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Your Resource for Baptist Mission News and Inspiration

Tidings

Impacting the World for Christ



18

Finding

Healing & Hospitality

at Acadia Divinity College



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 courtesy of Acadia Divinity College and Nicole Lapierre: Jazmine Lawrence (rightmost) and other students in conversation at Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Logo: ABW



Partnering to serve Christ in communities at home and around the world - learning and growing together

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Photo: Tidings



Editor's Niche

I was recently gifted with a solar "flower." Its petalled face, accompanied by two bobbing bees, dances in the daylight. As its battery receives then releases energy from the sun, the posy sways on my kitchen windowsill. An internet search tells me that "When light shines on a photovoltaic (PV) cell—also called a solar cell—that light may be reflected, absorbed, or pass right through the cell."

My solar "flower" has made me think: what's powering my life, my actions and reactions? Fear? Ambition? Do I have a reliable, sustainable power source?

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega energy; he will never run out of capacity, wisdom, justice, and love. Only Christ is the One capable of resurrection by his own will, with the unreplicated power to lay down his life and take it up again (John 10:18). As someone who has claimed him as Sovereign of All and Saviour of me, I'm meant to absorb who the Lord is into my character and soul to make him fully part of my self. I'm to reflect him so others know about him. Like the solar battery, I'm to take in his energy but then give it out, letting its goodness enable my life. "For in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28a, NIV).

Cindy MacDonald

ABW Newsworthy Notes ...

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Unsplash John Nychke



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(under *Tidings Magazine*)

Logo: ABW

All women are invited to attend

interMISSION

May 23–25, 2025 at Crandall University, Moncton, N.B.

Theme: “Better. Together.”

Special speakers, including Merritt Johnston,
executive director of Baptist World Alliance Women,
& Canadian Baptist Ministries guests

Workshops, worship through music, fellowship with
women from around Atlantic Canada, and much more!

Find information, including a schedule,
a registration form & workshop opportunities
at atlanticbaptistwomen.ca (under Events)



Come refresh, renew, rejoice, and respond at interMISSION

Unsplash Mae Mu; Logo and event photos: ABW



QUILTS

for Female Graduates of
Acadia Divinity College

Each year, Atlantic Baptist Women
presents quilts to the female graduates of
Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia,
to recognize their achievement
and demonstrate support.

If you or your ABW group would like to donate
a hand- or machine-quilted, bed-sized quilt,
please contact: Rev. Jennifer Riley
jenn@hantsportbaptist.ca

Donating a quilt? Please include a note
with the name and contact information
of the group or individual making the gift.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

Helen Blades	Clark's Harbour, N.S.	24–10–16	90
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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*
(by email, mail, or phone).
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 Karl Heinz Muller



Photo: Tidings



April 2025
... in Prayer

Unsplash Ryan Yao

The small numbers preceding prayer requests
serve as a daily guide for prayer.

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

¹Provider God, we ask your blessing upon Bill and Janice Dyck, Canadian Baptist Ministries staff based in Canada, whose focus is on discipleship and theological education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Work through Bill as he supports the Pastoring of Pastors program, which provides small groups of pastors with meaningful fellowship and encouragement.

Photo: CBM



Bill and Janice Dyck

Emanuel Foundation in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Let the daily care and loving attention there be a wonderful balm to vulnerable children. May Janice's music lessons build self-worth into the lives of the youth, many of whose moms work in the city's red-light district.

³Righteous One, I pray for Patty Nacho Vargas, CBM's team lead who oversees work across Bolivia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. As she shepherds staff and works closely with partners and churches, be her steady beacon, Lord.

CANADA

⁴Thank you, Lord, for Canadian Baptist Ministries. Continue to use it around the world, building the Church, supporting at-risk children, and empowering women. Be glorified through CBM as it provides food assistance, refugee care and education, and promotes justice, we pray.

^{5&6}Lord of Hosts, we ask for an upwelling of strength from you for each one who is an executive minister among Canada's Baptists. We ask, too, for your wisdom and leading for CBM Executive Director Jennifer Lau, who will be a speaker at the July Baptist World Congress in Australia.



Jennifer Lau

GLOBAL

⁷Pour out all that's needed, Jehovah Jireh, for each woman who plans to attend the Women's Summit at July's Baptist World Congress in Brisbane. Allow the theme, "Living the Good News," to be transformative as women pray, worship, and train together.

⁸Father, we're thankful for the offerings given during the 2024 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer to support global projects benefiting women and children. We pray

for three projects that have received a Day of Prayer grant in North America: Life Circles (serving women in Canada, Africa, and Asia), Multi-Generational Mentoring (Detroit), and Mental Health First Aid (Nova Scotia).

⁹Lord of All, we pray for CBM's SENT teams that will travel globally in 2025. Protect the mission teams against sickness or from being overwhelmed by a new cultural experience. Use these trips to serve the local people and churches, and bring world-impact into the lives of the SENT members.

¹⁰Holy One, we thank you for Michael Waddell, CBM's team lead for marketplace engagement. May the Holy Spirit inspire Michael as he works to support CBM's Canadian and international partnerships and collaborates with colleagues to guide Vennture—CBM's initiative focused on integrating faith with work.



Photo: CBM

Michael Waddell

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA - MENA

¹¹We praise you, Father, for Wissam Nasrallah, who will become president of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut, in October when CBM's Elie Haddad's term ends. Through Wissam's unwavering devotion to serve the Church in the Middle East and North Africa, allow ABTS to continue to train and empower MENA men and women.

^{12 & 13}With Rabih Wazir, CBM's integral mission coordinator for the MENA region, we praise you that you are at work, God, even in desperate situations. Thank you for the giving from Canadian Baptists that provided 4000 families in Lebanon with food, bedding, hygiene items, and more over the past months. Comfort those suffering in this volatile area, we pray.

¹⁴Almighty God, thank you for CBM Field Staff Evangeline Hammond, who works in Lebanon alongside CBM's local partners in their relief, education, and development projects. As she supports children's ministries, summer camps, and church-based education centres, bring life and hope to youth.



Photo: CBM

Evangeline Hammond

EUROPE

¹⁵In the face of war's devastation and disruption, Strength and Refuge, we pray for Ukraine and Russia. For those who woke today wounded or grieving, and for those in either country who have known fear and danger, bring lasting peace.

¹⁶Saviour, we remember in prayer CBM's Chinese Ministries staff team living in Germany—Lewis and Felain Lam, Yuanchuan Ye, and Xiaodan Fröhlich—and Team Leaders

“ ‘He himself bore our sins’ in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by his wounds you have been healed’ ” (1 Peter 2:24, NIV).

Conrad and Fiona Kwok, based in Canada. Be revealed as the Way, the Truth, and the Life in each event, church service, conversation, and group meeting.

ASIA

¹⁷Father, without meaningful work or a way to pay their bills, people languish; may the four-month nursing aide training program in Yangon, Myanmar, provide young people there with valuable employment skills. Let this program, and another which teaches sewing skills, provide a brighter future for families, Lord.

¹⁸Lord, as Thailand Bethel Theological Institute prepares to begin a new academic year in May, be with CBM staff Joseph Lee and Lilian Yang; alongside other TBTI staff, they teach the future pastors and mission workers who will work in Asia’s Golden Triangle. Be with Joseph and Lilian as they minister across many situations in the region.



