

# Tidings

Impacting the World for Christ



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# Tidings

*Tidings Magazine* is published by the United Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of the Atlantic Provinces for the glory of God and to encourage each other to do good works. With roots in material circulated to Baptist women's mission groups in 1893, the first numbered and named issue as *Tidings* was in January 1894.

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Cover photo: a view of items at the Island Pregnancy Centre's Baby Boutique, Prince Edward Island.

### Editor's Niche

A large part of an editor's life is about working toward a deadline. That deadline is the summation of many things ... of launching ideas and plans months in advance, and seeing how they turn out. It's about waiting for articles to arrive, and development: emails go back and forth between a writer and the editor as phrases take their final shape. Colour and design choices, what to name articles, and making lists to be sure all is ready: these change and grow, too. Then there's the printing and mailing so that the magazine goes from being something hidden (in my computer) to be brought forth, a printed reality. Finally, one day, hopefully near the expected arrival date, *voilà!* There is the new issue in my mailbox, delivered. All because there was a deadline to meet, a magazine came forth.

A baby's birthing day is a deadline, of sorts. Everything leads up to that moment, and it's when what was hoped for comes to be held in your hands. But delivery day is just the beginning of the baby's out-of-the-womb life, isn't it? All the attention, waiting, planning, developing, and the delivery date—all that has gone into creating something unique—it's all aimed at what comes next, the life that follows. So it is with *Tidings*. Here it is, ponderings and prayer items and concepts and inspiration and potential—placed into your hands. How will you interact with it? How will it affect you? Delivery day: it's just the beginning.

Cindy MacDonald



Unsplash Filip Mroz



Impacting the World for Christ

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# ABW Newsworthy Notes ...



## ABW IMPACT: Keeping Current with ABW

Keep current with up-to-date ABW news and an inspirational devotional: **ABW IMPACT**, a free e-newsletter, is delivered direct to your email address. To subscribe, contact: [atlanticbaptistwomen@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticbaptistwomen@gmail.com)

### Atlantic Baptist Women's 2022 Home Mission Project

#### "Wonderfully Made"

ABW presents the opportunity of offering encouragement to the clients, staff, and volunteers of seven Atlantic area pregnancy centres.

For information on the ABW 2022 Home Mission Project, see the January 2022 issue of *Tidings Magazine* or visit [atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/Getinvolved](http://atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/Getinvolved).



Pixabay

## We Shall Remember Them

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### To Place a Name in We Shall Remember Them

Send the person's name, address, date of death, and age to the editor of *Tidings*. Print as well as write the information. Include your phone number.

### To Place a Name in the ABW Memorial Book

Send information to your ABW Provincial Treasurer with a memorial gift of \$5 or more. Cheques payable to Atlantic Baptist Women.

Unsplash Eric Prouzet

### Atlantic Baptist Women's 2022 Children's Mission Action Project

#### "ABW Goes Camping Again" in support of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project

Canadian Baptist Ministries has created "Smart Start," a package of educational resources that teach about poverty and justice, to be used as aids for camp leaders and for children's programs at your church.

These materials can help educate young people about generosity and engage them in fundraising efforts. Funds raised during this program go to support CBM's Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program in Rwanda.

For information on the ABW 2022 Children's Mission Action Project, see the January 2022 issue of *Tidings Magazine* or visit [atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/Getinvolved](http://atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/Getinvolved).

Find the "Smart Start" library of resources at [camps.cbmin.org](http://camps.cbmin.org).

To learn more about the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project, visit: <https://www.cbmin.org/orphans-and-vulnerable-children-ovc/>.

## Tidings Magazine

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# Upholding One Another and Extending

The small numbers preceding prayer requests serve as a daily guide for prayer.  
Prayer requests for Saturday and Sunday are combined.

## GLOBAL

<sup>1</sup>Praise God with Randy Stanton, who is Canadian Baptist Ministries' Atlantic regional representative: Canadian Baptists have donated generously to help with the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees across Europe, demonstrating a willingness to work together.



Randy Stanton

<sup>2</sup>Father God, we pray your peace on all who were forced to flee their homes in Ukraine, asking that basic necessities continue to be available to them. Instil in us, as Canadians, an awareness of those seeking refuge in our land and prompt us to reach out in love.

<sup>3</sup>King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we ask for wise decisions on the part of powerful world leaders and effective negotiations regarding the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. May rulers and individuals make every effort to overcome evil with good.

<sup>4/5</sup>Pray for the youth and leaders who gather June 4 in three Atlantic Canadian cities—Saint John and Moncton, New Brunswick, and Halifax, Nova Scotia—for the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada's ONE conference. May this event foster faith in young people in Atlantic Canada, and motivate them to live as servants of Christ at home and globally.

## LATIN AMERICA

<sup>6</sup>Plead with God for the cessation of gang violence in Haiti, for unity among the four Baptist conventions there, and for the Holy Spirit to strengthen leaders. Give thanks for a recent pastors' retreat and pray for positive effects in community leadership.



Kathryn Scott

<sup>7</sup>Kathryn Scott, a newly-appointed CBM global field staff member to Central America, is preparing for her position. Lord, we intercede for her ability to learn Spanish, CBM's local partners with whom she will minister, and her financial and prayer support.

<sup>8</sup>Trustworthy God, we ask that CBM's partners in El Salvador will put their trust in you. Giver of perfect peace, enable them to promote a spirit of peace and justice in their communities, where gang violence is on the increase.

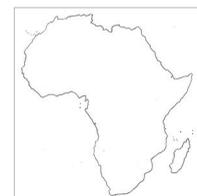
<sup>9</sup>Gracious God, we thank you with Bruno and Kathleen Soucy, CBM's team leaders for Latin America, for the faithfulness of the Bolivian partner churches and their

generosity in providing funds for CBM relief efforts to Ukraine.

<sup>10</sup>We praise you, O God, for the youth of Cuba and the Dominican Republic who are seeking stability at church. We pray that Jesus will transform their lives and give them purpose, and that families struggling economically will find employment and provision.

## AFRICA

<sup>11/12</sup>Heavenly Father, bless Darrell and Laura Lee Bustin, CBM global field staff on home assignment from Rwanda, and their families, as they celebrate the marriage of their son this weekend. Remembering Rwanda, we ask that you extend mercy to families whose children's educational needs will be met by the Orphans and Vulnerable Children project. We praise you for the donations Atlantic Baptist Women made towards this cause at interMISSION 2022.



<sup>13</sup>Omnipotent God, as our African Baptist sisters prepare for their Continental Conference in Liberia on August 14–17, 2022, empower the executive committee, the nominating and local organizing committees, as well as the incoming leadership. Protect all those travelling.

## ASIA

<sup>14</sup>Merciful God, as the unrest in Myanmar continues and inflation escalates, we plead for you to embrace the desperate Myanmar people with your mercy and peace; help them place their trust in you. Grant wisdom to leaders in Asia's Golden Triangle as they deal with ongoing COVID-19 issues.



Lilian Yang

<sup>15</sup>Pray that Lilian Yang, CBM national field staff in Northern Thailand, and the 35 recent graduates from Thailand Bethel Theological Institute will rely on God for courage and guidance as they serve him. Ask the Lord to bless Pastor Thaw Thu and Pastor Zhao with good health to continue their projects.

<sup>16</sup>We lift up those who recently attended the Integral Mission Workshop in the Baptist Church of Mizoram, India, which focused on skills training: Father, may the event assist them in addressing the issue of unemployment and its consequences.

<sup>17</sup>Caring God, we ask for wisdom and guidance for Suraj Komaravalli, CBM's team leader for India, as he reaches out

# God's Kingdom . . . through Prayer

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast,  
because they trust in you” (Isaiah 26:3, NIV).

each year to add a new partner to minister with a heart for the broken, in an area where the needs are immense. Bless the project at Circular Road Baptist Church in Kolkata for female victims of human trafficking, which offers training as tailors, cooks, or beauticians.

## HOME and ABROAD

<sup>18/19</sup>Give thanks for the digital resource recently developed by Baptist World Alliance Women to educate and equip people against domestic violence. Pray that churches and communities will respond to this global issue by utilizing this resource. Thank God for fathers who teach their children to know and love the Lord. Pray for dads who do not yet know him, and for any mothers and children who are victims of abuse.

