

\$2.00 June 2023

Tidings

Impacting the World for Christ



Inside a **SENT** trip 16



+ Whatever happened to the blankets? **14**

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 by Kathryn Scott: a CBM SENT team from Douglas Baptist Church, New Brunswick, visited the Dominican Republic in February and March 2023. Here, the team gets ready to play a game with children who live in a batey, a community for sugar cane workers.

Recently, when the door opener was activated for my garage's double-sized door, the door would rise six inches, but no more. The technician who came pointed out two heavy springs mounted on the inside wall of the garage, above the frame of the door. The weighty left and right springs, each 3.5 feet long, were in place, but the right spring was clearly severed. The left spring was still doing its job but alone it was not strong enough to fully open the door.



Tension in our lives is necessary; that's how muscles work, how motion is furthered, how productivity is achieved. In ballet, the tension of balancing produces an elegant grace. In leadership, the tension of standing alone yet building a solid team produces trustworthy strength. In our relationship with God, the tension of yielding to him and yet acting on decisions develops humility and depth in our spiritual character.

I now appreciate those springs above my garage door. They act when called upon, providing tension to lift. They remind me that it takes the varied abilities of many of God's people to work together to accomplish his calling. As you spring forward into summer, and as you read this issue of *Tidings*, where do you see opportunities to be thankful for good tension and move into action?

Cindy MacDonald



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Rev. Sylvia Hagerman

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

ABW Newsworthy Notes ...

ABW 2023 Children's Mission Action Project Casa de la Amistad, Bolivia



Casa de la Amistad, located in Cochabamba, Bolivia, is a program for children with a parent in prison.

The Casa offers comprehensive care in education, health, food, and psychological and spiritual support to over

100 children and youth, along with parents who actively participate in all project activities. Children and youth receive programming in art, Bible stories, recreation, leadership training, health and hygiene, in addition to receiving medical care, psychosocial support services, and healthy food. Parents are invited to participate in the programming and are involved in Bible studies and family strengthening workshops.

Thank you for your partnership with Canadian Baptist Ministries and Casa de la Amistad through the ABW 2023 Children's Mission Action Project. The 2023 ABW Children's Mission Action Project can be used in any children's program in your church.

Send offerings to the ABW provincial treasurer, designated "2023 Children's Mission Action Project, Casa de la Amistad."



ABW 2023 Home Mission Project Dignity Bibs for Residents of Seniors' Homes

Involve the crafters or sewers in your church family who might like to take part or donate supplies to the project.

Think of seasonal or fun patterns, and feminine or masculine fabrics.

No sewers in your WMS or ABW group?

Consider collecting gift cards so that a seniors' home of your choice can purchase bibs or items they need.



For more information on ABW's 2023 Home Mission Project or Children's Mission Action Project, see the January 2023 issue of *Tidings Magazine* or visit atlanticbaptistwomen.ca

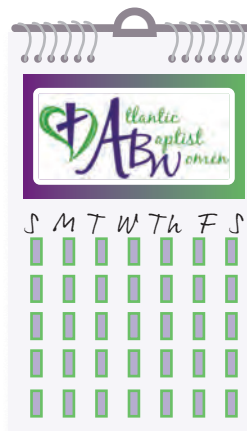
We Shall Remember Them

Esther Bagley	Dieppe, N.B.	23-04-27	91
Annie MacDonald	North Sydney, N.S.	23-04-10	91
Shirley MacDonald	Rusagonis, N.B.	23-04-07	80

**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.

The Baptist Women of North America
are 2020-2025 prayer partners
with the Baptist Women's Union
of Latin America.



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EUROPE



Xiaodan Fröhlich

¹Great Shepherd, we pray with Xiaodan Fröhlich, ministering to students in Marburg, Germany, as Canadian Baptist Ministries field staff: may Christians be motivated to give of their time and energy to be “shepherds” to the flock there. ²Encourage Xiaodan and her husband Philipp in the ministry they have started in Kassel, Germany, for children and youth aged 8–13. Inspire them to make the gospel alive for all ages.

AT HOME and ABROAD

^{3 & 4}Lord, open the eyes and hearts of youth attending the ONE Conference in Moncton, New Brunswick, that they may see you. Protect them as they travel, and fill the guest speakers with your Holy Spirit. Accept our praise for the 50+ seekers and six new believers who attended an event organized by Lewis and Felain Lam, Canadian Baptist Ministries field staff in Göttingen, Germany. For the new student support team there who have a passion to serve, Lord, help them apply your Word.

⁵Faithful Father, we lift up all CBM global field staff who live far from aging parents, young grandchildren, and adult children. Fill the gap in their families. The Lams ask for God’s guidance for their son as he studies and does intensive research in Canada this summer.

ASIA

⁶Omnipotent God, thank you that the Myanmar-Thailand border has opened and that students of Thailand Bethel Theological Institute are attending classes in person. Watch over Conrad and Fiona Kwok, CBM’s team leaders for Chinese Ministries, in their overseas travels this year.

⁷Uphold CBM National Field Staff Suraj Komaravalli who has recently been appointed team lead for Asia. Pray for strength and wisdom for Suraj as he oversees projects among CBM’s partners in India, Central Asia, and the Philippines.



**Suraj
Komaravalli**

AFRICA

⁸Prince of Peace, we plead for peace and hope for the citizens of the eastern and northern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; thousands of families have been forced to flee to displacement camps, and face hunger and disease.

⁹Pray with Polisi Kivava Baudouin, CBM national field staff for relief and development in Africa, that good weather conditions would prevail in Kenya where there is risk of famine. Lift up the new CBM partnerships in Togo and Liberia, praying that livelihoods and spiritual growth will be improved as a result of their ministry.



**Polisi
Kivava Baudouin**

ATLANTIC CANADA

^{10 & 11}Master Planner, we commit to you the “Steps for Hope” family carnival being held today for the Pregnancy Resource Center in Saint John, N.B. We pray for its success. We praise you for Emma, recipient of the summer grant. Bless her experience, and give the staff more opportunities to speak with clients about your love.

¹²Compassionate Jesus, reveal yourself to all those experiencing loss, an unplanned pregnancy, or a sexual addiction who come to the Open Door Centres in Halifax and Bridgewater, N.S. Supply more male counsellors, and secure a permanent location in Bridgewater.



¹³Lift up the East Coast Theology Summer School taking place June 13–15 at Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Ask God that the Simpson Lectures, given at this time by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, will inspire all who hear them.

¹⁴Loving Lord, who said, “Let the little children come to me,” we plead for any precious children in our region who have not had the privilege of hearing about you. Lead them to attend a Vacation Bible School sponsored by Atlantic Baptist Women.

¹⁵Give thanks for the Island Pregnancy Centres in Summerside and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, which provide basic necessities such as diapers and formula for struggling families. Pray that many donations of clothing for ages newborn to 5 years will be received.

¹⁶We praise you, Gracious God, for the new executive assistant at the Island Pregnancy Centre, and for the hospitality team providing homemade meals to new moms. We pray a blessing on those giving and those receiving.

^{17 & 18}Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth in Nova Scotia urgently requires a full-time support worker. Pray for this

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”

Hebrews 10:24, NIV

position to be filled, and for the health and wellbeing of staff and residents. Praise God for opportunities to build awareness in schools and churches about commercial sexual exploitation. On this Father’s Day weekend, we lift up all young women who have never known the love of a father and who seek it elsewhere. Father God, draw these negligent fathers to yourself.