Joseph Lee and Lilian Yang

Photo: Yang

^{19 & 20}Redeemer, I’m grateful for your sacrificial life and crucifixion; your wounds brought me healing, your death gave me righteousness to cover my sins, and your resurrection has given me certain hope and eternal life. Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

ATLANTIC CANADA

²¹Creator God, thank you for Crandall University, Moncton, New Brunswick, and its CU Serves students and leaders who will travel to Guatemala today to be part of a Canadian Baptist Ministries SENT experience. Draw each one closer to you as they take part in hands-on ministry.

²²Saviour, I lift up each woman visiting a pregnancy and wellness centre for options counselling regarding an unplanned pregnancy. As the staff meet with clients, we pray the women or couples will lean into the support available. Bless any fundraising that happens this year for growth or to maintain staffing, buildings, and programming. I pray, Lord, that you’ll open storehouses of finances, resources, and volunteers so these facilities can continue to help those in need.

²³We praise you, Lord, that Open Door Centre (Halifax and Bridgewater, Nova Scotia) is seeing marriages and families healed as husbands overcome addiction to pornography. Use the centre’s programs and counselling to provide “help, hope, and healing” for this purpose and for trafficked clients.

²⁴We pray for each person studying virtually or in person at Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. With them, let me, as a member of a Baptist congregation, be an active not passive church attendee, as ADC President Dr. Anna Robbins urges. Thank you, Lord, for ADC’s new Master of Arts in Theology program, specializing in counselling and spiritual care.

²⁵As women register for Atlantic Baptist Women’s May 23–25 interMISSION, prepare the way, Lord, for people to refresh, renew, rejoice, and respond, under the 2025 theme, “Better. Together.” Watch over ABW’s new executive director, Tera-Mae Schut, and the interMISSION planning committee, led by Rev. Sylvia Hagerman, as they ready each aspect of this motivational, inspirational weekend.



Logo: ABW

^{26 & 27}As Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada take part in April 27’s CBAC Sunday, Father, we pray you would hone our collective focus. Reveal what you are doing among Atlantic Canada’s Baptists; guide us into the future by your Holy Spirit.

AFRICA



Beth Kamathi

Photo: CBM

²⁸Lord, we praise you for Beth Kamathi, who lives in Kenya and serves part-time as CBM’s marketplace engagement coordinator for East Africa. Help Beth as she encourages the integration of faith and work and promotes sustainable, impactful regional partnerships.

²⁹Sustainer, please work through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, of whom Canadian Baptist Ministries is a partner body. Use its resources to great benefit wherever they target need, including South Sudan; over half the country’s 24.6 million people are facing crisis levels of hunger.

³⁰Prince of Peace, we pray for the wounded, grieving, or displaced in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, where violence this year worsened an ongoing humanitarian crisis. Continue to strengthen the Baptist churches there who bore witness to your sacrificial love by giving shelter and aid.

Sources: cbmin.org, updates from CBM staff, CBM Prayerline and Facebook, Baptist World Alliance “Baptists One In Prayer,” ADC This Month enewsletter, abtslebanon.org, and personal emails.

The Barefoot Jesus by Diane Trail

Unsplash

I have a picture stamped in my brain—the silhouette of a curly-headed young man in shorts and sneakers hop-jogging awkwardly on one metal leg and one normal leg down a deserted highway somewhere in the wilds of Canada in 1980. His steady feet pound out dogged determination. Terry Fox persevered mile after mile, day after day, teeth-gritting intention on his face, running his Marathon of Hope for cancer through fierce heat, biting cold, snow, wind, and driving rain. How many pairs of sneakers did he wear out? What pain did he endure in every step? He continued until his cancer returned, forcing him to stop near Thunder Bay, Ontario. He is one of Canada's greatest heroes. Even now, many decades later, we still hold annual Terry Fox Runs.

I know another man with fierce determination, who walked humbly and unswervingly toward the purpose for which he was born and for which one day every knee will bow in worship at his feet. Ponder Jesus on the cross. See his feet. His barefoot, nail-pierced, holy feet.

I imagine Jesus was barefoot most of his earthly life. Most people at that time were—especially children. Jesus was born on the floor of a stable among the sheep dung. He learned to walk barefoot. He played on the hills of Nazareth barefoot. He climbed trees, rough-housed with his brothers, hiked the hills, helped in the family garden, learned the family trade of carpentry/masonry—all barefoot.

Adults in those days did have sandals (if they could afford them). But I can imagine that Jesus actually

preferred to be barefoot, feeling the hard-packed paths, the soft moss, the rocky soil, the muddy beaches of Galilee. He knew soil well. He had created that soil. He often taught about soil. I imagine Jesus' feet were calloused, full of the bumps and cuts from a life of barefoot living.

His feet were often dirty. It was a normal custom to wash feet when entering a house, just as we take off snowy boots or muddy shoes when we enter our homes. Usually, servants washed feet. It was considered a dirty job, beneath the dignity of men of status.

That's why none of the disciples had washed feet at Jesus' last Passover meal. No one's pride allowed them to kneel down to wash the filthy feet of the others who had trodden the unhygienic streets of Jerusalem with its manure and garbage. That's why Peter cringed when Jesus began to wash the disciples' feet.

"You shall not wash my feet!" he exclaimed.

But Jesus explained to Peter and the other disciples that if they were to follow him, they would have to humble themselves to serve. Amid the germs and disgusting filth.

Later that same night, Jesus and some of his disciples trudged the hill of the Mount of Olives. I imagine he knelt barefoot, bowing his head to the ground, inhaling the musk of the olive trees, hundreds of years old. Knowing the trials and crucifixion ahead, he pleaded with his Father to find another way to rescue us. But there was no other way. Nothing but his sinless sacrifice could heal us.

And so, Jesus submitted to his Father. He walked barefoot in Pilate's judgment hall. He knelt barefoot under the soldiers' whips and taunts. He stumbled barefoot on the streets to the crucifixion. He allowed huge spikes to pierce his hands and his feet. His naked body hung from the cross. Our sins were nailed to the cross, as well as his hands and feet (Colossians 2:13–14).

His lifeless body was wrapped and laid in the stone-carved tomb. And barefoot he arose. By submitting, Jesus fought his greatest battle and defeated the Darkness, proving himself Lord of all.

After his resurrection, when Jesus entered the frightened disciples' locked room, they fell down at his feet and worshipped him.

Jesus said, "See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And ... they still disbelieved for joy" (Luke 24:39–41, ESV).

One day every knee shall bow at his feet (Philippians 2: 8–11). Hallelujah!

Prayer:

Father, thank you for your great love in sending your Son to redeem us.

Jesus, thank you for your nail-pierced hands and feet, for giving up your glory to walk barefoot among us as a servant.

Spirit, teach us to follow in obedience, proclaiming Jesus to others in grace and truth with gentleness and respect.
Amen.

Diane Trail and her husband Aubrey Trail are semi-retired from Christian ministry and live in Mill Cove, New Brunswick.





