dans son ensemble, ne pouvait pas faire de bien et j'ai commencé à penser que beaucoup de dirigeants avaient obtenu leur éducation d'une autre grande dénomination chrétienne. En fait, j'ai commencé à penser que tous les aspects de notre église avaient été infiltrés. Vous pourriez penser que j'invente tout ça mais c'est tout à fait vrai. J'ai commencé à me méfier de tout le monde dans l'église et, s'ils ne pensaient pas entièrement comme moi, je les voyais alors comme étant des enseignants aveugles ou faux.

C'est à ce moment-là que Dieu a commencé à envoyer vers moi certains de ces mêmes dirigeants avec lesquels je travaillais au bureau pour me donner des conseils sages, pour me détourner de mon implication dans les différents ministères associés à ces théories du complot dans lesquels j'étais immergé. Bien sur, ma première réaction fut de penser qu'ils ne parlaient pas au nom de Jésus, mais pour quelqu'un d'autre. Quand Dieu essaye d'entrer en contact avec quelqu'un, il enverra toujours plusieurs personnes dans nos vies pour nous faire regarder dans la direction à laquelle il aimerait que nous allions, même si nous ne pouvons pas bien l'écouter au début.

Cette douce relation avec Jésus, que j'avais autrefois, était maintenant dilué avec une fausse ferveur religieuse avec des

things, that in the long run, would prevent me from telling others of the everlasting love that God has for his children. To seek and save the lost was no longer a priority in my life, instead I was focused on external items instead of the weightier matters of the Law: Justice, Mercy and Faith. The fruits of the Spirit were ebbing away fast out of my life and it was being replaced by a very stern and outward focused religiosity.

You might be wondering what my *modus operandi* is regarding what I am telling you. I am worried for our church in North America or more specific; our church here in the Maritimes that we are not focusing on what God would have us at this time in this world's history. At a time when we can see things heating up in the world around us and at the same time, God is definitely beginning a work here in the Maritime Conference. The Holy Spirit is doing a work of reformation within our conference that has the unmistakable fingerprint of God. This is the time, as we see God working in our district, that we must be praying and be vigilant, as the devil will do all he can to bring the Work of God to non-effect. The year before James White passed away, him and Ellen had decided that James would only preach Christ. James had been moving to a deeper understanding of who Jesus was and what He meant to the church and to himself. It has been said that this was his happiest time of Him and Ellen just preaching about Jesus. Ellen came to that same conclusion and you will notice that her writing and topics focused more on the uplifted Saviour after 1882 and onwards. After 1890 she lifted Jesus more than she ever had. I believe that the closer we come to the Second Coming we will also do the same. We will be lifting up Jesus more and more and our deep personal relationship will come to the point that we will be holding onto Jesus and nothing else. I want to see us, as a church, come to that same place as James and Ellen White came to. I want Jesus to dominate all our conversations and from the indwelling Holy Spirit we will lead many to know and follow Jesus too.

Getting back to my story. As time went on, I began to meet many more that were starting to walk the path that I was now travelling. As I began to spend more time with the like-minded conspiracy theorist and "reformers" of the church, I began to hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit to wake up from the situation that I had found myself in. My eyes began to open to the type of people that I was now making friends with. I have to be open about it—they were not nice people to be with. I found a hard criticalness of anyone that was not like them and it began to bother me.

At the same time, I started a more in-depth research of the gentleman that I had been following on the videos and on the internet. I started by looking up the sources

choses qui, à la longue, m'empêcheraient de dire aux autres l'amour éternel que Dieu a pour ses enfants. Chercher et sauver les perdus n'était plus une priorité dans ma vie, mais je me concentrais sur des objets extérieurs au lieu des questions les plus importantes de la loi: la justice, la miséricorde et la foi. Le fruit de l'Esprit s'éloignait rapidement de ma vie et il était remplacé par une religiosité très sévère et orientée vers l'extérieur.

Vous pourriez vous demander quel est mon *modus operandi* concernant ce que je vous dis. Je suis inquiet pour notre église en Amérique du Nord ou pour être plus précis; notre église ici dans les Maritimes. C'est que nous ne nous concentrons pas sur ce que Dieu nous aurait donné à faire à cette époque dans l'histoire de ce monde. Nous sommes à une époque où nous pouvons voir les choses prendre de l'ampleur dans le monde qui nous entoure et dans ce même temps, Dieu débute réellement un travail ici dans la Fédération des Maritimes. Le Saint-Esprit fait une œuvre de réforme au sein de notre fédération; œuvre qui a indubitablement l'empreinte de Dieu. C'est l'heure, alors que nous voyons Dieu travailler dans notre district, où il faut prier et être vigilant, car le diable fera tout son possible pour que l'œuvre de Dieu ne soit pas efficace. L'année précédant le décès de James White, lui et Ellen avaient décidé que James ne ferait que prêcher Christ. James était arrivé à une compréhension plus profonde de qui Jésus était et de ce qu'il représentait pour l'Église et pour lui-même. On a dit que c'était le moment le plus heureux de leur vie à lui et à Ellen, prêchant alors uniquement sur la personne de Jésus. Ellen en est venue à la même conclusion et vous remarquerez que ses écrits et ses sujets se sont concentrés davantage sur le Sauveur à compter de 1882. Après 1890, elle a élevé Jésus plus qu'elle ne l'avait jamais fait. Je crois que plus nous approchons du Second Retour, plus nous ferons également de même. Nous allons élever Jésus de plus en plus et notre relation personnelle et profonde en viendra à un point où nous nous attacherons à Jésus seul et à rien d'autre. Je souhaite nous voir, en tant qu'Église, en arriver là où James et Ellen White en sont arrivés. Je souhaite que Jésus domine sur toutes nos conversations et que, par le Saint-Esprit vivant en nous, nous puissions en conduire beaucoup à connaître et à suivre Jésus.

Revenons à mon histoire. Au fil du temps, j'ai commencé à rencontrer beaucoup d'autres personnes qui commençaient eux aussi à parcourir le chemin que j'empruntais maintenant. Lorsque j'ai commencé à passer plus de temps avec ces théoriciens du complot et ces « réformateurs » de l'Église, j'ai commencé à entendre la voix, encore faible, du Saint-Esprit qui voulait me faire prendre conscience de la situation dans laquelle je me retrouvais. Mes yeux commençaient à voir le type de personnes avec qui je m'associais. Je dois le dire sincèrement—ils n'étaient pas des gens d'une grande gentillesse. J'ai trouvé en eux un fort esprit de critique à l'égard de toute personne qui n'était pas comme eux et cela a commencé à me déranger.

Dans le même temps, j'ai commencé une recherche plus approfondie à propos de celui que je voyais sur les vidéos et sur internet. J'ai commencé par chercher les sources qu'il

that he was quoting and came to a startling conclusion. Many of the people he was quoting were not credible at all, but yet I had believed everything he had said about certain subjects and so was everyone else that followed him.

I still keep in contact with many of those people that had once surrounded my life, and to this day, not one has lead anyone to a saving relationship with Jesus and His end-time church, within the last five years. Not one! In fact, a few weekends ago as I was away for meetings and I had time to meet some of them again. After a short conversation with some of them, I walked away exhausted. They were draining about their paranoia of certain subjects. There was no talk of Jesus. No talk of seeking the lost. No testimonies of God's wondrous love and soon return. Just that same paranoia of the current state of the church.

This type of thinking and living can be perplexing to a church that is beginning to experience the outpouring of the Latter Rain. It will take our eyes off the message of Christ and replace it with a message of criticalness. I'm not saying our church is without its issues, but if this is the only thing we focus on, it will begin to take us away from the message that God wants us to be focusing on as time moves forward.

Here is where it can become dangerous. A few years ago we had a speaker that was speaking at our campmeeting in Pugwash and I had been emailed some information about him that had been circulating the internet at the time. It revolved around theological issues with that person. I had read them over thoroughly and have made it a practice that when you hear something about someone, it is always best to go ask that person about it first before getting all excited about what is being said about that person. This has saved me countless of times of coming to an unfounded conclusion about someone and I try to practice this method as much as possible.

I asked the gentleman if I could join him on a walk on our beautiful beach at Pugwash and he was glad to have me talk with him. Within 5 minutes of speaking with him, he had cleared up all the misinformation that had been circulating on the internet and in our church about him and his ministry. He explained every question that I brought forward and thanked me for coming to him for clarification. We are good friends still today and his ministry fully supports all our beliefs within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I will be honest with you, and this comes up as a topic of discussion in conversation more and more these days. I am afraid that many of us within the church in North America have lost sight of what God has called us as a people to do—"to seek and save the lost." We have almost lost our first love and have focused on the deeds

citait et je suis parvenu à une conclusion stupéfiante. Beaucoup des sources qu'il citait n'étaient pas crédibles du tout, mais pourtant, j'avais cru tout ce qu'il avait dit sur certains sujets, et il en était de même de tout le monde qui suivait ce prédicateur.

Je suis toujours en contact avec de nombreuses personnes qui avaient autrefois fait partie de ma vie, et aucune d'entre elles n'a amené qui que ce soit à une relation salvatrice avec Jésus ni avec son Église pour les temps de la fin au cours des cinq dernières années. Pas une! En fait, il y a quelques semaines, alors que j'étais en déplacement pour des réunions, j'ai eu le temps de les rencontrer à nouveau. Après une courte conversation avec certains d'entre eux, je me suis retiré épuisé. Ils abondaient dans leur paranoïa à propos de certains sujets. On ne parlait pas de Jésus. On ne parlait pas de rechercher les âmes perdues. Aucun témoignage au sujet de l'amour merveilleux de Dieu et de son prochain retour. Juste la même paranoïa à propos de l'état actuel de l'Église.

Ce genre de pensée et de vie peut être déroutant pour une église qui commence à faire l'expérience de l'effusion de la pluie de l'arrière saison. Cela nous détourne du message du Christ et le remplace par un message de criticité. Je ne dis pas que notre Église est sans problèmes, mais si c'est la seule chose sur laquelle nous nous concentrons, ceci commencera à nous éloigner du message sur lequel Dieu veut que nous portions notre attention dans les temps à venir.

Voici où tout ceci peut devenir dangereux. Il y a quelques années, nous avions un conférencier à notre campmeeting à Pugwash et j'avais reçus par courriel des informations le concernant, infos qui circulaient sur Internet à l'époque. Ces infos étaient à propos de questions théologiques au sujet de cette personne. Après avoir tout bien lu, j'ai mis en pratique une chose que j'ai apprise à savoir que lorsque vous entendez quelque chose à propos de quelqu'un, il est toujours préférable d'aller voir cette personne avant de réagir au sujet de ce qui se dit sur cette elle. Cela m'a sauvé d'innombrables fois où j'aurais pu parvenir à une conclusion infondée à propos de quelqu'un. C'est pourquoi j'essaie de pratiquer cette méthode autant que possible.

J'ai demandé à notre orateur invité s'il voulait bien m'accompagner pour marcher sur notre belle plage à Pugwash et il fut heureux de ce que nous pouvions parler ensemble. En à peine 5 minutes de conversation, il a apporté un éclairage sur toutes les informations erronées qui circulaient sur Internet et dans notre Église à propos de lui et de son ministère. Il a expliqué toutes les questions que je lui ai présenté et m'a remercié d'être venu lui demander des éclaircissements. Nous sommes de bons amis encore aujourd'hui et il est devenu clair pour moi que son ministère soutient pleinement toutes nos croyances au sein de l'Église Adventiste du Septième Jour.