<sup>20</sup>This is CBM's Active in Mission week. Pray that many will register to actively participate in this project whose goal is to contribute towards education programs for some of the 1.6 billion learners affected by pandemic-related school closures.



<sup>21</sup>Creator of all, we lift up Indigenous peoples in our land and ask your healing power to work in their spirits and free them from generational hurts. Lord, may your grace and truth lead the way to the future.

## ATLANTIC CANADA

<sup>22</sup>We praise you, O God, for the clients who seek help for unexpected pregnancies at the Open Door Centre in Halifax. Thank you, Lord, for Director Heather Harman, her staff of volunteers, and the newly-opened Bay B Boutique. Guide clients in their decision making, give the staff wisdom, bring customers to the boutique, and provide necessary furnishings for another outlet in North Dartmouth.

<sup>23</sup>Pray that the annual Steps of Hope fundraiser for the Pregnancy Resource Center of Saint John, held June 11, will encourage the centre because of the funds raised. Provide, Lord, a summer student grant and clear direction regarding an off-site location in Rothesay.

<sup>24</sup>Compassionate God, we lift up the clients and caring counsellors at the Island Pregnancy Centre on Prince Edward Island. We ask that you provide needed board members, volunteers in hospitality, child care, and mentoring, plus 22 new monthly donors in 2022.



Unsplash: Mon Petit Chou Photography

<sup>25/26</sup>Gracious God, we bring before you our sister in Christ, the executive director of Atlantic Baptist Women, who is currently on medical leave. We ask that you completely cure her and strengthen her to enjoy her daughter's August wedding. And, we pray you would provide refreshment over the summer to professors and students from Acadia Divinity College of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and Crandall University of Moncton, New Brunswick.

<sup>27</sup>Father in heaven, we pray that youth attending church camps and Vacation Bible Schools this summer would come to know you personally and give their hearts to you. Protect them and bestow a blessing on the leaders ministering to them.

## EUROPE

<sup>28</sup>Thank You, God, for your leading in the lives of Yuanchuan Ye and Ming Gao, CBM field staff in Germany, and for their two small children. Help Chuan and Ming trust you totally as they relocate in August and begin to minister in a new city, believing you to oversee their flock they will leave behind.



Yuanchuan Ye  
and Ming Gao

## THE WORLD

<sup>29</sup>Sovereign God, as Sri Lanka faces the worst economic downturn in decades, we beg you to intervene, giving public officials courage to speak out, the people restraint from anger, and Christians there hope and peace.

<sup>30</sup>We are grateful, Lord, that eased restrictions have enabled the Baptist World Alliance's Annual Gathering to be held July 10–15, 2022. We ask for the Spirit's anointing over this strategic gathering in Birmingham, Alabama. With Baptists worldwide, we pray on behalf of suffering churches in Eastern Europe—Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bosnia, and Herzegovina—asking you to help them remain faithful under persecution, testifying to your healing power.



Elaine Huntington

Sources: Baptist World Alliance One in Prayer, CBM Prayerline, CBM staff updates and blogs, and private emails.

# "Be" Attitudes

by Bonnie Benson  
ABW Past President

Unsplash - Amy Lynn Grover



When I was asked to do an article for *Tidings*, my first response was, "Not me, Lord." Writing articles was, for me, the most difficult of the tasks of being president of Atlantic Baptist Women. I

could speak, lead a business session, chat with the delegates at ABW's annual interMISSION—do almost anything but write. Someone mentioned, "Why did the editor ask you? There are a lot of past presidents." She said this not to belittle me but she understood my trepidation and struggles. But with God's help and your open mindedness, I will attempt to express the thoughts God has given me.

I have titled these thoughts as "Be Attitudes." First Peter 3:15b states, "And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always **be ready** to explain it." My first "be" is to be ready. With so much anxiety and fearfulness in the world today, we need to be ready to explain the reason for our hope and trust in a loving God. It's so easy to tell someone *I will be thinking of you*, but more difficult to say *I'll pray for you*. In the future, let's **be courageous**: remember how God instructed Joshua several times to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:6–9).

Several years ago, I spent days in the hospital with a deep vein thrombosis (blood clot) that confined me to my bed without even bathroom privileges. It was a really humbling and difficult time. I was led by the Holy Spirit to Psalm 46, one of my favourites, which I had memorized as a high school student. Psalm 46:10a declares, "**Be still**, and know that I am God!" (NLT). I analyzed that command, "Be still," in my position in the hospital, as I could literally do nothing else. God spoke volumes to me as I was still before him, listening and waiting. Jesus spoke, "Be still," and the winds and the waves obeyed him (Mark 4:39a). We need to take time to be still in his presence and listen, and then obey.

Have you ever gone online to research a topic? I recently searched the Internet to find the words to a song I wanted to quote, but before



Unsplash - Jeremy Hynes

long an ad popped up about a miracle pill to reduce body fat and give us that slim, trim look. That ad was pages long and I finally said, "Enough," and shut it down. I opened my Bible for my devotions and the Scripture passage to read was from 1 Corinthians 15:51–52. Paul wrote, "But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed. It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye.... And we who are living will also be transformed" (NLT). I laughed at God's sense of humour. Yes, we will **be transformed**, but even now we can live as transformed people, changed by the matchless grace of Jesus. We can **be thankful** in all things, perhaps not for all things, but with God's strength and support we have the blessed hope that all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them (Romans 8:28).



Unsplash Addy Badal

several verses to various churches and to us today about being purposeful. Our purpose is to glorify God in whatever we do (1 Corinthians 10:31). Just a few weeks ago, a lady stated to me that because she wasn't a scholar, a teacher, or a leader that she lacked purpose. I reminded her that she had the highest calling of all because she was a faithful, devoted mother. Through her example, her family could see Christ living in her. There is no greater purpose than to glorify God. So let's **be purposeful**, determined to bring glory to God, whether it's by changing diapers, washing dishes, or lending a listening ear.

I will end with a quote from Warren Wiersbe who wrote a series of books on "be" (*Be Obedient, Be Strong, Be Worshipful*, etc.): "If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory." And I will add that we will **be victorious** through Christ who gives us the strength.

May all praise and glory be his, today and always.



The next set of "be" statements I will gather in the hive of hospitality: **be loving, be kind, be respectful, and be prepared**. Even before the Old Testament law was given, there are instances of the entertaining of strangers (Genesis 18:2, and Hebrews 13:2 reinforces the point.) Paul taught in Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8, and 1 Peter 4:9 to practise hospitality. We are seeing opportunities to do this as people are fleeing their countries and immigrating to Canada. First Peter 4:9 encourages us to, "Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay." Perhaps you're not in a position to entertain in your home, but you can still be hospitable to those who come to visit you. If your home is in a care situation, be kind and supportive of the staff caring for you; a friendly smile, a compliment, and a cheerful attitude will encourage them.

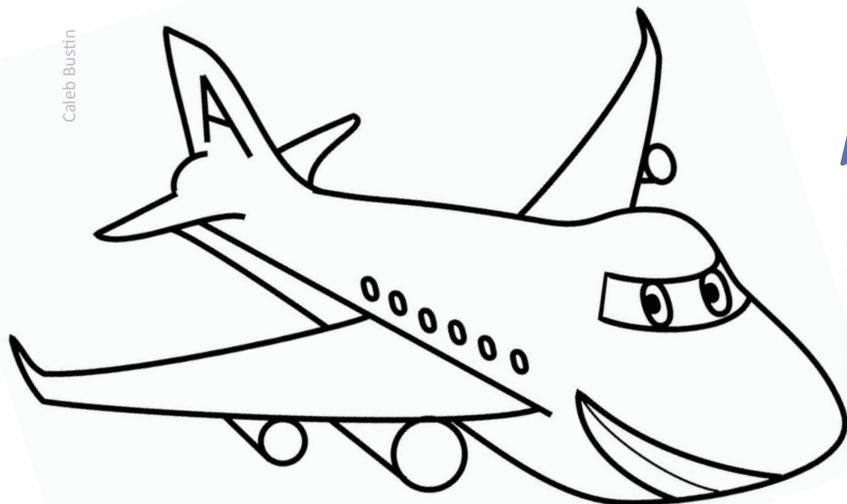
Have you ever struggled finding your purpose? Ever wondered, "What on earth am I here for?" Paul wrote