President's Reflection

by Dr. Carol Anne Janzen
President,
Atlantic Baptist Women

In this issue I come to the end of my reflections on the “Wall of Calling” from Atlantic Baptist Women’s interMISSION 2024. As a reminder, our event’s theme was, “Serve—Live Your Calling,” and the planning committee had identified seven broad themes of service for which participants were invited to share ways in which they felt personally called to serve. These themes have provided me with rich subject matter for my reflections this past year—which has been a blessing when my deadline rolls around each month!

The last category on the “Wall” is, “Teaching & Mentoring”—and it is such an important one for the Church in general and for an organization such as Atlantic Baptist Women.

Although this category didn’t elicit as many responses as other types of service, some attendees did see themselves as mentors, teachers, and leaders of Bible studies. Perhaps it’s just as well to be cautious about claiming the role of teacher since the apostle James does warn us, “Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly” (James 3:1, NLT)! However, teachers are essential to convey God’s Story and our story within the Story to the next generation and to those of our generation who are searching.

The role of mentor is, I would suggest, open to many, if not most, women. The term has been popularized in

the last 30 or 40 years, and in some sense its meaning has lost significance through overuse. For clarity, I appreciate Leona English’s description of the mentoring process as one in which the “more skilled or more experienced person, serving as a role model, teaches, sponsors, encourages, counsels, and befriends a less skilled or less experienced person for the purpose of promoting the latter’s professional and/or personal development.”¹

Although the Bible never uses the word “mentor” (which originated in Homer’s great epic poem, “Odyssey”), the concept is omnipresent throughout Scripture—it’s called “discipling.” Scripture portrays *teaching relationships*: Moses and Joshua, Priscilla and Aquila and Apollos; *sponsoring relationships*: Naomi and Ruth, the Achaian church and Apollos; *encouraging relationships*: Barnabas and John Mark; *counselling relationships*: Jethro and Moses; *befriending relationships*: Paul and Timothy. Above all, Scripture shows us the perfect example of Jesus’ relationship to his disciples, which encompassed most of these roles.

There are so many opportunities for ABW women to experience the benefits of mentoring, either as a mentor or

mentoree. Some groups develop intentional relationships with children in Little Lights or mission-education programs in their churches. Through Camp interMISSION, leaders can become mentors to both leaders-in-training and to participating girls. This year’s Great Canadian Bible Study provides an in-depth exploration of the story of Naomi and Ruth. Check out our Listening Hearts program, found on Atlantic Baptist Women’s website,² to cultivate encouraging relationships in a small group setting.

Although programs or studies may provide a catalyst to thinking about relating intentionally with others, opportunities are all around us if we keep our eyes and hearts open to such possibilities. Who are the young girls and boys in your orbit who need the loving encouragement of a mature Christian? Are there young women in your church or community who would treasure the gentle counsel of a Christian friend? Growing the church and ABW one relationship at a time is probably more effective and lasting than any organized campaign. It just requires a meeting of souls in which each one is honoured and respected. We can all add this role to our personal call to serve!

carol.anne.janzen@acadiau.ca

1. English, Leona M. (1998). *Mentoring in Religious Education*. Birmingham, Alabama: Religious Education Press.
2. For Listening Hearts material, visit atlanticbaptistwomen.ca; see under Resources.



Marhaba! from LEBANON

Marhaba! That's how to say hello, in Lebanese Arabic!

Last year, my family had to leave our house in my village because there was dangerous fighting and it wasn't safe in the area. We left so quickly I didn't have time to take special things that I would have liked to pack. I felt sad and scared. Where would we go? But my family was together and that helped me feel OK.

If you had to rush away from home, I wonder where you'd live. Would you stay with grandparents? Or with friends, if they had room for everyone? Some people who had to flee like I did, went to live in a tent. If you are a kid, tents are fun for a while, but when summer turns to winter, it can be cold in a tent. Too many people living in tents in one place can mean the ground gets very muddy, and there might be no schools to accept the children and no good shops to buy what a family needs.

While we were driving, my father said he had heard of somewhere to help us. When we got out of the car, I was surprised to see we were at a school for grownups! It is called the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary. A

seminary is where men and women study the Bible to learn about God, and they find out how to share the good news that God loves us.

The seminary had a guesthouse, and they allowed us and around 200 others to stay there. I could see that my parents were relieved to be somewhere safe, clean, and warm. I was glad to flop onto the soft bed. The people at the school provided rooms with beds and a bathroom, and we could eat our meals in their cafeteria. My family loves Jesus and are Christians; the family sleeping in the beds in the next room were not. But people at ABTS made everyone know they were welcome.

After breakfast, there was a chapel service we could go to. Each day my dad would go to check on his business while my mom tried to help us continue learning to read and write. In our room, there was a microwave and small fridge but no TV, so the other kids at the guesthouse and I played games a lot.

One day in the cafeteria, my mum picked up a brochure. It said that ABTS wants "to see God glorified, people reconciled, and communities



Photo: CBM

In the fall of 2024, children played at a fun day run by MERATH, the relief and development arm of THIMAR, Canadian Baptist Ministries' partner in Lebanon.

restored through the Church in the Arab world." I kept eating my orange, thinking about people praising God and getting along, and no more fear and trouble. That sounded sweet to me, as sweet as my orange. She told me, too, that local Lebanese Baptist churches help families in many ways, including by holding day camps in the summer for kids.

Sometimes when I would wake up early and look toward the sea from the window in our room, I would think about day camp and what it might be like.

I'm looking forward to summer. Are you?

As the ceasefire allowed, families staying at the ABTS guesthouse returned to their homes.

The ABW 2025 Children's Mission Action Project

Supporting Kids' Programming in Lebanon

In 2024, over a million people in Lebanon fled their homes to escape airstrikes and intense fighting between military groups. With Canadian Baptist Ministries' help, churches in Lebanon are providing families with aid, including food, clothing, bedding, and more. The ministry group Salt and Light will host 300 kids in day camps this summer.

Also, an education project provides access to quality education for over 500 children and Arabic literacy classes for 80 adults.

**Engage your
WMS or ABW group
and your church family
to help provide relief care
to Lebanese children.**

Offerings for the 2025 Children's Mission Action Project (if mailing cheques) can be made payable to Atlantic Baptist Women, with the project noted in the memo line. Mail the offering to your ABW Provincial Treasurer, or give to the project online at atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/donate

For more info: see the January 2025 *Tidings* or visit atlanticbaptistwomen.ca (under What We Do/Children's Ministries).



All women are invited to attend
interMISSION
May 23-25, 2025

at Crandall University, Moncton, New Brunswick

Theme: **“Better. Together.”**

“... for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now” (Phil. 1:5, NLT).

Invite a friend and register today!

(Non-registered interMISSION guests are welcome to attend one event: Saturday, 6:30 p.m., Brinton Auditorium.)

To print a registration form, or to register and pay online via etransfer, visit atlanticbaptistwomen.ca (under Events). Sign up today!