Je serai honnête avec vous, et cela revient de plus en plus souvent dans les conversations de nos jours, je crains que beaucoup d'entre nous au sein de l'Église en Amérique du Nord aient perdu de vue ce que Dieu nous a appelé comme peuple à faire – à savoir: « chercher et sauver les perdus. » Nous avons presque perdu notre premier amour et nous sommes concentrés

of the Nicolaitans to replace that first love or to make it seem we still have some sense of religiosity. We have looked for other things or topics to occupy our valuable time in which we could be using to lead others to know of Jesus, His love and soon return. Since Jesus has delayed His coming we have gotten sleepy and looked for other things to keep our excitement level up so that it looks like we are still part of the Three Angels' Message.

If we have to look for sensationalism to keep our interest or excitement up, it is a clear indication that we are lacking in the heart relationship with Christ. Love will keep that flame fully alive and burning. A marriage that works on the same principle will end in divorce if they do not focus on love for each other and not emotionalism.

Many are too focused on emotional excitement to keep their religious inklings alive. Could you imagine if a marriage was just built on emotional excitement, instead of long-term love, devotion and commitment? Marriages that are based on emotional excitement have to look for external endorphin releases in order to keep above water, since they are not based on love. That marriage will have to focus on the next trick or thrill that will keep that excitement level up. Couples will start to look for activities that will give them that needed "high" in order to keep the marriage together. This will always lead to dysfunction and eventually to divorce for those relationships. Many within the church today need the latest excitement to keep us interested or involved in the church today. Why? Because we have lost sight of Jesus and the precious message that He has asked us to share.

It seems that within Adventism many look to maintain an excitement level in order to keep us engaged in our local church. When the excitement drops we look for something to raise that excitement level again. It could be the sequence of last-day events, conspiracy theories, emotionalism in worship styles, God-head arguments, feast days, or which translation we must use, country living, who is practicing heresy, etc. The list is endless and they all will have the same effect on us—they will distract us from knowing Jesus and sharing Him.... from seeking and saving the lost.

Jesus gave us a command the day He left to return to heaven. Go out and make disciples of all nations. That is what the church did in the book of Acts. They were too busy going from house to house studying, fellowshiping, eating together and praying. The church grew at an outstanding rate. Today, we can see that we are no longer growing at that outstanding rate. I wonder if we were to return to what Jesus originally set out for us to accomplish and to what the early church practiced that our churches would start to fill again? What if we started

sur les œuvres des Nicolaïtes remplaçant ainsi ce premier amour par un apparent sentiment de religiosité. Nous avons cherché d'autres choses, d'autres sujets pour occuper notre précieux temps, lequel temps nous pourrions utiliser pour amener les autres à connaître Jésus, son amour et son prochain retour. Puisque Jésus a retardé sa venue, nous nous sommes endormis et nous avons cherché d'autres choses pour maintenir notre niveau d'excitation, de sorte à avoir l'impression que nous faisons encore partie du message des trois anges.

Si nous en arrivons à rechercher le sensationnalisme pour maintenir notre intérêt ou notre enthousiasme, il est clair qu'il y a un manque dans la relation de cœur que nous devrions avoir avec le Christ. L'amour gardera cette flamme réellement vivante et brûlante. Un mariage qui fonctionne selon le même principe d'excitation continue se terminera par un divorce s'ils ne se concentrent pas sur l'amour mutuel mais plutôt sur l'émotion.

Beaucoup se concentrent trop sur l'excitation émotionnelle afin de conserver leur ferveur religieuse. Pouvez-vous imaginer si un mariage devait être construit sur l'excitation émotionnelle, au lieu d'un amour sur le long terme, sur le dévouement et sur l'engagement? Les mariages qui sont fondés sur l'excitation émotionnelle doivent constamment chercher de nouveaux shot d'endorphines afin de garder la relation au-dessus de l'eau, car ils ne sont pas fondés sur l'amour. Un tel mariage devra toujours chercher un nouveau truc, un nouveau frisson afin de conserver le niveau d'excitation. Les couples chercheront des activités nouvelles capable de leur donner ce « high » afin de garder le mariage ensemble. Cela entraînera toujours un dysfonctionnement et éventuellement la relation se terminera en divorce. Beaucoup au sein de l'église aujourd'hui ont besoin de l'excitation la plus récente afin de rester intéressés ou pour participer à la vie de l'église aujourd'hui. Pourquoi? Parce que nous avons perdu de vue Jésus et le message précieux qu'il nous a demandé de partager.

Il semble qu'au sein de l'adventisme, beaucoup cherchent à maintenir un certain niveau d'excitation afin de nous garder actifs dans notre église locale. Lorsque l'excitation baisse, nous cherchons quelque chose d'autre pour raviver l'excitation. Ça peut être à propos des événements des derniers jours, des théories du complot, plus d'émotion dans les styles de culte, de l'argumentaire à propos de la nature de Dieu, des discussions au sujet des jours de fête du Lévitique ou à propos de quelle traduction de Bible que nous devons utiliser, ou à propos du besoin de migrer vers les campagnes, ou qui pratique l'hérésie, etc. La liste est sans fin et tous ces sujets auront le même effet sur nous: ils détourneront nos regards de Jésus et nous empêcheront de le partager....de chercher et de sauver les perdus.

Jésus nous a donné un commandement le jour où il est parti pour retourner au paradis. Sortez et faites des disciples de toutes les nations. C'est ce que l'Église a fait dans le livre des Actes. Ils étaient trop occupés à aller d'une maison à l'autre pour y étudier, à faire des disciples, à manger ensemble et à prier. L'Église a alors grandi à un rythme exceptionnel. Aujourd'hui, nous pouvons constater que nous ne progressons plus à ce taux exceptionnel. Je me demande si nous devons revenir à ce que Jésus avait initialement prévu que nous devions accomplir et à ce que l'Église primitive a pratiquée si nos églises deviendraient pleines de nouveau? Et si nous devons commencé à investir dans

investing in our local churches and communities through time and funding, instead of following those that preach for our itching ears and accomplishes very little, if not anything, to reach the lost in our area.

Jesus sought to “seek and save the lost,” I think if we have His same heart that we would also be focused on doing the same. As we come closer and closer to the soon return of Jesus we will start to lay aside those things that have been distracting us from knowing our most precious Saviour. Today, if you have been chasing after the excitement of some video or ministry to make it seem like you are doing something in the church.... try giving Jesus another chance. Take a vacation from those things and spend a month getting to know Jesus again. You might be amazed that you might just have walked the same road that I used to be on.

Today, I am so thankful for the lessons that God has taught me and led me through in the last decade and I am also so happy to see what is beginning to transpire within our Maritime Conference in the last few years.... I pray it does not stop. It is my hope and prayer that we continue to move towards Christ’s soon return and that one interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up every other, one subject will be upon everyone ones lips. Do you know what that might be? ■

Paul Llewellyn, President  
Maritime Conference

nos églises et nos communautés locales en temps et en fonds, au lieu de suivre ceux qui prêchent pour le plaisir de nos oreilles avides d’excitation mais qui accomplissent très peu, sinon rien, dans le mandat pour atteindre les perdus dans notre région.

Jésus a œuvré à « chercher et sauver les perdus, » je pense que si nous avons Son cœur alors nous serons également axés sur la même priorité. Au fur et à mesure que nous nous rapprochons du prochain retour de Jésus, nous allons de plus en plus mettre de côté ces choses qui nous distraient et nous empêchent de connaître notre précieux Sauveur. Aujourd’hui, si vous allés après l’excitation trouvée dans ces vidéos et/ou ministères dans le but de ressentir que vous faites quelque chose d’utile dans l’Église.... donnez une autre chance à Jésus. Prenez des vacances de ces choses et passez un mois à connaître Jésus à nouveau. Vous pourriez être étonné de constater que vous êtes simplement en train de marcher sur la même route où j’étais moi-même.

Aujourd’hui, je suis très reconnaissant pour les leçons que Dieu m’a enseignées et les chemins sur lesquels il m’a mené dans la dernière décennie. Et je suis aussi heureux de voir ce qui commence à se manifester au sein de notre Fédération des Maritimes depuis les dernières années.... Je prie pour que ça ne s’arrête pas. C’est mon vœux et ma prière que nous continuions à nous diriger vers le retour prochain du Christ et qu’un seul intérêt puisse prévaloir, un seul sujet puisse supplanter tous les autres, un seul sujet puisse être sur toutes les lèvres. Savez-vous ce que cela pourrait être? ■

Paul Llewellyn, Président  
Conférence Maritime  
Translation par Guy Lacourse



**Treasury Report**  
Ed Sharpe, Treasurer

If you were in an area that experienced a total eclipse of the sun on August 21, you were in total darkness for about two minutes; temperatures dropped about 20 degrees F in that short time.

Treva and I were in North Carolina visiting relatives where we experienced about 98% blockage resulting in just a sliver of the sun showing on the top left-hand side (we were using those special glasses). I was amazed that even that small amount of sunlight kept the earth lit like at twilight. What a powerful God we serve!

But what really amazed me was that scientists could tell us more than a year in advance precisely when the eclipse would start and what areas would be affected; such is God’s consistency and order - better than an atomic clock!

If He can order the heavens with such unerring accuracy, don’t you think He can order your life?

As of July 31, 2017 our expenses exceeded our income by \$238,302, a large figure but quite normal after a large portion of our summer camp expenses have been addressed (there will be a spill-over into August). Additionally, we have had two out-of-Conference moves, an internal one, and a retirement so far this year. We also need to yet place a pastor in the Fredericton, Zealand, and Harvey districts. We hope to have August results within the next 10 days.

Tithe is running \$74,000 ahead of last year for which we are grateful. Remain faithful in your commitment to God’s plan for church finances and He will look after your needs....He has promised! ■



**Secretariat Report**  
Teresa Ferreira, Executive Secretary

In Ezekiel 37 God shares with us a powerful passage about unity:

**15** *The word of the Lord came to me: 16 “Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.’ 17 Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand. 18 “When your people ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ 19 say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ 20 Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on 21 and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. 22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. 23 They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding,[b] and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 37:15-23)*

In the Adventist Church, we are one people, one organization, with unified message, mission and creed under God. Whatever we do impacts the other parts of our organization within our Conference, within our Union, within our Division. We are counselled to seek safety in harmonious organization in the last days as never before. There is a purpose to organization, for our God is not a God of chaos or separation, but unification.

The Maritime Conference will be putting together some policies, procedures and training for our leadership teams within our churches and school. Protocols and awareness that will essentially protect us and our church organization as a whole.

November is Safety-Awareness Month in the Maritime Conference. Your Pastors/Principal will be hosting safety opportunities for the leadership individuals within your church or school. It’s so important that we are equipped to face the needs and liability of the world in which we live. And most importantly, that we are providing safe environments for our young and old alike to feel protected in the Hands of our Saviour, able to freely fall in love with Him without hurt or scar.

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). ■



## Education

Teresa Ferreira, Superintendent

What is the importance of Adventist Education in the whole mission and fulfillment of the Adventist Church? Where does school fit with church, and how do they support each other in a collaborative planning and working effort to advance this mission? Was there a Divine appointment of Adventist Education to the enlightenment of our Church values and beliefs?

These are good questions, and I'm going to share some poignant quotes that hopefully shed light on the value of Adventist Education.