¹⁹Today in Summerside, P.E.I., an open house will be held at Hope House Mother’s Home from 4:00–5:30 p.m. Ask God to bring many visitors to be informed and inspired by this work and to suit a special blessing to the home’s first manager.

²⁰Ever-present God, we entrust to you each detail of Tidal Impact 2023, taking place in the Saint John, N.B., area July 22–28. Encourage organizers Daniel Pyke and Jacqueline Derrah. Empower the speakers and draw youth to follow you.



²¹National Indigenous People’s Day is a time to recognize the outstanding contributions and unique heritage of our Indigenous peoples. Creator of all, we come humbly to your throne asking that a spirit of gratitude, humility, and unity prevail.

LATIN AMERICA

²²Steadfast Jesus, we pray for political stability in Bolivia; for fair elections in Guatemala; for justice regarding gang control in El Salvador; and, for CBM Field Staff Bill and Janice Dyck, based in Calgary, who minister to pastors and children in Latin America.



CBM

²³We lift up all CBM staff serving and living in Latin America: team leaders the Soucys as well as Kathryn Scott and Byron Velásquez in Guatemala, and the Huttons and Patty Nacho in Bolivia. Grant them and our Baptist Latin American sisters strong faith, good health, and safety over the summer months.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA - MENA

^{24 & 25}Omniscient God, comfort those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and provide resources for churches serving them. Equip graduates of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut to deliver your message of love to the Arab world; may churches in

Lebanon exude the message of hope. Grant grace to CBM MENA Team Leaders Mireille and Elie Haddad. Prepare Evangeline Hammond for her appointment as field staff in Lebanon, effective September 2023.

GLOBAL

²⁶The Baptist World Alliance gathering and the “SENT” Global Mission Summit will take place in Norway July 2–9, 2023. Commit every detail of the planning to our mighty God.



²⁷All-knowing God, lead the BWAid search team to the person who will best fit the program manager position. Lord, provide someone who will help implement a BWAid strategy that is Christ-centred, global, and creative.

²⁸Thank you, Father, for eastern European countries that have been faithfully providing for refugees fleeing Ukraine. Sovereign God, we beg of you to intervene in this war and draw leaders to yourself, bringing an end to the destruction and pain.

CANADIAN BAPTIST MINISTRIES

²⁹The goal of Active in Mission 2023 is to raise \$100,000 to help feed the hungry in CBM’s partner countries. Pray that many Baptists across Canada will take on this summer challenge and be active for a cause.

ATLANTIC CANADA

³⁰We praise you, Glorious God, for the ministry of interMISSION 2023 and ask your continued blessing on Atlantic Baptist Women’s leaders. As the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada meet August 10–12 for OASIS at Crandall University, in Moncton, N.B., may they, too, consider how to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24, NIV).

Elaine Huntington

Sources: CBM Prayerline, BWA Baptists One in Prayer, CBM staff newsletters, and personal emails.

Love The Sinner

In the Bible, it says to love one another: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved



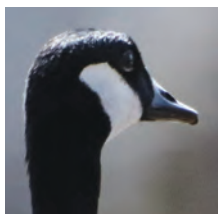
by Monica Skinner

you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34, NIV). We think, “How can I love this person when they’ve done something to me or said something to me

that I did not like?” We must love the person and hate the sin. It is hard to do this, but if we truly have peace in our heart, we can do this.

The daily devotional booklet, *One-Minute Inspirations for Women*, has a reading on loving the sinner. It says that doing so will keep you spiritually healthy. Our health was a topic of discussion recently at the “Healthy Bodies, Healthy Spirits” Health & Wellness forum. This was held at the beginning of the celebrations for the 191st anniversary of the church I attend, New Horizons Baptist Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We invited Ms. Chelsea Slawter Wright to come and talk about dementia, Alzheimer’s, and other health issues among the Black communities. She works with the Alzheimer Society. We heard that we must take care of ourselves and go to the doctor when we need to.

We must pray for one another by lifting each other up in prayer. Ephesians 6:18 tells us this: “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people” (NIV). This may help the person who said something nasty to you to say they are sorry. It might take years, but the Bible says never stop praying. Be like the praying parents who never stop praying for their children.



I attend a session every Tuesday about volunteering, and we discuss a lot of different things, from leadership and diversity to public speaking, funding, and so much more. In one part in the book, *Stepping Up to Leadership*, the author writes about geese and how they fly in the “V” formation. When they all fly together, it creates a better flying range than if one goose flew by itself. If we share a common direction and sense of community, we can get where we are going quicker and more easily because we are travelling on the thrust of one another. Having the good sense like a goose, we will



Unsplash - Jean Giroux

First Thessalonians 5:11 says to comfort and edify one another. Many Bible passages talk about comforting people during different situations, such as death. You can send a sympathy card to someone, showing you care or to give your condolences. And, we must respect each other. In saying that, we should not look down on another person because they are a sinner. Philippians 2:3 encourages us to respect one another. If you want respect, you must also give it. The devotional booklet I referred to talks about showing your children that you are loving toward your spouse. By doing so, you are being a great example for your children.

stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are. Once a “head goose” gets tired, it rotates back in the wing while another flies forward to the point of the “V”. We need to share the load and take turns when we do different jobs. With the honking sound from behind, this encourages the other geese to know to keep up their speed. If one goose gets sick or wounded by gunshot, it has the support of two other geese to stay with it until they can fly again, or it dies.¹ It is encouraging to know they have the support; we must learn from animals. They protect one another.

Say this prayer: *Father, it’s so natural to be petty, to be glad when someone who seems high-and-mighty is brought low. But that’s not your way. That’s not how you love. I want to love unconditionally and purely like you. Show me how. Amen.*

Love one another!

1. The topic, “The Sense of a Goose,” is adapted from a 1972 lay sermon, “Lessons from the Geese,” by Robert McNeish.

Monica Skinner serves as president of the Ladies Auxiliary at her home church and as secretary of the African United Baptist Association Women’s Institute.



our activities for the 2023–2024 *ABW Program Resource Book*—I do hope you will share this information with your group, or better yet, with your entire church.

I believe that the scope of the ABW's work is a well-hidden secret in many of our churches, and as we brainstorm ways in which we can attract new members to our organization, shining light on some of our projects might well be one of the most effective ways. Even though life can be full to the brim, many people will find time to invest in projects or activities that make a positive difference in our world: they want their time and money to count. They may not be able to attend monthly meetings, but they may be very willing to invest in specific projects that seem worthwhile to them.

we're contributing to the development of their leadership skills, which will improve the lives of women in their respective communities and ultimately the communities as a whole.

The CBW also sponsors the Great Canadian Bible Study (GCBS); each year, donations raised at the study support a project that assists vulnerable women and children. I'm delighted to tell you that the 2024 GCBS has been written by our own Rev. Sandy Sutherland on, "The Women at the Cross." In 2024, the project will be the "Health and Mentoring Project" for young girls and boys in Kenya, which will be delivered through the ACC&S. Check your February 2023 *Tidings* (page 14) for a fuller description of this project. Through our donations, communities will become safer and healthier for girls and young women.

