

April 2017
Volume 30, Number 2

H rizon

stories that encourage, inspire and inform



Join us as we

PRAY FOR THE HARVEST

during the month of May



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CNBC Mission: We are churches in covenant giving ourselves away to advance the Kingdom of God.

CNBC Vision: 1,000 healthy, Kingdom-focused churches by the year 2020.

CNBC Horizon

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Connecting

Joan Bruce will be missed after 32 years with CNBC



I first met Joan Bruce 30 years ago when I joined the CNBC staff as a catalytic missionary assigned to Quebec. Allen Schmidt and Joan Bruce were the first two hires for the CNBC, formerly known as the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists. I was the young guy completely wet behind the ears who had ideas, most of which were impractical and not very well thought out.

Joan was always kind to me, patient with my impatience, and willing to listen with empathy and respect. Before meeting Joan my experience with number crunchers was somewhat negative. They were great at accounting and usually very poor at relating to people. Joan was great at both. She occupied the “bring everybody together” role in the office. When there was tension Joan was there to help dissipate it and move on to creative solutions that brought everyone together.

I have the greatest admiration for Joan. After 30 years of working together, you get to know someone and I must say I am very impressed. She is a person with the highest degree of integrity. There is no fudging with Joan and her actions can stand up to the most intense scrutiny and pass the examination with flying colours. I do not remember a single audit where there was mention of a significant issue that Joan was responsible for. Instead, year after year auditors would heap ample praise on Joan for her effective and competent work.

In August 1998, I became the national ministry leader of the CNBC and Joan was my advisor and teacher in all things financial. With incredible patience and skilled training ability she helped me learn all I needed to navigate the financial waters of the CNBC. The complexity of all our financial partners and the requirements to stay within their priorities were second nature to her.

Joan and I have not always agreed on everything and I thank God for that. With Joan, good decisions got better and bad decisions were scrapped before they could do any damage. Many times I entered Joan’s office with a plan that because of her courage to be honest with me was altered or discarded completely, only to be replaced with a better approach. Her concern for herself was overshadowed by her priority commitment to the CNBC.

Over the years her job has not been easy. The only constant in the CNBC was change. Agencies were restructured and we were obligated to adjust. Staff was repurposed and we took the necessary steps to make it work. Budgets were reworked multiple times to make sure our churches and ministries would not suffer. In all these changes and transitions Joan played a vital role in making the CNBC successful and financially solvent.

My strongest praise is for who Joan is. She is a person completely committed to walking close to God. She loves the church and the people in it. She hurts when people hurt and rejoices when they celebrate. She is a loyal friend and will always be there when you need encouragement or help.

It is impossible to imagine the CNBC office without Joan Bruce and all she brings to the people who have worked with her over the years. There is no doubt in my mind that as this chapter of her ministry closes, a new ministry will inevitably begin. The reason I know this is because ministry is who Joan is and it naturally flows out of her relationship with God. Joan leaves an incredible legacy with the CNBC and it has been a joy and privilege to serve alongside her.

Joan, we will miss you!

There is no doubt in my mind that as this chapter of her ministry closes a new ministry will inevitably begin.

PRAY FOR THE HARVEST

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

cnbc.ca/articles/pray-in-may

in May

BACK TO T.O.C.

Joan Bruce: ‘My job was my ministry’

By Elaine Phillips

When Joan Bruce joined the convention in 1985, she started out doing anything and everything that needed

to be done around the office: “Back then it was just the executive director and me.” As they grew and added staff, her assignment moved more to finance and administration—budgeting, accounting, CRA guidelines and compliance issues, audit and support for churches in these areas.

Joan never formally applied for the job. Her husband, Bill, and her future boss, Allen Schmidt, discussed the possibility of her taking a job with the newly founded convention. Together they decided she should.

She was in banking at the time and enjoyed her management

Joan Bruce

position. “My husband and I talked it over, prayed about it, and the rest is history,” says Joan. “I did have knowledge about bookkeeping and accounting but certainly had no experience with denominational work. I started out managing the two-person office, setting up the convention books, handling correspondence, working on budgets, convention meeting planning, keeping minutes and even putting together the first convention monthly newsletter.”

What Joan liked most about her job was the people she has met and worked with: “Pastors, church planters, church treasurers, convention staff and SBC leaders have been a tremendous blessing in my life—I have learned from them, been challenged by them and am thankful for some wonderful friendships.”

Over the years Joan has had only two bosses: Allen Schmidt and Gerry Taillon. “Through their example, these two men have taught me much and encouraged me always to do a good job,” says Joan.

Joan and Bill have two children, a daughter and a son. Both were in grade school when she began with the convention; now they are grown and married. “The delight of the last few years is becoming a ‘Grammie’ to Quinnley (5), Weston (2) and Emmett (8 months),” says Joan. “We had no idea grandparenting could be so much fun!”

Bill is a retired school teacher and enjoys a part-time job in his retirement. Joan loves her home and family; Bill loves travel and history. “Hopefully we can compromise and make both work in the days ahead.”

In recent weeks Joan has been doing a lot of reflecting. “I don’t think I ever really thought of this job as a ‘job’ but more as a ministry,” she says. Budgeting and finance were areas in which Joan was skilled, but “working with pastors, churches and treasurers, learning from them and sometimes even helping them out made it all worthwhile.”

For over 40 years the Bruces have attended Cambrian Heights Baptist Church in Calgary, and Joan remains involved with women’s ministry there.

Kathy Morales spotlights another area of ministry. “Joan not only did an excellent job with CNBC finances, she also took great care of the gals in the office,” says Kathy. “She bought us special treats, wrapped small gifts, wrote notes of encouragement, always had a listening ear and practised an open heart/open door policy.

“I’ve cried and prayed in Joan’s office many times. When I was decorating my house for Christmas last December, I shed a few tears when I brought out one decoration after another that Joan had carefully picked out for our CNBC team each year. Each one represented a year that I was privileged to have Joan as a co-worker and friend. My Christmas decorations also reminded me of all the convention ‘women in ministry’ lunches Joan helped with. I hosted the events but Joan was often responsible for the beautiful table decorations, colourful themes, and take-home favours. She would come up with the idea, do the shopping and then organize the ladies in the office to do all the preparation. We cut, glued, painted and tied following Joan’s creative instructions. Whenever I needed anything for an outreach event she cooked, baked and decorated.

“On a more personal note, when I was moving from Cochrane, Joan often loaded up her car after work and dropped off my stuff in Calgary on her way home. When my husband was sick she cooked for our family. Joan did accounting and much more. I am thankful.”

Convention and seminary colleagues see her as a supportive and empowering supervisor. “Joan is passionate about what she does and wants to see others succeed who have a role in church finance and administration,” says one co-worker. “Over the past three decades she has answered countless questions from church treasurers, pastors and

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See you in Vancouver in July!

CNBC Annual Convention at Towers Baptist Church

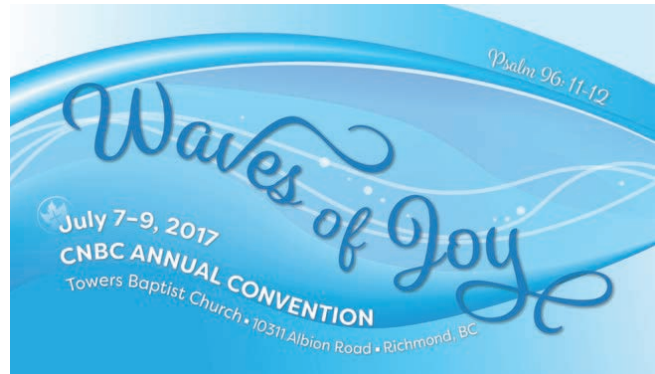
10311 Albion Road • Richmond, BC • V7A 3E5

Save the Dates: July 7 – 9

CNBC churches are invited to Vancouver this year for our **Annual Convention** on July 7 to 8. Come enjoy our city nestled between the mountains and coast. Our hope is you will enjoy the vast variety of outdoor activities and culinary experiences in the beautiful environment offered in our city as you enjoy renewing and discovering new relationships with family from across the nation.

Like waves continuing to break on the West Coast, we have heard the stories of God's activity from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We want to gather and allow the sounds of joy to grow as we join our voices in celebrating all God is doing across our nation. We want to build on the foundation of unified prayer laid last year in Montreal as we prayed for Quebec, then Quebec turned and prayed for the nation. We also hope you will be challenged by the opportunities ahead.

Plan now to be part of our time together.



More Convention information on p.7

Click a button below to register for the Convention

Adult Registration

Youth Registration

Child Registration

Thank you Joan for your ministry of grace from p.4

church planters." All are thankful for her faithful service to the Lord and to His church.

"Years ago the seminary faced a crisis when our business administrator left suddenly," former seminary president, Richard Blackaby, recalls. "Not knowing where else to turn, I called on Joan for help. She walked in calmly with a warm, confident smile, and I knew everything would be okay. And it was."

"From my earliest days as a pastor at Trinity Baptist Church," writes current seminary president, Rob Blackaby, "Joan has been an invaluable resource in effective ministry

management, selflessly investing in the churches and institutions of the CNBC. God has built a legacy for her in the midst of our churches through her exemplary attitude of giving herself away for His Kingdom."

The last note of thanks goes to one of Joan's first colleagues, Nancy McGough: "When I worked on the Baptist Horizon, I could always count on Joan to help me turn a phrase or take out an unnecessary one. She gave correction with grace and kindness. In fact, grace is the perfect word to describe her and to describe her actions too."

Thank you, Joan, for gracing our lives.

Chad: Wells, the Unreached, and the Gospel

By Ron Young

RAWDON, QC—It all began in December 2012. Our youth group at [Renaissance Bible Church](#) had just finished walking together through the book *Do Hard Things*, by Alex and Bret Harris. Now it was time to decide. What hard thing was God calling us to? After some discussion, the youth decided to try to raise money to build a well in an underprivileged country. But that was not all. They wanted the well to be built in a location where they could follow up with a mission trip after it was constructed.

Nineteen months later, through yard sales, selling hand-made items, collecting cans, receiving some generous donations, and a lot of hard work, they had raised \$9,000. That was July 2014. We sent the funds to Canadian Global Response ([CGR](#)) with a letter stating the desire to connect the well to a place where a mission trip could follow. CGR contacted us within weeks with an opportunity. In the fall of 2014, phase two of the project had begun: mission trip planning.

Over the next year, we connected with an IMB field worker in [Chad](#) and began building a relationship. Since we are a bilingual congregation and Chad is a French-speaking country, it seemed to be a perfect match. After many emails and discussions, I had the opportunity to meet him and his family when they were on furlough in the States. Our youth group paid for my trip to meet him, in order to



Two of the youth, Mallorie and Lorie-Ann, visit with the village women.

begin planning the trip to Chad. That was October 2015. So, a new fund raising effort began. The mission trip dates were set for January 2017.

With \$3,000 already raised and \$7,000 more to go, the youth began working hard raising money for the trip. After another yard sale and a golf tournament, they were still a long way away from their goal.

As they came to the end of November, they were still missing over half their funds. They were discouraged and wondering what they were going to do. We called a meeting to consider our options. Then something cool happened: a God thing. The day before the meeting we received a call from someone who heard about our trip. They had sent a cheque in the mail that was enough to get us to 95 percent of the funds needed for the trip!