Unsplash Ilana Grostern

Be  
ready 

Caleb Bustin

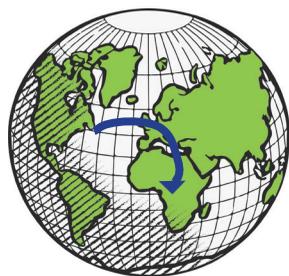


# Adventure Time with Ace the Airplane

by Bronwyn Bustin

## Take-Off

Hey everyone! It's great to see you again! My name is Ace the Airplane, and I am so pleased that you're coming along on an adventure with me! Every month we travel somewhere different and get to visit some pretty amazing people all around the world. Are you ready to go? Our journey today is going to take us to the heart of Africa! Are you as excited as I am? *Here we go!*

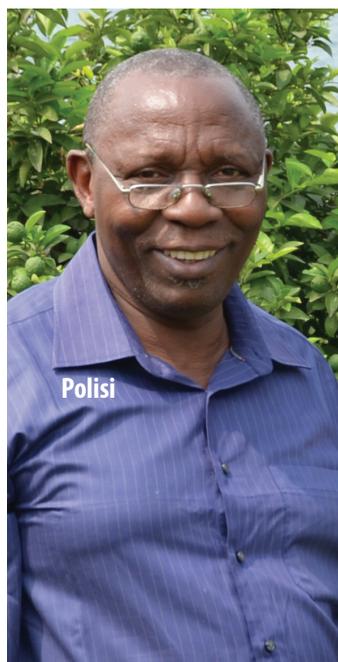


Pixabay / M. Maggs

or young adults have physical or mental disabilities, they find it very, very hard to be able to work to support themselves. To make it even worse, often times they are treated badly by the people around them, even their own family. This makes these young people feel discouraged, useless, and unloved.

So, several years ago, the Baptist churches in this area opened the centre in order to help and empower young people with special needs. Polisi can explain it to us: "At this centre, young people with physical disabilities are taught a skill that can be used to earn some money so they can care for themselves." That sounds like a great thing to do, doesn't it?

## The Trip



Polisi

To reach our destination today, we're going to have to stop at several airports on the way there. But finally, it looks like we are arriving. This is the city of Butembo. It is a small city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That man coming toward us with the big smile is Polisi Kivava. He is a Congolese man who has worked with CBM since 2019. Polisi has a big heart, especially for people who face many struggles in life.

Today he is taking us to the Dr. Rohland Diaconal Centre. In Congo, when teenagers

Oh, look: Polisi wants to introduce us to one of the young men in the program. "This is Dieumerci," Polisi says. "He is only able to use one arm. That has made his life very hard. But here at the centre, he has learned how to make wooden boards flat and smooth using a tool. When the carpenters he works with need a board made smooth, they just bring it to Dieumerci who works away using his new skills to make it a nice, flat board that the carpenters can use." This makes him want to say, "Thank you, God," which is exactly what his name means in French!



Dieumerci



After Dieumerci prepares boards to make them smooth, others in the workshop can use them in their projects. These men, who are deaf, are working together to make a table.

It's time to say goodbye to Dieumerci, Polisi, and the rest of the young people at this centre in Butembo. But they certainly have given us a lot to think about, haven't they? OK, buckle up your seatbelt for our return home.

## Return Flight

This experience has made me think of one of the proverbs that we find in the Bible. In Proverbs 3:27, God tells us, "**Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help**" (International Children's Bible). In order to obey this verse, we need to have eyes and hands that work together. Why do we need our eyes? Because the first thing we must do is to be able to see people who have needs. Often, we are so focused on our own lives that it is easy to miss the way that people we meet could use our help. It's only when we start to look around at others that God can help us see the needs they have. In Butembo, most people thought the young people with disabilities were useless and in the way. But the Baptists there opened their eyes and saw that these were people who needed help.

However, after we use our eyes, then we also need to use our hands. God not only wants us to see those who are having struggles. He also wants us to do something about it. God wants us to put our thoughts into actions. In 1 John 3:18 it says, "**My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do**" (International Children's Bible). For the Baptists in Butembo, that means running the centre where these young men and women with special needs can be given skills so that they can help themselves.

Remember that God says, "**Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help.**" How can we use our eyes and hands so that we can obey what God is telling us to do?

## Back on the Ground

We just said that we need to have eyes and hands that work together. Let's try this fun activity together to help remind us about our eyes and hands.

Get a friend to sit facing you, about an arm's length away. Now follow these steps.

- ⊙ Close or cover one eye.
- ⊙ Have the friend hold up one finger.
- ⊙ With one finger pointing down, try to touch your fingertip to the finger of your friend.

What happened? Did you touch your friend's finger on the first try, or did it take you two or three tries? Now try to do the same thing again, but this time do it with both eyes open. Did that make a difference? After you have done this, switch and allow your friend to try it.

Often what happens when we use only one eye is that our finger reaches either too close or too far. But with both eyes open, usually it is a lot easier to touch the tip of our finger to the finger of our friend. This shows us what happens when our eyes and hands don't work together (when we use just one eye), and then how much better it is when they do work together (when we use both eyes).

## Share Your Adventure with Others!

Before you head home, let's think about how we can share our adventure with others!

**1.** Try using your eyes to spot the needs of the people around you: at home, at school, with your friends. Keep a list for one day of all those people. How many can you see?



**2.** Don't stop with just your eyes; use your hands as well. Choose one of those people you saw and find a way to help with the need. And, when you do, tell them about the people at the centre in Butembo that you learned about, who help the young men and women with special needs.

*Thanks for coming along on our journey today! See you again next time!*

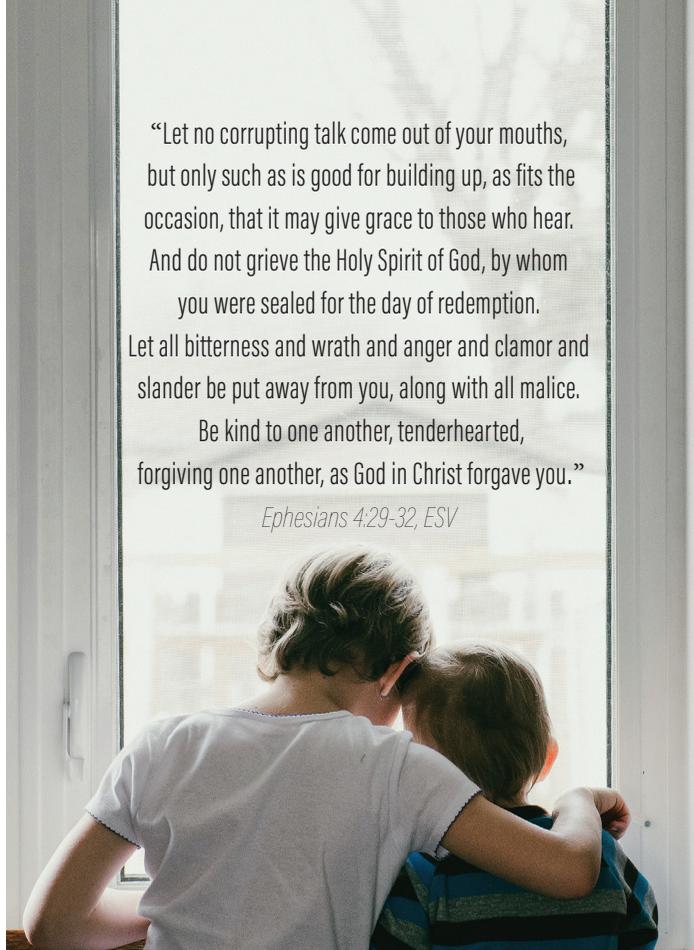
Sources: interview with Polisi Kivava, March 2022.

# A Child Shall Lead Them

by Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell

These days we are reflecting a little on the last two years of life during the COVID pandemic, and when recounting memories of our experiences, they sound more like a science fiction movie than real life. My ringside seat was observing the comings and goings inside of a private Christian school. Each set of COVID restrictions and guidelines in New Brunswick brought new experiences: red, yellow, and green phases, and my favourite, orange. (Remember in kindergarten when we learned that yellow and red make orange?) Masks on, masks off, testing, isolation, vaccines—these kinds of mandates made some feel safe and made others angry. I have the inbox messages to prove it.