For this last issue of *Tidings* to be sent out before the summer break, I'd like to leave you with some words of praise and encouragement. In a humble way, I am so proud of Atlantic Baptist Women! It may sound like a contradiction in terms, but I'm reminded of Paul's words to the church at Rome: "In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God" (Romans 15:17, NRSVUE). A couple of other translations express that sentiment in slightly different words: "Because I belong to Christ Jesus, I can take pride in my work for God" (NIRV). "So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God" (NLT). In other words, Paul is saying that if we are truly rooted in Christ, then we can take honest pride in the service or work that we do for God's sake.

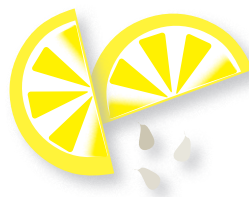
Let me highlight a couple of initiatives that resonate deeply with me. Through ABW's relatively modest annual contribution to Canadian Baptist Women (CBW), we are currently helping to support three women overseas in their post-secondary education: one in Lebanon who serves at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary; one who works for the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda; and, one who is a minister with Canadian Baptist Ministries' partner denomination in Kenya (ACC&S) and is studying for her DMin degree at Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. We have just approved the application of another young woman from Rwanda. You can meet the first three women in a short video on the CBW website under, "Scholarships."* By investing in these young women,

While these two initiatives may appear simply as line items in our ABW budget, they are making a powerful impact for good and for God in our world. We can become overwhelmed with the never-ending needs in our world created by natural disasters or war and hatred. But there is an alternative: we can continue to serve our Lord, one cup of cold water at a time, one helping hand at a time. We are allowed to give ourselves a pat on the back; after all, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews assures us, "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16, NIV).

I wish you a summer of personal refreshment and continued service!

* <https://canadianbaptistwomen.wixsite.com/cbwm>

During the ABW committee and executive meetings held in April, I was constantly amazed by what Atlantic Baptist women accomplish—quietly, consistently, faithfully—in the Lord's service. Our acting executive director for the past eighteen months, Rev. Sylvia Hagerman, has written up some of



by Dr. Carol Anne Janzen
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Paul the Missionary Bear visits the Zheng Zhu Student Center in Myanmar

by Ruth Tonn

Hello Adventurers! My name is Paul, and I'm a missionary bear on an around-the-world trip to visit missionary kids. My adventure began when I was sent from Canada as a present for a young girl whose parents were field staff for Canadian Baptist Ministries in India. We had extraordinary adventures together, and when she returned to Canada, I knew I wanted to continue spreading the love of Jesus to other missionary kids, so I stayed behind.

My first stop was the Zheng Zhu Student Center in Tachileik, Myanmar. Ninety-eight children from small villages that have no schools live at the centre while they attend school in Tachileik. They live away from their families for many months of the year, and sometimes it can be lonely. They may not be missionary kids, but churches in Canada sponsor some children there through CBM.

My friend at Zheng Zhu is Aung. (His name is pronounced Oun, like *sound* without the s or the d). He's learning English in school, so he practises with me. He is teaching me Burmese, and helping me learn the names of

the food here. I love the tasty food at the student centre. It is very fresh because they grow many things in their garden. The student centre has vegetable gardens, fruit trees, a church, and lots of room to play.

Aung and his friends are so excited! They are looking forward to a special visitor. Pastor Joseph, a CBM field staff worker, arrives today to visit for the weekend. He lives in Thailand and hasn't been to visit for a long time, almost three years! They hope he will tell them a story about Jesus in their Bible class tomorrow.

They're also excited because Saturday is Birthday Day. After chores and Bible class, there's to be a party with a birthday cake, lots of yummy treats, and fun games. Aung and his friends talked about the cakes and treats so much that it made me hungry. Talking about food always makes me hungry. I'm just a hungry bear!

I'm also a curious bear! I asked Aung how he came to live at the student centre. He said he was there because some missionaries had come to his village. He said they visited his village several times to tell about Jesus, and started a small church there. They also showed the people different ways to grow better crops so that they could feed their families and have vegetables to sell to others. When his parents saw how much the missionaries cared about them, they decided to go to church, and then they all believed in Jesus. Since there is no school in their village, the missionaries told Aung's family about the student centre and arranged a scholarship for him to attend.

Aung went to do his chores, and I thought about missionaries and supper. I was so hungry!



Everyone helps with chores at the Zheng Zhu Center



Supper was a happy, noisy time, happy for me because we were having fish—my favourite—and loud because everyone wanted to say hello and talk to Pastor Joseph. It was hard for the students to quiet down long enough to thank God for the food. In honour of Pastor Joseph, we had everyone's favourite dessert, coconut ice cream. Yum!

After the supper chores were done, Pastor Joseph told us stories and sang with us. We sang the special song we had learned for him. (I sang too with my growly bear voice.) I think he liked



it. It was exciting to hear him tell the children how much God loves them and cares for them because that's what I told Aung and his friends, too.

At the Saturday morning Bible class, Pastor Joseph asked the students quiz questions, and then they asked him questions. Sometimes, he pretended he didn't know the answer, but he always did. The afternoon birthday party was so much fun. I couldn't play some games because of my short legs, but Aung tucked me in his shirt so I could run with him.

By the end of the day, I was so tired! Aung tucked me into my bed and then went to his. As I laid in the dark, I thanked Jesus for bringing me to the Zheng Zhu Center. I've had many adventures here and will miss the students, but it is time to move on. Pastor Joseph is leaving after tomorrow's church service to return to Thailand. I wonder if he would take me with him?

Paws & Pawnder

1. Why might Aung's parents wait to see the missionaries' actions before they went to church?
2. What does the Bible say about our actions and our words? (1 John 3:18; James 2:17-18; Matthew 5:16; John 13:34-35.)
3. Do your family and friends know you love them by what you say and do? If not, what can you do to change that?

A Pawsitively Delicious Snack

With your family or group, make a favourite treat of the Zheng Zhu students, coconut ice cream.

Ingredients

- 1¾ cups (414 ml) can cream of coconut
- 1 cup milk
- 1½ cups heavy cream
- 1½ cups sweetened flaked coconut (optional)

Directions

1. Combine cream of coconut and milk in a food processor or blender; mix thoroughly. Stir in cream and flaked coconut until combined.
2. Pour into the container of an ice cream maker; freeze according to the manufacturer's instructions. Store covered in the freezer.

Tip

Do not confuse the sweetened cream of coconut used in this recipe with unsweetened coconut milk or cream. The sweetness in this recipe comes from the cream of coconut.



Entertainment *OR* Eternity?



by Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell

John Wesley said, "I look upon all the world as my parish...."

Walt Disney said, "If you can dream it, you can do it!"

Jesus Christ said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30, NIV).

As you walk through life, do you stop at times and evaluate your path? Who set your feet on the right direction? How kind is God when we can say we had steady, godly influences guiding us along the way. I happen to be writing this on a Sunday evening, and I have been thinking about Sunday nights long, long ago when I was a child and then a teenager. My family's Baptist church was part of a little field of two churches. Morning church was at my home church and the evening service was held at the church up the road.

After supper on Sunday evening, we always had the TV on to catch "The Wonderful World of Disney" programming that, in those days, was typically a heartwarming special you would never want to miss. Before the days of PVR and VCRs, if you missed it—you missed it. We would need to leave for evening church sometime around the middle of the program. Our family didn't go to church every Sunday night, but did many times, and I remember being disappointed about leaving that program behind.

My parents cultivated relationships with families in that church, families we wouldn't have known all that well if we hadn't attended those evening services. The church had an older lady who played the piano.