Our two weeks in Chad were beyond amazing. In order to support the mission and vision of the IMB field worker, we were able to serve in several ways. We conducted a soccer clinic, visited neighbours, and helped with the registration process for English classes. Our ability to communicate in French opened numerous doors for us. But the highlight of the trip was our visit to the village that received the well. What we began four years earlier was now realized.

As is the custom in all the villages of that region, I stayed with the men, while Mallorie and Lorie-Ann, two youth

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Ron visits with the village men.

See you in Vancouver in July!

CNBC Annual Convention at Towers Baptist Church

10311 Albion Road • Richmond, BC • V7A 3E5

Convention Hotels 2017

Rooming blocks are available at the following hotels at reduced rates for the Annual Convention:

Best Western PLUS Abercorn

\$179.99 CAD / night
9260 Bridgeport Road, Richmond, BC
Phone: 604-270-7576
Rooming Block Number: 312909
Rooms to be released June 15

Executive Airport Plaza Hotel

From \$189 CAD / night
7311 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC
Phone: 604-278-5555 or Toll Free: 1-800-663-2878
Group Code: CNBC2017
50% of Rooms to be released May 6, 100% June 6
[Online Reservations at Executive Airport Plaza](#)

Holiday Inn Express and Suites

\$199.00 CAD / night
10688 No. 6 Road, Richmond, BC
Phone: 604-241-1830
Group Code: West Coast Baptist Association
Website Group Code: WCB
Rooms to be released May 6
[Online Reservations at Holiday Inn](#)

Convention Schedule

Watch the [cnbc.ca Annual Convention webpage](#) for more details in the coming weeks.

Friday July 7

4:00 Registration
5:00 Block Party
7:00 Annual Convention Opening Service

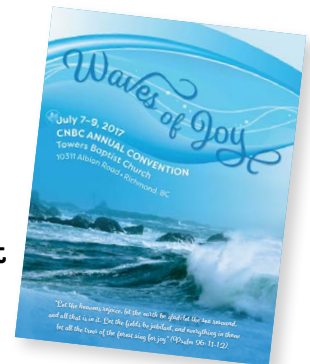
Saturday July 8

7:30 Alumni Breakfast - Location to be determined
10:00 Morning Worship Service
11:30 Women in Ministry Luncheon
11:30 Dads' and Kids' Lunchtime Outing
1:30 CNBC 2017 Ministry Focus
6:00 Evening Worship Service

Sunday July 9

Worship in Vancouver
(choose a CNBC church)

**Download a
Convention
poster to print
on page 32**



More Convention information on p.5 and p.32

Youth follow God's call to do hard things from p.6

who were a part of the original group in 2012, visited with the women. We were able to share with them why we had come all the way from Canada, and why we had worked so hard to raise the money for their well. In using the story of the Good Samaritan, we had the honour of sharing the Gospel with a people who have almost no real access to the Gospel.

After visiting the village, we realized that the well and the trip are just a small part of all that God is doing in Chad. We are so grateful that God's grace allowed us to go. We continue to pray for the people we met there, the field worker, and the unreached. We are grateful to be part of a

convention that helps the local church go on mission to the unreached. We are grateful for CGR and their passion to show God's love in practical ways. We are grateful to the IMB for sending faithful followers of Jesus to the ends of the world.

Finally, we realized one very important thing. Doing hard things is hard. But when God calls you to it, it is so good. Most of our youth in 2012 have moved on and a new wave of youth have come. Now the question is, what hard thing is God calling us to?

[CNBC](#) gifts through the Global Mission Offering helped provide funding for this mission trip.

Pastor finds new flock with The Gathering

By Jim Burton

WINDSOR, Ontario (BP)—John D’Antonio’s family knew that his four-year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig’s Disease, would soon be over. Many of his Italian-Canadian family and friends had gathered in his Windsor hospital room to say goodbye to the 30-year-old father and husband.

Just before John’s diagnosis four years earlier, his family had moved next door to Garth and Patty Leno. Leno was the pastor of one of Windsor’s largest churches, and John’s mother, Italian immigrant Elena, was a faithful member. On this most difficult of days, the family called Leno.

Leno arrived at the Windsor hospital around 11pm and entered a packed hospital room. The family had requested a reduction in morphine so that John could communicate with them. John’s wife Mary Anne gave permission for Leno to be alone with her husband.

“Could I just have the room with John for a few minutes, please?” Leno had asked.

John couldn’t talk and he was having trouble breathing.

“John, if you can hear me just squeeze my fingers,” Leno said, then felt pressure from John’s weakened hands.

“John, I’m not going to waste any time because there is no time to waste. I just want to talk to you about heaven.”

Leno then explained the Gospel, God’s grace toward us, the plan of salvation, and that it’s available to any man or woman at any stage of life.

“Do you believe this?”

John squeezed Leno’s hand.



The Gathering member Caroline Singleton (far left), and two missions volunteers from Springfield Baptist in Springfield, TN, help lead Surge Sport Camp activities as a summer neighbourhood outreach Photo by Gary Gnidovic/NAMB



Garth and Patty Leno are NAMB Week of Prayer missionaries. Photo by Gary Gnidovic/NAMB

“Can I pray with you and for you to trust in Christ alone for your salvation?”

John again squeezed Leno’s hand.

When Leno said “Amen,” the room was full again. One by one, family and friends had slipped quietly back into the room, standing behind him. They heard John’s declaration of faith through the prayer.

“One of the most delightful things that has happened to me is that I’ve rediscovered what shepherding is all about,” Leno said of The Gathering. “When you are planting a church and making disciples, you get to see life-change happen up close. I wouldn’t change that for anything. Church planting has helped me rediscover what it means to be a shepherd and really take care of the flock.”

A shepherd without a flock

Garth and his wife Patty spent more than 30 years serving churches in a denomination that began to alter important doctrinal positions and has seen no net gains in Canadian churches in many years. Then, during a three-month sabbatical, struggles within the church erupted that eventually led to Leno’s departure.

He could have turned in any number of directions. The child of an alcoholic mother and a “weekend drunk” father, he grew up feeling rejected and lonely. Despite his genetic predisposition for alcoholism, he joined other teenagers as a high school student and began getting drunk on weekends.

“The shadows grew very long and I lost my way,” Leno said.

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Leno now an enthusiastic student of church planting

from p.8

After high school, he met a girl from a Christian home. As he spent time with the family, he saw parents who were “rock-solid believers in Jesus,” and he knew they had something he wanted. After 13 months, the girl’s mother explained the plan of salvation.

“That afternoon I trusted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour,” Leno said of his 1976 decision.

More than 35 years later, he found himself in yet another lonely place. He never expected that church planting would be so difficult and isolating. With his wife, Garth started a Saturday night Bible study mostly with people who were “disillusioned with church.” What started in their home in September 2013 soon moved to a local golf clubhouse, and before long they had outgrown the place.



Reaching children with volunteer missions teams is just one strategy for community transformation at The Gathering. *Photo by Gary Gnidovic/NAMB*

“Maybe we should start a church,” Leno joked one evening. He did not expect the overwhelming response. Everyone agreed they should. Someone said, “Whenever you are ready, we are ready.”

When their close friends made that offer, Patty began sobbing as wounds from their last church were still fresh.

“Seriously—planting a church was the last thing we wanted to do,” Garth said. “But it was obviously the first thing that God had in mind for us.”

Leno had no job leads—secular or ministerial—when he met Wayne Parker, pastor of Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City, Michigan, just across the Detroit River from Windsor, the southernmost city in Canada. Parker is the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Send Detroit City Missionary, and he was collaborating with a Plant Midwest seminar. Parker knew about Leno’s Bible study, and had one question, “How can we help you?”

Leno wasn’t sure what help Parker could offer, but he was quite sure he didn’t want to associate with another

denomination. Yet Leno also connected with Andrew Lamme, the CNBC’s lead church planting catalyst for Southern Ontario. Multiple telephone calls of encouragement to the Lenos soon followed, along with emails, and offers of help, something they rarely received in more than 30 years with the other denomination. He also began to receive valuable resources, training and mentoring through the NAMB’s Send North America initiative and other Southern Baptist church planters.

With counsel from Parker, Lamme and others, and an affiliate with Canadian convention, North American Mission/Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds soon helped Leno and his following of “disengaged and disenfranchised” people secure and renovate a warehouse for The Gathering. The Gathering is also part of Send Detroit, NAMB’s church planting strategy for the metro area surrounding the city.

An atypical church plant

Leno now knows that The Gathering was an atypical church plant as the core group had already gathered. Though he has a lifetime of pastoral experience, he’s now an enthusiastic student of church planting, even working toward a master’s degree in church planting at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

“I’m learning as much as I can about church planting,” Leno said. “I’m like a sponge.”

God is doing something so special among the weekly 220 attendees that one senior pastor from a large sending church in Tennessee said, “I’d like to take some of The Gathering back home.”

more p.11



The Gathering senior pastor Garth Leno (left) and associate pastor Phil Siebenmorgen (right) baptize Nathan Langlois during a July 10, 2016, church service, which included more baptisms and a baby dedication.

Photo by Gary Gnidovic/NAMB



En Route

Exciting Momentum in Our Nation's Capital

It was a joy to sit in a room praying with CNBC pastors, planters, and leaders from Ottawa-Gatineau in February, especially when the room was not quite so full even three years ago.

Three years ago, area pastors and planters began gathering a few times a year to pray over the city, plan how to cooperate together and to encourage one another. The first meeting saw leaders from five churches in Ottawa who began putting dots on a map, indicating where they sensed the Lord leading their church to begin praying and working towards a new church plant.

Today, there is a fellowship of eight CNBC churches praying and working together on both sides of the river (in both Ottawa, Ontario and Gatineau, Quebec) to multiply churches throughout the National Capital Region. And some of those dots have now become church plants.

Today, there are three sending churches who are taking primary responsibility for church plants in multiple communities. Celebration! Church is partnering to see a new church plant in Smith Falls and is clarifying other church plant possibilities. Sequoia Church is partnering to see a new church in the city and is laying the groundwork for a church plant in the commuter town of Kemptville. Église Évangélique Baptiste Eben-Ezer is

partnering to have a French-speaking church in South Ottawa and has a cell group gathered in Gatineau, Quebec. Some of these locations have planters or potential planters in various stages of development. Other locations are in need of prayer for the next church planter to be discovered and developed. But all are exciting to see.

Today, God is expanding our leadership and capacity as Jason Byers has come on as a church-based church planting catalyst for the area. This means we now have a local person walking beside potential church planters and their sending churches.

Today, East Leesville Baptist Church (Louisiana) is partnering with church planting in the city. Last year, they sent a volunteer team to assist with a summer kids' club and prayer walk in the city. This year, they are sending a volunteer team to help serve communities in the area around Canada Day and continue prayer walking neighbourhoods where plants are needed.

God is doing exciting things in our nation's capital in direct answer to prayer. Please pause now to pray for these churches and leaders. And please pray that God will continue to raise up more church planters for the harvest!



My God is forever faithful

By Louisa Coetzee

I can't say I didn't grow up with an opportunity to know about Jesus. We went to church every Sunday. We'd also pray together on a regular basis. I even remember being 17 years old when I repeated the "sinner's prayer."