- “The most important work for our educational institutions to do at this time is to set before the world an example that will **honor God**. Holy angels through human agencies are to supervise the work, and **every department is to bear the mark of divine excellence**. Let the word of God be made the chief book of study, that the students may learn to live by every word that Christ has given” {SpM 433.1}.
- “Church school teachers should be men and women who have a humble estimate of themselves, who are not full of vain conceit. They should be humble, faithful workers, filled with the true missionary spirit, workers who have learned to put their trust in God and to do their work in his name. They should possess the attributes of **Christ's character—patience, kindness, mercy, and love; and into the daily experience they should bring the Saviour's righteousness and peace and grace**. Then, working with fragrant influence, they will give evidence of what grace can do through the weakness of the

human agents who make God their dependence and their trust” {SpM 183.3}.

Without this focus constantly at the forefront of our minds, then we will lose sight of our value in a world of conformity.

- “Our institutions of learning may **swing into worldly conformity**, but **they are prisoners of hope!** and **God will correct and enlighten** them and bring them back **to their upright position of distinction from the world**. I am watching with intense interest, hoping to see our schools thoroughly imbued with the spirit of true and undefined religion. When the students are thus imbued ... they will see that there is a great work to be done, and the time they have given to amusements will be given up to doing earnest missionary work” (Mrs. E. G. White, R. & H., Jan. 9, 1894).

As we elevate the mark of Divine Excellence in our Education department, I seek your prayers for this change in culture and direction. God will grant us the ability to place Him first in all things we do, teach and desire.

Your prayers are solicited as I continue my prayer journey with Jesus, seeking His vision for Adventist Education within our Conference. As a training ground for our young, our schools should be a cut above any other option out there; distinct in thought, action and purpose. Growing our membership in this Conference includes established training grounds for our young people from Monday to Friday where their Spiritual Gifts are developed and their education is one of an “upright position of distinction from the world.”

Sandy Lake has been very busy with the opening of school. I will let them fill you in on all the details. Thank you to the SLA teachers for putting together the news. ■

## News From Sandy Lake Academy

Through God's grace a new school year has started at Sandy Lake Academy (SLA). We have 16 new students joining us for the 2017-2018 school year. We are asking that you please continue to pray for enrollment to increase so we can continue to offer an education in Christ to all Maritime young people. As parents, we need to be confident our children will receive in school an education that is worth having.

**“True education means more than the perusal of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life**

**that now is. It has to do with the whole being and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.” ~E.G. White**

The first day of school began with a special chapel to welcome students and praise God for another school year, followed by an orientation for each of their classes. The students were excited to begin the new school year and reconnect with friends and staff after a long summer away.

### Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day

On September 13, 2017 the students and staff wore pink shirts in support of Anti-Bullying Day. Money from each T-shirt sold will be donated to the Kids Help Phone Charity. It is a simple reminder to us to treat each other with love and kindness as scriptures dictates, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).



### Gr 4-6 Special Speaker

We enjoyed learning from our guest speaker Minh Tan. He spoke about what it was like for his family to come to Canada as refugees when he was 8 years old. The students learned from him how they can make a difference for others and about the importance of trying and learning new hints.



### Terry Fox Run

Below are a few pictures of the Terry Fox Run of Sept. 22. As you can see from the pictures, in the beginning it was each one for themselves. In the end, it was one big family (older with younger) with many helping another cross the finish line.



### Thank you

"What could possibly be more important than doing our heavenly Father's will and educating His children for Christ."



### Worthy Student Fund

Sandy Lake Academy offers families an opportunity to educate our children with a strong Christian education, a possibility which, unfortunately, is not available to everyone. Families will make many sacrifices to obtain the unique, valuable experience offered by SLA, however all too often they do not have the financial resources to accommodate their child's participation at the school. Many prospective students want to see, hear and feel the message spoken at SLA with the only barrier precluding their involvement being a fiscal inability to attend. The SLA curriculum excels at producing highly educated, skilled and altruistic young graduates on a consistent basis who carry forward the Word of God. To help the Academy continue to perform this worthy work we must find a way to remove any impediments for those who wish to attend, including a lack of financial ability.

Please kindly resolve to give generously to the Worthy Student Fund on a monthly basis. Christian Education is vital to bringing Christ to our youth. This is a great opportunity to make a huge difference in someone's life!

Even small amounts, when added to other donations, make a massive difference in SLA's ability to reach as many youth as possible to the glory of a Christian Education.

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

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

There is also the availability of the **New 1% Initiative** on the Tithing Envelope that could help assist SLA with various funding needs. We appreciate any contribution to further God's work with our young people! ■

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

You are invited to:

## Behold the Light of His Love

Bible Study Workshop Weekend  
October 20 – 22, 2017  
Camp Pugwash, Nova Scotia

### Schedule

#### Friday, October 20, 2017

4:30 pm Check-in and room assignments  
5:30 pm Light supper  
7:00 pm Worship and Evening Presentation  
Intro to Inductive Bible Study

#### Sabbath, October 21, 2017

6:30 am Early morning worship and prayer  
7:30 am Breakfast  
9:30 am Inductive Bible Study - Part I  
"Looking to Jesus"  
11:00 am Inductive Bible Study - Part II  
"Beholding / Transforming"  
1:00 pm Lunch  
3:00 pm Inductive Bible Study - Part III  
"Abiding"  
4:30 pm Personal study time / Quiet time  
6:00 pm Light Supper  
7:00 pm Inductive Bible Study – Part IV  
"Fruitful Life of Service"

#### Sunday, October 22, 2017

6:30 am Early morning worship and prayer  
7:30 am Breakfast  
Safe Travel Home



**Dave Stoll**

Using an inductive Bible-study approach, we will be taking an in-depth look into what it means to "Behold the Lamb of God" and what results when we see the "Matchless Charms of Jesus." We will see that God has left nothing undone in providing for us to stand in the last days, partaking of His Glory.

This weekend Bible-Study experience will be very 'hands-on,' practical, and life-changing! Please bring a Study Bible, Portable electronic device (if you have one) with e-Sword, Mysword, or Pocketsword loaded.

You will be excited to share what you have learned with your home churches and friends by the end of this weekend!

### Bible-Study Workshop Weekend October 20 – 22, 2017 Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group: 3-12 13-25 26-40 41-60 60+

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group: 3-12 13-25 26-40 41-60 60+

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group: 3-12 13-25 26-40 41-60 60+

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group: 3-12 13-25 26-40 41-60 60+

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations: \_\_\_ Cabin \_\_\_ Trailer Site \_\_\_ Seasonal  
\_\_\_ No accommodations needed

Preferred Roommate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

List any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekend Fees: **\$40.00/person or \$75.00/couple or \$90.00/family**  
(please make cheques payable to **Maritime Conference of SDA**)

Send completed Registration Form (1 per family) so that food and housing can be properly arranged **by October 13, 2017** to:

Kelly McCann  
1832 Hwy 329 RR 1  
Hubbards NS B0J 1T0

Or Scan and E-mail completed form to:  
treasurechestwoodworking@gmail.com

"You are a PEARL of great price," proclaimed Diana Jaworski in her first message of the Ladies' Retreat on September 15-17, 2017. As 84 ladies converged on Camp Pugwash's grounds for the retreat, they were greeted with a warm smile, a registration packet, a goodie bag of spa items and a lavishly quaint décored cafeteria. The intention of the weekend was to make every woman feel special as a daughter of God.

Throughout the weekend our speaker acquainted us more closely to the image of who we are in the Hands of a Masterful God, showing us that our 'best' is wrapped up in His value upon our lives. Ladies enjoyed fellowship with one another during the Friday evening mixer, candlelit Agapé-style supper, testimonial time, an interactive Sabbath School morning, Sabbath afternoon workshop and multiple stations of interest scattered around the room – Blessing Bags to decorate; art canvases to paint upon; books to exchange; knitting and colouring to enjoy; and a specially decorated prayer 'room' to engage in various types of prayers.

The weather was uncharacteristically warm for that time of year, and so many enjoyed favoured walks on the beach during low tides. And while ladies weren't engaged in walks on the beach or inspirational meetings or creative stations, they were enjoying the delicious meals prepared by Sandy Boutilier and her Kitchen Team.

Those who were particularly ambitious, joined me for early morning power walks and Bible studies,

as we dug deeper into James 4:7 by doing a "How, Wow & Do" study one morning and a topical study of Praise through Psalm 115:1, Ephesians 5:20 and 1 Chronicles 16:8 the next morning.

The weekend was a success due to a number of key supporters and helpers. A special thank you is extended to Janice Fournier for her leadership with Women's Ministry in booking Diana Jaworski. Others who deserve a special thanks for their assistance: Sandy Boutilier & Kitchen Team of Colleen Appleton, Arianna Armstrong, Lori Bowdridge, Deanna Fall, Denise & Geoff Moretto and Meghan Smith; Kay Graça & Stephanie Schwarz for Music & Weekend Preparation; Claudine Belhomme for Sabbath School; Jullie Bannister for Registration Preparation & Support; Treva Sharpe for Tear Down & Clean-up; Françoise Ringuette for Support.

And the greatest thanks and praise is owing to our Lord for such a powerful weekend of fellowship, worship, consecration and to "living your best." May we all claim the power text for this Retreat and...



Seek The Lord And His Strength;  
Seek His Presence Continually.



This year we had women young and old, of every ethnicity, a true picture of heaven; and I look forward to seeing even more women join us next year. ■





## Camp Pugwash

Teresa Ferreira, Camp Director

This past summer was a transition summer. We appreciate the leadership of Interim Summer Camp Director, Catherine DeMerchant, who took the reins from Paul Llewellyn, now Conference President, while waiting for Teresa Ferreira, newly elected Camp Director, to arrive in the Maritimes.

We were happy to have 16+ campers for Blind Camp, including a few new ones, enjoy their time from June 25-30. One of the notes from a blind camper, given upon her departure, read: "On my first day when I arrived, I was full of fright, didn't know anyone and felt lost. But found a lot of support and friendship, and a lot of help was given to me and my husband through the power of prayer. God Bless, Love you all, Lise 'You've helped me grow into a beautiful bright flower. You've brightened my spirit.'"

Junior campers enjoyed their activities and friends from July 2-9 as 54 kids came from all over. Multiple junior campers were from Quebec and the United States of America, not to mention our own three (3) provinces who supported the program. The USA kids expressed the reason they were in attendance was because their parents, grandparents, auntie/uncle had enjoyed memories from Camp Pugwash!

We were satisfied to have 24 teen campers attend from July 9-16, but know that our numbers will increase next year, by the Grace of God—a week at camp, to reconnect with nature, God and fulfill healthy social interactions is just what every teenager needs in this day and age!

And finally, Horsemanship Camp had 13 campers attend as the famous 'Esther Lorenson from Wisconsin' gave leadership and instruction in equestrian skills. Beyond the saddle, Esther's program lives and breathes from a spiritual perspective, engaging the physical and the intellect in a way that showcases God. This is a hidden gem program in our Conference; more, young and old, need to come enjoy a Specialty Camp next year.

Thank you to all the churches that have made sponsorship of local kids possible. Summer will be coming soon and if all our churches start the financial process now of sponsoring kids for next summer, our camp will be full. We look forward to working with you as you reach your community for Jesus. Stay tuned for an incentive program to roll out in future Camp Pulse articles.