The real heroes? The kids. I had the opportunity to ride out the months since early 2020 in a school with kids between the ages of 5 and 18. At the school where I am the principal, the students come from a variety of backgrounds and many differences of opinion on pandemic issues have been evident. But, with most of the students, the friendships never faltered. Many made new friends during this time as our school's enrolment



Unsplash Jess Zoerb

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

*Ephesians 4:29-32, ESV*

began breaking records during the pandemic.

Students from two health zones attend the school. During one phase in the fall of 2020, for a short period of time, students from one of the zones were required to wear masks during classes while the majority of the school's students were not. I remember that a few students who were not required to mask wore theirs out of solidarity. I can think of kids who were vaccinated, yet were willing to set aside their thoughts during special events in order to accommodate kids who were not vaccinated.

While I was fielding phone calls and answering emails from concerned adults, the kids fostered and cared for their relationships with each other. I have mentioned this to a few people and they

have responded that this phenomenon was probably because the kids were not directly wired into the concerns of the day.

Hmmm ... and there it is. That is why the kids are my heroes. The concerns of adulthood crowd in and make us the responsible people we are, yet I don't think our differences on vaccines or mandates should hijack our relationships with family and friends. Jesus commands us to love our neighbour; shouldn't that include every variety of opinion on the issues around us?

I have been convicted more than once during the last two years to live out the words of Ephesians 4. Sayings around “kindness” have popped up many places in the last little

while. I have seen, “In a world where you can be anything, be kind,” in a number of places on my Facebook feed and in the world of advertising. This sentiment is true, however, as we direct our next generation towards the things of Christ, we understand that there is more to it than just “being kind.” Ephesians 4 gives the deeper meaning behind why we hold this value as a society. We understand that we are commanded to forgive others as Christ forgave us. That is a ride on the humility train. When I remember who I am outside of my loving Saviour, everything comes into perspective.

The young people in my life have provided the example on how to treat others during this worldwide pandemic. I am thankful for their example and the courage they demonstrated. As ministries start back up in our churches, I trust that we, as adults, can continue with programming to minister to their hearts and minds, along with ours. We have all been put through the refiner's fire and my prayer is that our faith is stronger because of it.



Marsha Boyd-Mitchell is the executive director of Christian Action Federation of NB Inc. and principal of Sussex Christian School.

## No Spiritual "Peter Pans"



by Rev. Wanda Lawrence

*"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."  
1 Peter 2:2-3, NLT*

Unsplash - Filip Mroz

In writing to an audience of Jews and Gentiles, Peter encourages growth in salvation. Once we are saved, our journey has only just begun (1 Peter 2:2–3). Therefore, Peter encourages us to live an intentional life, ridding ourselves of things that delay our growth (verse 1) and that keep us from loving each other (1:22).

But this is only half of the journey; the *other half* is to "crave pure spiritual milk." We must have a desire for and partake of spiritual food through God's Word, which results in our developing good habits. That, in turn, results in our spiritual growth. People who never want to grow up are said to have a Peter Pan condition, which is described as one's inability to believe they are of an older age, or that someone fails to engage in behaviour usually associated with adulthood. The term comes from the fictional children's character, Peter Pan, who never ages.

We, as children of God, need to ensure we don't develop this condition in our spiritual growth. Staying as babes in Christ Jesus will have an influence on our relationship with Jesus, because we need to gain knowledge of who Jesus is so we can deepen our relationship with him. This intimacy will allow us to represent his ways. We must be intentional about working towards our spiritual maturity and take hold of the resources God has provided for us to do so.

One characteristic most children share is that they want to grow up to be a big brother or big sister, or to be like their parents. I see the motivation in my eldest granddaughter to learn more, so that she can teach and help her younger siblings excel. This motivation is born out of love. When we are born again, we become spiritual newborn babies. If we are healthy, we will have a desire to grow. Our love for our Lord God should also result in a motivation to learn and grow in Jesus Christ our

Lord and Saviour, exemplifying to all our knowledge and closeness. But how sad it is that some people never grow up. They can have a spiritual Peter Pan complex, wanting to be in God's presence, but reluctant to grow and mature as Christians. We know that the need for milk is a natural instinct for a baby and it signals the desire of nourishment that will indeed lead to growth. Once we understand our need for God's Word and begin to find nourishment in Jesus the Christ, our spiritual appetite will increase and we will start to mature.

Allow me to quote author Philip Yancey: "Human beings grow by striving, working, stretching; and in a sense, human nature needs problems more than solutions. Why are not all prayers answered magically and instantly? Why must every convert travel the same tedious path of spiritual discipline? Because persistent prayer, and fasting, and study, and meditation are designed primarily for our sakes, not for God's."

And Yancey continues: "Kierkegaard said that Christians reminded him of schoolboys who want to look up the answers to their math problems in the back of the book rather than work them through... We yearn for shortcuts. But shortcuts usually lead away from growth, not toward it. Apply the principle directly to Job: what was the final result of the testing he went through? As Rabbi Abraham Heschel observed, 'Faith like Job's cannot be shaken because it is the result of having been shaken.'"<sup>1</sup>



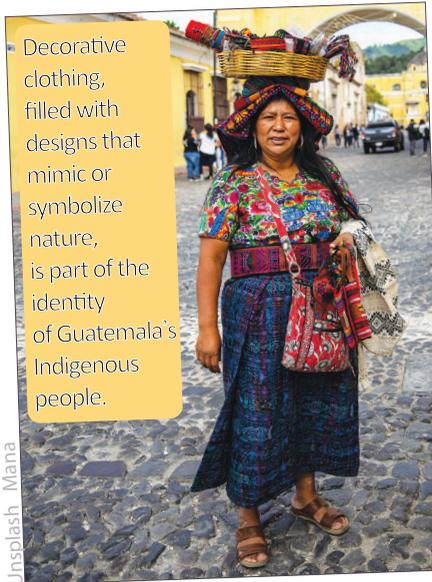
Pixabay

### Reflection Time:

- How strong is my desire to study and grow spiritually?
- Am I intentional to attend the Bible studies and prayer meetings of the church?
- How much time do I spend in personal study and prayer, allowing me to grow spiritually?

1. Philip Yancey, *Disappointment with God: Three Questions No One Asks Aloud* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1988), pp. 207–8.

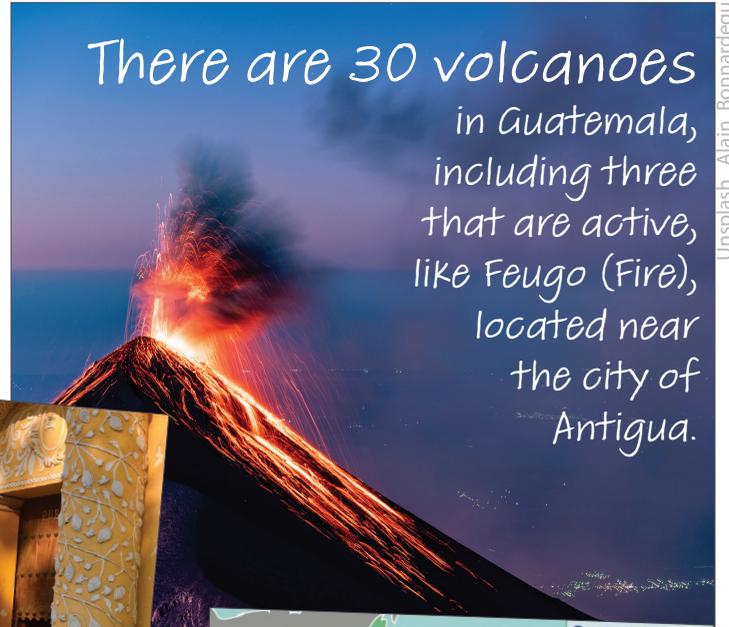
# Guatemala



Unsplash - Mana

Decorative clothing, filled with designs that mimic or symbolize nature, is part of the identity of Guatemala's Indigenous people.