I figured I'd settled it at that point, but I never had a relationship—a real, growing, thriving relationship with God. I met my husband when I was 18. He grew up in a religious family, too, but neither of us really knew God. We only knew how to play the part. We went to church regularly, but on the weekends, we'd drink and party just like everyone else. If everyone else was doing it, how wrong could it really be?

I thought we were saved, but I know now we weren't.

We emigrated from South Africa to Canada four years ago. For two years, everything went well. Then, my husband lost his job. We had to move from British Columbia to Edmonton to get work.

That's how we met Stan and Karen Felder. We saw a poster advertising an Easter event they were hosting at our Edmonton apartment complex. We figured it was something to do—a way to get out of the apartment. Our girls were excited. I thought it would just be about the Easter Bunny. I was less than enthused.

I was wrong though. We had a great time. The Felders invited us to have lunch with them, and they immediately felt like family. They cared for us. We started attending the small church they led in the apartment complex.



We needed those relationships. We were also going through our own struggles at that time. My husband had gotten a job when we moved to Edmonton, but the salary wasn't enough to cover our expenses. I got a job, but it still wasn't enough. I became depressed.

We continued to go to the church, but we also started praying together as a family and spending time with Stan and Karen. I started reading my Bible regularly. God's Word

broke into my heart like never before. Eventually, our entire family surrendered our lives to Jesus. We were baptized together in June of 2015. Our lives had changed forever. We stopped drinking altogether and have been sober for over a year. God has given us a sense of peace that I can't really describe.

It hasn't always been easy, but now, when struggles come our way, God gives us strength to go through them. My husband was without work for two months, but there was always food in the house. Because God has been so good to us, we want to help others find out about Jesus. We have started a Bible study in our home. It's small, but we're praying more people will join us.

I know there are other people who think they're saved, but they've never given their lives to Jesus. They're living in their own strength. I want people to know God will never give up on them. He will be forever faithful. And He loves you!

Reprinted with permission from [On Mission Magazine](#) published by the North American Mission Board.

The Gathering is faithful in missions giving from p.9

Starting a Baptist church may have been foreign to Leno several years ago, but his church is on board now, particularly with missions giving. In its first year, The Gathering collected \$9,350 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions. The second year resulted in more than \$13,000 given through the offering.

The Gathering is now assisting other church plants and plans to sponsor one soon in a nearby town.

"I have become much more Kingdom-focused," said Leno, who desires for his congregation to become a church planting church. "I've become much more Gospel-centred. Discipleship is key. Prayer has become more valuable to me. It's a more important tool in the toolkit than it has ever been before."

Used with permission from [Baptist Press](#), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mattresses help bring a ‘good night’s sleep’ in Cuba

Contributed by Canadian Global Response

OLGUÍN—In February, Michael Krause, Cuba program director for [Canadian Global Response](#) (CGR), returned to Eastern Cuba on behalf of CGR to help purchase and deliver relief assistance after the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Michael shared in last December’s update, “I have been to Cuba many times as a tourist until God recently touched my heart and I believe that my calling is to give back to the people of Cuba.”

The trip was successful in dispersing the funds raised over the previous two months, with four mattresses and a washing machine being given to families in need. Importantly,



Michael Krause helps unload food for the families who each received approximately 20 pounds of food.

Canadian supporters were able to supply about 250 families with approximately 20 pounds of food each. Michael offered prayer and emotional support for many people who are mostly in remote, mountainous areas. He shares, “These farmers came down as far as hours away with their mules.”



Soaking wet mattresses are all that most families have to sleep on since the hurricane.



Farmers travel for many hours to get food and mattresses.

Michael and a team are planning to return to Cuba again in May. As of now, roughly \$1,000 has been raised to be distributed towards needs in the affected areas. In December, the relief team listened to the people and observed, and beyond the usual needs of food and roofing, the message was clear: “We need mattresses!” Stories ranged from people pulling soaking wet mattresses from the garbage fill to sleep on, people having to sleep sitting up in chairs, and entire families having to sleep in one bed if they still have a functioning mattress.

“We definitely want to continue to address this need via our most cost-effective option,” explains Michael, “which we have determined to be manufacturing them in the Moa area. Moa is less than 100 km from Barracoa, and one queen-sized mattress can be manufactured for approximately 75 CUC (\$100 CDN), while creating local jobs and aiding the local economy at the same time.”

Would you consider helping CGR provide a good night’s sleep to Cuban families? We’re challenging Canadians to help us raise the funds which will allow us to select 100 families to receive mattresses. This would ensure a dry, sanitary, and comfortable place for everyone in the family to rest and sleep, which all of us surely take for granted in our society.

Click [here](#) to donate.

Volunteer opportunities will also exist throughout the recovery process, with clean-up teams being called upon. CGR is requesting potential volunteers to contact the office by [email](#) or phone (403-512-5261). Further service opportunities and information about disaster relief efforts in the Caribbean in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew will be made available.



Partners needed for Maisi, Cuba after Hurricane Matthew

By Mel Cruikshank

MAISI, CUBA—Hurricane Matthew plowed across the Maisi district on the Eastern tip of Cuba in October of 2016. This district is the poorest part of Cuba yet it is also where some of the fastest growing church planting is taking place anywhere in the world.

The people in this area on the southeastern point of Cuba are still struggling with the daily realities of living in the aftermath of the hurricane.

Kurt Urbanek, International Mission Board (IMB) strategy leader for Cuba reports, “The Cuban people are resilient and are working their way through but there are still hundreds upon hundreds of families who do not have a roof over their heads. Clean water remains an issue.

“The Cuban churches in the non-affected provinces have rallied around their sister churches, sending brigades of workers to help the communities recover, providing free labour for roofing, cleaning farming areas, ministering to needs, preaching the Gospel.”

In Maisi there are 23 Baptist churches and 18 mission churches meeting in homes. The hurricane totally destroyed 14 of the churches and took the roofs off seven others. Only two churches were left intact. The hurricane also destroyed ten pastors’ houses and took the roofs off nine others.

Almost every home of every family in these churches was damaged. Just imagine if in the community you call home, only one home in 20 was left habitable and if there were no longer any places for churches to meet indoors. That is now the reality of life in Maisi.



A Maisi pastor's house after Hurricane Matthew




Maisi Savana Baptist Church after Hurricane Matthew

Maisi is a farming area. Coffee, banana and tropical fruit plantations were the major economic resources for the area; however, the hurricane destroyed 100 percent of the plantations. Coffee plantations will take five years to regrow. Some mango and citrus plantations will take even longer. Thankfully, banana plantations will regrow within a year. Already the poorest district in Cuba—because it is remote—Maisi is suffering economic hardship like never before.

The miracle is that no lives were lost. The Cuban government managed an orderly evacuation of the district into caves and into the few cement structures available. The greater miracle is that the churches in Maisi have taken the lead in disaster recovery, helping distribute tons of food and supplies that have been provided by Cuban Baptists, the IMB, along with Christians from Canada, the US and around the world. Churches across Maisi are reporting record numbers of people attending services, even though most of the services are taking place in temporary thatched roof structures, in homes or in open areas where churches used to stand.

The churches in Maisi desperately need partners to help them. They are sharing the love of God without any resources. The resources they had were destroyed. They do not have buildings, Bibles, musical instruments, literature, children’s ministry supplies or technology of any type.

How can your church partner with Maisi, Cuba? Send a team. Sponsor a retreat. Help support pastors and missionaries. Support a missionary training school. Volunteer with CGR relief work. [Click the PDF Download link](#)  **for a detailed description and more information.**



Click for relief effort photos



Click for more hurricane results photos



Evangelism & Women's Ministry

Bridges conference equips women to share Jesus



By Stephanie Morales Beaulieu

CALGARY, AB—As I looked out at the 140 women gathered around tables at the Bridges women's event, I was excited as I thought about the 140 unique places they were about to scatter to, all ready to share the Gospel.

An event to equip women to share Christ was birthed in the heart of Marisa Spannagel. On Saturday, March 4, we saw evidence of God's divine handiwork at Richmond Hill Baptist Church in the coming together of Bridges—Connecting in Your Community to Share Christ. Women from Calgary and area churches had time to fellowship and grow together as they learned about building bridges.

PHOTO



GALLERY

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more photos



A panel of women, Jessie (not pictured), Jennifer, Mydene, Erin, Emily, Shinelle and Carmelita tell personal stories of how they share Jesus in their everyday life.

Hearts were stirred as women gathered to be equipped to share the love of Jesus in their unique places.

The packed, yet well-paced day was filled with worship, encouragement, relevant and practical breakout sessions, and real-life stories and testimonies from local Calgary women. Fear was a recurring theme. Sometimes when we hear the word evangelism we are afraid and exempt ourselves. We tend to think evangelism falls on the shoulders of the gifted “professionals,” not realizing that every member of the body is a minister of the Gospel. Being afraid is one of the main obstacles keeping people from sharing Christ.

At Bridges we discovered that having Gospel-centred conversations can be one of the most natural things we all do. Every believing woman has the same God, is given the same mission, is empowered by the same Holy Spirit, and is guided by the same Word to know Christ and to make Him known in her circle of influence.

Take a moment and ask God to continue building His Kingdom and advancing the Gospel through the women who were equipped at Bridges.



Two of the guest speakers: Connie Cavanaugh and Stephanie Morales Beaulieu

“Thanks for sharing at the Bridges women's conference. I used the good news tool of Romans 6:23 and God's Plan for Me with my Sunday school class. A student loved the bookmarks we made with the Good News clip art and she hoped to share it with her friend at school. My mom was not able to attend but I shared this tool with her. She used it with her homecare provider this past Friday. Praise God!” —MW

“I couldn't get over the quality of the worship; the speakers and the women who led the breakout sessions were amazing. During the conference I made a list of those in my life who need to know Jesus and I made an important call later that evening.” —B

“A conference that has wonderful, uplifting praise and worship, speakers and leaders is good. But it's even better when people go out and live what they are inspired to do.” —MS

“I couldn't stop crying all day, the stories touched me, the people prayed for me and I went home to share Jesus with someone in my family.” —M



Celebrate Canada's birthday with your neighbours

By Holly Procita

Happy Birthday, Canada! Canada is turning 150 years old. What better opportunity to reach out to your community than to host a birthday party for our beloved country! Who doesn't love a birthday party? Gather family, friends and neighbours to have cake and ice cream. Play some party games. Enjoy time together while celebrating your favourite things about Canada. There is a movement spreading throughout Canada this year called "3 Things for Canada" ([click for video](#)). Canadians are being encouraged to give Canada three acts of service as a birthday gift. They are encouraging all Canadians to perform three acts of service for our community, city or country.

As a church family how can we do that? Here are a few ideas to get your wheels turning:

Host a birthday party for Canada

The community I live in is hosting a birthday party on July 1 where everything will start with the letter "C." Our church

will be partnering with the coffee station. We will encourage our neighbours to sit and share a cup of coffee with people who live near them. Our church will be table hosts to help keep the conversation going.

Service Projects for the neighbourhood around your church:

- It never hurts to ask your neighbours if they need help with any projects. This often leads to opportunities to pray with these neighbours.
- You could do a trash pickup after the snow finally starts to melt away.
- Hand out coffee or water with church information on it.

- Host a one-day soccer camp for the kids and have a birthday cake at the end to celebrate.

If you have other ideas I would love to hear from you. My email is hollyprocita@southwindschurch.ca. Whatever you decide to do, let's celebrate our beloved country and use these opportunities to share Jesus with those He has put around us.