She could play by ear and could play almost anything in the hymnbook. I remember her saying, "Just sing a little bit of it," if she didn't know a song the congregation wanted to sing, and she'd pick up the tune and be able to carry it along. Those Sunday evenings stand out in my mind, my spirit, and my heart these days. I watched people walk the aisle for salvation, to confess sin, and when they were burdened for the salvation of family members.

This week, we said good-bye to one of the members of that congregation. At 58, she was far too young; only 11 years older than me, she died with complications from cancer. But she had a sweet relationship with Jesus. She had made her peace with him, no doubt at that little church. Her passing brought back a flood of memories of those Sunday nights filled



Unsplash Tim Foster

with series of sermons from our pastor, the singing, the laughing, and the sweet Christian fellowship we shared.

Times have changed and we don't have those Sunday night services anymore; however, I sure am glad now that my parents chose eternity over entertainment. The nights when we did stay home and finish those Walt Disney programs didn't have nearly the eternal impact of the relationships and spiritual training of those Sunday night services. As you consider your own family and your own church gatherings, how can you position yourself to choose eternity over entertainment? If that was hard in the early 1980s, it is extremely difficult in 2023. Entertainment without any real eternal value is on many walls and in corners of our homes, along with a device we carry around in our pockets. Entertainment has almost engulfed us.

I encourage you to find those spiritual places where the children and young people within your influence can build relationships: Christian camp, youth group, church services, fellowship times at church, Christian clubs, Christian school, Bible college, and so on. These relationships that help bind us together in the Spirit are invaluable. I'll see my childhood friend again someday because of a sweet salvation we have in common. Even though Walt Disney said, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them," these dreams are temporal, rooted in the here and now. Jesus said, "I AM the Way—and the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6a, CJB). Choosing eternity over entertainment for today's kids and teens means their tomorrows have no end.

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

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

“Would we ever be able to come to your gym and just shoot some hoops?”

This question, voiced by a few students to our church administrator, sparked an idea: can Salisbury Baptist Church in New Brunswick provide gym time to teens from the community, without a specific program in mind?

So often, I see students walking down the streets of our small town after school, or on days when there isn't school. Many of them are headed to a friend's house, or just to the store to buy some snacks. Every weekday, I pick up my youngest son from the elementary school, which is next door to our town's combined middle and high school. I pass hundreds of students as they flood the sidewalk after that final bell to get on their bus, find their parent's or grandparent's car, or embark on the walk home. I smile at them, say hello to any I know by name, and laugh at the antics that groups of friends make amongst themselves. As I'm walking along, I am praying for a way to reach each and every one of those students because my heart aches for them to know God. There are hundreds of faces—students that don't know about a God who loves them, a God who longs to care for them, and a God who will never abandon them.



Gym Time ... a Bridge to a Community's Teens

by Shara Foreman

Director of Children's and Youth Ministry
Salisbury Baptist Church, New Brunswick

Getting those students into a church building is one of the most daunting tasks for a youth pastor. There are so many stigmas attached to churches, barriers of past hurts, and several

unknowns that make walking through the doors a huge challenge. “Would I be safe?” “Will they judge me?” “Will they accept who I really am?”

“What would my friends think if they knew I went to a church?” “Are they going to push that ‘God stuff’ down my throat?” These are just some of the questions that run through students' minds, questions that we need to have the opportunity to answer but can't unless we can connect with them. When those students asked for a chance to come into our building, the spark became a fire in my heart!

Trish, the church administrator, and I brainstormed a couple of ideas about how to get

an open gym time up and running in our church. The location of Salisbury Baptist Church is such a blessing because we are a short walking distance to all our schools, which allows students to come to our building without adding to the busy driving schedules of parents or grandparents. Our gym facility is used by our local recreation department for various programs, including basketball for all ages, so many of the teens have been here for games or practices. I pitched the idea of having an open gym time, to be held one afternoon a week, to our church's Christian Education Board and received unanimous approval.

I got to work creating a flyer to promote the opportunity to the community. I was able to get approval from the middle and high school to send them a copy, which they posted throughout the building and added to their

morning announcements. This was a huge step forward, as our regular programming was not allowed to be advertised at our local schools. God was in control and went ahead of me opening up doors! I asked the church family to join me in prayer over this opportunity; I knew this could be the start of something big.

God has shown up in such a big way! The first week, 23 students walked through our doors and enjoyed some basketball, soccer, dodge ball, and a snack. The following week 35 teens arrived to enjoy the gym, many of them new faces that weren't present the week before! I have no idea what God has in store for this ministry, but we will continue to offer these students a safe place to come and hang out, all the while being prayed for. At SBC, we want to build a bridge to overcome the stigmas our teens fear when they hear “church,” and this program has become the foundation to our bridge.

Meet Shara:

I am a wife to Darren, a mom of three — Jacob, Jorja, and Micah—and grandmother to one special grandson, Kolby. I am currently in the last year of my master's degree in youth ministry and am so blessed to be able to serve in such an amazing community.



Meeting God in the Garden of Gethsemane and the Tomb

by Evie Klein Whittingham



could grasp much of it in the moment.

That night, before his crucifixion, he invited them to the garden one more time.

The place would've been beautiful and quiet on a steep and rocky hillside with ancient, sheltering olive trees stretching over them. A cobblestone path wound through it going down to the valley and up again to join the wide paved road to the majestic east entrance of the temple.

At that time of year, the olive trees bloom with great clusters of tiny white flowers with bright yellow stamens. As the wind blows, clouds of pollen float across the valley, pollinating sister trees near and far away, filling the air with the lovely, light scent reminiscent of mint and licorice. Flowing grasses and the litter of fallen, dry olive leaves lies soft underfoot except where limestone bedrock breaks through the ground.

The name of the Garden of Gethsemane is practical, meaning garden of the

Gardens have many functions, from producing food and flowers to providing sanctuary. They are both places to gather and to find solitude; places to walk through and be rejuvenated, or to sit and rest. Though they are built environments with boundaries, walls, and walkways, unlike houses they have a ceiling of sky. They are backdrops for joyful wedding pictures and milestone events, yet cemeteries, too, are landscaped as beautiful gardens.

Jesus valued the garden. He was a man who walked through the wilderness on foot trails from village to village, and on paved Roman roads from town to town. He sat on hillsides and shorelines, in the synagogues and marketplaces, and in private courtyards and houses, wherever people were. Though he was a builder and a carpenter, as a man of his time and place, he understood vineyards and

orchards, fields and forest, cropland and rough country. He knew the land and the folks who lived there. And he loved the people and his environment, and drew on these as metaphors for spiritual truth.

It was his practice to go outside alone, early in the morning, to pray and commune with God his Father. When he was in the city of Jerusalem, one of his favourite places to take his friends was the Mount of Olives, with a view across the Kidron Valley to the Golden Gates opening into the courts of the Holy House, the Temple of Israel. Near the base of the mount was a garden called Gethsemane.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, he commemorated the Passover meal privately with twelve of his disciples, preparing them for his arrest, sacrificial death, and resurrection. Not that they

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

John 20:15b–16a, NIV

Garden: Tomb Garden

oil press. An olive orchard functions to supply oil, the mainstay of the Middle Eastern diet and culture. It requires a stone press to yield the highest quality oil from its first pressing.