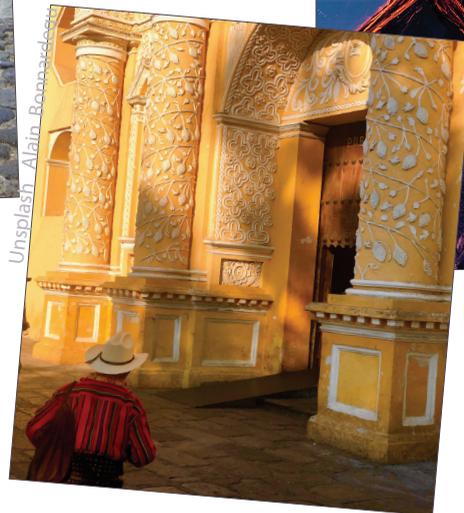
Spanish is the official language of Guatemala. The country recognizes **over 20 Mayan Indigenous languages**. Many of the local people speak only their Indigenous language.



Unsplash - Alain - Bonnardtequ

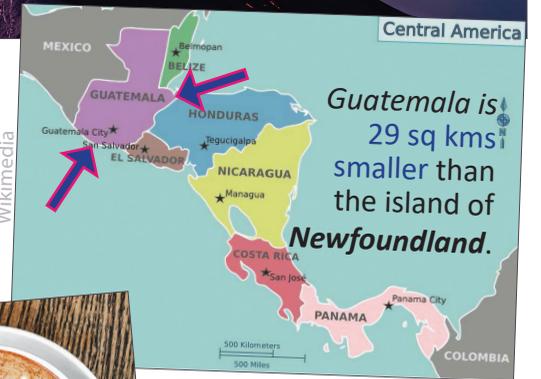
There are 30 volcanoes in Guatemala, including three that are active, like Feugo (Fire), located near the city of Antigua.

**La Merced Church** in Antigua was originally built in the 1700s but was destroyed twice by earthquakes. Today's rebuilt structure, now a museum, still holds some 16th century artifacts.



Unsplash - Alain - Bonnardtequ

*Guatemala is still affected by the 1960–1996 civil war in which an estimated 200,000 citizens died. The country struggles with violence, poverty, crime, unemployment, and government corruption.*



Wikimedia

Guatemala is 29 sq kms smaller than the island of **Newfoundland**.



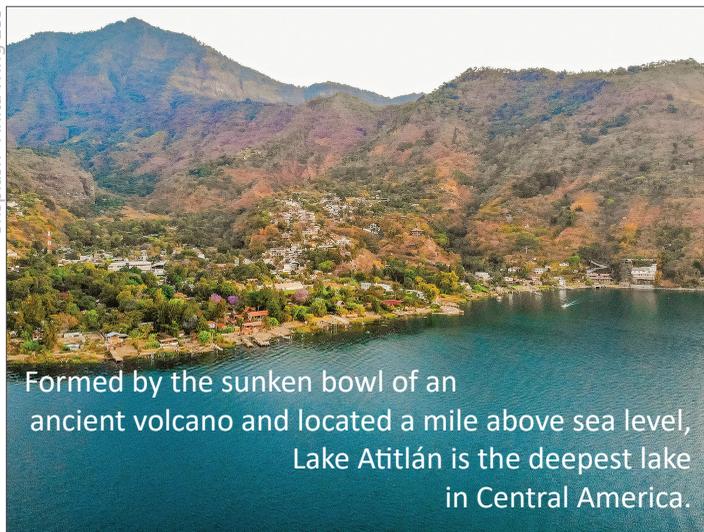
Unsplash - Phil Desforges

Volcanic soil grows world-famous coffee, the country's largest export. Guatemala ranks #7 of the top 10 global coffee producers.

Over 5000 pre-Columbian archeological sites in the country give evidence of many Mayan Kingdoms predating the Spanish conquistadors.



Pixabay



Unsplash - Anita Wing Lee

Formed by the sunken bowl of an ancient volcano and located a mile above sea level, Lake Atitlán is the deepest lake in Central America.



## An Interview with **Kathryn Scott**

Canadian Baptist Ministries  
Global Field Staff to Guatemala  
September 2022

***Kathryn, tell us about where you live and work now. What do you love about the job you've been doing?***

I currently am living in Fredericton, New Brunswick, and I am a third grade teacher at Fredericton Christian Academy. I love the relationships I've been able to develop with the staff and students. It's been great to see my students learn and grow as I work with them daily. Also, working at a Christian school, I love being able to teach and share more about Jesus. We have been working through the whole Bible during the school year.

***What draws you to missions in a country other than Canada?***

Seeing and being a part of how God is at work in the world has been a passion of mine since I was a child. I have been very fortunate to be able to serve in different faith communities which have given me opportunities to grow as I served here in Atlantic Canada and also supported me as I participated in different short-term missions experiences.

In university, I started to feel that the Lord was calling me into ministry

and as I continued to serve, I came to realize that my passion was for global discipleship. Each opportunity to learn and serve overseas brought more clarity to what I felt God was leading me into. My experiences with Canadian Baptist Ministries' SENT Intensive program in the Philippines and Kamp Tumaini in Kenya helped me to grow a deeper understanding of the work that CBM does, which helped as I discerned where God was calling me.

***What will you be doing in Central America?***

Initially, I will focus on language learning (Spanish) as it is a necessity in the work happening with the partners. I will also be supporting the partners in Central America and contributing to CBM's overall ministry in the region. I look forward to getting my feet on the ground and seeing how God is at work in these areas and where I can partner with him in what he's doing. I would love to share with any Atlantic Baptist Women's groups or churches about my work in the region and update as plans get closer.



***Has there been someone who inspired your heart toward Christian work?***

There have been many people who have been influential in my life as I felt the call to ministry. I think of so many people who have supported me on this journey. One person would be my grandmother, Teresa Woodward. She was a faithful supporter and member of her guild. Though she was sick for the majority of my life before she passed, I know that I had a grandmother who was praying for workers to be sent out in the harvest. There is a lovely photo of my mother giving my grandmother a Dominion Life pin, which symbolized her interest in missions and linked her with other Canadian Baptist Women. At the time, my mother was pregnant with me. Before I was even born, I know the Lord was weaving together his plan and I am thankful for the faithful women who have prayed bold prayers that have led to this moment in my life. Be encouraged that your prayers and the legacy of faithfulness is an example to the next generation in ways you may never fully know.

***How can people be praying for you as you prepare to serve in Guatemala?***

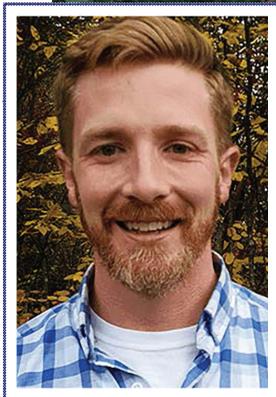
Please be praying:

- ▶ For my ability to learn Spanish.
- ▶ For strength, wisdom, and clarity of mind for myself and the partners in Central America.
- ▶ That I would have open ears and an open heart as I listen to the Lord's leading, especially in this transitional time.
- ▶ That churches and individuals would partner with me in prayer and financial support as I serve in Central America.

*If you, your church, or your Atlantic Baptist Women's group would like to hear more from Kathryn, please contact her by email at [kscott@cbmin.org](mailto:kscott@cbmin.org). ♦*

*With thanks to Louise Hannem.*

# What I've Learned from Parenting During the Pandemic



## What should our churches keep in mind as we support the spiritual formation of children?

by Dan Pyke  
Director, Youth & Family Ministries  
Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada



One of our children recently celebrated his third pandemic birthday, which reminded my wife and me that we've spent more than two years going through an intense season of isolation, social distancing, mandates, etc. Each one of us has lost a lot over the last couple of years, and a recent conversation with a good friend reminded me of this as she lamented the loss of meaningful relationships with adults for her children.

The last two years have meant that the responsibility of discipling children to follow Jesus has largely been carried by parents, often without the support of our local churches. As parents, some of us have done a combination

of online content and frenzied family devotions, amidst a growing sense of being overwhelmed.

While there are advantages to programs such as Sunday school and midweek events, nothing can ever replace the role of parents and guardians pointing their children to Jesus. As I reflect on my own experiences as a parent in the pandemic, here are two of my observations that I hope churches consider.

### **Spiritual formation happens best in community**

Throughout the pandemic, I was reminded of the value of having other people speak into the lives of my children. Early on, a few families

in our church began gathering together as we recognized the importance of doing life together. We began what we called, "Family Church," and we met for prayer and communion. We ate together, picked apples, or had bonfires. As a young family with no extended family around us, this group became invaluable to us.