We will be developing an official Alumni list connected to Camp Pugwash. If you were a camper, staff member, supporter or know of any, please send all information to 506.609.1386 or [teresa.ferreira@maritimesda.com](mailto:teresa.ferreira@maritimesda.com). Thank you. ■

### Tentative Dates for Camp Pugwash 2017/18:

Inductive Bible Study	October 20-22
Camp Closes 2017	October 23
Reservation Deadline	January 31 (for grandfather renters)
Camp Open 2018	mid May
Pathfinder Camporee	May 18-20
Spiritual Emphasis	June 1-3
Blind Camp	June 24-29
Junior Camp	July 1-8
Teen Camp	July 8-15
Specialty Camp	July 15-20
Campmeeting 2018	July 20-July 28
Camp TBD	July 29-August 5

*Thank you to the 2017 Summer Camp Staff for a terrific ministry this year.*





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

A warm hello to all of you. It is my hope that you and your children/grandchildren have enjoyed lots of the bright summer days since campmeeting. Time goes so fast and with the coming of September, it will mean getting back into a regular routine for all of us. I especially love the autumn season that is coming and for the warm sunny days and the beautiful changes in nature.

Speaking of campmeeting, we had an awesome year with lots of children, especially in the Kindergarten program. Our volunteers worked tirelessly in all divisions to provide interesting environments and spiritual experiences. And I must acknowledge the craft programs where many positive opportunities that were also realized for our kids to learn new things, be creative and enjoy the company of caring individuals and friends. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!!! is extended to ALL the volunteers and I am thankful to those who have expressed your willingness to come back and do it again next year! Praise God! I would also like to express my appreciation to everyone who provided feedback about their experiences. We may have had a few "wrinkles," but now that I have a better idea of how the divisions work, I am hopeful that we will "iron" most of them out for next year.

In addition to the programming, we were able to have a travelling zoo, Little Rays' Reptile Zoo, join the younger divisions to learn more about some of God's exotic creatures. The Kindergarten division enjoyed a story time each afternoon, with Elizabeth Élysee and her puppet dog "Lucky." Her stories taught the children about Jesus and how He is the Door, the Path, the Vine etc. Thank you to our bilingual volunteers who kindly filled the need for translating the stories for "Lucky." He made some great little friends and also learned some English words while visiting us at Camp Pugwash. We hope to see Elizabeth and "Lucky" in the future.

### Children's Sabbath

Children's Sabbath is a day set aside by churches all over the world for the ***purpose of spotlighting and affirming the children around us***. It also draws attention to the needs of children at risk in our world. The NAD Children's Ministry Department is excited and is looking forward to celebrating this very special Sabbath. This year, **October 7, 2017** is Children's Sabbath throughout the North American Division. This day provides a great reason to invite neighbours, friends, and inactive members to bring

their children to church. The more you invest in planning and promoting this special day, the more impact it will have on your church and community.

If anyone is interested in the program from the NAD Children's Ministries, I can forward the materials to you electronically. If you are impressed to plan your own event that is unique to your home church and children, or would like some additional ideas, please contact me, I would love to help in any way.



### Newsletter

A monthly newsletter from the Children's Ministries will be sent out to all the churches with lots of info and so much more starting in September. I am now presently trying to come up with a catchy name for it, so I may be asking for suggestions from your children, since it is going to be "all about them and Jesus." And I am sincerely hoping to begin my visits to the churches in NS this fall and a visit to SLA on September 29<sup>th</sup>. ■



## Prayer Ministries

Diane McGivery, Leader

### PRAYER CHANGES THE WORLD

God's hand moves when people and pastors pray together. Through prayer, God makes the impossible, possible.

Through prayer, God greatly multiplies our efforts. C.H. Spurgeon said, "Whenever God determines to do a great work, He first sets His people to pray." In a moment of revelation, Spurgeon had discovered that neither his sermons nor his good works accounted for the spiritual impact of his ministry. Instead, it was, as one writer put it, "The prayers of an illiterate lay brother who sat on the pulpit steps pleading for the success of the sermons." It was his partnership with people of prayer that made him effective.

I can personally attest to the benefits that others' prayers have given me. There have been times when I've gotten ready to do a service or conference, and I've been physically exhausted. But when my prayer partners lay hands on me, and I see them praying over the auditorium, I receive a new strength—physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. I feel prepared to receive the power of God. And that has allowed my ministry to have great impact on people's lives.

My prayer partners have also told me, "Pastor, during the service we are going to cover the people around us in prayer. When you see us in the service, we'll give you a thumbs up. That way you'll know we're praying for you, and we have our area covered." When we've had a particularly good service, I know my prayer partners and their prayers were the reason.

### PRAYER CHANGES ME

Jesus told His disciples, "I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (John 16:23-24). If prayer did nothing other than what Jesus promised, it would be one of the greatest gifts God has given us. But prayer does even more. It changes the ordinary man or woman and makes them extraordinary.

Prayer changes us by drawing us closer to God, changing and molding us into His likeness in the process. David understood prayer's power as a personal change agent. His prayer in Psalm 25:4-5 describes the process that prayer takes a person through: "*Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me*

*your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long"* (emphasis added).

This passage contains three key phrases: *show me, teach me, and guide me*. When God *shows us* His standards and His will for our lives, it isn't always easy on us. It almost always requires us to grow and change. But once we accept what God would show us, He is able to *teach us*. And when we're teachable and growing, He is finally able to *guide us*, to lead us into His plan and purpose. When God shows me, He has my heart. When God teaches me, He has my mind. When God guides me, He has my hand.

### DON'T LIVE BENEATH YOUR POTENTIAL

Despite God's promise of the power to change us and our world, many Christians never tap into it. They come to Christ, but then they live beneath their privileges [much like D.L. Moody said --look up the short article by D.L. Moody in the link/section on the book of Ephesians. Mr. Moody explains this subject more thoroughly.] It's as though God has prepared an incredible banquet for them, and they're sitting in the corner with a bologna sandwich. The problem is that they don't want to risk giving up the familiar sandwich for the promise of the banquet. It's almost like they're saying, "Okay, I'm saved and I'm going to heaven, but I'm going to stay right where I am until then."

I must ask you: Are you one of those living beneath your privileges and missing out on your potential by not praying? The table has been laid. The sumptuous banquet has been set out. You have already received your invitation. Now what are you going to do? Are you going to bring along a few friends and come to the table? Or are you going to eat your bologna sandwich alone in a corner? The choice is yours. You *can* become a person of prayer who receives and shares the blessings God has to give.

Most pastors and their churches across the country are currently starving in the area of prayer. One evangelical pastor, speaking about his own denomination, said, "In Acts chapter two, they prayed for ten days. Peter preached for ten minutes and 3,000 were saved. Today, churches pray for ten minutes, preach for ten days and three get saved."

But it doesn't have to be that way. **Every pastor at every church in this country can tap into the awesome power and protection that**

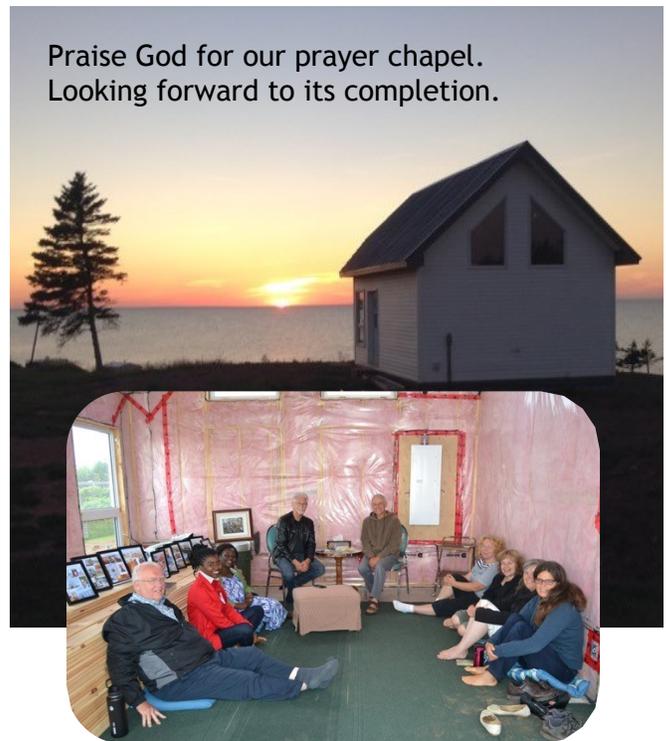
only prayer provides. I believe that you may be one of the people in your church who can help make that happen.

You may be saying to yourself, “Me? I’m no prayer warrior. I could never lead or organize others to pray. I’m not even comfortable with the idea of praying for my pastor. I don’t even know if I can do it.”

My answer is, “Yes you can!” Anyone can become a strong man or woman of prayer. It doesn’t take a miracle, and you don’t have to be a Holy Roller. You only need to be a Christian. If you meet that qualification, you have the potential to become a great pray-er. And that’s the reason you can pray for your church leaders. **You are on the same level as them in the eyes of God.** A pastor is simply a brother in Christ, not some spiritual giant. He struggles with the same problems you do.

Get ready to go on an exciting journey, one that will help you, your pastors, and your church reach their potential. We’ll start out slow, first talking about some fundamentals of prayer and how you can improve your personal prayer life. Then we’ll broaden our focus to include how you can pray for others, including your pastors (or elders and other leaders) and church, showing how you can become a partner in prayer. And finally, we’ll talk about the hope that we all have for our churches and our country—revival. ■

Excerpts taken from “PARTNERS IN PRAYER” by John Maxwell.



Praise God for our prayer chapel. Looking forward to its completion.

**Prayer Conference Call  
Access Information**

Video Conferencing (Toll-free): [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Phone: 1.647.558.0588 (NOT Toll-free)  
Meeting ID: 821431194  
Every morning from 5:00-6:00 AM  
Every evening from 9:00-9:30 PM  
Weekly on Thursday morning at 5:30 AM



**Pray for our pastors and administrators.**

## Outreach: Good for Mental Health

By: Sania Dookie, BSW, MA, RSW

This quarter's article focuses on the mental health benefits of doing outreach or volunteer activities. There is a growing concern for the rate at which unhealthy mental health is taking a toll on the lives of individuals of all ages. One in five people in Canada will at some point in their lives suffer from mental illness (CMHA, 2017). It is also apparent that there is a societal movement of self-centeredness, people having interest in things that will only benefit themselves at the expense of others. There are many life teachings in society which speaks of looking inward, finding the peace within.

While it is true that one cannot find true happiness and contentment in outward things, but must look within their internal reflections and claim happiness given by God, God created humanity to have an "I-you" relationship. God created us hard-wired for relationships and reciprocity. This feedback loop involves giving as well as receiving.

With that being said, scripture reminds us, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4). This has more than a spiritual implication. When we also show interests in others and actively participate in showing interests, it improves and maintains our mental health. This is so because:

1. The very nature of focusing outside of self, counters the self-focused nature of anxiety and depression (Schwartz et. Al., 2003).
2. Reaching out to others creates a sense of self determination and confidence. It changes ones perspective of life and creates a more meaningful and grounded value system, knowing that one is making a difference in others' lives.
3. It nurtures one's ability to empathize and create meaningful experiences with others as well as reinforce positive meanings for life.
4. Taking an active part in reaching out or volunteering, gives the body and mind a healthy focus. This decreases the risk of dwelling on and internalizing negative thoughts, which is a breeding ground for mental illness and unhealthy habits and behaviour.
5. Reaching out, embraces rich experiences and creates social connections. This releases the feel good hormones in the body (dopamine), this gives the same feeling as you would experience after exercising.

Reaching out to others is a testament of God's love towards us and our relationship with Him.

Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Through fulfilling this law, we are able to introduce others to the love of Christ and allow them the opportunity to experience the "I-you" as well as the "I-Thou," that is, the richness of relationship with one another and relationship with God. What is this law that we are fulfilling when we bear each others' burdens? Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). With that command, Christ practiced what it meant to reach out to others. He was well-balanced in how He lived and many flocked Him to receive freedom mentally, physically and spiritually.

"Christ ministered to people's needs before inviting them to follow Him—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" (White, E.G., 2015. pg 143).

In conclusion, there is a correlation of increase in preoccupation with self and increase of mental illness. Reaching out or volunteering takes the focus from self which counters the self-focused nature of depression and anxiety. God encourages us to reach out to others which fulfills the law of love. This law of love was manifested by Christ who lead others to God through Him reaching out to their mental, physical and spiritual needs. ■

*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

- Canadian Mental Health Association. 2017. Fast Facts about Mental Health. Retrieved from <http://www.cmha.ca/media/fast-facts-about-mental-illness/#.WaytHBXyvIU> on September 3, 2017.
- Schwartz, Carolyn, Janice Bell, Yunsheng Ma & George Reed. 2003. *Altruistic Social Interest Behaviours ae associated with Better Mental Health*. Psychosomatic Medicine Vol. 65, pg. 778-785.
- White, Ellen G. 2015. *Christ Method Alone*. Ministry of Healing. pg 143 Retrieved from <https://text.egwwritings.org/publication.php?pubtype=Book&bookCode=MH&lang=en&pagenumber=143> on September 1, 2017.

*Sania Dookie has a BA. Social Work and MA. Theological Studies with emphasis in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy and is a Registered Social Worker with NBASW. Sania supports persons through individual counselling in mental health, couples therapy and group facilitation and psycho-education. Her desire is to see people live and experience Christ completely both psychosocial and spiritually.*





## Health Ministries

Stephanie Schwarz, Director

### Created in the Image

How many of you have a spouse? How many intend to someday have a spouse? How many of you have children or parents? Then this principle to live healthier and longer is for you!

Genesis 1:27 says that we were created in the image of God. God is Love, and we were created with the same desire to love and to be loved. It is no wonder that studies show that those who hug live longer than those who do not, yes those who “hug.”

Here are some health benefits of hugging. When you hug your spouse or child you help boost their oxytocin levels. This is responsible for how a person feels, so a simple hug can reduce their feelings of loneliness, isolation and fear. This is why we have found how important it is for newborn babies to have skin-to-skin contact with their mothers after birth. The person you are hugging associates you and you associate them with these good feelings. This actually creates a bond between us; that is why we do this with our spouses and people we are close with. When you hug for several moments you can lift the serotonin levels of your child or spouse. This improves their mood and yours as well.

A hug can also reduce blood pressure and stress. Hugging helps you sleep better. It is a cheap and simple way that you can do anywhere to say to your family—I love you.

For spouses, hugging can also lead to kissing which also has health benefits. Studies have shown that those who kiss their spouse good-bye each morning live five years longer than those who do not! Kissing is a stress reliever, it is good for your heart, it has also been shown to decrease blood pressure and cholesterol.

During a kiss, natural antibiotics are secreted in the saliva. The saliva contains a type of anesthetic that helps relieve pain. The endorphins produced by kissing are 200 times more powerful than morphine. That is powerful!

God created us with this need to touch. And He gives us the context: Psalm 2:12 says to “Kiss the Son.” I give this talk to my youth, of God’s plan for our intimacy. The word “kiss” in Hebrew is “Nashaq,” and it literally means “to join.” We are told to be joined with Christ, to declare to Him our faithfulness, continuing loyalty and fidelity for life.

Where was the first kiss given? Now God truly knew what He was doing when He created us, and He actually gave us the first hug and kiss! Genesis 2:7 says, “God breathed into Adam the breath of life and he became a living being.” God was the first one to hug or kiss us, to make a connection with us. I picture it like this: How many know how to give mouth-to-mouth to an infant? Yes, you have to cover their nose and their mouth to breathe life into them. You are so big in comparison to them. Think of how big God is and how small we are. God connected Himself to us to make us truly alive.

When was the second kiss? Yes! Adam and Eve. When Adam was first joined with God, He was then ready to be joined to the one God had chosen for Him. God created us to need that same connection with Him first, and then with our spouse, and then to share that love with our children. We were made for these connections in the context of a safe and committed relationship.

My husband, Ricky, and I have a rule that we try to follow when we have arguments, or what I like to call “discussions.” We have to hug for at least one minute. It is hard to be upset when you are connecting on an intimate level.

So have you hugged your spouse, your child, your parent today? If you are not already doing this, try these tips: With your family: say good morning with a hug, and say thank you with a big hug. With your spouse: say good morning and goodnight with a hug and a kiss! With your Saviour: commit your heart to Him every morning and evening, resting in His love and faithfulness to you. Try these tips, and see your relationships flourish, and your health improve! ■

## Cozy Butternut, Sweet Potato, and Red Lentil Stew

### Ingredients:

#### For the stew:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced (about 2 cups)
- 3-4 large garlic cloves, minced
- 3 cups peeled, seeded, and diced butternut squash\*
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and diced\*
- 3 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 (14-ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (14-ounce) can light coconut milk
- ½ cup dried red lentils, rinsed-canned or precooked
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground turmeric
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper, more or less to taste
- 1 ½ Fine sea salt, or to taste
- 1 tablespoon Mrs. Dash Garlic and Herb or to taste
- 3 teaspoons apple Lemon juice
- 1 bunch chard, stemmed and finely chopped\*\*



#### Optional accompaniments:

- Fresh cilantro or parsley, minced
- Cooked rice
- Garlic powder and chili powder

#### Directions:

- 1 To a large pot, add the oil, onion, and garlic. Stir to combine. Increase the heat to medium and sauté for 3 to 5 minutes, until the onion is softened.
- 2 Add the squash and sweet potato and stir to combine. Add a pinch of salt and continue sautéing for a few minutes longer.
- 3 Add the broth, diced tomatoes (with juices), coconut milk, lentils, tomato paste, turmeric, cumin, chili powder, cayenne, salt, and pepper. Stir well to combine.
- 4 Increase heat and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium, stir again, and simmer uncovered for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the squash and potato are fork-tender. Reduce the heat if necessary.
- 5 Add the lemon juice to taste. Adjust the other seasonings if desired.
- 6 Optional step: Using a handheld immersion blender, blend the stew for only 2 to 3 seconds (anymore and you'll blend too much of the veggies). This thickens the broth.
- 7 Stir in the chard, and cook for another couple minutes until the greens are wilted.
- 8 Scoop some cooked rice into the bottom of a bowl and then ladle the stew overtop. Garnish with minced cilantro or parsley and a good dusting of garlic and chili powder, if desired.
- 9 Leftovers will keep in the fridge for up to 5 days, and they freeze beautifully too.

#### Tips:

- \* Make sure to dice the squash and potato very small (about the size of almonds), as this will expedite cooking. Also, if you are short on time, you can skip peeling the butternut squash as the skin is edible.
- \*\* You can swap the chard for 5 ounces of baby spinach or a bunch of kale (stemmed). I recommend chopping the greens into small bite-size pieces for easier eating.



## YOUTH

Ricky Schwarz, Youth Director

### “Summer Highlights”

This summer has been full of spiritual highlights for the Youth Department in the Maritime Conference, but for the sake of time and space I will just share with you three of my favourite highlights that have to do with spiritual growth, Bible studies, and baptisms.

During summer camp orientation my wife, Stephanie, and I really tried to instill in the summer camp staff the supreme importance of spending alone time with Jesus everyday. We called it their “TAG time” which stands for Time Alone with God. The challenge for those of all ages is that we often know that TAG time is important, but we either can’t find the time or don’t know what to do. To address both of these obstacles we set aside set times for them to be alone with Jesus, as well as modelled for them principles of Bible study, prayer, and journaling. It was really exciting for Stephanie and I to hear the many positive comments that the young people shared with us on how they really enjoyed these times alone with Jesus as well as those who admitted that they needed more of that in their busy lives. Some of the staff even began getting up way before they had been just so they could spend some quality alone time with Jesus. As the summer continued on, we began to see the spiritual growth and fruit in the young people’s lives as a result of setting aside time to spend with Jesus every day.

You always know when people are spending time with Jesus in their Bible, because they will have questions. Lots of questions. One evening one of the young ladies on staff came over to Stephanie and I, and asked if she could speak with us. We, of course, said yes, and set up a time to speak later that evening. When we spoke, she shared that she had some questions for us from the Bible, but her biggest question was if we would be willing to study the Bible with her. She especially desired that we could go over some of the Old Testament stories. This is probably the best question anyone could ever ask me. So soon after our first meeting we began to meet at about 6:00 am every morning and then even sometimes in the evening. The great thing about studying the Bible with anyone is that as Jesus draws your hearts to Him, He also bonds you with those you are studying with. You become better and better friends as you experience the love of Jesus together. These Bible study times even inspired a morning hour-long Bible study

every morning throughout the week of campmeeting. In these studies, we focused on how God used young people in the Old Testament. It was amazingly encouraging to me to see twenty or more young people getting up early every morning to come and study the Bible!

Probably my favourite highlight from this summer was the many baptisms that we had as a Youth Department. Frank Kelemen, Lincoln Heisler, Riley Morash, Emily Peterson, Brayden Casey, Noah Clark, Avery MacArthur, and Arwyn Fournier all publicly pronounced that they had decided to go all in with Jesus Christ! I have said it before and will say it again, “Getting baptized is the best decision anyone can ever make.” There is nothing better than going all in with Jesus Christ.

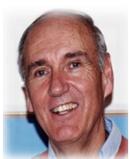
Let us, as a Conference, continue to support, and pray for our young people. The devil is constantly attacking them, and they need all the encouragement they can get. Let us all join with heaven as they rejoice over the decisions of our youth to unite their lives with their Saviour Jesus Christ.

In closing, let us end this article with a wonderful quote from the book *Messages to Young People*,

“God loves the youth. He sees in them great possibilities for good, if they will realize their need of Christ, and build upon the sure foundation.”

What a beautiful statement for all of us to remember. God loves the youth and so should we. Therefore, let us all continue to pray, love, and encourage our young people with our words and actions. Remembering that your example of love, and trusting Jesus, with every aspect of your life, will preach louder than any sermon from a pulpit. Help them to see that you love Jesus, and that through you, Jesus wants to show His love for them. By your example, may you reveal that a personal relationship with Jesus is of far greater value than anything else this world has to offer! ■

For all youth  
activities and  
announcements  
please go to  
**Maritime Youth at  
Facebook.com**

**WHO WAS YOUR FAVOURITE SPEAKER AT CAMPMEETING 2017—“A Walk By Faith”**Gary  
BelhommeBill  
BraceBob  
CundiffPatrick  
DupuisJosé  
ÉlyséePavel  
GoiaPeter  
KulakovRene & Alvy  
QuispeTarah-Liz  
Springer

Another campmeeting has come and gone. We had over 500 people during most of the week, with over 680 registrants and several others who didn't check in. Were you blessed by the Spirit-filled presentations? We are confident Christ-centered messages were preached, hearts were moved, and spiritual fodder abounded for both young and old.

Our prayer for now is that the loveliness of Jesus will continue to be reflected in each attendee with ever-increasing brightness for others to see. Before the inspirations of that week ebb from our memories, we encourage each of you to recommit yourselves to an ever-deepening relationship with God. Let it be the catalyst that will spur all of us to spend and be spent in the service of our fellow human beings. Knowing that the end is near, “what sort of people ought [we] to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God?” (2 Peter 3:12 ESV).