Special Speakers



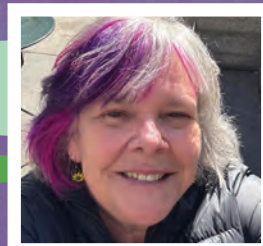
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*Executive Director,
 Baptist World
 Alliance Women*



Hon. Twila Grosse
*Member of the Nova Scotia
 House of Assembly*



Rev. Gail Whalen-Dunn
*President,
 Canadian Baptist Women*



Rev. Sylvia Hagerman
*Former Interim
 Executive Director,
 Atlantic Baptist Women*

Come reflect, renew, rejoice, and respond ... at interMISSION

Canadian Baptist Ministries Guests



Brenda Halk
*Senior Consultant,
 Marketplace & Gender Initiatives*

Alexandra Bridi
*Benefits and Accounts Payable
 Coordinator, CB Benefits*



Barb Keys
Donor Services & Office Coordinator



Worship Through Music

The Worship Team from
 The Journey Church,
 Moncton, N.B.
 &
 Kim and Friends

- ▶ **Connecting**
 - ▶ Workshops
 - ▶ **Supporting ABW Walks! & ADC female graduates**
 - ▶ Sonshine Books & Gifts on-site
 - ▶ **Fellowshipping and meeting new friends**
 - ▶ Inspiration for life and mission
 - ▶ **Ministry & mission displays**
- ... & more for you at interMISSION!**

Taking the **High Road** (or No Booing)



by Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell

As a child, I remember hearing a piece of advice from my teachers more often than I care to admit: “No booing.” It wasn’t just something that was said once, but rather a repeated reminder to my classmates and me that negative reactions like booing weren’t acceptable behaviour, especially in moments of frustration or disappointment. It’s funny how some of these simple life lessons stick with you.

In those days, booing seemed to be the ultimate expression of discontent—a way of letting everyone around you know that you didn’t like what was happening. Yet, over the years, it appeared to fall out of fashion. In a world that was increasingly focused on positivity, feedback that was critical or negative started to be seen as counterproductive. The idea of “no booing” became more than just a schoolyard rule; it became a general principle for how we should communicate in a world that was working hard to foster kindness.

But now, as I reflect on recent events, particularly the trade-tariff talks between Canada and the USA, I find myself revisiting those childhood lessons. In recent weeks, the world’s political and economic tensions have reminded me that sometimes, it feels a lot easier to “boo”—to express frustration, to criticize, or to take the low road when things don’t go the way we expect. And for a moment, I even found myself thinking, “I can see why we used to boo.”

As Christians, however, we are called to something higher. We are meant to transcend the current culture or

politics, or personal opinions. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that our conduct, especially in difficult or tense moments, should reflect the love and grace of Christ. In fact, we are warned against being uncharitable in our dealings with others. Colossians 3:12–14 (NIV) reminds us, “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

In this passage, we are encouraged to embrace virtues that are the exact opposite of criticism, condemnation, or judgment. We are called to rise above and “take the high road,” a path of grace, compassion, and forgiveness. And let’s face it, in today’s climate—whether we’re discussing politics, world events, or even interpersonal conflicts—it can be hard to do just that.

As the world’s political discourse becomes more heated and divisive, it can feel almost impossible not to “boo” the other side. But as Christians, we must recognize that we are called to be different. When we react with hostility, criticism, or bitterness, we lose the opportunity to reflect Christ’s love. Instead of raising our voices in anger, we can show grace. Instead of tearing

down, we can build up. Instead of being divisive, we can be peacemakers.

This is where the Golden Rule comes into play: “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31, NIV). It’s not always easy, especially when the world around us is increasingly polarized. But this is where we can teach the younger generation—whether our children, grandchildren, or those we mentor—how to embody Christlike behavior. We can demonstrate that, even in moments of frustration or disagreement, we are called to treat others with kindness and respect.

The current political climate might be the perfect opportunity for us to model what it means to take the high road, to show patience, and to remain charitable. It is a time to teach those we love how to respond not with the ease of a boo, but with the maturity of a Christ-follower. It’s about making a conscious decision to let the Holy Spirit lead us, guiding us through difficult times and helping us to respond in a way that brings glory to God.

So, as we navigate these challenging times, let’s remember the wisdom of that childhood lesson: “No booing.”

Let’s choose to take the high road, to put the Golden Rule into action, and to allow our responses to reflect the grace and love of Christ. It’s not always easy, but it is always worth it.

Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell is the executive director of Christian Action Federation of NB Inc. and the head of schools for Sussex Christian School Inc.

Unsplash Darius Bashar



“We are called to **rise above** and **‘take the high road,’** a path of grace, compassion, and forgiveness.”

Atlantic Baptist Women is pleased to partner with CAFNB through the ABW annual budget.



A Mid-Winter "Cruise"
with The Church by the Lake

It was all hands on deck Saturday night, February 1, 2025, as Pastors Mark Reece and Zack Peabody and The Church by the Lake of Sackville, New Brunswick, welcomed 190 ladies "cruising" in a mid-winter tropical getaway for CBTL's Women's Dessert Night. New and renewed connections were made among neighbours! A full band—all guys from the church—played over 20 classic tunes, including, "Brown Eyed Girl," "Stand by Me," "Y.M.C.A." and "Sweet Caroline." Ninety-six pounds of cheesecake were consumed in the making of this event! Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada's own Dr. Greg Jones was also on hand as a guest server.

There is history to this event. It began in 2014 as a three-course meal with a Christian comedian brought in for entertainment the first two years, and ECMA winner, Stephanie Mainville, in 2016. The intent was, and still is, to give the ladies of our surrounding communities a fun event in the cold, dark days of winter, and to be spoiled by the men of the church and community. A small hiatus for a couple of years in 2017 and 2018 gave way to a reinvented evening starring some rich and gooey cheesecake—and renamed the "Warm-up to Winterfest Women's Dessert Night."

Since then (with the exception of 2021 and 2022), it has been celebrated as a kick-off event for Sackville's Winterfest Weekend, held each year for the Tantrammar area, with our church holding its annual Superbowl Party as the last event of Winterfest.

This special evening is an opportunity for the band to have fun with their musical gifts and talents as they get together for several practices in the weeks leading up to the event. During the "cruise," old familiar tunes of many famous musicians from years past are celebrated by the ladies with much clapping, singing, and even a bit of dancing! In between the singing, Pastors Mark and Zack, acting as the masters of ceremony for the event, create quite a team, sharing a few jokes, introducing the ladies to the church and the volunteers involved, and drawing names for prizes that have been donated or purchased—such as VISA gift cards, travel vouchers, local business coupons for hotels, restaurants, spas, and much more. It is an excellent outreach opportunity for our church as we get to meet new people and they get to know us a little better.



Photos courtesy of The Church by the Lake

A team of men (young and old) dressed in tuxedos or Hawaiian shirts do all the serving at this event and they also set up a coat check in the foyer. Countless hours are spent as they get prepared, set up the gym, decorate, and plate the cheesecake. Occasionally there are a few women who pitch in to help with a few of the tasks leading up to the event, but mostly it is handled by the guys! Our guests appreciate being treated so well at this fancy event and always comment on how fun it is to see the young boys and teens working alongside some of our senior men to make this event the success it has turned out to be.

Reservations are required to be made and this year all 196 seats were booked two weeks in advance of the cutoff date, with names on a waiting list, most of whom we were eventually able to accommodate. On the evening of February 1, despite the freezing temperatures, there were 190 seats filled and 44 volunteers on hand to make the event a huge success!