Happy Birthday Canada!

5 ways to bless your workplace



1. Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with co-workers and learn their story.
2. Get to work early so you can spend some time praying for your co-workers and the day ahead.
3. Make it a daily priority to speak or write encouragement when someone does good work.
4. Bring extra snacks when you make your lunch to give away to others.
5. Bring breakfast once a month for everyone in your department.

—Josh Reeves

[Click here](#) for the complete list of 30 ways to bless your workplace.

5 ways to engage your community this summer



Often when you meet for worship in rented space on Sunday you may think it's a challenge to engage people in your community without your own building. Here are five ways to connect with people. You don't need a building!

1. Canada Day party or celebration
2. Mother's Day or Father's Day celebration
3. Day camp, sports camp or community VBS
4. Graduation recognition—elementary, high school or university
5. Block party

[Click here](#) for the complete list of 20 ways to engage people in your community.

People with special needs given ‘Night to Shine’

By Ron Giofu

WINDSOR, ON—Those with disabilities who may not have had their chance in the spotlight of a prom got their chance on Friday night, February 10.

The Gathering Church, Windsor, hosted “A Night to Shine” at Western Secondary School with people ages 14 and up with intellectual disabilities or other special needs given a chance to go to a prom just for them. The event, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, was one of 370 worldwide.

“We have a daughter with special needs ourselves,” explained Patty Leno, who led organizational efforts with husband Garth.

Patty Leno explained that her husband, the pastor at The Gathering, read an article about the Tim Tebow Foundation and the “Night to Shine” events and started asking whether the church wanted to undertake it. They applied and were approved to hold the event.

“We are a first-time [presenter of the event] and the only church in Canada that is hosting the event,” said Leno.

In addition to the “Night to Shine” prom at Western, similar events were held across the United States, Haiti and even some as far as Africa. The event is held on or near Valentine’s Day every year and is designed to give people with special needs a chance to feel special and get the same opportunities as others.



Pastor Garth Leno dances with his daughter Jamie at the “Night to Shine” prom event hosted by The Gathering Windsor.

“People with special needs need to know they are loved by their community, loved by God and loved by our church,” said Leno.

There were 380 people involved altogether, with roughly 82 of them having disabilities. It was held at Western Secondary School due to three teachers being members of The Gathering. Not only were some students from Western Secondary participants in the event, but invitations also went out to those supported by various agencies and organizations around Windsor-Essex County.

Numerous businesses stepped forward as well as volunteers from their church and other churches. There were limousine rides, photo booths, karaoke, a red carpet, live entertainment and the prom in the gym with dancing and food. There were also people acting as “buddies” for the

prom-goers and accompanying them down the red carpet and helping out with whatever they needed during the evening.

“We could never have done this without the volunteers who came together,” said Leno. “It takes an army of people to put this on and we couldn’t have done this without them.”

Those who had their “night to shine” did so with smiles on their faces.

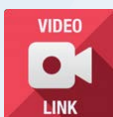
“The food is good. I enjoyed the limo,” said Krysten Shuster.

“Tonight has been done well. It was my first time in a limo,” added Andrew Cyr. “It’s my first time being here.”



Nathan Leno, Jamie Leno and Kristin Leno at the “Night to Shine” prom in Windsor, ON

CNBC gifts through the Global Mission Offering helped provide funding for this event.



Click for video

Touching Lives and Making Disciples

By Shammah Flaman

Our vision as a church at Life-Touch Center Ministries is “Touching Lives and Making Disciples.” As we work towards fulfilling this vision, we understand the importance of discipleship and evangelism training to equip our leaders to reach out to lost souls through our cell groups.

Starting this month, we will be using the *3 Circles* as our study guide to be equipped with the proper tools for evangelism. For most of us, engaging in daily conversations with individuals we don’t know is an evident challenge, especially when we need to share our faith.

In our cell groups, we plan on tackling this challenge by going through the training reps provided in the *3 Circles* trainee manual and practising on each other. Excellent practice makes perfect! We are excited to learn from the *3 Circles* conversation guide and see what God can do through our normal life conversations as He turns them into Gospel conversations.

Thanks to the Cooperative Program, the CNBC provided the *3 Circles* training kit for the church.



Life-Touch Center Ministries in Calgary is starting a study of the *3 Circles* guide to evangelism.

‘Refresh Retreat’ is available for Ministry Wives

The goal of a Refresh Retreat is for women to restore, refuel, refresh and then return home to serve with renewed passion for the high call of being in ministry and being a ministry wife.



We here at [Contagious Joy](#) understand the demands that are placed on the ministry wife. Because of this we have created a getaway just for you. Are you a woman who might

need some away time without the distractions of the “glass house”? Would you like to meet other women just like you at an iron-sharpens-iron time where you can develop like-minded friendships?

The first ever Canadian Refresh Retreat will be held this fall at Blaylock Mansion near Nelson, British Columbia, starting Wednesday, October 18 at noon and ending Saturday October 21 at noon. The only cost to the women attending will be travel to and from.

We want to pamper you! You cannot lift a finger. We serve you in a way that allows you to meet each other but most of all meet with our ABBA!

Ladies, we are looking forward to seeing you this year! Spaces will fill up quickly. We keep the groups on the small side to allow for one-on-one time and true connections with each other and our Lord. You must be a current member of ContagiousJoy4Him. To join [click here](#).

To be considered for the retreat we ask that you submit a paragraph with your registration and tell us why you need a “CJ4H Refresh Retreat” in 2017.

Ministry wife Erin Evans says, “Contagious Joy connects ministry wives around the globe for the purpose of prayer, encouragement, awareness, accountability, Bible study, and friendship.

This can be especially important for those who serve in remote locations, tough places where there are not many women to befriend and confide in who share our struggles. I personally have appreciated CJ’s passion and dedication to being a source of encouragement and a safe place to share burdens. Through their newsletters, discussion forums, and retreats I know they have encouraged many ministry wives to remain faithful to God’s call for their lives!”



Erin and John Evans and their four children

Erin’s husband, John, is pastor of Community Baptist Church, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.



Kingdom Seeds

CNBC Atlantic sees exciting results from planting new churches

By Derek Jones

CNBC Atlantic, Regional Ministry Leader

The CNBC began in Western Canada, but is now a family of churches that spreads from coast to coast.

Looking to the east, our churches in the CNBC Atlantic region are seeing some exciting results from planting new churches. One example is [Eastside Church](#) in Miramichi, New Brunswick. This church was planted by Victor Summers and his team at the end of 2011. They meet in the old town theatre, which they and several mission teams have restored. They were also given an old building across the street which they have partially renovated into a coffee shop, health club and storage. All this work and their outreach to the people of Miramichi is beginning to show remarkable results. Worship attendance is now around 70 on Sundays, and many are new believers who are in the process of being disciplined.

Another great story relates to the network of churches on Cape Breton island. Hugh Morrison was challenged several years ago to take the Gospel to all the towns on the island. He pastors [Margaree Valley Baptist Church](#). He began establishing preaching points and raising up leaders. The result of his labour and that of like-minded leaders is the following:

- Baddeck Community Baptist Church (2008)
- [Christian Community Church](#) of Cheticamp (2011)
- Highlands Christian Community Church (2012)



Margaree Valley Baptist Church, Nova Scotia

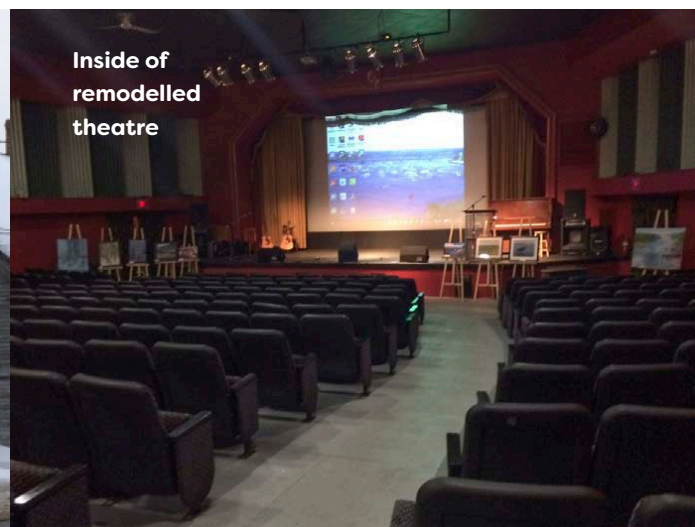
- [Inverness Community Church](#) (2015)
- and the latest plant meeting in Dingwall.

They all came together on Sunday, February 26 to celebrate what God has done. A church of 110 to 120 in worship is now a community of churches with 245 in worship, built on a foundation of church planting to reach new communities.

We are grateful for the work of God-called leaders extending the Kingdom through evangelistic church planting. Pray for them, that these churches will prevail and see many come to Christ in the Atlantic region.



Eastside Church in Miramichi, NB, meets in the old town theatre.



Inside of remodelled theatre

Gospel partnerships include great coaching

Quebec coaches continue the coaching journey

By Dino Senesi

Learn to Coach by Coaching

“Too many times we try to teach people to swim in a classroom.” I heard my first coach, Bob Logan, repeat this many times. Every church planter needs a great coach. But where do we start the process? We put coaches to work immediately.

The One Day Coaching Map is better described as “orientation” than training. Most of the day is invested in coaches coaching another attendee. Five new coaches who attended, at Passion Church in Montreal, left with a coaching assignment.

Planters benefit from learning to coach and being coached at the same time. NAMB and CNBC church planter catalyst, Jacques Avakian, described the value of coaching: “Coaching has positively influenced the relationships between church planters. Peer-to-peer coaching has created new relationships, strengthened existing ones and has motivated our planters to want coaching.”

Recently, active coaches met for part of a day at Passion Church to evaluate their coaching as individuals and as a team. Coaches often make the mistake of relying on the personal experience alone to help them coach. Meeting with active coaches is vital to the health and development of coaching in the region. Coaches must own the outcome of their coaching and be passionate about improving.



Active coaches work together on wins, challenges and questions.

Coaching Every Church Planter

Woody Wilson is the Coaching Champion and a partner-supported missionary in Quebec. Six church planters are among the many leaders Woody coaches. He applauds the coachable spirit he has discovered in Quebecois church planters, describing them as “some of the most humble, coachable men I’ve met.” Woody speaks French fluently and is a seasoned missionary. Language and culture

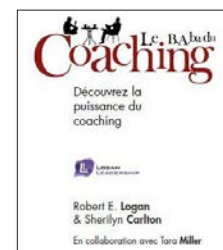


Five New Coaches at the One Day Coaching Map

provide the most significant coaching challenges. Here are Woody’s observations:

1. *Every church planter should be coached in his heart language.* A significant number of French Canadians are bilingual while some speak French only. But for coaching to be effective, being coached in the French language is important.
2. *Coaching must be culturally relevant.* Quebec has a unique religious, social, and emotional culture. Coaches that miss the culture will not help the church planter move closer to accomplishing his God-given vision.

Every church planter needs a coach. And every coaching relationship has unique cultural challenges to overcome. The North American Mission Board provided all of the Coaching Map training materials in French including a new resource, *Coaching 101*.



Our vision is to deliver great coaching to every planter. Over half of the NAMB church planters in Send Cities are classified as language or ethnic. Providing great coaching for any church planter is a challenge. To provide great coaching for every church planter is a God-sized task.