In *Forming Resilient Children*, Holly Catterton Allen writes, "Children have an innate, God-bestowed spirituality that is their greatest source of resilience. However, they need adults to come around them and support that intrinsic spiritual quality."<sup>1</sup> This doesn't mean that a church-organized program is the best place for an adult to support a child. Our children grew in faith by interacting regularly with these "Family Church" adults in informal settings. Our children came to see these families as an extension of our own, and learned these adults were affirming their value and worth, and pointing them towards Jesus.

A recent communication from a church urgently appealing for volunteers indicated that the children had "no Christian education for almost 2 years," and there was "catching up to do." While I appreciate the sentiment this church was conveying, it seemed to place all the responsibility for their children's spiritual formation on a program. However, so much meaningful interaction happens outside of a formal program.

As churches come out of the heaviest restrictions, I encourage us to be thinking about how we can build meaningful community around our children.

- *What would it look like to not always dismiss the children for a Sunday morning program, but to develop a new pattern of worship that is intergenerational?*
- *How can your church foster informal relationships between adults and children?*

## Support Family Habits

A frequently quoted passage for family ministry comes from Deuteronomy 6:6–9, where it reminds us to impress the commandments on your children (verse 7a). Within this passage is the understanding that faith formation happens when families have regular rhythms and habits and look to everyday moments to point children towards Jesus.

In the absence of full schedules, I heard many families talk about how much they appreciated the extra time they had with their children. We all need to eat, and our meals can be meaningful times to have conversations. Travelling together allows for informal dialogue. Bedtime is another opportunity that families can

use to read Scripture or devotions together, and end the day in prayer.

As parents, we want our children to follow Jesus. As leaders, we want to see our church's children following Jesus their whole lives. By establishing faith practices and rhythms in our homes, children will see how their family is shaped by the story of God and the person of Jesus. Early in the pandemic, our family spent Sunday mornings overlooking the Wolastoq River, and practising a habit of family blessing, where we took turns praying words of affirmation over one another.

Brett Ullman reminds parents, “If your kids see you living out your Christian faith honestly and actively, they’re more likely to seek out their own relationship with Jesus. Living out

your faith means that it shows in the way you behave, make decisions, and speak about your kids and others.”<sup>2</sup> It’s never easy to be parents, and life in a pandemic has brought all kinds of unexpected and unwanted challenges. However, I still believe that one of the greatest lessons in this season is for churches to affirm the role of parents as primary disciplers.

So church leaders, we need to develop communities that love children, and point parents to strategies that help equip them to be the primary disciplers in their homes.

→ *What is your church’s strategy to support parents as they raise children to know Jesus?*

→ *How do you remind parents that they are capable and called to raise their children to follow Jesus?*



I really believe that if churches can provide meaningful opportunities for intergenerational connection, while supporting parents as primary disciplers, then the spiritual formation of our children will be stronger and longer-lasting. Our programs should be a path that supports these two goals, and not the final goal in itself. Let’s not restart our programs because that’s what we’ve always done and so that’s what we need to do. Let’s develop programs and strategies that support the spiritual formation of our children through meaningful community and at-home practices of faith. ♦

### References

1. Holly Catterton Allen, *Forming Resilient Children: The Role of Spiritual Formation for Healthy Development* (Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 2021), p. 13.
2. Brett Ullman, *Parenting: Navigating Everything* (Winnipeg, MB: Word Alive Press, 2020), p.120.

## Dr. Anna Robbins

### President, Acadia Divinity College

Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, is the seminary of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada and the Faculty of Theology for Acadia University. Tidings Magazine invited ADC President Dr. Anna Robbins, who also serves as the Dean of Theology for Acadia University, to answer some questions.



**Q:** What “tides” do you sense are running through today’s culture?

**A:** Most of the shifting tides in culture aren’t new, rather, the pandemic either accelerated or magnified what was already happening. An increase in technology and technological engagement is an obvious example. The multiple ways of connecting and communicating are significant for us as individuals and churches.

However, we also find ourselves in a time of transition in faith communities, questioning the ways things have been done, wondering if church fits our understanding of ourselves. The influence of post-modernism by way of fragmentation and competition for truth is playing out in social media and leading to a rejection of the big stories that have traditionally shaped our world and given us meaning. As the big stories fragment, we find ourselves deconstructing faith, and polarizing theologically and politically. Some then seek for meaning in pushing a particular political or social agenda; others by looking to create an idealized version of the past. The danger is quarreling and demise. The opportunity is fresh connection and a rediscovery of kingdom values.

**Q:** Some may feel discouraged about how culture is shifting. What gives you hope as you look at Baptist church culture in Atlantic Canada?

**A:** I know that the kingdom of God will continue to be built whether I’m part of it or not, whether I see it or not. The exciting thing is that God invites us to be part of what he’s doing.

Traditional church may be in decline, but Jesus isn’t going anywhere—he is just as much here today as he was 2000 years ago. But are we paying attention? Even if it seems people aren’t finding God in church, they’re still looking. He’s still around and still at work. But we need to identify

where God is at work. That demands that we put aside all the things we thought were important about being church. Our job is to be a disciple and to make other disciples. That’s it. You don’t need anything special to do that other than your faith and an ear for the Spirit’s leading. Churches and communities who have grasped this become bright lights of hope.

**Q:** Why consider theology as a career choice or an opportunity to enhance spiritual depth?

**A:** I never saw studying theology as a career choice. It’s something that God elicits a passion within you that can’t be quelled. Because of that, it’s not so much a choice but a compulsion that

the Lord gives you, and you absolutely must pursue it, even if you don’t know where it will lead.

In an evolving world, studying theology for any Christian is never a bad thing. We live very complex lives and people have complex questions. We don’t do them justice if we’re not equipped to think well about how we approach and interpret Scripture, to think well about how God is active in his world, and to think well about the future and the past. Studying theology equips us to do that.

Above all, for those who are called to leadership in churches and elsewhere, appropriate preparation is essential. You don’t climb a mountain without surveying the landscape and making sure you have the right gear and know how to use it. Similarly, resilient and flexible leadership is not possible without understanding the cultural landscape, how to lead within it, and knowing who you are becoming in the process.

**Q:** How is ADC’s new strategic vision drawing the college forward?

**A:** The four areas of focus that we’ve identified in our strategic vision have emerged both from a sense of where God is leading the church for the future, and what ADC needs to do to equip leaders for leading today and tomorrow. We want to be institutionally strong and creatively innovative as a leading seminary in Canada.



**ACADIA**  
**DIVINITY COLLEGE**  
*Equipping Christians to Serve*

To make the most of opportunities in an ever-changing world, *Building Our Base* is about increasing institutional strength through faculty development, establishing financial stability, and building a foundation that empowers us to fulfil our mission.

We are committed to *Engaging Our Place* by recognizing our context to make a fresh impact, locally and globally, and by developing our theological voice through initiatives like East Coast Theology.

*Extending Our Embrace* is about ensuring that we're not simply representing what is familiar and comfortable to us but that we're including all of God's people.

*Setting the Pace* is a commitment to innovation. We will establish a Futuring Hub, which will facilitate networks, curate information, and conduct research on trends and developments that will help us imagine and prepare for the future life of the church and the seminary. We will experiment, together with churches, to develop fresh approaches to theological education and equipping for ministry.

**Q:** *ADC's strategic vision document says, "Through a ministry of justice and reconciliation, we aim to widen access to theological education to all who are called, wherever in the world they are located." Can you expand on this?*

**A:** God calls people from everywhere, and sometimes there are barriers preventing people from stepping into education for leadership. To address physical barriers, we offer all our courses in a hybrid format. This means that people who previously found accessing theological education difficult or impossible can now access it wherever they are in the world.

We are learning to walk well with Indigenous partners and people of African descent, and learning other ways that women and men have been excluded from theological education. This leads to structural changes in our faculty and curriculum.

We are committed to widening access to theological education not only by addressing physical barriers, but also by increasing scholarships for international students, those of meagre means, and underrepresented groups, thereby making an education at ADC affordable so students don't leave with an over-sized burden of debt as they go into ministry.

**Q:** *COVID-19 has been hard on those in pastoral ministry. How has ADC worked to help foster an awareness of paying attention to mental health?*

**A:** Before the pandemic, in the first year of my presidency, I did a listening tour involving churches from across our region. Even then, the message I was hearing from local congregations, leaders, and pastors is that we are in a mental health crisis. They expressed a deep concern for how they were going to manage this load and equip their own churches to be places where mental health issues are not simply addressed, but where people are cared for in a way that is genuinely nurturing of faith.