It might seem like a lot of work for something that appears to be "just a night of fun," but we have seen God use this event (and others like it) to reach far beyond where we could imagine. He is always working, opening doors, leading us in conversations we might never otherwise have had. So, we continue sowing the seeds of love and openness, and sit back and watch as God brings everything together for his glory!

Authors:

Pastor Mark Reece: lead pastor of The Church by the Lake since 2017.

Pastor Zack Peabody: associate pastor of family and community connection since 2022.

Bob Caldwell: ministry manager and head organizer of this event since 2019.

Patti Bryden: office administrator of The Church by the Lake since 2001.



Sitting in the Sun in the Garden

by Evie Klein Whittingham

My grandfather, Jakob Eiler, whom I called Opa, loved his garden. After checking his peach trees, gooseberry and currant bushes, potatoes and tomatoes, he would sit on the bench he had built and bask in the sun, happy in the work of his hands.

He loved to work in the earth, to watch seeds he had planted emerge two leaves at a time, and to follow their growth until there were beans to pick and carrots to pull. He claimed that flowers were a lot of fuss and bother, but his cuttings from friends and neighbours prospered and were the best of the front yards. His rose bush sprawled with scarlet blooms, peonies burst in blousy pink, and purple irises stood regal. There was always something blooming, from tulips, forget-me-nots and violets in

spring, to magenta phlox, Rose of Sharon, and towering red canna lilies in late summer.

He was delighted to share from the bounty of his garden.

Opa listened to the clock radio on the kitchen table for the weather report to prepare for the coming day. He filled the watering can with water that had run from roof gutters to downspouts into rain barrels made from old steel drums and painted blue. He kept his tools sharp and the shed clean and tidy, with herbs, braided garlic, and onions hung to dry. In the cold cellar he stored canned fruit and vegetables on floor-to-ceiling shelves; apples neatly spaced without touching; carrots, parsnips, and potatoes gathered in bins filled with slightly damp earth.

When I read Ecclesiastes, especially Chapter 11:7–8 (NIV), I think of him.

*“Light is sweet
and it pleases the eyes to see the sun.
However many years anyone may live,
let them enjoy them all.
But let them remember the
days of darkness,
for there will be many.
Everything to come is meaningless.”*

A German veteran of WW2, a displaced person from a village on the border of present-day Croatia and Bosnia, he was proud to become a Canadian citizen in a spacious land—for him the land of milk and honey, a land of peace, plenty, and hope.

Each morning he read from his daily devotion, the large-print German Bible, and silently prayed. Sometimes I would see his lips move as though sounding out words. I thought, “I do that—when I’m concentrating very hard. He must be thinking very hard. I’ll wait till he’s finished.”

My Opa loved his grandchildren and delighted in his great-grandchildren. When he was quite elderly, he moved in with my mother, his daughter. When I went to visit, he would pick up my little son and make him laugh,



Evie’s maternal grandfather, Jakob Eiler



Prairie crocus



Forsythia



Iris

*"My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth."*

Psalm 121:2, NIV

while the news broadcast on the hi-fi was of deadly conflict in the land of his birth.

I was shocked that war could break out between Serbians, Croatians, and Bosnians who had worked together, lived side by side, and intermarried. His sister and some cousins still lived there. I asked him about it.

He told me brothers and sisters will quarrel, and best friends can fight each other. We are all "*mensch*," only imperfect people. And he continued to laugh and play with his great-grandchild.

Opa loved sunrise and sunset. He walked every day and everywhere. He rode his bicycle to fetch groceries and go shopping into his early eighties.

Though he had seen much of darkness, he found an enduring hope in the God who saves.

I share my grandfather's love of the Psalms, such as Psalm 121:1, 2, 3, 8 (NIV).

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore."*

I, too, love the seasonal changes, observing day by day the pattern of the sun crossing the sky, the rhythm of wind and weather lifting and falling, plants re-emerging and coming alive.

Spring brings hope.

There is great satisfaction in digging the earth and preparing for planting. The prairie crocus, violets, and yellow forsythia signal time to begin sowing the hardiest seeds. Whatever is going

on with all my relatives, whatever is going on in the world, I can set my hands to work, sit in the sun, eat and drink, and enjoy the life the Lord has given me.

For my Lord is good and worthy of all praise; our God is faithful to save.

Evie Klein Whittingham checks the weather and the vegetable and flower garden beds every day because things keep changing. She enjoys life in Ingersoll, Ontario, a small town in farm country, and worships at First Baptist Church, where her husband is pastor.



1 Kings:

Lessons on Having a Heart
& Mind Set on Following God

by Jeanette Denton

King Omri purchased the hill of Samaria and built a city there (1 Kings 16:2). Under the influence of Queen Jezebel, Samaria became a centre for Baal worship (16:32).

Photo: J. Denton

The Importance of Wise Counsel

Just before his death, David gave Solomon this advice: "... observe what the Lord your God requires ... Walk in obedience to him ... as written in the Law of Moses," reminding him of God's promise that Israel would have a king from the house of David as long as that king remained faithful to God (2:2–4). During the early years of his reign Solomon heeded his father's advice (3:3). He even wrote of the value of having wise counsellors (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; 24:5–6). Solomon's son, Rehoboam, did not heed wise counsel, instead taking the advice of his friends (1 Kings 12:9, 13–14). The people revolted and the kingdom became divided (12:16–17, 19).

Worshipping in God's Presence

We often associate "high places" with the worship of false gods. However, Solomon worshipped at the high place in Gibeon (1 Kings 3:4), as did his father David (1 Chronicles 16:39).

▪ Why did David and Solomon worship at the high place in Gibeon? (Read 1 Kings 3:2, 4; 1 Chronicles 16:39–40; 2 Chronicles 1:3.)

▪ What happened to Solomon at Gibeon? (Read 1 Kings 3:5, 9, 12–14 and 2 Chronicles 1:7, 10–12.)

▪ What conditions did God place upon Solomon? (See 1 Kings 3:14.)

Once the Temple was finished, Solomon had the Tent of Meeting (the tabernacle) and the Ark of the Covenant moved to Jerusalem. Just as God's presence had filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34–35), now the Temple became God's permanent dwelling place (1 Kings 6:1; 8:10–11). Gibeon was no longer considered a place to worship the Lord.

Solomon's Wisdom

God gave Solomon great wisdom, insight, and knowledge (1 Kings 4:29–34). How did Solomon show wisdom?

Match the scriptures to the examples of Solomon's wisdom.

- A. 1 Kings 3:16–28
- B. 1 Kings 4:32–34
- C. 1 Kings 5:8–12, 18
- D. 1 Kings 6:1; 1 Chronicles 28:11–19
- E. 1 Kings 9:26–27
- F. 1 Kings 10:3–5

- 1. Writing proverbs and songs _____
- 2. Building ships for trading _____
- 3. Administering justice _____
- 4. Following David's directions for building the temple; hiring skilled craftsmen _____
- 5. Making a peace treaty and business deal with Hiram _____
- 6. Overwhelming the queen of Sheba with his wisdom and wealth _____

The Dedication of the Temple

The Jewish festivals of Yom T'ruah (also called Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar), and Sukkot (the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles) took place during the festival month of Ethanim. Solomon chose this month for the dedication of the Temple. The priests brought the ark of the Lord's covenant, and the tent of meeting, and the sacred furnishings to the newly constructed Temple. The ark was placed in the Most Holy Place, beneath the wings of the cherubim (8:4, 6).