“My coach is for me and is a real blessing,” says Benoit Marcoux pastor/planter of [Com-Jésus Church](#) in Quebec. “First, it is not often we have a time when someone takes care of us. I love the connection with him. I feel appreciated and loved by him; he is human. Second, I have a coach who is humble with great experience in ministry. He asks really good questions to help me explore important parts of my life. The coaching process is necessary for every planter who wants to stay on track.”

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More Glimpses

Cesar and Mary Parra

By Elaine Phillips

Cesar and Mary Parra and their children returned to Canada last year after being on assignment in Spain with the International Mission Board for almost four years. Cesar is now serving the CNBC as Ethnic Churches and Missions team leader, and Mary has joined the convention staff as Finance Team manager.

Mary was born in a Christian home, and came to know the Lord at a tender age. While listening to one of her dad's sermons on an audio tape, he asked if anyone wanted to receive Christ as Lord and Saviour; young Mary turned to her mom and said, "I want to do that!" and so she did. Many years later, at the age of 17, she made the commitment to follow and serve Him wherever He led.

Cesar came to know the Lord as an adult. "I was 25 years old, living a pretty rough life in the night clubs and bars, getting into lots of fights," he recalls. After ending up in hospital in Toronto and almost losing his right hand in a fight, he began to wonder if there was a better life than the one he was living. In 1995 Cesar walked into a Good Friday service for the first time. His mother had become a believer two years before, and had begun attending a CNBC church in Scarborough. One Easter weekend she threatened her son by saying, "Today all the families will eat together after the service and if you and your sister don't come with me, I will be the only mother alone." A couple of months later, Cesar's mom asked the evangelism director if one of the groups that went out weekly to share the Gospel could visit her son. She said, "Pray for my son and daughter; they both need Jesus."

Mary formed part of the youth group that went out that Wednesday evening, so she witnessed firsthand Cesar's surrender to Christ. "It was what I was looking for," says Cesar. "A new beginning. God transformed me into the man I am today and gave me a passion for the lost ever since."

Four years later, in June 1999, Mary and Cesar were married.

The Parras prize their time together as a family. Their daughter, Rebecca, is the artist who loves writing, reading and music. "She has read more books in one year than I read in four years of seminary," Cesar admits. "We paint together and go on hikes to take photos."

David is the evangelist and preacher of the family. When they went to meet David's teacher, she told them, "Your son is a missionary! He always finds a way to talk about God, and has no fear sharing his faith." He loves to speak in public,



The Parra family: Mary, Cesar, David, Rebecca and Sammy

happily sharing his testimony and his mission experience. David also enjoys soccer, movies and video games.

Sammy is the athlete. He loves sports, running, boxing, and wrestling with his brother and dad.

The Parras returned from their assignment in Spain with more memories than possessions. "We loved every minute of our time overseas. We got to see lives transformed, rebuilt and restored." In one of her breakfasts with a school mom, Mary talked to her about spiritual things. Later she invited her to study the Bible. During their reading of the first chapter of John, Mary began to share the message of salvation. That morning the mom received Christ as her Lord and Saviour.

When Mary told her friend they were returning to Canada, she said: "I am sad, but thankful that your obedience to come to Spain gave me the greatest gift anyone could ever give me: Jesus!"

In Spain the family enjoyed many "dates at the park." Playground parks in Seville have a coffee shop in the centre, and parents get to sit and visit while their children play. "This was a great time to connect with parents, get to know them, become friends, live life with them and share with them the message of salvation," says Mary. Cesar adds, "Culturally speaking, days in Seville are much longer than here which is great because you have more time to cast the net!"

Mary says, "When we went to Spain as missionaries, our children became missionaries, too. Most of the contacts we had with families were from our children when we picked them up at school, took them to soccer and music classes."

After their first year, the Parras had an overwhelming number of friends who would show up at their home randomly to talk

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A passion to reach the lost is a way of life from p.20

or eat. “They would arrive at 10pm on a school night. We had to adjust—because this is when Spaniards eat. And they would stay to 1am, talking and laughing. But we enjoyed it, and we all adapted to the new schedule.”

Their lives are different now, and they miss Spain, their friends, the conversations, the spontaneous visits. “In our first week back in Cochrane, the children asked why no one had come over all week,” says Cesar. “Here we have had to adapt again. We go to Tim Hortons, we put the kids in programs, and already we’ve met many new people, including families who recently moved to Cochrane.”

Last Christmas the family organized a Latin Christmas dinner and 70 people attended. “We cannot believe how many Hispanics there are in Cochrane and Calgary ... we are working on partnering with some other Latin couples to start the first Hispanic CNBC church here in Calgary.”

“After being in Spain for almost four years,” says Cesar, “I realize that people all over the world need the same thing: love. Everyone needs a good friend, a role model, someone who loves them unconditionally, who listens, laughs and gives them quality time.”

God is teaching him that even here in Cochrane many families are lonely; people need Jesus to make it through the tough times, youth all over the world are looking for love and attention in drugs, alcohol and social media, and preaching to them is not enough. “We can be the best evangelists, preachers and teachers but if we don’t have love, if we don’t express the love of God to strangers, to families, youth and children, then who we are and what we represent is useless.” Cesar believes that evangelism, church planting and discipleship all begins when we take the time to love people in a way that this world can never do: Jesus’ way.

“Loving the lost as Jesus loves them means being willing to leave our schedules to connect with others ... Jesus took the time to come down from heaven to give us His all, His life.

“God is showing me that if I am to encourage pastors, churches and leaders across Canada to reach the lost and go on mission, I must be on mission every day! I must weep for the lost as Jesus did, go into town as He did, go to people’s homes as He did when He saw Zacchaeus in that tree.

“I can be all things to Cochrane, Canada and the world, but if I don’t love people unconditionally, then my work for the Lord is incomplete. ‘And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love’ (1 Corinthians 13:13).”

Mary loves to see God at work in people’s lives, in her own life and in the lives of her children as they minister to others. “I love to see what God does when we trust, obey and give Him control of our lives,” she says. “I love to see the process of transformation, how God makes us more like His Son, how He give us victory in the midst of what appears to be defeat. I love to see God glorified in people’s lives.”

One ministry challenge is “to take up the cross and deny myself,” says Mary, and another is “to be constant in my relationship with Christ. We can get so busy doing things that we neglect the being, the abiding.” A vital part of the Christian walk is to remain connected to the vine that is Jesus, to be constantly abiding in Him: “Then we can see what He sees and go fulfill the Great Commission He has entrusted to us.”

As a family, the challenge is never to lose their passion for missions. During their assignment in Spain, the Parras did whatever they could to connect with their community: they taught English and art classes, helped people move, began a soccer and boxing ministry; they held block parties, painted murals, did marriage counselling, helped young men deal with drug abuse, and mentored many.

“Our method wasn’t spectacular,” says Cesar. “We just served and loved people with the love of God until the Holy Spirit would open the door for a Gospel presentation. Our friends became family, to the point that we would take holidays with them. One by one they became our brothers and sisters.”

Mary still communicates with her disciple friends, mentoring them from afar. She is thankful to her parents who taught her to “love God, love people, and love ministry.”

As in Acts 5:42, Cesar and his servant-hearted family will never stop preaching the greatest story ever told. Whether in Spain or in Canada, their passion to reach the lost is not just a personal mission, it’s a way of life: “Nothing excites me more!” Cesar loves the fact that “Our boss is Jesus. Everything we do is to participate in the expansion of His Kingdom here on earth. It is an honour to work for something that is eternal.”



Rebecca wears a traditional flamenco dress in Spain.

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah” (Acts 5:42, NIV).



Missions/Ethnic Churches

What are you doing to connect with lostness?

Meeet Grace, a student who goes to Roots Church in Calgary. Paul Johnson asked her to join the boxing class that we have three times a week in Cochrane at 7am. I use this class to help young men and women to grow spiritually and physically through boxing. We have a devotional and train hard for an hour.

Grace has been coming for only three months and already she has mastered boxing; that is why I call her “Little Rocky.”

Last week she shared with me that eight years ago she received Christ as her Saviour when she visited [Roots](#) for the first time. On that day, I was preaching and finished with the Gospel and gave an invitation; I had no idea!

She went on to tell me that Jesus changed her life that day and she was baptized a month later. Grace has grown in the Lord ever since and has served at her church on mission trips to China and with Young Life to China. She wants to bring friends to boxing and use it as a tool to reach them.

God asked me through Grace’s story, “Cesar, why haven’t you shared the Gospel from the pulpit lately?” I guess I’ve forgotten the importance of preaching the Gospel from anywhere, and honestly, I’ve heard from many people that the invitation time at the end of the service does not work anymore. In fact, some churches don’t even do it!

I decided I will continue to do it more often because, as it says in Romans 1:16, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” Paul said to Timothy, “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2a). He also told him to “do the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5).

This world is speaking out their beliefs and their sinful ideologies; they even teach them to our children on TV, in music, in movies. Yet we are declaring the Gospel less. We need the next Billy Grahams for this millennium: we need our youth to be bold; we need our pastors to declare the Gospel more than ever. We can be great theologians, great preachers, serve our churches well, be good stewards and great teachers, but if we are not declaring the Gospel, then we are “like a boxer beating the air” (1 Corinthians 9:26b).

Be like Grace in boxing when it comes to ministry. Connect with the lost by declar-

ing the Gospel with many combinations, one on one, from the pulpit and in all contexts. You never know who the Holy Spirit will bring across your path or who will sit on your pew. I am thankful to God that eight years ago He put Grace in one of my pews as I preached and so I was a part of her story. Don’t miss out, declare!



Missions begins in your community



Missions begins in your community: making friends, building communication and connecting with lostness.

Use what God gives you. Use what you are good at: art, music, sports, cooking ... to connect with people.

Get out of your office, get out of your church and do things to meet people.

— Cesar Parra

(Click picture for video)

Birthday party helps families in Cuba

By Deen Vedoya

Towards the end of last year at Church in the Valley, in Edmonton, pastor Nathan Vedoya and church leadership brought forth a vision that even as a young church plant we would be missional and give ourselves away. Cuba missions was close to our hearts so we began communicating the vision and created opportunities for fundraising and giving above and beyond towards missions.

As the people began to catch the vision, a young girl in our church named Alexa asked her parents to give her a big party (she was turning 12). She would not ask for gifts for herself but she would ask her guests to give to Cuba missions. She wrote a personal letter of invitation and sent it to her whole grade six class, friends and family. Our church family gladly helped in hosting this party and giving Alexa a one-of-a-kind birthday. With more than 100 people in attendance, she was able to gather over \$2,000!

Our pastor went to Cuba for a vision tour in late January.



Alexa (front left) with her family at her birthday party



Alexa went shopping with other kids from church for sports equipment, toiletries and other supplies to go to Cuba.

In preparation for this trip, Alexa went shopping along with other kids from church. They used some of the funds collected to buy sports equipment, toiletries and other supplies to help fill the pastor's luggage. Everything would be given to our sister churches in Cuba, especially in areas hit by the hurricane.

When asked why she would "give her birthday away," Alexa simply said, "I don't need anything; I already have so much. I want to help others who actually need clothes, toys, food and books. In the past I have gotten at least \$100 for birthday money; if I get a little more than that this birthday then maybe I can help more people." Little did she know her friends, family and classmates would help generate gifts beyond her expectation.