Praise God for the decision of eight (8) precious souls who were baptized on July 29—Brayden Casey, Vanessa Casey, Noah Clark, Robert Clark, Arwyn Fournier, Avery MacArthur, Annette Maillet and Romario Spencer; with Jeremy Casey and Flavia Clark being rebaptized the same day. Lincoln Heisler, Riley Morash and Emily Peterson were baptized on the first Sabbath, July 22.

**CAMPMEETING 2018 — July 20 to July 28, 2018. Mark your calendars!**

It is not too early to circle the dates and plan vacation times, as campmeeting at Pugwash is the place to be.

### Caring For The Heart

#### Unity: Relationship Restoration



Have you ever had difficulties with any of your relationships?

- marriage tension or break-down,
- tension or estrangement between your parents and yourself,
- tension or estrangement with your children,
- are there people who put distance between you and them; they try to avoid you, or you them,
- are there people in God's family who frustrate or rub you the wrong way and you'd like them to just straighten out a little,
- are there people you used to be close to who have become distant,
- have you ever wanted to win someone's heart but not succeeded,
- do you feel lonely in the close relationships you have, such as marriage and parenthood, or in the church family,
- is there just something missing, but you can't quite put your finger on what it might be.

Does any of this sound familiar to you, or do you know someone who has difficulties in these areas and you wish you could help them?

On **October 10, at 7:00 pm** Erna McCann will begin hosting a weekly “Caring for the Heart” seminar that will give insight and solutions to these issues.

Plan to attend the introductory session zoom meeting and see if it might benefit you.

For more information, or request to join the group, send an email (by **October 8th**) to: [ernajoy.1@gmail.com](mailto:ernajoy.1@gmail.com).



## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES:

### ACADIAN PENINSULA

This summer, we have been blessed to welcome as part of our fellowship two families who have newly settled in the north of New Brunswick. We see in this move a direct answer to our prayers of many years that God send labourers in this part of His field. We thank Him for the comfort and assurance He gives us.

#### **Bathurst Expanding**

Dr Donn Leatherman originally from South Bend, Indiana and his wife Annette (nee Melanson, from Richibucto) are newly retired after more than 40 years' service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

After graduating with a B.Th. in theology from Canadian Union College (now Burman University), Donn continued his studies at Andrews University where he received an M. Div. degree. He was ordained as a pastor in 1981 while working for the Quebec Conference where he ministered in Montréal and in the Eastern townships. During that time, he began to study for his Ph.D. in Old Testament at McGill University while Annette worked as an ergotherapist. A call to serve overseas interrupted the course of his studies which he eventually completed in 1999.



Donn and Annette spent the last 25 years at Southern Adventist Uni. in Tennessee where Donn taught the Bible and the biblical languages. Prior to that, he taught at the Adventist Uni. of Eastern Africa in Kenya and at what is now the Middle East University in Beirut, Lebanon.

Donn also worked for the Adventist Church in Egypt as the Director of Church and Personal ministries.

Their moving to Bathurst came at a critical time for our group. The Inn where we usually meet had just been sold and the new owners wanted to have some renovation work done during the summer months and would not be renting to us during that time. So, Donn & Annette opened their home to host our Sabbath meetings where everyone is invited to share a meal after the service.

We have been appreciating Donn & Annette's multiple gifts namely their hospitality, Donn's teaching and preaching and we welcome their readiness to contribute to our church planting endeavor in Bathurst. Annette, who enjoys quilting, sewing and other crafts, has plans to launch a women's ministry and is also ready to assist in the children's programme.

#### **Campbellton Expanding**

We extend a warm welcome also to the Rafaël family who came to settle in Campbellton this summer.

Leo, born in Angola, lived in Portugal before moving to France. He holds a Master's degree in Musicology from the Université de Paris 8. Also a CAPES (licence to teach in high schools and colleges) in musical education and choral singing, Leo worked in the public service prior to coming to Canada.

Muriel, born in Paris to parents who are from the French Antilles, studied medicine at the Université de Paris 13 and specialized in geriatrics in which field she has been working for the last eleven years.

Leo and Muriel are parents to 3 sons: Matthys (5 yrs), Noah (3 yrs) and Theo (9 mths).

Leo first came to Montreal 15 years ago and ever since had dreamed of eventually immigrating to Quebec. Muriel dreamed of practising medicine in the Antilles. That was their dreams, before they met and got married. Somehow, God overruled and led them to Campbellton NB, of all places. Muriel recounts how surprised she was when she was interviewed in Paris and offered a position at the NB Campbellton Hospital—a place she had never heard of before.

Leo and Muriel feel confident that God is the one who led them so far. They trust Him and are awed to be His ambassadors in this area of the province, walking in the footsteps of Paul, the tent-maker missionary.



We thank God for His leading and look forward to what He has in store for the Bathurst and Campbellton communities. Please keep us in your prayers.

### Truro SDA Church Needs You!

The purpose of this article is to provide a brief update on the status of the Truro church building project. Funds have been coming in slowly throughout the year, and we have raised about \$17,000 of the estimated \$50,000 needed to complete the project. If you have donated to this project we want to thank you for your generosity!

The foundation work was completed in August as shown in the photo. The larger addition is where the children's division, with two new classrooms and mother's room, will be located, and the smaller addition is where the small lobby and office/study will be located.



#### Volunteers Needed

A team from Maranatha Volunteers International will be on site from Sept 11 through Sept 25 and hope to complete the framing, exterior doors, windows, shingles, and vinyl siding before they leave.

Would you like to volunteer with other parts of construction? There will be lots of work to be done after Maranatha is finished: electrical, plumbing, insulation, vapour barrier, drywall, flooring, interior trim, painting, etc. We are praying that church members from around the Maritime Conference will volunteer to help us move forward with construction.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact David Streifling, Building Committee chairman, at (902) 577-7000, or Pastor Dave Hamilton at (902) 759-0008. We would like to complete as much of the project as possible before winter.

#### Dollar-for-Dollar Matching Funds Available!

An opportunity has been provided to help expedite our fundraising efforts for this project. A matching fund has been pledged; to match all donations received before **December 31**, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$12,000. Would you be willing to make a donation? We still need to raise about \$33,000 in order to reach our \$50,000 goal. Please make this a matter of prayer; we will appreciate whatever you are able to contribute. We are committed to following God's counsel to avoid debt, and will proceed only as funds are available.

Those willing to assist financially should mail cheques to the Truro SDA Church, c/o John Cessford - treasurer, 193 MacDonald Rd, Shubenacadie NS B0N 2H0. Please write "Church Building Project" on the memo line of your cheque. We will send you a tax-deductible receipt in the new year.

We believe this expanded church facility will help us provide for the needs of people of all ages, including young families with children, and give character to the work of sharing the Good News of the Second Coming of Jesus with people in our community!

Adventist Education Where You Are . . .  
Be a part of OUR community

Partnerships • Academics • Community • Spiritual Growth



Accredited K-12 Alberta Education

PAC@S  
Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool

www.pacescanada.org

If you are interested in Online Education for your child, please consider the following options that are sponsored through a limited scholarship at the Maritime Conference up to grade 9. For more information on the scholarships, please contact: Jullie Bannister at the Conference office.

Prairie Adventist Christian eSchool  
www.pacescanada.org

West Coast Adventist School Canada  
www.wcascdl.ca

Info packages available at the conference office for West Coast Adventist School.

Enjoy **quality** Christian education  
*without* sacrificing family time.



WEST  
COAST  
Adventist School

Anytime. Everywhere!

West Coast Adventist School's unique K-12 distance learning program allows your child to benefit from a Christian education on a flexible schedule. Students also enjoy interaction with other students in an online classroom, with face-to-face instruction from live, qualified teachers.

Contact us today to learn more.

wcasdl.ca | 1.877.853.5053

**PERTH-ANDOVER**

**New LayPastor**

We are pleased to announce that the Maritime Conference has appointed a lay pastor for our church family. One of our faithful members, Howard Paddock, has prayerfully accepted the call to serve. God bless Howard and his family as he takes on this new responsibility.



**Farewell Pastor Golea**

It was with heavy hearts that our church congregation said farewell to Pastor Adrian Golea on Sabbath, June 17th. He received a call to serve in Romania and we are happy that he is once again reunited with his wife Adrianna and twin daughters. During his last sermon, he encouraged us to remain faithful and steadfast "till we meet again, at Jesus' feet." We are grateful for Pastor Adrian's spiritual leadership throughout the years. May God's blessings be upon him in his new ministry. (pictured below second from right)



**HALIFAX**

**AY on Canada Day**

The Halifax Adventist Youth department continues to be very active. On Canada Day a group of them gathered near their church, which is adjacent to the Halifax Commons and where hundreds had gathered to celebrate. Imagine the joy when over 400 copies of the Great Controversy, Canadian Edition, were accepted when offered as gifts by these enthusiastic young people, along with their pastor. Many received these books with gladness. Please pray for those who received this precious gift on Canada's 150th birthday.



**ADVENTIST ARCHIVES**

Visit the new Adventist Digital Library today!

Type your subject into the search engine and discover a new world.

[adventistdigitallibrary.org](http://adventistdigitallibrary.org)

## HALIFAX

### *Answered Prayers for Halifax Fair*

To celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the Halifax Sabbath School department under the direction of SS superintendent Margaret Ennis Trotman organized an outdoor health fair for Sunday, July 2. Many prayers ascended for a sunny day, but unfortunately heavy rain came down Sunday morning. With Margaret's encouragement and much prayer again, the rain stopped just as everyone arrived to set up! By noon, when the approximately 100 guests started arriving, the sun shone in all its brilliance. What an answer to prayers and faith!



Halifax is having a one day youth event on October 7.

## NORTH SYDNEY

### *Tracts: A Silent Witness*

For the past while our church in North Sydney has placed at least 1,000 Glow tracts in the general area, including Sydney, Sydney Mines and places in between. Ellen White comments on scattering literature like the leaves of Autumn. Her comments are very positive. Although we may never know the results of this project, the seed has been sown and surely some of it has fallen on good ground. One such person was seen sitting on a bench in a local mall reading one of our Glow tracts. Another lady picked up a tract from a grocery store shopping cart and kept it for future reading. Some people will read lengthy material, while others will only read the smaller stuff, but both will peruse a little tract. Truth for many is not absorbed all at once, but as the Bible says, "For precept must be upon precept...line upon line...here a little, there a little" (Isa. 28:10, NKJV).

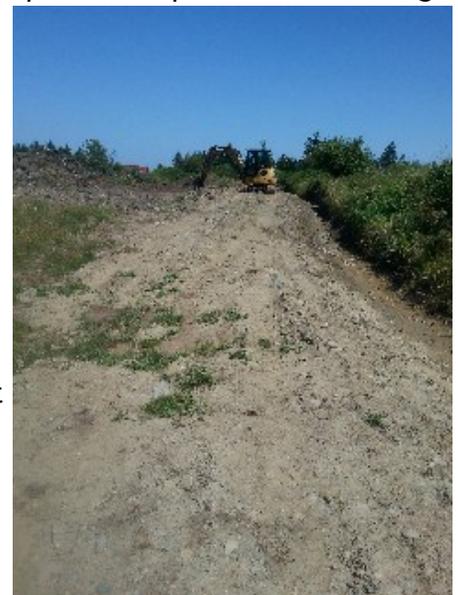
The fair was held in the parking lot. Natalie Wilson, health educator (pictured below), presented tips for healthier living to the attendees. Oratile Mogae, assisted with checking blood pressure. An attractive bag (pictured as 'wish for a wish') with literature was presented to each visitor. Approximately 100 people were served a healthy meal.