Solomon had a good understanding of the covenant between God and his people. We read Solomon's prayer in 8:22–61, including his blessing on the people in 8:56–61. Verses 57–58 say, "May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us. May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees and laws he gave our ancestors."

- Read 1 Kings 8:22–62. What does Solomon say in the following verses about sin and forgiveness? Consider verses 23, 25, 28–30, 33–34, 36, 39, 46–51.

- The act of dedication is found in verses 1 Kings 8:62–66. Consider 8:66. Do the people, including the king, seem committed to keeping the covenant?

Solomon's Change of Heart

In Chapter 11, we learn how Solomon angered God. He allowed his wives to lead him into _____, greatly angering God (11:1–9). His _____ turned away from God (11:9–10). God told Solomon that he would tear the _____ from him (11:11–12), but, for the sake of David, not during Solomon's lifetime. God raised up _____ against Solomon who caused trouble the remainder of Solomon's life (11:14, 23, 26).

Lessons for Us

"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character'" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Solomon joined his wives in idol worship while continuing to offer sacrifices and worship God at the Temple. Jeroboam declared golden calves in Bethel and Dan to be the gods "that brought you up out of Egypt" (12:28) reminiscent of Aaron and the golden calf in Exodus 32.

- How can we guard our hearts against those who might lead us into sinful activities? See Romans 12:2; Galatians 5:16; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 1:7.

In the gospel song, "God On The Mountain," Tracy G. Dartt writes, "And the God on the mountain is still God in the

valley ... the God of the good times is still God in the bad times...." Ben-Hadad, king of Aram, said, "Their gods are gods of the hills. That is why they were too strong for us. But if we fight them on the plains, surely we will be stronger than they." He soon learned that God is God of both the hills and the valleys (1 Kings 20:23, 28).

We can learn a valuable lesson from Elijah's experience in the wilderness. A "mountaintop" experience is often followed by a letdown, accompanied by discouragement and even depression.

- What was Elijah's "mountaintop" experience in 18:16–39?

- What happened to Elijah after this experience? See 1 Kings 19:1–7

- How can we guard our hearts when we experience difficult times? See Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 23; Proverbs 3:5–6; 1 Corinthians 10:13; John 14:27; Romans 8:28; James 1:2–4.

Conclusion

Solomon received great wisdom from God as well as wealth and success. It is interesting to note that Solomon later wrote in Ecclesiastes 2:24–26 that wisdom, pleasure and work are meaningless without a life that pleases God.

Just as Elijah spoke the word of God to Israel, so Christ and the apostles did in New Testament times and continue to do so today as we study the Bible.

God's Spirit dwelt in the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem. Today the Holy Spirit resides in believers and guides and teaches us. We are his people, the very temple of the living God, and should be mindful of anything that separates us from God. We should also remember that our God is present in all our experiences, both good and bad.



Jeanette Denton enjoys life on Brier Island, the westernmost part of Nova Scotia.

Photo: J. Denton

Faith Meets Work:

Moving from Theory to Praxis



by **Brenda Halk**

*Canadian Baptist Ministries
Senior Consultant,
Marketplace and Gender Initiatives*

Praxis is defined by Merriam-Webster as a noun (præk.sis), meaning:

1. *action, practice.*
2. *practical application of a theory; the process of using a theory or something that you have learned in a practical way.*

We hear a lot about the value of hard work and practise. Our parents, grandparents, and teachers all espoused the value of homework, hockey practise, piano practise, etc.; they emphasized honing skills taught by lessons—theory put into practise.

Malcolm Gladwell, in his fascinating book, *Outliers: The Story of Success* (Back Bay, 2008), studies people who have excelled and become extremely famous, including Bill Gates and the Beatles. He delved into their history to find out what made them great. They had natural gifts and unique opportunities, but it was not the gifts themselves that made them great, but sheer hard work and practise. Passion and hard work and 10,000 hours of practise.

Gladwell called this the “10,000-hour rule.” He found out what our grandparents and piano teachers knew all along; practise, practise, practise.

Vennture explores and develops the biblical theology of faith and work. Through studies, reading, courses, webinars, conferences, and materials created by Vennture, Canadian Baptist Ministries encourages individuals and churches to develop an understanding of work as part of God’s mission and desire for his world. Understanding the theology of work helps Christians to integrate their faith with their work. It helps us apply God’s truth, purpose, and passion to our everyday lives.

How does one introduce this theology into practise within the church—in worship, discipleship programs, missions, and equipping congregants for bridging the Sunday to Monday gap? How do we help individuals and churches put it into practise?

The Sunday to Monday gap is the separation between how people think about their faith on Sunday and their work on Monday. It’s also known as the sacred-secular divide.

In *Work and Worship: Reconnecting Our Labor and Liturgy* (Baker Academic, 2020), Matthew Kaemingk and Cory B. Willson explain why Sunday morning worship and Monday morning work desperately need to inform and impact one another. They emphasize that our work matters to God, but also warn that unless Christians learn to move from the abstract relationship of faith and work to the concrete relationship of work and the church’s worship, both one’s faith and work will remain

malformed and immature. “There exists a profound separation between work and worship in the lives of many Christians today.”

Being Christ-followers has implications for not only worship and serving in the church, but also for our identity as we engage with the world. In effect, we are commissioned to represent God’s work to the world as well as to bring the people and institutions with whom we engage from Monday to Sunday to God in prayer.

As the church gathers on Sunday for worship, fellowship, and teaching, it scatters on Monday as people disperse into their everyday lives to actively share their faith and serve others in their communities. “Worship welcomes and gathers

people in. Worship sends and scatters people out. In and out. Pull and push.... Like the valves of a healthy heart, the doors of worship must regularly open and close to draw people in and send people out” (Kaemingk and Willson).



In the fall of 2024, seven teams from churches in Atlantic Canada gathered for two days to experience a Made to Flourish church practicum. The practicum is designed to help church leadership focus on their church at work—equipping each member for their work on Monday as the church scatters, as well as the church’s work on Sunday as the church gathers. “We empower pastors and their churches to integrate faith, work, and economic wisdom for the flourishing of their communities” (Made to Flourish).

Each church had completed a survey of its congregation, and had gathered an overview of the unique vocational make-up and gifting of the congregation. Over the two days, churches heard from experienced practitioners and discussed topics such as worship, vocation, and church initiatives. As a team, they brainstormed ideas and created a preliminary action plan. The sessions focused on three areas.

1. Worship: exploring opportunities to bring work into worship, through music and prayers, preaching stories of work, and daily activities. For example, “This Time Tomorrow”: the pastor takes three to five minutes to invite a congregant to share what their paid or unpaid work will look like this time tomorrow, then asks a few simple questions, including, “How can we pray for you?” Prayer is then offered not only for the congregant and their work, but also for others in the congregation from the same sector. Example, for a teacher: a prayer for the individual, his/her colleagues, all those in education, and the institutions (schools as well as the students).

2. Vocational Discipleship: how to weave work into the church discipleship programs such as with Christian education, or by generational or like-minded vocational groups.

3. Vocationally Informed Mission: this module examines the community’s needs, assets, and opportunities for reaching out in local and global initiatives.