Here Jesus took his three closest friends a little apart and asked them to keep watch with him. Going further, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, desperately.

He comprehended fully what Isaiah wrote of the Messiah: "... he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities... [and] poured out his life unto death"

(Isaiah 53:5,12). He knew he was facing his own torture and execution.

But it was late, and his friends were tired, and they couldn't keep their eyes open.

Did the rock he knelt on give him strength or the grass and dry leaves console him? Did the scent of the trees revive his spirit? How did the Spirit of the Living God answer his agony?

His accusers came there, into the garden, and arrested him, though he could've called on his Father for twelve legions of angels (Matthew 26:53). They beat and whipped him and hung him on a cross on the

busy thoroughfare into the city. It was not a pretty hill with green grass and a pink sunset.

Below that awful place of condemnation was a secluded garden with a new tomb cut into the rock which belonged to Joseph, a member of the Council. He negotiated with the Roman governor to take down the body of Jesus. He and Nicodemus wrapped it in linen and spices, and placed it in the new tomb there before nightfall and the Sabbath imposed its restrictions.

The women who had followed Jesus from Galilee saw where he was laid. After the Sabbath was over, early on the first day of the week, the women took spices they had prepared to further anoint the body of Christ. Mary Magdalene was with them.

Early in the morning the city was waking to the sound of birds singing and merchants setting up their stalls. How could the world seem so unchanged after the death of the Son of God, their beloved Rabbi, Jesus? The sandals of the women crunched on the

gravel path across the garden. Sunlight streamed low through young fruit trees and bushes to reveal the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. But when they went inside, their eyes adjusting to the darkness, they found it empty. The body was gone!

After all that had happened, Mary Magdalene wept bitterly. "They have taken my Lord away...."

She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but did not realize it was him. She thought he must be the gardener.

Until he spoke her name. And she held on to him.

Do I recognize his voice? Is there a garden, a path through the woods, or a quiet room in my house where I hear him speak my name? Where I can take hold of him? ♦

Evie 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.



Pixabay Kevin Synnman



Whatever happened to the blankets?

Dianne Friesen (centre) stands with Mi'kmaq colleagues Jermaine Doucette (left) and Barbara Silliboy (right), each wrapped in a gifted blanket, at Atlantic Baptist Women's 2012 interMISSION event.

by Dianne Friesen

Following her passion to see the Word of God available in the heart languages of people, Dianne Friesen joined Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1995 and was co-appointed with Canadian Baptist Ministries after graduating with a Master in Theological Studies from Trinity Western Seminary. In 1998, she moved to Cameroon and worked with the Moloko people to begin translation of the Bible. In 2009, she returned to Canada and settled in Cape Breton to work in the same capacity alongside the Mi'kmaq.

Today, Dianne still makes her home in Cape Breton. Since 2015, although no longer working under Wycliffe and CBM, she continues to collaborate with Mi'kmaq colleagues in language development and translation. She completed her doctorate in 2022, studying Mi'kmaq grammar in close collaboration with Mi'kmaq colleagues.

It all started in the lunch lineup at Atlantic Baptist Women's annual interMISSION event in May, several years ago. Bonnie Benson and Lorna McCain, two women involved in ABW's leadership at that time, said that they really wanted to do something to help my ministry with Mi'kmaq in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Was there anything that ABW could do?

I thought a bit and I believe God gave me a challenge for them. I told them that in the few months since I had come to work with the Mi'kmaq people, several new friends had told me the story of when English soldiers gave smallpox blankets to the Mi'kmaq. The soldiers had taken the blankets from homes where people had died from smallpox, knowing that, somehow, the blankets would give the virus to the Mi'kmaq when they used them. They didn't know how it worked, only that it would be effective. And it was. Many died.

I wondered aloud to the ladies, "What if we were to make another gift of blankets to the Mi'kmaq? Only this

time, instead of the blankets being laced with deadly virus, they could be filled with prayers and love and good wishes. Would that make a difference?"

So, that is how the ABW 2012 Home Mission Blanket Project started. The women of ABW all seized on it and made or bought so many blankets ... knitted ones, crocheted ones, quilts, and fleece blankets ... over a thousand blankets, each so beautiful, in every size and colour, for babies, adults, and youth.

When my Mi'kmaq friends heard about it, they were amazed and intrigued. "Can we come to the convention when you are getting them so we can receive them on behalf of the Mi'kmaq?"

So Barbara Silliboy and Jermaine Doucette, two women from Eskasoni First Nation, Cape Breton, came to interMISSION the next year when the blankets were given and dedicated. The women of ABW made a ceremony where they brought some blankets out and made a heap in front of the Mi'kmaq women. They prayed over the blankets in English and then Barbara prayed over them in Mi'kmaq. Afterward, we went backstage and saw the entire heap of blankets. It filled a room. We could bury ourselves in the pile. We were amazed and overwhelmed.

When the blankets were delivered to Eskasoni, four women from ABW came with them to help Arlene Stevens, another colleague in Bible translation, and her daughter Angie Sa'n organize them in Angie's house. Arlene then took on the role of connecting with the five Mi'kmaq communities in Cape Breton and a few other communities on the mainland. She got names of people and then selected a blanket according to each particular person's needs. Barbara made a card to go with each that recalled the smallpox blankets and explained the story of

why the women of ABW were giving these blankets. She enclosed a prayer in Mi'kmaq and English that said, "May you feel enveloped in God's love when you wrap yourself in the blanket." Many people helped with the deliveries. Every elder, every new baby, and every sick person got a blanket. I was involved with a few of the deliveries and they were received in a spirit of love, with tears and hugs.

I always kind of wanted to leak the story to the press, but maybe to get praise that way was not the right thing to do. It did somehow make it into the book, *Creating Local Arts Together: A Manual to Help Communities to Reach Their Kingdom Goals*, which was written by one of my Wycliffe colleagues, Brian Schrag. The blanket story is in the justice section.

The gifting of blankets was a justice event for reconciliation. It really made a difference. Thank you so much. I heard a lot of stories back from the Mi'kmaq, but I think my favourite is this: someone from one of the communities on Cape Breton kept contacting Arlene to ask, "When are we going to get our blankets? There was a murder in our community, you see, and everyone is sad. No one is smiling or talking to one another. We need the blankets!" The woman caller sent a list of people's names, and Arlene got the blankets selected. The community sent a truck to pick them up. A few weeks after they got them, the woman contacted Arlene again to say, "People are laughing again and talking to each other again. Thank you so much!"

Do you have Indigenous friends who tell you of other stories about how

they were wronged as a nation by our nation? Or maybe it is another group that has a story of mistreatment—Acadians, Black Canadians, miners. The story may not be in the history books, maybe only in the oral history of those who were wronged. It may have happened a long time ago, but if people are still talking about the issue, then it is still hurting them. Maybe it is time for another justice and reconciliation event. Who is better suited to carry it out than God's people in the church?

God says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (NIV). ♦



Dianne's Mi'kmaq colleagues, Jermaine and Barbara, surrounded by donated blankets at interMISSION.



The delivery truck, loaded for the trip from New Brunswick to Cape Breton.



L-R: Lorna McCain and Sugar Poulette admire a quilt.

Who is better suited to carry out reconciliation than God's people in the church?