Our church looks forward to a continued partnership with Cuba missions and perhaps will send a mission team there in the near future.

Coaching: built on the belief that no planter should plant alone

from p.19

Embracing the WHY

Paul described his great passion and commitment to those God planted in cities for the sake of the Gospel. Philippian Christians got the message: they were not alone. In spite of Paul's laser-focused vision on God's mission, Gospel partnerships were critical:

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:3-6 ESV).

Everything we do is built on the belief that no planter should plant alone. We are bound by a biblical ethic to love, support and equip those families God sends. We abide with them through the wins and losses of church planting. Together, as partners in the Gospel, we say to church planters, "We want you to succeed at what the King has assigned you to do."

"A robust planting movement will require a robust coaching network."

—Jimmie Davidson, Los Angeles Church Planter Catalyst and Coaching Champion



Guest professors invest in seminary students

By Elaine Phillips

COCHRANE, AB—On occasion students and staff at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary & College (CSBS&C) are blessed to host guest professors willing to serve for a season when the need arises. This past school year, the Morrisises and the Bergens made their way to Canada from the States, coincidentally crossing the border on the same day and arriving on campus within 40 minutes of each other—although they had yet to meet.

Calvin & Devra Morris

Calvin and Devra Morris served as Emeritus Missionaries-in-Residence for the 2016–2017 school year at CSBS&C, where Calvin was an adjunct professor. He taught two college courses this past semester: New Testament Survey and Growing in Christlikeness.

The Morrisises were appointed in 1988 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to serve in theological education in Venezuela. Calvin served as the director of the Baptist Bible Institute in Maracaibo, and the whole family was involved in church planting and reaching the Yukpa people group. In 2004 the Morrisises moved to Santiago, Chile where Calvin served as a trainer for the South America Region and later as the Theological Education Strategist for the Americas. With Devra's assistance, Calvin served as an adjunct professor of missiology and biblical studies in Santiago. They have also taught both intensive and semester-long courses as guest professors in Colombia, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

From 2009 until retirement in 2015 they continued to live in Santiago but served in a new role as Theological Education Strategist for the Americas. They worked with seminaries throughout the Americas to encourage them to be "Great Commandment communities fulfilling the Great Commission." In addition, they facilitated connections between seminaries in the Americas and in the USA to form partnerships for the training of leaders.

In December 2015, the Morrisises moved from Santiago to their new home in Fultondale, Alabama (near their grandchildren). Although now technically "retired" from the IMB, the Morrisises are not ready to retire from the Lord's calling to train leaders in the cross-cultural context.

Friend and colleague Susan Booth met the Morrisises seven years ago when she and Calvin were in the same PhD cohort. "What immediately impressed me about this couple was their genuine love for the Lord and for people," she says. "I am excited that God led them to come and serve with us in Canada. Calvin and Devra brought a wealth of experience, having served in theological education for three decades in South America. They have been a huge blessing to our students, staff, and faculty."

Bob & Martha Bergen

Bob and Martha Bergen taught at CSBS&C during the 2016 fall semester. Academic dean, Dr Steve Booth, met Bob during his seminary days at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "He was instrumental in teaching me theological German and French in order to be admitted into Southwestern's PhD program," Dr Booth recalls.

"It was a delight having Drs Bob and Martha Bergen on campus this past semester. This 'Aquila and Priscilla' couple have made a tremendous investment in our students at no small cost to their school."

The Bergens have been teaching at Hannibal-LaGrange University in Hannibal, Missouri since

1986. Much planning was involved in making the missions teaching opportunity a reality. "We knew being away from Hannibal for an entire semester would require Hannibal-LaGrange to make some adjustments," noted Dr Bob Bergen. "Besides teaching courses at HLGU, I'm also the Associate Academic Dean; Martha teaches several courses, directs the Ministry Guidance program, and serves as the Christian Studies Division chairperson."

HLGU's president, Dr Anthony Allen, supported the idea of letting the Bergens teach one term in Canada, and with the consent of the trustees and much behind-the-scenes work, arrangements were made for the couple to take a sabbatical leave from August through December 2016.

Preparing to live outside the United States for four months required extensive preparations for the Bergens. Passports and work visas had to be obtained; arrangements had to be made for pets, the house, yard, and utilities; and



Bob and Martha Bergen and Devra and Calvin Morris

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International Connections

Now is the time to pray for North Africa Middle East peoples

By Andrew and Paula Lee*

In Matthew 13 Jesus taught His disciples through parables. One particular parable, the parable of the sower, has impacted our lives as we have been on mission with God. In this parable Jesus tells of a sower who sowed seed. As he sows, the seed falls on four specific types of soil. Only the fourth is defined as good soil. We believe God is working in our city. As we engage the edges of lostness among North Africa Middle East peoples, we know God has prepared the hearts of many to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. We know there is fourth soil in our midst.

One day we were out with others sharing the good news and we talked to a young Moroccan man. Moh* was passing by on a side street when we felt the Spirit leading us to stop him mid-stride. We began to ask about his religion, a common bridge we use to share the Gospel, and it wasn't long before we asked if he wanted to receive this free gift of salvation. We'll never forget his response. He stopped and thought and said, "That does sound like good news. But I would need to turn my back on everything. It would cost me everything. I cannot accept this." We parted ways and we have not seen him since.

Although Moh* didn't accept Christ as Lord and Saviour, we believe God is working in his heart and in the hearts of



others like him. We are seeing signs that God is preparing to move in a mighty way. Through various current events Muslims are questioning their faith and we are seeing more who are willing to study God's Word. Now is the time to pray. Now is the time to cry out to our Father to send a mighty movement of the Holy Spirit so that North Africa Middle East peoples will worship Christ in spirit and in truth!

Andrew and Paula Lee* are Canadian Connection [IMB](#) workers among North Africa and Middle East peoples living in Europe.

*names changed

Servant-hearted guest professors encourage students and faculty

from p.24

packing had to be done for Canadian summer, fall, and winter weather conditions. The couple also had to make a two-thousand-mile road trip across an international border to Cochrane. "A lot was involved in getting us to Canada, but it was more than worth it," says Dr Martha Bergen. "The seminary is like a family—the administrators, faculty, staff, and students were wonderful to work with."

Alongside his role as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Bob is Distinguished Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew. While filling in for Dr Kevin Peacock, who was on his stateside assignment, Bob taught Biblical Hebrew, possibly his favourite subject, as well as 1–2 Samuel. He has served on two Bible translation committees and published three commentaries.

Martha too is a published author and regular contributor to Biblical Illustrator, Christian Education Journal, and various LifeWay publications. During her time on campus

in Cochrane she taught two seminary courses, Leading Disciples towards Maturity and Effective Bible Teaching. "We are grateful for Hannibal-LaGrange University's sensitivity to the missions need at Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary—and grateful that we were the 'missionaries' privileged to help meet that need at this time," notes Martha. "Our lives and ministries have been enriched by the experience."

Seminary president, Rob Blackaby, is thankful for these servant-hearted guest professors and the many ways in which they encourage our students and faculty: "The Bergens' investment in our learning community began immediately upon their arrival in August 2016. Though God only placed them with us for a single semester, their influence was so dramatic and important that we grieved the day their sabbatical ended and they returned to regular duties at their home university. A deep affection has developed between us in a short period of time."

Cajuns take gumbo, Gospel to French Canadians

By Brian Blackwell/Louisiana Baptist Message

DIEPPE, NB (BP)—Louis Charrier was putting the finishing touches on his southern Louisiana gumbo and already a line of 15 people was forming, eager to get a taste of the Cajun dish at a block party in Dieppe, New Brunswick.

Moments later, some fellow Louisiana Baptists begin serving the cuisine by the bowl, along with an evangelism tract telling the purpose of their trip to the Canadian province.

One of three 2016 trips Louisiana Baptists took to New Brunswick and neighbouring Nova Scotia, the Cajun Connection is a joint effort by churches around the state.

While there, they minister with a Canadian church for door-to-door surveys, Vacation Bible School and student ministry.

The outreach, which aims to connect the culture of Louisiana with its northern roots, began in 2004 with Louisiana missionaries Winter and Betty Case from Stonewall who spent two years in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and opened a door of opportunity to share Christ.

Historical ties

Cajuns are descendants of the French Canadians who came to Louisiana more than 260 years ago, moving from Nova Scotia starting in 1755 when Great Britain acquired control of the area. When the Acadians did not become cooperative British subjects, the British began removing them from the Canadian province. Known as the Great Derangement, the Acadians settled in various countries, including the United States, and by the 19th century nearly 4,000 Acadians had moved to southern Louisiana.

“For us, when we go to a Cajun area and say we are from Louisiana, it immediately opens the door,” said Charrier, pastor of Washington Baptist Church and three other church plants in Louisiana. “Their eyes light up and it gives an open door always. They consider you a part of their past—and that common French background is the entry point for Louisiana Baptists.

“It’s more than just a Cajun Connection. We are trying to connect people to God who have been disconnected,”

Charrier said. “The real connection is not horizontal but vertical. We use that name for a cultural connection. But once we arrive for that cultural connection it opens the door.”

Spiritual bonds

Steven Kelley, pastor at Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Morgan City who participated for a third consecutive year, said returning on a regular basis builds bridges to sharing the Gospel with the people of the Canadian province.

He mentioned the example of a young girl who has attended VBS all three years, beginning in 2014.

The first year, the team made the girl and her mother some cupcakes. By the third year, the mother, who was unchurched, attended a worship service at a local church.

Kelley also shared about two young boys who attended the VBS this year. By the end of the week, he said, their mother was communicating with the team through Facebook, sharing the impact they had on her sons.

While neither mother has yet accepted Christ, Kelley said the

effort planted seeds that he hopes one day will lead to their having a relationship with Jesus.

“For me, it’s all about relationship building,” said Kelley, who also serves as director of missions for Gulf Coast Baptist Association. “The first year you go, everything is new. But now we have a personal and relational investment that makes it all different.

“I have gotten to know the community and built those connections,” he said. “You only get that by going to the same place over time.”

Kelley said the camaraderie among the Christians in the area is something he hopes to model more in south Louisiana.

“The churches up there, because there are so few of them, have a tremendous fellowship,” Kelley said.