## YARMOUTH

### *Clearing Road to New Church Site*

Work is beginning by putting in a road to the property where we plan to build our new church. Ted Atwood, from Oak Park church, has put in much time to help us accomplish this. Following the church service and fellowship lunch on August 26 some church members gathered on the site to pray for God to bless our efforts to erect a building to His glory and to accomplish what we cannot.



**Wanted: Stories of Faith**

Yarmouth church is seeking your help. We would like to collect personal stories/testimonies for a book that we are putting together. This would 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.

If you are willing to give a story to us, please email Bonnie at [bonniesands@yahoo.ca](mailto:bonniesands@yahoo.ca) or call her at 902-307-1885.

**DARTMOUTH****Healthy Cooking Class**

On Sunday, June 4th, a healthy cooking class was held at the Dartmouth church. The theme was a healthy, easy BBQ, and it was hosted by Pastor Kevin Scott. (Pictured below in center with apron on.)



Foods were prepared in the newly renovated kitchen and included veggie burgers and hot dogs, potato salad, three bean salad, vegetable shish kabobs, and watermelon for dessert.

In keeping with our health message, a demonstration was done on unhealthy foods such as pop, chocolate bars, candy and chips, showing how much sugar and fat they each contained. Everyone present enjoyed a delicious meal and a healthy learning experience was had by all.

**Vacation Bible School**

From August 14-19, Dartmouth church put on a Vacation Bible School. Its theme was *Faith's Hall of Fame* where they studied different Bible heroes each day. In keeping with the theme of a Hall of Fame, the fellowship hall was decorated with hand-painted golden records with names of the Bible heroes in red. At the end of the week, we had a Hall of Fame induction service and each child present was awarded their own golden record with stars to commemorate how many days they came to VBS.

Each day followed this sequence: songs, Bible story and activity, games, snack, and nature

lesson with an activity. Even the nature lesson and opening song tied in with the Bible hero. Some of the memorable activities were shooting water balloons from plastic slings to a star nine feet high, spinning yarn on spindles made from lollipops, chasing bumble bees and dragon flies with an insect catcher, playing relay games in our parking lot with laughter filling the air.

That laughter brought a neighbor over to check out what was happening. She had her grandchild with her and was interested in what programs we offered! At the most we had eleven children, eight of whom came from the community. The children's enthusiasm and joy was contagious. Parents got excited by what was happening in our church. Our volunteers showed up each day eager to see what God would do that day! It seemed our volunteers connected with the parents and by the end of the week were chatting away like friends.

What was so amazing about this VBS? Starting out in February with hardly any money or resources except 1950 songbooks and old VBS material (some from 1978!), God pieced together our program like a jigsaw puzzle. A big screen TV with internet hook up came in time to play videos of songs! (Check out Arky-Arky and Only a Boy Named David on Youtube!) God provided unique ideas of how to make our hobbies kid-friendly. Who would have thought of spinning wool with lollipops?

When we started Monday at 9:30 am, we had only three children! Instead of despairing, our volunteers huddled everyone together and prayed for more! And by 10 am we had eight children! By Wednesday we had eleven. One grandparent talked of coming to church! One volunteer had gone all summer without hearing back from the job applications she had submitted. That week she had five inquiries and two asked for interviews! It might not be an overstatement to say that our volunteers were blessed more so than the children by being a witness to all the ways God led that week.

A big thank-you goes to over 20 people, some who are members in other churches, who contributed in one way or another to make this effort possible. Without your efforts, the VBS would not have been as strong as it was. A special recognition is deserved of the six (6) volunteers who came each day to work with the children: Pastor Scott, Jascinth Butterfield, Patricia Duncan-Ramsay, Cynthia Loxdale, Melissa Harriott, and Shirleen Luttrell.

Dartmouth church had such an amazing experience that they want to do it again next year!

**BAPTISMS**

**Romario (Andre) Spencer** was baptized on July 29, 2017 at Camp Pugwash during campmeeting by Pastor Courtney Dookie. He is now a member of the Yarmouth church, voted in on Aug. 12. Romario felt that he had previously been baptized for the wrong reason (it was trendy), but says, “Now I chose Christ because I believe in Him and His teachings.” (pictured lt-rt: Romario Spencer, Pastor Dookie and Sania Dookie (whose transfer was voted also).



**Ethel Hamilton** was baptized on June 24, 2017, by Pastor Adrian Golea at the Zealand SDA Church and accepted into membership in the Harvey Church. Thank you to the Zealand church for their support.



(pictured above, left to right: Carroll Brewer, Barbara Embleton, Ethel Hamilton and Pastor Adrian Golea)

**BIRTHS**

**Mikael Anthony Dookie** was born May 1, 2017, to Sania and pastor Courtney Dookie of Brooklyn NS, just a day after his father’s birthday. Big sister Raziela is very pleased to have a new brother.



**Celine Anastasia Saulner** was born May 10, 2017, to Marina Goncharova-Saulnier and Alain Saulnier of Church Point NS, born on the birthday of her papa. Celine has an older brother, Alexandre.



**50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Congratulations to **Bill and Heather Harrington** who celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 25, 2017. They were married on June 25, 1967 in the North Sydney Adventist Church by Pastor Osborne Lee. Bill and Heather have been blessed with three children: Ken (Heather), Curtis (Kim) and Karri-Anne (Gerhardt Meinjes) and four grandchildren: Isaiah, Kyleigh, Joanne and Jessica.

**OBITUARY**

**EBBETT, Randolph William (Randy)**—63, of Antigonish NS passed away on June 24, 2017, in St. Martha’s Regional Hospital, Antigonish. Randy was a constant fixture in People’s Place Library. His passion was in the kitchen and had worked in the bakery at Superstore and at Tim Hortons; prior to this, he worked as a car salesman. Randy was a proud member of AA, being 21-years sober. He was a member of the New Glasgow Adventist Church worshipping in Antigonish. He is survived by daughters, Sabrina (Paul) Sherman, Lake George NB; Melissa Ebbett and Katrina (Michael) Worth, of Antigonish; and Aleisha Ebbett (Matthew), Calgary AB; 9 grandchildren, Isaiah, Xavier, Kristian, Tayler, Jordan, Nina, Heidi, Riley, and Benjamin; and 2 great-grandchildren, Alex and Esme. Predeceased by his mother, Elizabeth (Clark) Ebbett.



**RICHARDS, Alice Lerena**—passed away at the Dr. Georges L. Dumont University Hospital Centre on August 14, 2017 at the age of 80. Born in Chatham, NB on May 31, 1937, she was the daughter of the late James Murell and Mary Katherine (Manuel) Budd. Lerena will be remembered and forever cherished by her husband of 53 years, Norman Wayne Richards, her two sons; Robert Lee (Cheryl) Richards and Daniel Iain (Michelle) Richards, her three grandchildren; Alexander Richards, Ashley (Josh) Thomas and Nathaniel (Adrienne) Richards, who were Lerena's pride and joy, and two great grand-daughters; little Sophia (Ashley) and sweet Hailee (Nathaniel), who were the sparkles in her eyes. She will also be remembered by her sister Margaret (Wally) Budd-Kelly, her many in-laws, nieces and nephews. Known to most as 'Nanny,' Lerena was an exceptional lady! She impacted many people's lives over the course of her life. Lerena was a Sabbath School teacher for over 30 years and an active member of the Moncton Adventist Church. She was service-minded and held numerous voluntary positions to help better the lives of those around her. In addition, 'Nanny' was greatly loved by the campers and staff at summer and winter camps for the blind where she taught leather craft for over 10-years. In her life, the word acquaintance did not exist; she was a 'friend' to all.

**SMITH, Clarence "Kay" Grenville**—age 87, his death occurred on Saturday, July 1, 2017 at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Kay was born in Nauwigewauk NB, on July 22, 1929, the husband of Olive (Totten) Smith and a son of the late Clarence and Effie (Barr) Smith. Kay is survived by his wife Olive of 67 years; sons Wayne (Susan) Smith of Nauwigewauk NB, Gary (Karen) Smith of Smithtown NB, Larry (Michelle) of Hampton NB; son-in-law Bruce (Kim) Cameron of Nauwigewauk NB; 10 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; sisters Audrey Dodge, Gladys Casey and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Besides his parents, Kay is also predeceased by his daughter Julie Cameron; sisters Vera Jenkins, Bertha Wanamaker and brother Albert Smith.



### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

**North Sydney** church member Eileen Crews tells of stops that she made on her trip in Canada and the USA. She brings us news about Perry Parks, a

previous Maritime Conference president, and his wife Gloria (a sister to Eileen Crews). They are still in health following Perry's bout with cancer which is now in remission. Eileen also speaks of her son, Michael and family now residing in Williams Lake. They were driven from their home by the much reported forest fires in BC, but have since returned to their residence.

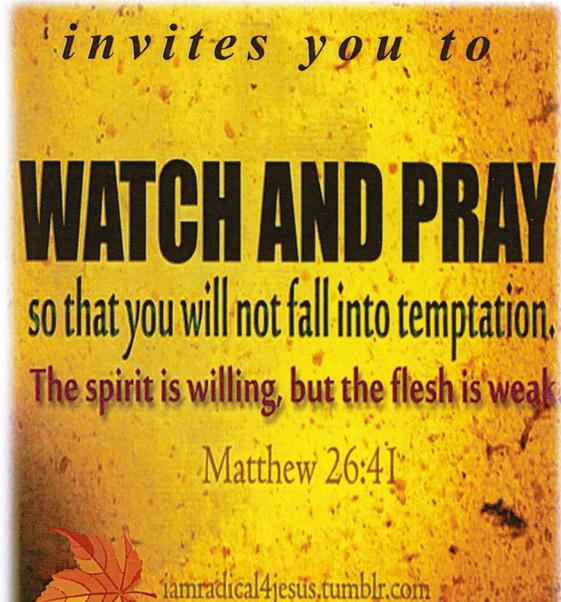
**Yarmouth** church gathered in a circle for a special day of prayer and fasting for their church, church members and building plans on July 19. "We feel that Satan is trying to fight our efforts to serve God, so we wanted to fortify ourselves against him with much prayer."

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**Yarmouth and Oak Park** churches got together at Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park (Deerfield, NS) for a church picnic. The weather was beautiful, the park lovely with the sun shining and all of the shade trees forming a canopy over us. The food for the potluck picnic was wonderful and with nearly 40 people there, many of them children, we had a wonderful time playing and fellowshiping together. ■



Northern New England Conference  
*Prayer Ministries*



**Fall Prayer Retreat**

**OCTOBER 5-8, 2017**

**Cost: \$75.00 per person if paid by Sept 5<sup>th</sup>  
\$90.00 after Sept 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Meals and lodging included**

**Families Welcome, children 12 & under are FREE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age group: 13-25 26-40 41-60 61+

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

List any special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of children who will be with you: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Roommate/s: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make cheque payable to:**

NNEC Prayer Retreat

Send to: Retreat c/o Christine Penney  
147 Ellis River Rd,  
Rumford, ME 04276

(payment must accompany registration form)

**For more info visit our website:**

**[www.prayerministries.com](http://www.prayerministries.com)**

**or contact Kelly Veilleux at**

**[kellyv@inverity.org](mailto:kellyv@inverity.org) or 207-314-7546**

**Housing question: [thankful@roadrunner.com](mailto:thankful@roadrunner.com)**

**The speakers:**

**Pastor Gary Blanchard**—Gary is the GC Youth/Young Adult director. He loves to talk about the *Baptism of the Holy Spirit* and how the Spirit will radically change your life, if you let Him!