**Expect the Unexpected:
Inside a CBM SENT Trip**
by Katie Jamer Jewett

Canadian and Dominican team members from Douglas Baptist Church's 2023 SENT trip to the Dominican Republic: (L-R) Peter Moore, José Yan Pie (seated), Kathryn Scott, Sydney Shelley, Belkis Gil Núñez, Wander Vargas Pierret (seated), Ellen Brewer, and Katie Jamer Jewett.

Hi! I'm Katie, and this February I travelled to the Dominican Republic with a team from Douglas Baptist Church, New Brunswick. Since 2019, we'd been partnering with IBAREDO, the Dominican association of Baptist churches, through Canadian Baptist Ministries' STEP program. We had supported their mission work financially and with prayer, and now, almost three years later than planned, we were finally going to meet people in person. If you've ever travelled with CBM, you know that things are never simple. What do I mean by that? Well. . .

TRIP ITINERARY: Douglas Baptist Church SENT Team to La Romana, Dominican Republic, February/March 2023

Friday, February 24 – Leave Douglas (3:30am). Arrive in Punta Cana (11:25pm). Drive to La Romana (pork chops and mashed potato supplied to eat en route). Check into Hotel.

Saturday, 25th – CBM Orientation. Afternoon Computer Classes. Meals in Pastoral House.

Sunday, 26th – Morning Service at Bethel Church. Tour of Los Altos de Chavón.

Monday, 27th and Tuesday, 28th – Batey Ministry. Cut out the children. (Note to self: check translation.)

Wednesday, March 1 – BEACH DAY! Supper at Papa John's Pizza.

Thursday, 2nd – Prepare for Saturday Morning. Evening Cultural Exchange.

*Bring gym clothes.

Friday, 3rd – Zona Colonial, Santo Domingo.

Saturday, 4th – Children's Ministry. Evening Barbecue.

Sunday, 5th – Team Debrief. Afternoon with Pastor Miguel and his wife Belkis. Evening Service at Bethel.

Monday, 6th – Leave Hotel (8:30am). Arrive in Fredericton (12:05am on the 7th).

FRIDAY, February 24th (actually Saturday morning):

Long day, but we're glad to be here. We joked about eating pork chops for a midnight snack, but honestly, they hit the spot. We were met by

CBM Field Staff Kathryn Scott, whom we know well from Douglas Baptist Church, Pastor Miguel of Bethel Church, and our driver, José. Hotel is lovely but noisy.

SATURDAY, 25th:

Motorbikes everywhere. Whatever you have to transport—furniture, building supplies, family of six—it goes on the bike. Also, the sugar cane train goes past day and night. Constant noise. Roads by the resorts are spotless, but otherwise there's garbage everywhere.

Helped Wander, the cook, today. All the food has been delicious. We managed to convince him to sit with us, which we considered a success. Our translator, Lia, is great; at only 14, she's headed towards eventually studying law. Some questions are tough to convey with my limited Spanish, but I'm catching more than expected.

SUNDAY, 26th: Lots of hugs and smiles this morning. It's so different from church at home, but it's still the same God. In some ways the sanctuary looks like one in Canada, with worship band instruments, a sound system, and a large stage. Look a bit closer, though, and you'll see ungrounded wires, and the attached pastoral house has dirt floors in the kitchen area. Most songs are familiar, just in Spanish. There are plenty of women in leadership roles.

Visited Los Altos, a replica of a 16th-century Spanish village. It's a city within a city—you need a passport to enter, and they have *everything*. Mansions, yachts, designer purses, the works. Almost everyone here is light-skinned, with only a few workers of Haitian/African descent.



The wealth made me uncomfortable, but Pastor Miguel seems to know everyone, even here.

Independence Day is tomorrow. They are celebrating independence from Haiti—why not Spain? Still mulling over why.

MONDAY, 27th: The bateyes were an experience. Right off the highway in the middle of the sugar fields, but you'd never know they were there. All the folks who live there are Haitian migrants who work the fields. No indoor plumbing or electricity.



When we found out that Bethel does haircare ministry there, we were worried *WE'D* be the ones cutting hair. No need to worry though—Miguel brought professional barbers instead. A group of community girls did my hair. Not going to lie, I was a bit overwhelmed, but José didn't once let us out of his sight.

TUESDAY, 28th: Different bateya, similar set-up. We drove right into the sugar cane fields and met a few workers. The housing, the oxen carts—it felt like we were in 1860s Mississippi, except for the cell phones. Amazing, though, the difference a good haircut makes. Those kids felt like a million bucks. Bethel has been doing outreach ministry here for a while.

WEDNESDAY, March 1st: Pastor Miguel, José, and Eric, our translator, took us to a small public beach located between two resorts. We would have been happy to spend the day meeting church folks, and going to the beach isn't really something that locals do, but they insisted. My stomach was upset, so I spent my time people-watching. Water was lovely.

Missed out on the pizza, but Belkis (Pastor Miguel's wife) and Wander made me traditional tea with onion, garlic, passion fruit, lime, honey, and cinnamon. I felt very loved.

THURSDAY, 2nd: Bought souvenirs. Most things were very touristy, but I finally found a painting of a Dominican lady who reminds me of Belkis. Looking forward to getting it framed.

Stomach feels better, thanks to the tea and twelve hours' sleep. Took it easy at the church gym, though—the worship leader/trainer, Ruben, had us doing a full 45-minute CrossFit circuit!

FRIDAY, 3rd: Travelled to Zona Colonial, which is Santo Domingo's historic district. Santo Domingo was founded in 1496 (!) as an administrative centre for colonial rule of the Caribbean: at one point, our guide motioned to the house of the colonizer of Mexico on the right, and the house of the colonizer of Peru on the left. Saw numerous monuments to the Columbus family, and we toured Alcázar de Colón, the house of Columbus's son Diego. During the '50s, it was rebuilt by the dictator Raphael Trujillo. I stood by the old well, where political dissidents were subjected to water torture. It was surreal.



Lots of tourists and school groups. It felt weird being lumped in with them, like we were taking advantage of the colonial history that was the death of so many. Most people breezed through, but I'll be processing this for awhile.

SATURDAY, 4th: Kids' activities went well. Many of the kids help support their families, so they'll be able to use their new bracelet-making skills for income—something we wouldn't even think about in Canada.

Typical Saturday night youth group barbecue, except it was on the rooftop in the gym. More delicious food from Wander.

SUNDAY, 5th: The evening service was emotionally and spiritually moving. After our group received a plaque from our partners, the women encircled us and all started to pray aloud. Meanwhile, the music continued, Pastor Miguel prayed from the pulpit, and the motorbikes roared outside.

One of the deacons, Nancy, blessed each of us in turn, from our heads to our stomachs to our hands and feet. The intimacy reminded me of a Wabanaki smudging ceremony. Then, we joined in a conga line around the sanctuary. It was such a quick change in mood that I found it jarring. Still processing that.

Our church's partnership through STEP is officially finished now, but we feel like we're just beginning. Just two weeks ago we were strangers, and now we're friends.

Long day of travel ahead, and we're already making plans to come back.

EPILOGUE - SUNDAY, March 12: Last Sunday, we were in the DR, and now it's over. Everything hit me hard today. I cried through most of the church service—not totally sure why.

