

W5 on the Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick



(This program can be presented by one person or by assigning portions to various group members for presentation, perhaps in an interview style.)

Who is the Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick?

The Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick Inc. consists of a group of Christian men and women who are concerned for the spiritual and moral well-being of youth. The organization strives to provide biblically based programming for youth to meet the pressures they are facing in culture. Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell serves as the Executive Director. You may be familiar with Marsha as she also writes the Reaching Today's Teens column in *Tidings*.

When did it begin?

Although there have been some name changes over the years, the Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick (CAFNB) started in 1926 as the New Brunswick Temperance Federation.

Where does the CAFNB minister?

In many places where youth are found. The CAFNB makes presentations in schools, churches and communities, while also providing tools for public and Christian school teachers, guidance counselors, principals, Sunday School teachers, pastors and youth pastors.

What does the CAFNB do?

The CAFNB's mission is to encourage young people, from kindergarten to high school, as well as those who influence young people, such as youth leaders, school leaders, parents, grandparents, and others. Know Boundaries is a proactive series of topics that help youth set boundaries in their lives. Experience Freedom is a reactive series of topics helping youth find freedom from their current situations. Both these series cover a variety of topics such as substance awareness /abuse, media choices, character on the internet, body image, dating, sexting, peer pressure, youth depressive disorder, media impacts, positive media application, bullying, and other topics from a biblical perspective. These presentations leave opportunities for youth and adults to absorb the information and then ask questions. There are also a variety of resources that assist in promoting parent-child conversations as well as teacher/leader-youth conversations.

What are some examples of how these topics are addressed?

The Born to Trouble presentation recognizes that identifying bullying can be a difficult task. This conversation was developed for young people preparing to work as camp counsellors but is useful for all youth workers. "Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward." Job 5:7 helps us to understand the root of conflict and several other verses guide us in helping to bring peace to struggling relationships.

Pulse of the Culture presentation - Social media, substance, peer pressure, and media choices are all topics of discussion when looking at 21st Century teens. This conversation is well suited for church groups looking for new, interactive ways to reach out to youth and understand the

challenges that our teens are facing during these days. Proverbs 3:7-8 is the guide used in this presentation to discover how God wants us to live.

What is a common topic that is often addressed?

Peer pressure is a common topic. Young people do not always understand the power of peer pressure in their lives. A presentation begins with a discussion about how peer pressure can start as young as kindergarten. There is a range of peer pressure programming that runs up to grade 12 for public school classrooms. For church groups, a presentation shows the Biblical application to handling peer pressure using I Corinthians 10:13 as a basis. "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." Understanding some of the biblical principles to live for Christ in daily situations is very powerful in the life of a Christian young person who may be struggling.

What is one teaching module available for those who work with youth?

One teaching module is GateKeepers. Youth depressive disorder is on the rise in our culture. Youth workers and leaders are on the front lines of identifying teens that are at risk for depression, anxiety, and/or suicide. This conversation begins with looking at the warning signs and leads to an expanded gatekeeper's sphere of influence on youth.

What is Climbing Higher?

Many youth are using cannabis not realizing the impact it can have on them today, tomorrow, or even on their future. Climbing Higher helps educate youth about the dangerous side effects cannabis. Being substance free gives them the freedom to live their lives to the fullest. Climbing Higher also consists of resources to facilitate parent-child conversations about cannabis.

Why?

The CAFNB wants to encourage youth to live in light of Proverbs 3:7-8: "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil; This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones." It does matter how we live, and we all become the sum total of the choices we make. The Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick seeks to encourage youth to live lives pleasing to God one choice at a time.

Pray

Think of the youth you know in your family, church, and community. Spend some time in prayer for them as well as for both the positive and negative people of influence in their lives. Pray for the ministry of the Christian Action Federation of New Brunswick.

Information taken from the Christian Action Federation of NB website: <https://www.cafnb.ca/>