Over nine months, the churches will continue to explore and develop their plans.

In the Field – Africa

In the October 2024 issue of *Tidings*, Rev. Beth Kamathi was introduced as the principal of the Africa Christian Church & Schools Bible school in Thika, Kenya. Beth is a pastor of a church, a



Doctor of Ministry student at Wolfville, Nova Scotia’s Acadia Divinity College, and a participant in the “Integral Mission in the Workplace” curriculum trainings, held in Rwanda. As CBM and its African church partners planned for



Rev. Beth Kamathi

practical strategies, it was recognized that additional capacity was needed for the Vennture team in the growing East Africa context of CBM’s Faith and Work focus. CBM is excited to share that as of January 1, 2025, Beth has joined the CBM Vennture team in a part-time role as marketplace engagement coordinator for East Africa.

Rev. Kamathi’s expertise will further enrich CBM’s efforts to implement the “Integral Mission in the Marketplace” curriculum and develop

sustainable, impactful partnerships across the region. Beth will support the partners in Vennture’s strategic areas: theological formation, and creating transformational businesses and opportunities for God’s people to flourish in their daily work. She says, “This role is an opportunity to continue my passion for equipping leaders and strengthening the connection between faith and daily work. I look forward to collaborating with CBM’s partners to advance this mission in our communities.”

If you’d like to support Beth in her role of supporting Vennture in its theological and practical trainings as well as assisting with future income generating endeavours, you can access the QR code or please visit cbmin.org (see About Us/Our Staff).



Follow Vennture.ca in the coming months for new worship resources for your church and daily life. When Faith Meets Work, all the hours of our lives can be infused with meaning.



Photos, QR code, and Logos: CBM



Healing & Hospitality at Acadia Divinity College

by Jazmine Lawrence

Photo: ADC/Nicole Lapierre

Jazmine's Story

In my journey, Acadia Divinity College has become rehab, support group, accountability, and re-educator all rolled into one.

Let me explain.

Before coming to ADC, I spent my time in spaces where pastoring and theology were seen as a man's calling. "Women," I was told, "may only teach children and other women." But then, I felt a strong and sudden call to go to seminary. There, I discovered an unexpected pleasure in learning biblical languages and honing my preaching skills. The beliefs I once held began to crumble around me.

Audacious Women

The call to seminary followed fourteen years of military service,

during which I trained and deployed as an air combat systems officer aboard Sea King helicopters in Nova Scotia. I loved the travel and found satisfaction in the mental and physical challenges. However, a growing storm of health issues forced me into early retirement, much earlier than I'd planned.

The healing that followed my military retirement cracked open a longing to minister to others—to share the comfort and healing I had received from God. Yet, I was surprised by God's powerful call to seminary, especially when certain ministry leaders told me, "Academic education isn't really needed to minister." In my complementarian context, only one or two audacious women I knew dared to take classes, treating it almost like a clandestine, nearly illegal activity. Looking back, defying the system actually helped me to persist in such a challenging environment.

The Stained-Glass Ceiling

I enrolled in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree at a seminary affiliated with my congregation and denomination, unaware that few women pursued this path. The school (and denomination) had a public reputation for being a painful place for women who felt called beyond women's or children's ministry. Ironically, the school's biblical languages training equipped me to read Scripture in a way that reinforced my discomfort with their hierarchical stance.

As part of my MDiv requirements, I had the opportunity to serve as chaplain and intern. I was grateful to be at least "legitimated" to minister through prayer. However, during my time at this seminary, I lost sight of a future filled with life-giving ministry. The resurfacing of physical symptoms tied to past pain, combined with

the unacknowledged structural sexism that underpinned the school and denomination, weighed heavily on me. As a woman, I still felt crushed against the stained-glass ceiling, so low you have to stoop or even crawl to navigate.

In a completely providential turn of events, I moved to Nova Scotia and had an unbidden thought to contact Acadia Divinity College. Several friends had attended ADC years earlier, so I decided to enrol in courses for transfer credit to complete my MDiv.

A Startling Contrast

I cried my first day of new student orientation at ADC.

The atmosphere was such a startling contrast to the last school. ADC's faculty of women and men interacted with far more

mutual respect and ease than what I'd previously experienced. I was further floored by professors' relatable experiences, and by their deep empathy and concern for dissenters caught in sexist Christian contexts—church and academic alike. Halfway through my first semester, I made the decision to fully transfer to a Master of Arts in Theology program at ADC.

Ministry for me right now is “unofficial” as I focus on simply being a sister in community within church and school. Through ADC, the church I now attend, and counselling, my hope for the future is resurfacing.

I call this time “hiding in academia.” I may be Jonah, avoiding a call to pastoral ministry, or perhaps I'm following providential circumstances into academia. For now,

my Master of Arts in Theology courses embrace the books I once read “in secret” while at my previous seminary. ADC's program challenges me to engage critically, satisfying my long-held desire to rebel—intelligently and fruitfully—against the patterns in my past that failed to minister God's love and presence to me and those around me.

Unexpectedly Beautiful

As I complete my third semester at ADC, I see more clearly the welcoming environment the school has developed, and the kindly critical mindsets cultivated here. Whether worshipping in chapel, sharing meals, or discussing theology, the Bible, and even sci-fi, I can share about myself honestly, be treated compassionately, and get to know others beyond the classroom.

Acadia Divinity College has been an unexpected yet beautifully hospitable space. A place to expect laughter, prayer, and genuine connection among fellow students, staff, and faculty. At ADC, I'm being strengthened to love and serve those I encounter both in scholarly spaces and in ministry. What a blessing it is to receive the gift of this environment—to be shaped by it, absorb it, and then transplant it into present and future places of service in God's kingdom.

Jazmine Lawrence is a second-year Master of Arts in Theology student studying part-time at Acadia Divinity College, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Perhaps like Jazmine, you are sensing a call to seek God through theological education. Acadia Divinity College would love to help you take the next step on your journey, whatever that looks like.

Find out more about ADC's programs by visiting www.acadiadiv.ca or by contacting College Recruiter Dr. Benjamin MacDonald at benjamin.macdonald@acadiu.ca. “Let us equip you to serve the mission of God with transformative impact.”



Photo: ADC/Nicole Lapierre



Logo: ADC

Spotlight on CBM



Walking Alongside Global Partners

by Adrian Gardner

Adrian Gardner (centre), Canadian Baptist Ministries' director of partnerships for the Americas and Asia, and Patty Nacho Vargas, CBM team lead for Latin America and the Caribbean, with Pastor Angel Orozco, president of the Bolivian Baptist Union.

In February 2010, my professor asked me to stay after class for a few minutes. I was a relatively new pastor taking a missions course taught by Dr. Terry Smith and Rev. Gordon King at Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and I couldn't help but feel a bit nervous. What could he want? Did I make a mistake on an assignment? I had no idea that this brief conversation would profoundly shape my life and my ministry.

On February 10, 2010, Dr. Terry Smith invited me to take part in Praxis, a seminary scholarship program with Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM).

Without fully understanding what I was stepping into, I accepted. That May, I travelled to Bolivia to study and reflect on integral mission alongside CBM field staff, as well as Dr. Rene Padilla of the Kairos Foundation. This wasn't just academic reflection—it was theology in action. We witnessed firsthand how Canadian Baptists were partnering with Bolivian churches to help local congregations live out integral mission in their communities.