Everyone's asking how our trip went. How do I answer that? ♦





The Storied History of Women in Ministry A Conversation with Dr. Melody Maxwell

Dr. Melody Maxwell (left) speaks with Siobhán Parr, a student in the Master of Divinity program at Acadia Divinity College. Located in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, ADC is the Faculty of Theology for Acadia University and the seminary of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

Recently, Acadia Divinity College's Associate Professor of Christian History Dr. Melody Maxwell was awarded funding to launch an oral history project with the goal of gathering firsthand stories from women ordained in Atlantic Baptist churches. Today, we're excited to learn a bit more about Melody, her research, and the importance of stories in helping us understand our own lives and the lives of others.

How does studying Christian history relate to your own story?

I grew up as a Southern Baptist in the U.S., so I am especially interested in the ways that Southern Baptist women have navigated their conservative cultural and religious contexts. While these women have been restricted from leading churches, they have often expressed their leadership through missions efforts. Some went overseas as missionaries, and others supported them by forming women's missions organizations. This has sometimes

been true of Baptist women in Atlantic Canada as well.

Your favourite course to teach at ADC is, "Women in the Christian Tradition." What about it makes it your favourite?

Too often, the study of Christian history focuses on white, Western men. I enjoy helping students discover the rich history of women's leadership in Christian history and find that they are not the first gifted women to contribute to the church.

It's especially rewarding to watch female students discover their own voices and callings as they progress through this course.

ADC will be offering "Women in the Christian Tradition" again in fall 2023. The course will take place on Thursdays from 3:00–4:30 p.m., and students can participate from ADC or remotely via Zoom. I would encourage *Tidings'* readers and other interested women to join me in the class by signing up to audit the course. Visit acadiadiv.ca/audit to learn more.

Students at ADC have said that you make learning history fun. Is there anything specific that you do to create an engaging classroom experience while teaching?

I believe that we learn best not just by hearing lectures, but by engaging multiple senses in active learning. In class, I enjoy having students debate historical ideas, play the roles of historical characters, and discuss



their perspectives on history, among other activities. We have fun together in the classroom!

You recently received funding through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for a new research project, "Called to Serve." Can you explain what the project involves and what you hope to achieve through it?

Called to Serve features women ordained by Baptist churches in Atlantic Canada from 1950 to 2020. We are interviewing as many of these women as possible in order to preserve and share their important stories. You can listen to their stories, find out more about the project, and get involved by visiting calledtoserve.ca.

In 2024 and 2025, we will provide panel discussions, workshops, and presentations about our research.

These will take place at Baptist churches, academic conferences, and in other settings. We look forward to sharing the stories of these ordained women more widely.

In this new project and in some of your past writing (for example, your book, *The Woman I Am*), you focus on the stories of others, both written and oral. Why do you think we find stories and personal experiences so powerful?

I think hearing the stories of others makes us consider our own lives and what might be possible for us. Hearing or reading others' personal experiences can inspire and challenge us at a deep level. Those who have gone before us can remain alive in a way through their stories that we pass down through the generations.

What have you learned personally on the journey of gathering these stories?

I have learned the importance of relationships and mentors for women in ministry. Many of the women we have interviewed have named other interviewees as role models and supporters in their work. Their stories demonstrate to me how important it is for women to support each other and encourage younger women that God could use them in ministry. It is often when young women see other women serving in

ministry that they realize that they could be called to serve themselves.

If a historian were to find the Called to Serve project 100 to 200 years from now, what do you hope they'd learn from the stories of these women?

I hope that a future historian would note the courage and determination of the women ordained by Atlantic Baptist churches during the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Despite obstacles, these women persevered in following God's call on their lives. They did not serve to advance feminist goals but to obey God.

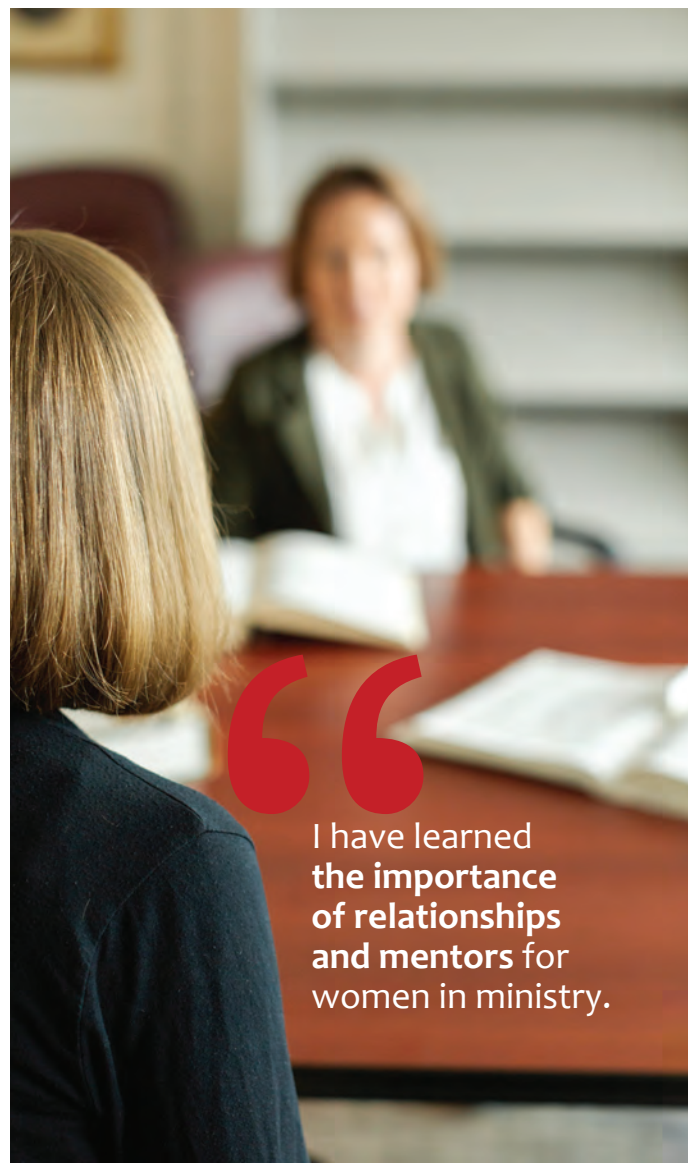
What other research projects are you working on?

I am currently gathering archival material about Annie Armstrong, a historic Southern Baptist women's leader. Armstrong helped found and lead Woman's Missionary Union, an organization that is similar to Atlantic Baptist Women. I am interested in learning more about her efforts and motivations for her work. I anticipate writing a biography of Armstrong over the next few years.

What advice would you give to a woman navigating her call to ministry?

Women who are exploring a call to ministry face challenges that men do not usually experience. I would encourage a woman in this situation to recognize her unique giftedness and trust God's call on her life. I would urge her to find female mentors, pursue theological education, and find a space in which she could serve and lead. ♦

With thanks to Carley Lee, communications coordinator of Acadia Divinity College.



I have learned the importance of relationships and mentors for women in ministry.

Atlantic Baptist Women News from You



Last Advent, *the ABW group of Jacksonville Baptist Church, New Brunswick*, invited the church family to help raise funds for Canadian Baptist Ministries to “Fill a Stable.” The foyer tree was decorated with farm animals and tags with dollar amounts which people could choose as a reminder to give. “We are thankful to God and give Him praise that funds came in to fill four stables, and a little extra to be used where most needed.”