Steven Kelley (right), pastor of Bayou Vista Baptist Church in Morgan City, LA, and Mark Spradling, a member of the church, present the Gospel during VBS, as part of a Cajun Connection mission trip sponsored by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Reprinted from [Baptist Press](#), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

CNBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING*



	FEB	YTD 2017	FEB 2016
BRITISH COLUMBIA			
CONGREGATIONS			
Bethel Romanian Church, Abbotsford	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethesda Karen Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blessed Baptist Church of Vancouver, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chinese Christian Gospel Church, Burnaby	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cityview Baptist Church, Vancouver	\$583.33	\$1,166.66	\$1,166.66
COTR Global Ministries, Pitt Meadows	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$836.21
Comox Valley Korean Baptist Church, Comox	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Coquitlam Chinese Baptist Church, Port Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Kamloops	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church, Grand Forks	\$0.00	\$420.70	\$794.54
Gateway Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gateway Myanmar Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Great Commission Baptist, Aldergrove	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Immanuel Christian Fellowship, Vancouver	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
Joe-Un Church, Burnaby	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Korean Baptist Church of Vancouver, Vancouver	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Korean Bethel Baptist Church, Delta	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Laotian Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Living Word Chinese Baptist Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mapes Baptist Church, Vanderhoof	\$0.00	\$2,455.16	\$2,737.00
Mien Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain View Baptist Church, Salmon Arm	\$479.64	\$903.55	\$767.77
Okanagan Chinese Baptist Church, Kelowna	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Peace Korean Baptist Church, Langley	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Redeemed Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Re:Generation, Langley	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$550.00
Richmond Chinese Baptist, Richmond	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Richmond Chinese Christian Gospel, Richmond	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Richmond Gospel Baptist, Richmond	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Royal Heights Baptist, Delta	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Salmo Baptist, Salmo	\$99.00	\$210.00	\$332.00
Solid Rock Biker Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Surrey Chinese Baptist, Surrey	\$450.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
Tent of David Fellowship, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Point, Burnaby	\$0.00	\$222.18	\$394.08
The Potter's House Community, Westbank	\$475.23	\$921.58	\$776.87
Towers Baptist, Richmond	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,150.00
Uplands Baptist, Terrace	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Urban Village Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vancouver Chinese Baptist, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vancouver Joyful Fellowship Church, Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Victoria Korean Baptist, Victoria	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Vietnamese Baptist Linh-An Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$383.86	\$401.15
WestCoast Japanese, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Westlynn Baptist, North Vancouver	\$518.87	\$1,274.62	\$934.76
Yangmoori Baptist Church, Victoria	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEW CHURCH PLANTS			
Canvas Church, Victoria	\$0.00	\$2,405.73	\$1,571.46
Church on the Rock Albion, Maple Ridge	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ekklesia, North Saanich	\$0.00	\$491.10	\$749.59
Gateway Filipino Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

	FEB	YTD 2017	FEB 2016
Han Church, Port Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Life Way Generation Korean Church, Port Coquitlam	\$1,276.00	\$1,276.00	\$0.00
New Hope Church, Port Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$859.86	\$620.45
NextGen Church, Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$138.96	\$0.00
Origin, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$845.71	\$5,109.19
The Common Place, Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$171.88	\$36.00
The Crossings, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$604.50
uVillage Korean Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Zende (Living) Church, New Westminster	\$0.00	\$166.90	\$189.82
Zona Cero Baptist Ministries, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
OTHER PLANTS			
His Will Church, Burnaby	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Movement Church, Abbotsford	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
River Community Church, Richmond	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$270.00
Transformation City Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$359.10	\$0.00
BC TOTALS	\$4,082.07	\$18,983.55	\$23,892.05

ALBERTA			
CONGREGATIONS			
Abundant Life Chinese Baptist, Calgary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Big Rock Baptist, Okotoks	\$817.00	\$1,782.50	\$1,959.60
Bow Valley Baptist, Cochrane	\$5,241.00	\$12,297.81	\$11,827.01
Bridge International, Calgary	\$0.00	\$302.00	\$2,009.72
Calgary Bangla Baptist Church, Calgary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Calgary Chinese Baptist, Calgary	\$0.00	\$2,487.02	\$2,318.12
Calgary Woori, Calgary	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00
Cambrian Heights Baptist, Calgary	\$1,747.74	\$3,278.94	\$2,754.72
Christ International Assembly	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cowboy Trail, Cochrane	\$374.96	\$1,481.31	\$2,152.72
Dovercourt Baptist, Edmonton	\$1,269.40	\$2,054.60	\$1,606.80
Edmonton Chinese Baptist, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evangel Baptist, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evansburg Baptist, Evansburg	\$856.52	\$1,406.04	\$1,225.84
Fairview Cornerstone Baptist, Fairview	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
Filipino International Baptist, Edmonton	\$4,869.84	\$4,869.84	\$0.00
Grace Family, St Albert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hopelink Church, Airdrie	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Place Baptist, Edmonton	\$1,557.99	\$3,352.59	\$1,196.12
Life-Touch Center Ministries, Calgary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Newway Baptist, Edmonton	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Red Deer Korean Community, Red Deer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Richmond Hill Baptist, Calgary	\$0.00	\$8,099.94	\$12,244.43
Southwinds, Calgary	\$0.00	\$5,104.80	\$6,523.95
Tapestry, Tuscan, Calgary	\$1,582.65	\$1,582.65	\$0.00
The Church of Generation for Christ, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Pathway Church, Calgary	\$3,424.00	\$3,424.00	\$0.00
Trinity Baptist, Calgary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Truth Baptist, Calgary	\$0.00	\$6,606.55	\$8,085.66
Vietnamese Community, Calgary	\$0.00	\$615.95	\$0.00
Westwood Baptist, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00
Worsley Baptist, Worsley	\$1,589.78	\$3,053.36	\$1,772.93
NEW CHURCH PLANTS			
Central Community Church, Edmonton	\$490.00	\$490.00	\$0.00
Christ In You Baptist Church, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.42

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CNBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING*



	FEB	YTD 2017	FEB 2016
Church in the Valley, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$5,585.00	\$0.00
Connect Church, Calgary	\$1,690.38	\$2,298.54	\$0.00
Filipino International Baptist Church North, Edmonton	\$1,018.75	\$1,018.75	\$0.00
Genesis Church, Airdrie	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Life Renewal Chinese Baptist, Edmonton	\$179.00	\$344.30	\$365.78
Mosaic Church, Lloydminster	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Nepalese Baptist Church of Lethbridge, Lethbridge	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Noel, Cochrane	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Red Deer Disciple Church, Red Deer	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Southwinds Church at Mahogany, Calgary	\$305.40	\$305.40	\$0.00
Springbank Chinese Baptist Church, Calgary	\$675.00	\$1,615.70	\$1,118.42
The Open Door Community Church, Sherwood Park	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
True Love Arabic Church, Calgary	\$0.00	\$907.99	\$93.48
West Edmonton Fellowship, Edmonton	\$83.00	\$398.00	\$0.00

OTHER PLANTS

Trinity Mandarin Baptist Church, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AB TOTALS	\$27,972.41	\$80,163.58	\$77,205.72

SASKATCHEWAN

CONGREGATIONS

Allan Baptist, Allan	\$96.97	\$257.72	\$0.00
Bethal Christian Fellowship, Prince Albert	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Calvary Baptist, Moose Jaw	\$495.00	\$800.65	\$518.73
Cochin Baptist, Cochin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Baptist, North Battleford	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Discovery Baptist, Regina	\$0.00	\$1,206.95	\$958.56
Emmanuel Baptist, Melfort	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$1,666.66
Faith Baptist, Saskatoon	\$867.50	\$1,645.25	\$1,646.44
Hi-Way Harvest Fellowship, Smeaton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Muskoday Baptist, Muskoday	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$60.00
Scarborough Baptist, Prince Albert	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
Watrous Baptist, Watrous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Woori Baptist, Regina	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$396.00

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

15:5 Church, Saskatoon	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Battleford's Cowboy Church, Prince Albert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gronlid Community Church, Gronlid	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Gathering, Prince Albert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

OTHER PLANTS

Tapewin Christian Assembly, Prince Albert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SK TOTALS	\$12,209.47	\$15,590.57	\$6,346.39

MANITOBA

CONGREGATIONS

Garden Park, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$1,714.23	\$2,010.23
Joy Fountain Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Life Sanctuary, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SALT Community of Believers, Anola	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. Adolphe Bible Fellowship, St. Adolphe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tabor Baptist Church, Winnipeg	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Vision Korean Baptist Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

Punjabi Fellowship, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
The Light Worship Community, Winnipeg	\$152.00	\$152.00	\$15.50

	FEB	YTD 2017	FEB 2016
Renaissance Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

OTHER PLANTS

People's Bible Baptist Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
MB TOTALS	\$1,652.00	\$3,866.23	\$2,025.73

ONTARIO

CONGREGATIONS

All Nations Church, Sudbury	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bantry Gospel Seed, Richmond Hill	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$280.00
Baptist International Worship Centre, Brampton	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Beacon Baptist Church, Victoria Harbour	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethel Romanian Baptist Church, Kitchener	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bible Centered Fellowship of Toronto, Toronto	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Celebration! Church Ottawa, Gloucester	\$0.00	\$2,034.15	\$6,431.18
Dixie Baptist Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Baptiste de la Saintete, Scarborough	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Église Baptiste Haitienne Salem, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$396.63
Église Evangelique Baptiste Eben Ezer, Ottawa	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Etobicoke	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$600.00
Grace Baptist Church (Mississauga), Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greek Gospel Church of Toronto, East York	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hamilton Bikers' Church, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hamilton Fellowships, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
Harvest Community Church, Carleton Place	\$178.44	\$298.91	\$363.00
Iglesia Bautista Betel, Scarborough	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mississauga Southern Chinese Baptist Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oakville Christian Fellowship, Oakville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pathway Church Kanata, Richmond	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,080.43
Sequoia Community Church, Nepean	\$3,285.00	\$10,711.00	\$4,888.00
The Gathering-Windsor, Windsor **	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$300.00
The Journey Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$1,924.43	\$884.29
The Sanctuary, Kerr Village	\$0.00	\$324.00	\$578.00
The Sanctuary, Oakville	\$2,831.00	\$6,397.00	\$7,624.00
The Sanctuary, Milton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$251.06
The Vine Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$89.55

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

Agape Global Community Fellowship, North York	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Ekklesia, Toronto	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Elevation Church Canada, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emmanuel Baptist Church East, Ajax	\$145.19	\$221.39	\$60.96
Emmanuel Baptist Church North, North York	\$64.10	\$246.93	\$10.20
Fellowship Church GTA, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$426.84	\$1,116.00
Fellowship Pickering, Pickering	\$6,028.61	\$6,028.61	\$1,719.00
Fellowship Church Rouge Park, Pickering	\$1,922.56	\$1,922.56	\$0.00
Grassy Narrows First Nations, Grassy Narrows	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hamilton Ark Church, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hamilton Baptist Church of Shalom, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Heaven Sent Community Fellowship, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$876.97	\$753.69
Life Eternal Asian Fellowship Canada, Brampton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ottawa Good News Community Church, Ottawa	\$251.00	\$1,985.05	\$1,400.00
Refuel Church, East York	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rendezvous - Midtown, Toronto	\$18.00	\$85.65	\$0.00
Restoration Hamilton, Hamilton	\$93.76	\$241.36	\$44.40

more p. 29

CNBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING*



	FEB	YTD 2017	FEB 2016
SouthShore Bible Church, Barrie	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Starting Point Church, Oakville	\$2,828.00	\$2,828.00	\$3,370.00
Thames Christian Fellowship, Chatham	\$649.00	\$1,207.00	\$1,911.00
Trinity Life, Toronto	\$510.33	\$2,831.73	\$1,795.64
Vietnamese Baptist Church Mississauga, Mississauga	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00

OTHER PLANTS

First Baptist Church - Orillia, Orillia	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Greenhills Christian Fellowship - Durham, Ajax	\$0.00	\$324.30	\$0.00
House of Prayer International Church Milton, Oakville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Journey Church City Centre, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Bridge, Oakville	\$0.00	\$151.20	\$183.60
The Extra Mile, North York	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$343.93
The King's Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$0.00
Toronto Hope Church, Toronto	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wadi Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

ON TOTALS	\$20,754.99	\$44,829.08	\$38,214.56
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QUÉBEC