I took that to heart and intentionally wove that into our strategic vision. We want to set the pace in how pastors engage with mental health by equipping students with tools to understand their own mental health. From our 2021 Simpson Lectures—which focused on caring for people with mental health challenges and promoting mental well-being in church congregations—to introducing new curriculum and appointing a new faculty member with decades of mental health expertise, the college is just getting started in addressing the topic of mental health and equipping churches to respond effectively.

**Q:** *How is ADC helping its students think about who they are becoming as leaders?*

**A:** I believe the way that Christian leaders influence their generation for Jesus is by being people of integrity. Our curriculum reflects this by being both intellectual and intentionally formative of character and leadership.

We want to equip our students to identify and use their gifts as God has equipped and called them. We want them to understand who they are, who they're not, and to know their capacities and their limitations. It's too easy for leaders to become a consumer product with a branded persona. We want to help our students navigate the very real challenges they'll face in today's culture, and to know their identity is firmly rooted in Christ. This happens in class, in chapel, in small groups, in conversation, in fun activities, and in personal study. It's relational and intentional throughout the life of the college.

**Q:** *In your role as president, what brings you joy?*

**A:** I have the opportunity to shape an institution that is preparing leaders for the church of today and tomorrow. It's hugely humbling and such a wonderful challenge.

Of course, the best moment of the year is Commissioning, when we get to pray and send out our graduates. I know they are going to make a huge impact for Christ in the world, and to have the opportunity to journey with them, and to be part of the administrative structure that makes it possible, is an overwhelmingly joyful reality. ♦



## HATING YOUR ENEMY BACK cannot solve the problem



by Dan Grove

*Dan and Melody Grove lived and worked in Cameroon for several years, helping in the translation of the Bible into local languages.*

I would close my bloodshot eyes to sleep but only saw lines of refugees carrying what meager possessions they could on their backs—usually a mattress and some pots. As I rolled over, exhausted, I saw the flashbacks of burnt-out houses, the metal roofing melted except for a “skirt” around the outside of the crumbled, mud blocks of the houses where the flames hadn’t reached. Fruit trees had been chopped off and wells plugged with refuse. The remaining parts of any walls still standing were marked black by the passing flames as wisps curled up from the ash piles that used to be furniture or window frames.

A neighbouring people group had attacked without provocation, their king boasting he would make the people group that Melody and I then lived among in Cameroon a quarter or subdivision of his own. As I write these words of that “little” war (no war is little for those who go through it) in Bambalang, the news of what is happening in Ukraine is getting worse by the hour.

The Bambalang incident lasted only three days of actual fighting until the military came in from another province to stop the destruction, but for the people of Bambalang there were about 400 compounds that were totally destroyed. Over 3300 people were left homeless along an eight-kilometre stretch of the main road, stopping just short of our own house that we had been renting.

Two things stood out to me in that time. The first was how only a few kilometres away in Ndop, life was going on as normal. I would bring people out of the danger zone and drop them off in a place where people were going about their everyday lives, oblivious to the death and destruction that was happening just the other side of the big rice farm cooperative’s fields. It was a surreal and jarring experience. Back then in Cameroon, as I thought of the people of Ndop, there was a feeling of hopelessness that I couldn’t do more, or that somehow the people of Ndop should care for the injustice and what was happening just “over there.” Today, as I sit in my home in Canada, I have that same feeling.

The second thing which stood out was the power of the gospel. A few days after the fighting in Bambalang, we had a dedication of the Book of Luke as well as of the

audio form in Chrambo, the language of the people of Bambalang. It was the first time the people of Bambalang could read or hear any book of the Bible in their own language. What difference would that make if their houses were burnt and crumbled shells? Who would care when their food and the seed for planting was charred and burnt beyond use?

What happened at that dedication, though, was a resolve of the people of God to live according to the Word they had now received—and that Word said forgive your enemies. The back and forth, you-do-this-I’ll-do-that fighting had been going on between neighbouring people groups almost as long as they had been considered people groups. And now, after the latest attack, the cries for revenge and retaliation began to grow as the seeds of continued violence and death were planted. Except, those evil plants never grew. They withered away in the light and heat of the Great News that had come to the people. Granted, the church was still small in Bambalang; we had about 640 at the dedication from a population of over 28,000. But the response of the church—not just to forgive, but to help their brothers to rebuild and replant and move back to the damaged area—changed the traditional course of history. In partnership with Canadian churches, over \$23,000 was raised, and we rebuilt 93 houses, and provided seed and food and clothing and blankets, and most of all, hope. To my unexpected joy, peace grew instead of the evil plants of violence and death.

The Word is the foundation of our lives as Christians, and it is powerful to the world as well, as we live it out in our lives. In the same way that the church in Bambalang lived true to the Word, may the church in Ukraine do the same. And, may we in Canada continue to use the peace and wealth in our land to do the same for the world in need. ♦



Visit <https://vimeo.com/38633555> to watch, “Forgive Your Enemies,” a short Wycliffe Bible Translators USA video, featuring the people of Bambalang and Pastor Pius Mbahlegue, one of the Bible translators that Dan and Melody Grove still work with. “Hating your enemy back cannot solve the problem. But loving your enemy will disarm your enemy and make him powerless.” – Pastor Pius Mbahlegue –



## Hillsborough Baptist Church, New Brunswick

by Chandra Smith



I fully agree with our present pastor, Geoff deJong, “that a 200th anniversary is something that does not come along every day!” The Hillsborough

Baptist Church (HBC) in New Brunswick began in 1822, and we will be celebrating its spiritual history September 30 to October 2, with the theme, “Giving Glory to God.” If you have been or are currently affiliated with this church, we would love to hear your story. A booklet is being compiled of the testimonies of people who have been impacted over the years by the ministry of this church.

There have been many changes in the congregation over the decades. There have been four different church buildings on our previous site on Hillsborough’s Main Street. In 2013, we moved into our new building, constructed at 26 Braam Crescent. Forty-two pastors have served over the two hundred years, with each one completing the plans that God had for the congregation during their time at HBC. Over the years there has been an emphasis on missions, prayer ministry, ministering to seniors, and reaching the youth.

The HBC Anniversary Committee has been busy locating old photos

and interviewing members for their perspective of how God has directed this congregation over the years. With such a rich heritage of faith, our desire is still to present the gospel today. Throughout the history of the congregation, adaptations have been made as to how the ministry was implemented to reach families in the community, but the message has remained the same, based on the Word of God.

In our new building, above the exit door is a message, “You are now entering the mission field.” In today’s society, with fewer people attending church, all believers who participate at HBC are being called to live out their faith as instructed in Acts 1:8b, “... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (NIV). The focus for HBC is, “Changing lives one person at a time.” As long as the Lord tarries, may his work continue at HBC.

Activities held throughout this anniversary year so far have been to capture articles for the monthly newsletter and videos clips of testimonies concerning God moving over the years. These articles and videos can be found on our website at HBC ([hillsboroughbaptist.org](http://hillsboroughbaptist.org)). This past winter, a sleigh ride was held to re-create an old-fashioned atmosphere of what it was like for people to go to church two hundred years ago. Currently, a wooden quilt block is being created to promote

our anniversary on-site, and to be recognized as part of the Albert County Historical Quilt Barn Tour.

All previous and current attendees, staff, and community are welcome to participate in the celebration weekend. It will start with a musical concert with a wide variety of entertainment on Friday evening, September 30. Saturday night there will be a banquet to honour God in what he has accomplished in this part of his vineyard. Andrew Morse, a former associate pastor of HBC, will be the guest speaker. The Sunday morning service will include a mass choir conducted by Marlene Woodworth. Previous choir members and other interested attendees are invited to participate. A stirring message will be brought by Pastor Geoff deJong.

If you are interested in further details, please feel free to contact the church at 506-734-2379. We are presently gathering contact information and any photos that people may have. We anticipate this celebration time and trust that God will be glorified through the remembrance of what great things he has done.