The Kingdom Kids of Middleton Baptist Church, Nova Scotia, along with the Muriel Bent ABW group and the congregation, raised \$2,171.15 in aid of the 2023 ABW Children’s Mission Action Project. This

project supports Canadian Baptist Ministries’ work with at-risk children at the Casa de la Amistad in Cochabamba, Bolivia. After several weeks of promoting the project, church members stayed for a soup lunch and also supported the children’s “Kids Cards for Casa.”



The *Hillside Baptist Church Joan McSwain Woman’s Missionary Society in Moncton, New Brunswick*, gifted 12 dignity bibs for seniors in support of the 2023 ABW Home Mission Project. The daughter of one of the WMS women made the bibs and donated them to the group to give to a local nursing home.

Rather than swapping gifts with one another at Christmastime 2022, the *Kathleen Soucy ABW group of Shediac Bay Community Church, N.B.*, made a Christmas delivery for the residents of



a seniors’ care facility in Shediac. The donated items are shown under the Christmas tree at the care home. Nadine and Marise (at the left), recreation workers at the villa, are shown with representatives from the ABW group, Norma Charlton and Debby Stuart.

The Muriel Bent Woman’s Missionary Society of Shag Harbour, Woods Harbour, Nova Scotia, is shown following their Christmas 2022 meeting and tea. Their number was small that day yet the time of sharing together was enjoyed. Each member had an opportunity to share a story, special ornament, or memory from a past Christmas. A number from the group have read the book from the ABW Reads! 2022 reading program which dealt with the issue of human trafficking. “This burdens our hearts and we are praying for God to guide our group and other WMS groups across Atlantic Canada regarding what our response is to be to this horrific reality.”



At the February 2023 meeting of the *Kathleen Soucy ABW group, Shediac Bay Community Church, New Brunswick*, the women gathered toques, long underwear, briefs, tee shirts, and 126 pairs of socks to donate to a Moncton ministry that cares for people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and addictions.



In support of the 2023 ABW Home Mission Project, at the March meeting of the **Lewisville Baptist Church ABW group, Moncton, New Brunswick**, 15 ladies cut, stitched, turned, ironed, and trimmed material to make 34 colourful adult clothing protectors. The dignity bibs will be donated to a local seniors' care manor. "We were blessed as we worked together, and felt blessed to give the bibs where they will be put to good use."

On January 17, 2023, the **Bridge Church chapter of the Pond Missionary Society, Marysville, New Brunswick**, held a shower for the three N.B. pregnancy crisis centres. The shower wrapped up the group's involvement in the 2022 ABW Home Mission Project, "Wonderfully Made." Heartwarming testimonials were heard from each of the centres and the group brought in items to add to an already large collection of gifts. "We were very happy to take part in this worthwhile project."



The **Bible study group of the United Baptist Church in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia**, poses with dignity bibs that they made for a local nursing home. This was in support of the 2023 ABW Home Missions Project.

The **Kathleen Soucy ABW group of the Shediac Bay Community Church, N.B.**, stands with Emily Godin (fifth from the left), who is the Ronald McDonald Room coordinator at Moncton City Hospital, New Brunswick. The group donated snacks for the pediatric unit and also gave \$300 for the purchase of food items for the "Home for Dinner Program" at the Ronald McDonald Room at the hospital.



The **Atlantic Baptist Women's group of the Allison campus of The Journey Church, Moncton, N.B.**, are pictured with 10 clothing protectors made in support of the 2023 ABW Home Mission Project. The bibs were being donated to a Riverview, N.B., area seniors' care facility. Standing are Cathy McComisky, Cheryl Mollins, Audrey Robinson, Anne Robinson, and Margaret Williamson; seated are Grace MacCaull, Diane Miller, and Carol Middleton.

The **Kathleen Soucy ABW group of Shediac Bay Community Church, N.B.**, did aqua painting with guest speaker, Mary Bourgeois, recreation therapist at Kenneth Spencer Nursing Home, Moncton, N.B., in February 2023. The group donated over \$250 for the purchase of aqua painting kits and special puzzles for dementia patients. To aqua paint, water is painted onto a reusable painting sheet and pictures appear.



The **Kathleen Soucy ABW group of Shediac Bay Community Church, N.B.**, did aqua painting with guest speaker, Mary Bourgeois, recreation therapist at Kenneth Spencer Nursing Home, Moncton, N.B., in February 2023. The group donated over \$250 for the purchase of aqua painting kits and special puzzles for dementia patients. To aqua paint, water is painted onto a reusable painting sheet and pictures appear.

Spotlight on CBM



Bill and Janice Dyck
Field Staff,
Canadian Baptist Ministries

by Ruth Anna Dana

Based out of Calgary, Alberta, Bill and Janice Dyck, Canadian Baptist Ministries global field staff, focus their ministry in Latin America with plans for further involvement in Central America and the Caribbean. In August and October of this year, they plan to travel to Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. Bill serves as discipleship and theological education specialist for Latin America, reaching out to national pastors, that in everything they are enriched in Christ, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ is confirmed in them (paraphrased from 1 Corinthians 1:5–6).



Bill and Janice recognize that while working from Canada, they are very reliant on the CBM workers and partners in Latin America. Byron Velásquez, CBM national field staff in Guatemala, is finding pastors within his network of connections and organizing groups of pastors to participate in CBM's Discipleship and Pastoring of Pastors (DPP) programs. Bill Dyck states that "his efforts with the first generation of pastors are now being multiplied by forming a second and even third generation of DPP groups." The words of 2 Timothy 2:2b (NAS), "entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also," is evident in the progress of this ministry.

Recently in Bolivia, where this program began, pastors Alberto Coarite and Lourdes Salazar, who are partners with the Bolivian Baptist Union, conducted a two-day training event for 30 pastors and church leaders who plan to form new groups.

In Cuba and the Dominican Republic, CBM Latin American Team Leaders Bruno and Kathleen Soucy have made the initial contact to introduce the

Discipleship and Pastoring of Pastors groups. Pray for these pastors, their families, and the churches as they take leadership to plan and host visits for the Dycks. Through God's provision and presence, the DPP groups can support the spiritual, emotional, and professional needs of these pastors. The severe economic crisis and inadequate health care are other urgent needs for pastoral families in Cuba. The Dycks trust God for strength and safety in planning and preparation for multiple meetings and the follow-up and results of these contacts.

Weekly, Bill meets online with groups via Zoom in Bolivia and El Salvador and he conducts bi-weekly meetings with leaders in Guatemala. The Dycks stay informed of the daily

concerns of those living in these countries. In January, Bolivia faced political protests that restricted travel and the movement of goods, in effect isolating the region of Santa Cruz from the rest of the country. El Salvador strives to control gang activity, and the people of

Guatemala are seeking a fair process in the upcoming election on June 25.



Janice continues to support the ministry of Emanuel Foundation to children in the red-light district of Cochabamba, Bolivia. She keeps up with teaching piano virtually and has an ongoing relationship of encouragement to her students. Janice specifically asks for prayer for Goretty who leads the outreach. Having witnessed the positive results in the lives of the children who have gone through the program, there is a desire for the sustainability and expansion of Emanuel Foundation. Remember to pray for CBM's similar ministries to at-risk children in Bolivia, namely Casa de la Amistad and Jireh.

Sources: Dycks CBM ministry update December 2022; CBM Prayerline, BBC News, and personal email.

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A photograph of a family of four (mother, father, and two children) riding a bicycle together outdoors. The father is in the front, pushing the child on the seat, while the mother is behind. They are all smiling and enjoying the ride.

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