**Pastor Don and Kim Bryan**—Don and Kim have been fighting the “good fight” on the front lines for over 30 years. Their personal mission statement is: “To share the life-changing love of Jesus with everyone we meet and to empower our brothers and sisters to do the same.”

**ADRA Canada  
Annual Appeal**



Fall is traditionally the time for Ingathering —(now the ADRA Annual Appeal) is still done by many churches, while others have let the program fall away. ADRA Canada is the recipient of Ingathering dollars raised in Canada, with the ADRA Annual Appeal being the primary source of funds for ADRA Canada's many overseas (and national) projects. In many churches today, members themselves give to ADRA Canada, which has set a goal of only \$100/member for the entire year (which represents only \$8.33/ month). The Maritime Conference joins ADRA Canada in encouraging everyone to get involved and support the ADRA Annual Appeal.

You may give to ADRA Canada through your local church in the tithe envelope, or by sending your cheque directly to them by mail: ADRA Canada, 20 Robert St W, Newcastle ON L1B 2G1, or online at [www.adra.ca](http://www.adra.ca) click on "Donate" link at the bottom of the home page.

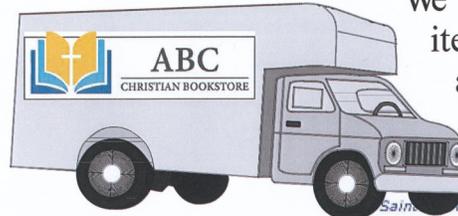
Please consider how your donation can help ADRA Canada work all around the world and in Canada.



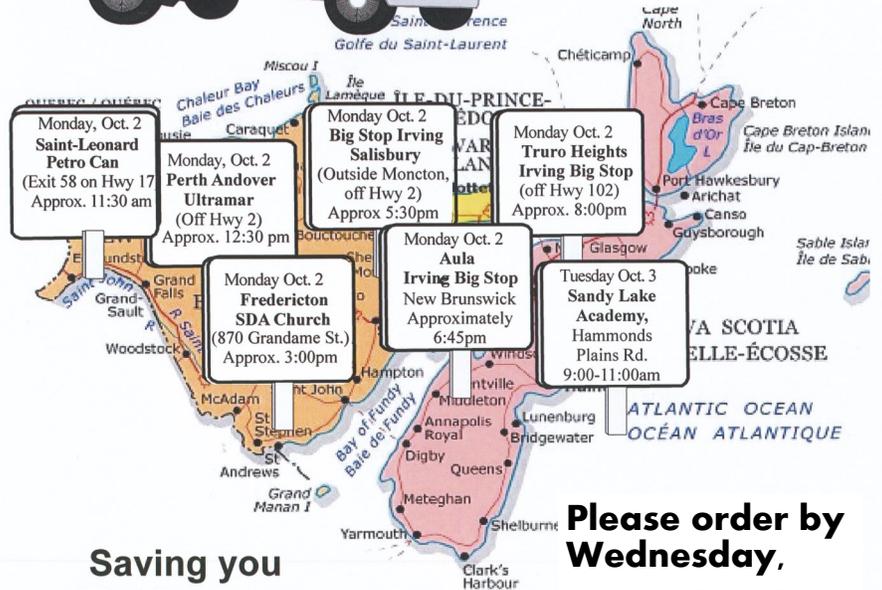
**ABC Christian Bookstore**

95 Clarence Biesenthal Dr, Oshawa, ON L1K 2H5  
Email: [store@abcchristianbookstore.com](mailto:store@abcchristianbookstore.com)  
Local 905-579-2311 Toll-Free 800-765-6955  
Fax 905-579-5686 [www.AdventistBookCenter.com](http://www.AdventistBookCenter.com)

**ABC Maritime Bookvan Deliver**



We will only be delivering items that are pre-ordered and pre-paid. You may call, fax or email your order.



**Saving you shipping costs**

**Please order by Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.**



In less than two weeks Mexico has been struck by two powerful and deadly earthquakes. Hundreds of people have already died and the death toll is expected to rise. Many buildings have been reduced to rubble. Rescue efforts are underway.

ADRA is no stranger to the destruction left behind by major earthquakes. We are delivering food, water, and other needed supplies to those affected by the earthquakes.

Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, the fleeing Rohingya, the Mexico earthquakes, the ongoing African famine.... responding to so many disasters in so short a time is straining our resources. We urgently need your help to continue to provide assistance to so many.

Please make a donation to our Emergency Response fund at <http://www.adra.ca/product/emergency-relief/>.

Your prayers and support are truly appreciated.  
Thank you for your compassion.  
James Astleford, Executive Director

**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 December 1, 2017.

**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 is available for viewing online at [www.maritimesda.com](http://www.maritimesda.com) and is the easiest way to view the Maritime Pulse.

**ATTENTION**

Have you moved? Or received a new address due to 911 servicing? Have you changed your phone number or email address?

Questions or need changes to your Messenger or Adventist World subscriptions? Contact Jullie Bannister (info below)

Please notify the Maritime Conference office immediately of any changes. It is important to notify your local church clerk also.

Send all changes to:

Maritime Conference  
121 Salisbury Road  
Moncton NB E1E 1A6

Phone 506-857-8722 Ext 201, Fax 506-853-7368 or  
Email [info@maritimesda.com](mailto:info@maritimesda.com)

**MARITIME CONFERENCE CALENDAR 2017**

<b>September</b>	Health Focus	
Sep. 10-16	Nurture Periodicals/Family Togetherness Week	
Sep. 15-17	Women's Retreat	Camp Pugwash
Sep. 16	Let's Move Day/Family Togetherness Sabbath	
Sep. 17-23	Hispanic Heritage Week/Let's Move Week	
Sep. 22-24	Pathfinder Camporee	New River Beach Park
Sep. 22-30	Bill Brace Seminar	Moncton
Sep. 23	Maritime Advance	Offering
Sep. 30	13th Sabbath-Southern Asia Div.	Offering
Sep. 30	NAD Evangelism	Offering
<b>October</b>	Adventist Heritage Focus	
Oct. 5	Clerk 3rd Qtr Statistical Report Due	Conference
Oct. 7	Children's Sabbath	
Oct. 14	SS & Church Attendance Count to be taken	
Oct. 14	Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath	
Oct. 14	Canadian Voice of Prophecy	Offering
Oct. 15	Conference Board of Directors	Conference
Oct. 21	Local Church Member Attendance Count to be taken	
Oct. 21	Pathfinder Sabbath	
Oct. 28	Local Church Member Attendance Count to be taken	
Oct. 28	Maritime Advance	Offering
Oct. 29	NAD Evangelism	Offering
<b>November</b>	Prayer Focus	
Nov. 4	Stewardship Sabbath	
Nov. 4-25	Native Heritage Month	
Nov. 5-11	Week of Prayer	
Nov. 11	Annual Sacrifice	Offering
Nov. 11	Human Relations Sabbath	
Nov. 15	National Philanthropy Day	
Nov. 18	SS & Church Attendance Count to be taken	
Nov. 18	Welcome Home Sabbath	
Nov. 25	It Is Written Sponsorship	SLA am/Moncton pm
Nov. 25	Maritime Advance	Offering
<b>December</b>	Christian Hospitality Focus	
Dec. 1	Maritime Pulse Deadline	
Dec. 2	Bible Sabbath	
Dec. 9	Adv. Min. of Compassion Cda	Offering
Dec. 10	Board of Directors Meeting	Video
Dec. 21	SLA Christmas Program	SLA
Dec. 23	Maritime Advance	Offering
Dec. 30	13th Sabbath-Euro-Asia Division	Offering
Dec. 30	Canadian Evangelism	Offering

**2017 MISSION INVESTMENT PROJECTS**

Mid-America Union and 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  
Executive 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



**CELEBRATION OF HOPE 2017**

**You're Invited!**

**December 8-10, 2017  
Asheville, North Carolina**

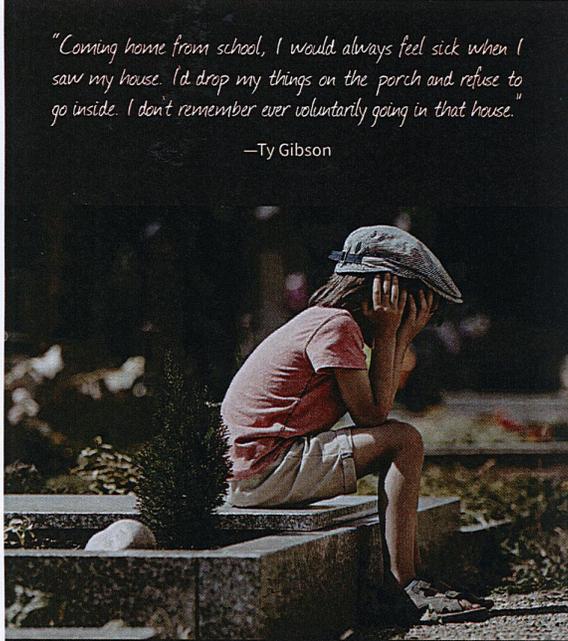
Receive more information and register online at [celebrationofhope.tv](http://celebrationofhope.tv) or by calling **301-680-5221**

Celebration of Hope is for individuals and families dedicated to partnering with Hope Channel to share God's good news for a better life today and for eternity. The weekend will be a spiritual renewal for your heart and will give you an opportunity to strengthen your commitment to sharing Jesus.  
*Featuring Mark Finley, music by Naomi Striemer, and a live Hope Sabbath School.*



*"Coming home from school, I would always feel sick when I saw my house. I'd drop my things on the porch and refuse to go inside. I don't remember ever voluntarily going in that house."*

—Ty Gibson



download the story here:  
[hopetv.org/throughtears](http://hopetv.org/throughtears)



## Adventist Public Radio

**Available TODAY in your community!**  
Christian songs, hymns, classical symphonies combined with Bible verses every 30 minutes, narrated by the best orators in the world!  
Available Online: [www.AdventistPublicRadio.com](http://www.AdventistPublicRadio.com) also Roku TV and YouTube.

Highlighted Features Include  
A creation slide show on your computer, smartphone or T.V while you listen!  
An uplifting paragraph of scripture read - every 30 minutes!  
Doug Bachelor answers two Q&A's with callers once every hour  
Adventist Preachers, bringing the message of righteousness by faith  
Inspiring music featuring the very best of Adventist artists  
New Start Healing

*Sabbath Morning*  
Invite your Church to play this station in the sanctuary before each service begin from 8am until 9:30am Atlantic to Pacific time zones.

*Evenings For Kids*  
Between 6 and 7 PM EST, we present "Children's Hour" with dramatized stories from My Bible Friends, Pilgrims Progress and Uncle Arthur's Bible Stories with music just for kids.

### Adventist Resources

**New Radio Program for Kids:**  
Discovery Mountain is a dramatized audio program where listeners experience adventure, mystery, camp fire songs and, most importantly, get to know Jesus.



Discovery Mountain launched April 19, 2017 and is a ministry of the Voice of Prophecy.  
[www.discoverymountain.com](http://www.discoverymountain.com).

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

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