CONGREGATIONS

Arabic Baptist Church of Christ of Montréal, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Assemblée Chrétienne de la Grâce, Granby	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bellevue Salem Baptist Church of Canada, Gatineau	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church of the Lord of Lords, Saint-Laurent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Connexion Montréal, Ahuntsic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Baptiste Communautaire Béthanie, Montréal	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$292.76
Église Baptiste Évangélique de Maniwaki, Maniwaki	\$0.00	\$702.23	\$1,080.50
Église Baptiste Galilée, Saint Hubert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Baptiste Haitienne Siloe, Montréal	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Église Baptiste Nouvelle Jérusalem, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Baptiste Shéba, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Communautaire Mosaïque, Quebec	\$0.00	\$4,318.00	\$0.00
Église de L'Amour du Seigneur, Pierrefonds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église de Rocher Vivant Communauté Chrétienne, Saint Félix	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Évangélique de Pointe Saint-Charles, Montréal	\$44.58	\$87.04	\$127.38
Église Renaissance de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Renaissance du Long Sault, Grenville	\$0.00	\$321.00	\$1,195.60
Église Renaissance Trois-Rivières, Trois-Rivières	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Urbaine 180, Quebec	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greek Canadian Gospel Church, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Initiative 22, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
La Chapelle, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
On Noori Korean Baptist Church of Montréal, Cote St Luc	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Passion Church, Beloeil	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$382.17
Renaissance Bible Church, Rawdon	\$637.29	\$997.29	\$225.29

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

Antioch Baptist Church, Sherbrooke	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Assemblée évangélique de Lévis, Saint-Jean-Chrysostome	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$385.00
Centre Connexion, Eglise Chretienne la Rencontre, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Centre Tapickotc de Wemotaci, La Croche	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ComJesus, Mont-Saint-Hilaire	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
Communauté Évangélique de Beraca, Laval	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disciples Christian Fellowship of Montréal, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Café Mosaïque, Joliette	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41.40

	FEB	YTD 2017	FEB 2016
Église du Mont-Bellvue, Sherbrooke	\$0.00	\$816.70	\$0.00
Église le Contact, Repentigny	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Église le Refuge, Pincout	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Urbaine Axe21 (Magog), Magog	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Encounter, Sherbrooke	\$325.00	\$325.00	\$0.00
Renaissance Church (Montreal), Montreal	\$0.00	\$830.00	\$0.00
The Village Church, Brigham	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

OTHER PLANTS

Église Urbaine Axe21 - Sherbrooke	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
QC TOTALS	\$2,026.87	\$11,717.26	\$3,830.10

NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR

NFL TOTALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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NEW BRUNSWICK

CONGREGATIONS

Eastside Church, Miramichi	\$384.69	\$384.69	290.27
Église Cite de la Grace, Dieppe	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Hillside Church, Blackville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Community Church, Fredericton	\$0.00	\$1,017.86	365.53
Miramichi Valley Church, Doaktown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Providence Christian Church, Riverview	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Refuge Church, Riverview	\$70.00	\$570.00	\$0.00

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

Cornerstone Church Richibucto, Richibucto	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
NB TOTALS	\$554.69	\$3,072.55	\$655.80

NOVA SCOTIA

CONGREGATIONS

Community Bible Chapel, Timberlea	\$340.00	\$640.00	\$519.58
Journey Community Church, Enfield	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Margaree Valley Baptist Church, Margaree Valley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

Christian Community Church of Cheticamp, SW Margaree	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Inverness Community Church, Inverness	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

NS TOTALS	\$340.00	\$640.00	\$519.58
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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

CONGREGATIONS

Center Point Church, Montague	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Baptist Church, Charlottetown	\$1,280.77	\$2,666.14	\$2,785.34

NEW CHURCH PLANTS

Center Point Church - Charlottetown, Montague	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Providence Evangelical International Church, Charlottetown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.38

PEI TOTALS	\$1,280.77	\$2,666.14	\$3,235.72
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YUKON/NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CONGREGATIONS

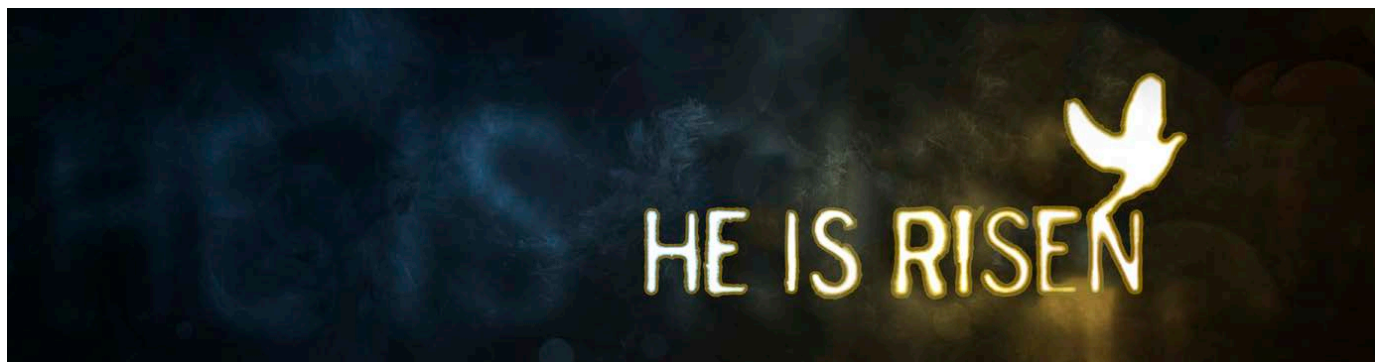
Tli-Cho Baptist Church, Behchoko	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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YK/NT TOTALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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OTHER GIFTS	\$0.00	\$660.00	\$950.20
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TOTALS	\$70,873.27	\$182,188.96	\$156,875.85
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List of churches who have given through Cooperative Program in the last 3 years.



Finding ways to do evangelism at Easter

By Paul Johnson

An Easter Project

Want a project this Easter? Instead of a chocolate binge or an Easter egg hunt (or in addition to), partner with God this holiday to bring the good news to someone. How? The Evangelism [Stepladder](#), part of the [DiscipleMaker Stages app \(Android\)](#) shows seven ways to interact with seekers around you. Start with prayer, one of five things also listed here for Easter preparation.

Don't know how to start a Gospel convo with a non-Christian? Here are [44 starter questions](#) (yep, 44), and a [plethora](#) more here. [This has seven tips](#) when talking to a non-believer, including the ever relevant "Don't be Weird and Awkward."

A Gift at Easter

Want an Easter gift to offer friends? Cru suggests the [Jesus DVD in 16 languages](#), at 50+ for \$1/each. Or give the booklet [The God Questions](#), a 50-pack for \$2.49 per book (sampler [PDF of Week One](#) here).

Or give the Gospel. Here's a [four-page Gospel presentation](#), especially if you're hooked on acrostics, alliteration, too (light, lamb, lifeline). [This presentation](#) is designed for children. The writer stresses that "it's God who saves our children." Not us. Pray. Invite. Pray. Talk. Trust God.

Reprinted from *CNBC Church Strengthening d.lines*. Subscribe to *CNBC news* [here](#).



Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary & College

ONE-WEEK COURSES

<p style="text-align: center;">The Sometimes Painful And Confusing Ways of God</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Frankie Rainey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 8-12, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00am-noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Audit tuition: \$50 College credit tuition: \$325 Seminary credit tuition: \$345</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Doctrine of Revelation: Who God Is And How We Know It</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Keith Whitfield</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 15-19, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00am-4:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Audit tuition: \$100 College credit tuition: \$650 Seminary credit tuition: \$690</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Leadership</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Richard Blackaby & Dr. Rob Blackaby</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 29-June 2, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00am-4:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Audit tuition: \$100 Seminary credit tuition: \$690</p>
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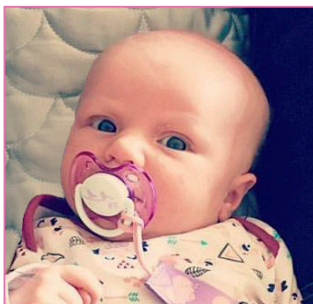
**For more information, please contact
Kathleen McNaughton:**


email: registrar@csbs.ca phone: 403-932-6622 ext. 221

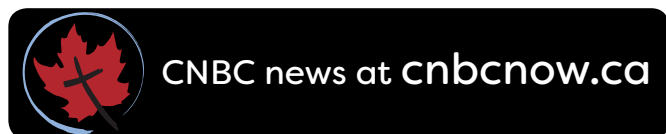
Clearly Canadian



 **Jessica and Justin Bennett** announce the birth of their daughter, **Kinsley Ruth Bennett**, born March 1, 2017 in Edmonton, AB. Justin is associate pastor for [The Open Door Community Church](#), Sherwood Park, AB.



 **Gail Trotter**, from Edmonton, AB, passed away on March 26, 2017. Gail is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren. **Karen (John) Hatch** worked in the CNBC (CCSB) office from 1990 to 1999. **John Hatch** is a CNBC church planter in Morley, AB. **Kelly and Brian Kenakin**, from Edmonton, have four children: Peter, Deborah, Philip and David. The funeral will be held at Dovercourt Baptist Church, Edmonton, on April 7, at 7pm.



CNBC Church Plants 2017

- 6 Disciples' Way Christian Church**
Devon, AB ([website](#))
Planter couple: Dawson & Crystal Brown
- 7 Eglise Evangelique Lumiere des Nations**
Sherbrooke, QC
Planter couple: Yan Duhamel & Rachel Gauthier
- 8 The Cross Church**
Mississauga, ON
Planter: Jong Min (Scott) Park
- 9 Grace Arabic Church**
Calgary, AB
Planter: Maher Said



376 total congregations & new plants



CSBS&C Graduation 2017

The Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary & College in Cochrane, Alberta, invites you to join them for graduation events:

Graduation Testimonies

Friday, May 5, at 7pm
Seminary Chapel, 200 Seminary View

Followed by a dessert fellowship

Come hear moving testimonies from our graduates of God's work in their lives to prepare them for ministry.



Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, May 6, at 2pm
Bow Valley Baptist Church
54 W Aarsby Rd

Followed by a cake and punch reception

Come celebrate with our graduates as they receive their diplomas.

Know anyone who's hard to love? Who doesn't? Some people aren't even easy to like! But easy or not, God has called us to love them. Join us as we learn how to do just that through:

LOVING WELL and the teaching of Beth Moore
(Via video)

Loving Well

CNBC Ladies' Event

Sponsored by and at
Dovercourt Baptist Church

12321-135th street, Edmonton, AB

Friday, April 28 • 5:30pm – 9:00pm
& Saturday, April 29 • 8:30am – 4:30pm

OUR Mission Project for the Conference: Pack up some of your gently used clothing and bring them along in a bag: children's clothing, ladies' long skirts, NO slacks, ladies' flat shoes sizes 5–6½, men's slacks, smaller shirts.



Registration or Questions

Phone Donna
780-455-0246

email
dbchurch@telus.net

Online
midwestassociation.ca

Or drop us a note at the church address saying that you would like to attend.

Registration Deadline:
Sunday, April 19
\$10.00 for the weekend
Payable at check-in
Friday evening

Waves of Joy

 July 7-9, 2017
CNBC ANNUAL CONVENTION
Towers Baptist Church
10311 Albion Road • Richmond, BC

*"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound,
and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy" (Psalm 96: 11-12).*