*Chandra Smith is chair of the anniversary committee at Hillsborough Baptist Church, and has been a church member since 1977. She is looking forward to HBC’s family reunion and homecoming celebrations.*

## Mission in Our Midst

*Atlantic Baptist Women's 2022 Home Mission Project,*

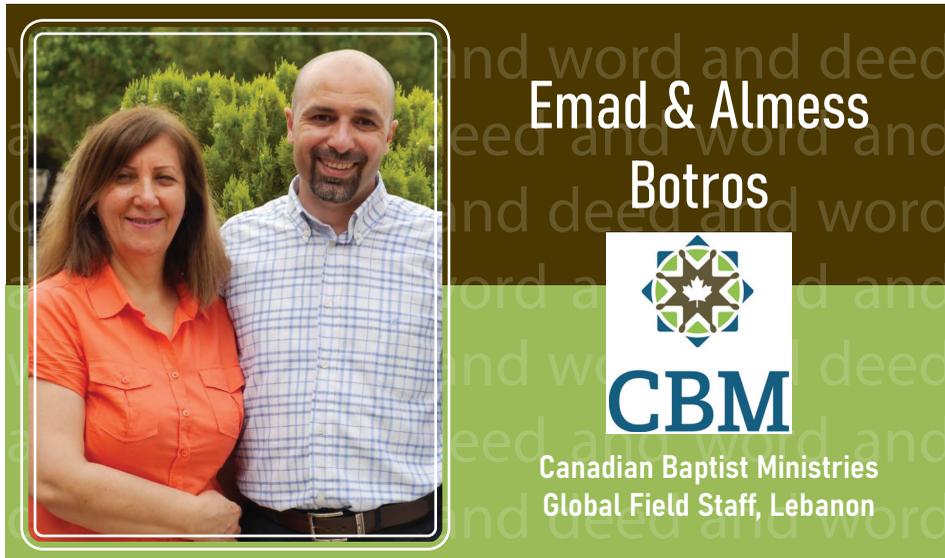
*"Wonderfully Made,"*

*presents the opportunity of offering encouragement to the clients, staff, and volunteers of seven pregnancy centres in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.*

Pictured is a sampling of the baby boutiques at these seven pregnancy and wellness centres.



For more information on the 2022 ABW Home Mission Project, see the January 2022 issue of *Tidings Magazine*, or visit [atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/GetInvolved](http://atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/GetInvolved).



by Ruth Anna Dana

What would you say if you wrote home from Lebanon? In their March 2022 Canadian Baptist Ministries update, Emad and Almess Botros, who have been serving with CBM since 2015 at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS), state the facts of living in a beleaguered country to their supporters in Canada. Daily, the Lebanese people find the economic situation distracting and emotionally draining. “Lebanon’s latest financial crisis is getting worse since the war between Russia and Ukraine started.... People are not able to afford the price of fuel, which impacts every aspect of their life, as well as having a shortage of wheat.”

Born in Egypt, Emad worked there as a high school teacher, then as a pastor. Almess was born in Iraq, where she earned her B.A. in accounting. They immigrated to Canada in 2005.

Though faced with many things that might discourage them, Emad and Almess find their strength in God’s grace and they are experiencing God in new ways. With stick-to-itiveness, they trust in the Rock who never changes, and rely on his promise, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10a, RSV). The Botros family was thankful to the Lord for a needed break when travel restrictions were

eased, enabling them to go to Egypt to celebrate Eastern Christmas, which is January 7 in the Eastern Orthodox tradition, and visit with Emad’s family.

Emad serves as a lecturer in Old Testament and Islamic studies at ABTS. At the beginning of 2022, the new semester began for the Integrated Theology Program with a virtual residency. Through this online venue, there has been an exchange of hope for students from places like Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, and the ABTS staff as they listen to one another’s incredible stories of God’s work in these places. During the third week of this virtual introduction, Emad taught that the focus was not only on conceptual and practical research skills, but also on the qualities of humility and

honesty for personal spiritual growth. Hence, learning becomes a lifestyle for outreach to the greater Middle Eastern and North Africa region.

Almess enthusiastically continues weekly online mentoring sessions. She enjoys having conversations with students related to their personal lives and ministries, and their studies. Emad shares about

accomplishing his personal goal to submit to publishers the English version of the Genesis Commentary in the Bangladesh context. He is also working to meet the June deadline of finishing the last phase of a commentary on Jonah. *Please pray* for those who will read these commentaries.

A second prayer request comes from Emad, and is in relation to the church which the family attends. He and several others have been involved in training 189 lifegroup leaders as well as pastors who studied Christian doctrine, hermeneutics, and the Old Testament; the aim is to be able to integrate this knowledge into their lives and ministries. *Please continue praying* for these pastors and leaders as they serve in a very difficult time with very limited resources.

In the short term, what is next for the Botros family? This summer, they look forward to rest and re-alignment back home in Canada after being away for five years. They ask for prayer for their two sons following the last years of stress and change. *Please pray* for their youngest son to have peace in heart and mind, and for God’s guidance for their eldest as he is trying to discover what God has in store for him in terms of undergraduate studies for the fall.



On holiday in Egypt in January 2022.

Sources: CBM Facebook (November 5, 2021), CBM Prayerline, the ABTS February 2022 newsletter, and the Botroses’ March 2022 CBM newsletter.

# Breaking



# the Cycle

by Louise Hannem

Global Discipleship Coordinator, Canadian Baptist Ministries

Supporting Kids at Risk is a primary cause for Canadian Baptist Ministries and many of our international partners. We know that access to

quality education is one of the best ways to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

However, as the world emerges from COVID-19, the long-term effects

of the global pandemic have put millions of children's hopes for a brighter future at risk.

In **Myanmar**, CBM supports kids like 13-year-old Zhao Hui and his brother, who were living with their grandmother and working the land rather than attending school. Through the project, the brothers received scholarships to live and study at the Zheng Zhu student centre, which provides them with tutoring, meals, personal support, and spiritual education.

In communities in Capiz province of the **Philippines**, there is a lack of access to quality early childhood education. In addition, many young people struggle to attend college or university due to financial constraints and the need to work for their families. CBM supports childcare centres that focus on learning, playing, and providing meals. The project also provides financial assistance to help youth start and/or complete a college degree and find a job, as well as provides support for their spiritual needs and leadership formation.

CBM's partners in the **Dominican Republic** support vulnerable children by offering resources and skills that provide opportunities for education, employment, and social development. Children receive lessons in piano, guitar, hairdressing, and the English language.

Families also receive kits of basic school supplies and healthy snacks along with lessons about healthy eating. Teachers meet with parents to help reinforce important lessons from school and host small group Bible studies.

In **Bolivia**, the Jireh project cares for kids-at-risk like Manuel. Manuel receives programming in arts and crafts, sports, cultural events, health, hygiene, and about bullying and violence prevention. In addition, he receives healthy foods and medical care. Parents also receive support and training on topics such as abuse prevention, communication, and peacekeeping in the home, as well as coping with alcohol or drug addiction.

Jihane is a Syrian refugee who fled to **Lebanon** with her mom. The True Vine school seeks to fill the gap in access to education for refugee children like Jihane by providing quality basic literacy and numeracy education along with life-skills training in health, hygiene, interpersonal skills, and self-discipline.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, CBM supports the education of vulnerable children with physical disabilities, providing vocational training to young people living with physical and mental disabilities, including youth living with post-conflict trauma.

In remote areas of **India**, many people work as daily-wage labourers and live below the poverty line. A computer skills training program for youth helps them acquire skills to secure

employment in public and private sectors, while some may start their own businesses. A tutoring program supports 50 children with the goal of decreasing the drop-out rate and allowing children the opportunity for higher education.

The Orphans and Vulnerable Children project in **Rwanda** improves livelihoods in various communities by equipping children like Michel with quality education. Michel used to get chased out of school because he was unable to pay for his school fees, resulting in him falling behind in school. The project covers his school fees and provides for his school materials while also providing mentorship and vocational training support.

In **Guatemala**, church-based homework clubs provide tutoring, devotional lessons, healthy meals, and educational materials to children aged 7-12 who live in poverty due to the high rate of dropping out of school in the community. Many children are in single parent households, with most parents lacking primary education. These clubs have helped close the education gap for many who have not attended face-to-face school during 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Do you want to help break the cycle of generational poverty?

**CBM's 2022 Active in Mission Walk - Bike - Run-a-thon**

is raising awareness and funds for kid's education.

Learn more: [www.activeinmission.ca](http://www.activeinmission.ca).



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Rev. Dr. Peter Reid

Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton

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