The experience transformed me. It gave language to convictions I already held, challenged and expanded my theology, and deepened my understanding of what it means to live out the gospel. Most importantly, it cemented a belief that has shaped my ministry ever since: the proclamation of the gospel must always be accompanied by its

demonstration. One without the other is an incomplete Christian witness.

Without knowing it at the time, Praxis also helped prepare me for leadership with CBM. In September 2015, I joined the CBM staff team as the discipleship programs facilitator overseeing the organization's short-term mission

program. Over the past decade, I've had the privilege of serving in various roles and now serve as the director of partnerships for the Americas and Asia. In this role, I support our teams across these regions as we partner with local churches to help them proclaim and demonstrate the gospel—through both word and deed.

In North America, we strive to connect the Canadian Church with the global body of Christ, fostering meaningful, mutual relationships with churches in the Majority World. Louise Hannem is our team lead for church engagement and works with three regional representatives—Dennis Shierman, Joe Bridi, and Chris Johnston. It's a privilege to visit local congregations across our country, extending an invitation not only to support but also to learn from the global Church—joining together in God's mission around the world.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we partner with churches and organizations in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. I'm especially grateful for our new team leader, Patricia Nacho Vargas, and the dedicated team of Bill and Janice Dyck, Tim and Kallie Hutton, Kathryn Scott, and Byron Velásquez. Last September, I had the privilege of visiting Bolivia again, where CBM has served for 127 years. I left deeply encouraged by the passion

and commitment of our partners as they equip leaders and care for the most vulnerable in their communities.

In Asia, we work alongside partners in India, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, Central Asia, and East Asia. Suraj Komaravalli leads our Asia team, which includes Joseph Lee, CP Raju, Ella T., and Lilian Yang. Last year, I attended a remarkable gathering in Serango, India, where over 150,000 Soura Baptists came together to celebrate 150 years of CBM's ministry. While I'm deeply grateful for this rich history and heritage, I'm even more inspired by the incredible work our current partners are doing and filled with hope for what God will continue to do across the region.



Reflecting on this journey—from that pivotal conversation in 2010 to the opportunities I now have to serve in leadership at CBM—I am continually reminded of

the power of partnership in God's mission. The stories from Bolivia, India, and so many other places are not just stories of ministry abroad—they are testimonies of God's Spirit at work through faithful communities, transforming lives and bringing hope. As we continue to walk alongside our global partners, my prayer is that the Canadian Church would not only offer support but also be transformed by what we learn from the courage, resilience, and faith of our sisters and brothers around the world.

The call to integral mission is clear: to proclaim the good news of Jesus while living it out in practical ways. It's a call that continues to shape me, our work at CBM, and the churches we serve alongside. And it's an invitation that extends to all of us—to join in what God is doing globally, bearing witness to the gospel through both word and deed.



Logo and photo: CBM

Sexual Trafficking Happens Near to Home

Human Trafficking

"is the **recruitment**, **transportation**, and/or **harbouring** of persons for the purposes of **exploitation**"

Deceit

Roméo or boyfriend tactics

intimidation

force

Threats

coercion

luring

grooming

manipulation

ISOLATING

exploiting a weakness

Nova Scotia has the highest rate of *human trafficking* incidents in Canada

Halifax to Moncton

is considered a "trafficking corridor"

Watching for signs of sex trafficking. Does someone you know ...

- *Have a new relationship that has taken a negative turn?
- *Have cash available suddenly? A second cellphone?
- *Suddenly have money for rides in taxis or by other means?
- *Have a new relationship, perhaps online, that seems controlling?
- *Have monitoring happening of a phone or ID? Are their movements being guided by someone?
- *Have generous gifts from a boyfriend or an older person?
- *Have a change in school or work routines? Are they going out after school or work, or going away from home for weekends?
- *Share intimate images with someone, either with or without consent?

Human trafficking can take place in any environment

in a home

at school

at a friend's house

in your neighbourhood

in your city

across your province

Human trafficking

is an individual or group

profiting off another

Who's AT RISK?

Women and girls Youth and young adults

Those in need of money or work 2SLGBTBI+ persons

Someone who can be isolated Survivors of abuse

Indigenous people (particularly female)

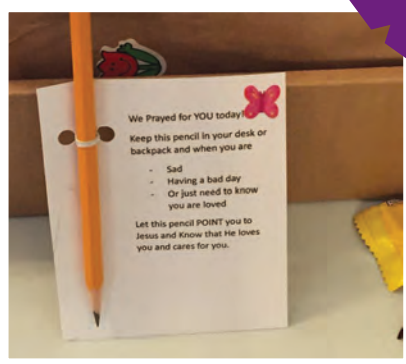


The Miriam Ross WMS of Wolfville Baptist Church, Nova Scotia, recently honored Heather McGregor with a Dominion Life Membership. Taking part in the presentation were group members (L—R) Judith Tod, Heather McGregor, Carol Anne Janzen, and Dora Crosby. Heather is the group's leader and for each meeting, arranges an interesting program and an enjoyable social time. Also, five members of the group wrote encouraging messages on 100 valentines which were sent to the Nova Institution for Women in Truro.



At the February 2025 meeting of the Eunice Cox Woman's Missionary Society of Birch Cove Baptist Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia, a Dominion Life Membership certificate and pin were presented to Jean Menzies-Newton in recognition of her support and interest in Canadian Baptist Missions. The pin was Ann MacFawn's mother's pin. Pictured (L—R): President Ann Steeves, Jean Menzies-Newton, and Treasurer Ann MacFawn.

At their January 2025 meeting, The Kathleen Soucy ABW group of Shediac Bay Community Church, Shediac, New Brunswick, hosted guest speaker Charlie Burrell, who heads up a Moncton project that cares for the homeless. "We donated many things for his work with the less fortunate in our community. We also made a donation of money to purchase bedding." Pictured (L—R): Charlie Burrell with group members Debby Stuart and Norma Charlton.



Inspired by ABW's 2024 Home Mission Project, the 10 WMS ladies at Kingston Baptist Church, New Brunswick, regularly prayed for 40+ Thursday evening youth. During their December Christmas program, the ladies prepared 50 gift bags containing an important message and treats. "With tears, each child was prayed for by first name. We continue to pray for these youth and leaders (three of which are WMS members) and look with anticipation to what God is doing in their lives, as we know God's word does not return unto him void." Pictured is one of the items included in the gift bags.



On Sunday, September 8, 2024, First Baptist Moncton, New Brunswick, held a special service celebrating the 150th anniversary of Canadian Baptist Ministries. Guest speakers were CBM Atlantic Rep Chris Johnston (centre), and Gary and Laura Selig, former CBM global field staff. Also pictured are Pat DuBois (left) and Elizabeth Chute (right), members of the planning committee and Evelyn Eaton WMS members.

Pictured is The One Another Woman's Missionary Society of Sunny Brae Baptist Church, Moncton, New Brunswick. "Our WMS group was 35-years-old in 2024."



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"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:21, NLT).

1 & 2 Corinthians ... the 2025 ABW Reads! New Testament reading selections

Unsplash - Claude Laprise

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