

## Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy

### Halifax:

Visiting Atlantic Baptists for over 50 years!

- A young man dies from a brain aneurysm that happened at work
- A car accident leaves three dead and two people cling for life.
- A woman has a heart attack leaving a young family in a sea of uncertainty.
- A man comes in for a knee replacement, he is far from home. This is his first time away from his small town. Everything is confusing and he alone.

These are examples of what people from all across Atlantic Canada face daily in Halifax hospitals.

People from all across Atlantic Canada face stress and crisis daily in Halifax hospitals. Many of them are far from home and removed from the spiritual resources of church and Pastor. Some have not been to church for years, or struggle with faith in God and their relationship with the church. Hospital Chaplains can provide a ministry to them all.

Baptist Hospital Chaplains are there willing to listen, care and love in Christ's name on behalf of the churches of the Halifax Region United Baptist Association and the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

One person said, *"Through you I have experienced loving presence in the middle of my suffering. I cannot thank you enough."*

### Introducing the Hospital Chaplains

**The Rev. Joseph (Joe) Green** is the full-time Chaplain. In 2014 he was called to serve churches in the South Shore of NS. While in pastoral ministry, Joe served the community as an RCMP Chaplain, Royal Canadian Legion Chaplain, and as a pastor to pastors in his role as CBAB Connector. Joe entered seminary with a call to Chaplaincy and did his internship at the Halifax Infirmery and Victoria General sites.



A favorite scripture passage for Joe is the whole chapter of Colossians 3, In verse 17 the Apostle Paul states to do all thing, in both word and deed, in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**The Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse** is our part-time Chaplain. In 2016, she retired after 40 years of pastoral ministry. Ida felt called to chaplaincy and is pleased to partner with Joe in this ministry. Ida spends 12 hours per week of her chaplaincy ministry between the Victoria General, Rehab, and IWK hospitals.

A favorite scripture passage for Ida is Joshua 1:9, “This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

## Introducing the Hospitals

### Queen Elizabeth Health Sciences Centre



- **The Halifax Infirmary** site has three intensive care units and eight floors of inpatients dealing with all forms of trauma and focusing on specialties such as cardiovascular, burn treatments, orthopedics, neurology and plastic surgery. It provides specialist care to patients referred from all over Atlantic Canada,

- **The Victoria General** site is home to the Palliative Care floor and treats many cancer patients - both as inpatients and in outpatient clinics. A unit is also devoted to liver and kidney transplants. The patients in this hospital tend to be there longer and this provides an opportunity for deeper relationships to be formed.



- **The IWK** is a hospital for women and children. Often an intense and busy time for parents; knowing that there is a chaplain available can provide a support during a crisis or simply a friendly supportive presence during a time of upheaval and uncertainty.

- **The Nova Scotia Rehab Centre** provides rehabilitation services for many folk who have experienced strokes, neurological disorders and amputations. The patients appreciate support during this time, especially if they are from out of town, as it can be a lonely time for them. Often, progress can seem slow and disheartening so encouragement and prayer are greatly appreciated.



The ministry is supported entirely by donations. There is no support from the government although there is office space provided by the hospitals. With accounting payroll support provided free of charge by the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada

(CBAC), we are able to keep our overhead to only 2% of our budget, which means that 99% of all donations go directly towards the provision of chaplaincy services.

Financial support for their budget of \$76,000 comes from the Halifax Region United Baptist Association (HRUBA), the CBAC, ABW and donations from churches and foundations in Atlantic Canada.

### **Let Them Know When They Can Help**

Please feel free to contact Joe or Ida in advance if you or someone you know, will be staying in one of the Halifax hospitals. We would be pleased to visit and help in any way we can.

### **Prayer requests:**

- ♥ With the increase of homelessness and unhoused people rising, the hospital staff are facing increased challenges. For most of when we leave the hospital, we have support at home. This is not the care with the homeless. The Halifax Chaplaincy is hoping to partner with organizations that will be able to assist these individuals by providing some kind of housing and support post hospital stay.
- ♥ Pray also for all of the hospital staff. Pray for everyone from the CEO to the custodians. The medical teams and medical support people need our prayers but anyone who is employed at the hospital also need our prayers.

### **Saint John**

#### **A Brief History of Saint John-Kings Association Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy**

This ministry began in an unofficial way through the interest of Dr. D.S. Calkin, who was for many years minister of Waterloo Street Baptist Church. Because of his close proximity to the hospitals, as well as his own personal concern for patients from various locations in the province, he contributed a considerable amount of time and effort to this work.

Dr. Alex Crowe was appointed the first full time Baptist Chaplain in 1966. Until 1969 his salary was provided in part by Main St. Baptist Church and his time was divided between that church and the chaplaincy. Then in 1969 support for the chaplaincy was assumed by the Saint John-Kings Association, which in turn solicited support from various Baptist churches in the province as well as the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches. Over the past fifty years the vision has burned brightly in the eyes and ministries of chaplains such as Dr. Alex Crowe, Rev. Dennis Vienotte, Rev. Ted Britton, Rev. Randy Fawkes and Rev. Mark Leary.



#### **Did You Know?**

**Rev. Mark Leary**, Saint John-Kings Association Hospital Chaplain, makes approximately 3000 visits annually to patients. He meets with 350 families and many staff at the

Regional and St. Joseph's Hospitals in Saint John, NB, presenting the Gospel and offering hope through Christ. Many patients come from all across New Brunswick to receive specialized care not offered in other hospitals. Mark is also involved with weekly in-hospital church services and is available for speaking engagements at your church.

## Introducing the Hospitals



**Saint John Regional Hospital** opened in 1982, replacing the Saint John General Hospital and West Saint John Community Hospital facilities, creating the largest single health care facility in the province.

Saint John Regional Hospital is the largest tertiary care referral hospital in New Brunswick and specializes in cardiac (New

Brunswick Heart Centre) and trauma care services.

Saint John Regional Hospital is also a teaching hospital for the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia as well as the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

**St. Joseph's Hospital**, located in the center of the city of Saint John, specializes in Geriatric Medicine and provides a breast health program, women's health services, various medical and surgical clinics, diagnostic/therapeutic services, the New Brunswick Organ and Tissue Program – Ocular Division, and an Urgent Care Centre.



## A Present-Day Concern

Should you become a patient in hospital, be sure to state to the admitting person that you would like a visit from your Baptist chaplain or minister. Patients that are admitted are only coming to the attention of the chaplain 50% of the time. If you would like to see clergy during your stay in hospital, then it may take a request on your part.

### **How Can You Get Involved?**

Your prayer support for our chaplain is vital for this ministry. Mark deals with all aspects of sickness, death and grieving on a daily basis. This can be a very heavy burden. Drop in and visit Mark or send an email of encouragement to [mleary@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:mleary@nb.sympatico.ca)

**'Funding is provided** by the generous donations of interested churches and individuals. **Memorial donations** for the support of the hospital ministry may be made through the Saint John-Kings Association, or the CBAC office.

### **Prayer Requests:**

- ♥ Pray that patients will get registered correctly concerning their denomination and if they would like to see a Chaplain and or Minister.
- ♥ Pray that Mark would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leadings.
- ♥ Pray that the Lord would help patients to be open about any concerns or spiritual needs that they might have.
- ♥ Pray that patients who are not Christians will come to personal salvation.