

\$2.00 June 2020

Atlantic Baptist Women: Celebrating 150 Years

# Tidings

Impacting the World for Christ



A Vision Brings  
**Positive 16**  
**Change** *in the*  
Democratic Republic  
*of the Congo*



Help send out a  
**Kaleidoscope**  
of Love

13



# Tidings

Since 1893, *Tidings* has been published by the United Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of the Atlantic Provinces for the glory of God and to encourage each other to do good works.

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## June 2020

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Photo with watercolour effect courtesy of Eugene Akondeng:

This young mother was rejected by her husband and parents after giving birth to a blind son. At a program run by Canadian Baptist Ministries' church partner in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, she received sewing training and can now sustain herself and her child.



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Impacting the World for Christ



### Editor's Niche

When I was in university, GORP was a popular snack food. Said to stand for "Good Old Raisins and Peanuts," this satisfying, energy-packed treat remains a popular snack but it's now commonly known as trail mix. Made up of

a little bit of this and that, GORP is an example of something where the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

This issue of *Tidings* contains news of God's people at work around the world, and how you can be at work here at home in Atlantic Canada. Read about a woman in ministry in Cuba. See snapshots of hope from the Democratic

Republic of the Congo. Discover how a trip to New York could help define purpose, and find biblical wisdom and mission information to sustain you through COVID-19 restrictions. A little bit of this and that combines in this issue to make a boost of nutrition for your spirit to send you forward onto your summer's trails.

*Cindy MacDonald*

# ABW Newsworthy Notes ...



## Grow ABW

During 2020, Atlantic Baptist Women will celebrate the past 150 years and look to and envision the future.

In 2020, take part in "Grow ABW—Building on the Legacy." Part One: choose items from a list of 50 projects for ABW's 150th anniversary; participate individually or as a group. Involve your church family! Part Two: celebrate ABW's 150 years by contributing, above regular giving, to help provide for ABW initiatives.

For more information,  
visit [www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca](http://www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca)  
under Get Involved/Be Part of the Impact.

**Thank you** for continuing to remember offerings to Atlantic Baptist Women during COVID-19 restrictions. Please continue to give to ABW to help meet ongoing commitments. Funds can be turned in to your WMS's or ABW group's treasurer, to be forwarded to your provincial treasurer as normal. If this is not possible, offerings can be sent to the ABW General Treasurer or donate online at [www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca](http://www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca).

## Atlantic Baptist Women

Email for questions  
or e-transfer:  
[abwtreasurer@hotmail.com](mailto:abwtreasurer@hotmail.com)

## We Shall Remember Them

Each month in the print edition, *Tidings* prints submitted names of mission-hearted women who have been part of Woman's Missionary Societies or Atlantic Baptist Women's groups in the Atlantic provinces.

### To Place a Name in We Shall Remember Them

Send the person's name, address, date of death, and age to the editor of *Tidings*. Print as well as write the information.

Include your phone number.

### To Place a Name in the ABW Memorial Book

Send information to your ABW provincial treasurer with a memorial gift of \$5 or more. Cheques payable to Atlantic Baptist Women.



Atlantic Baptist Women  
welcomes new  
Executive Director

## Lisa Lohnes

Atlantic Baptist Women is pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa Lohnes to the role of ABW Executive Director, effective June 1, 2020.



Sarah Michal Photography

Sign up today  
to receive  
**IMPACT,**  
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newsletter!  
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## *Tidings Magazine* can now be read online!

Subscribers to the print edition of *Tidings Magazine* also now can read the current issue online. Each new issue will be posted online on the first day of any month of issue. (No issues in July and August.) Paid subscribers are invited to contact [tidingsbusm@gmail.com](mailto:tidingsbusm@gmail.com) to receive the password.

### *This password is for paid subscribers only.*

*The password will occasionally change; notification of any change to the password will be in the print edition on a regular basis.*

*If you share your print copy, please do not share the password access.*

*Tidings is not available in an online-only version.*

# Upholding One Another and Extending

The small numbers preceding prayer requests serve as a daily guide for prayer.  
Prayer requests for Saturday and Sunday are combined.

## CANADA

<sup>1</sup>Terry Smith, executive director of Canadian Baptist Ministries, challenges Canadian Baptists to place our trust in the Lord while praying fervently for our ministries, pastors, churches, schools, seniors' homes, and mission initiatives during this unprecedented pandemic.

<sup>2</sup>Be in prayer for God's people to remain faithful amid disruption and to give generously so that the work of local churches and ministries to the most vulnerable can be maintained.

<sup>3</sup>As we lift up those mourning the loss of COVID-19 victims, also remember those who are afflicted with mental health issues as a result of isolation, lack of physical contact, and job loss. Pray too for those feeling grief and anger because of the April tragedy in the Truro area of Nova Scotia.

## ATLANTIC CANADA



<sup>4</sup>Pray that Atlantic Baptist Women will respond to the call from Interim Executive Director Sylvia Hagerman to keep financial commitments to

ABW, regardless of being unable to assemble together locally or at interMISSION 2020.

<sup>5</sup>Youth are experiencing stress and disappointment as they attempt to complete online courses and exams, and as they face many unknowns. Pray that they will remember God's promises and not despair as they reach out to one another, showing mercy and grace.

<sup>6/7</sup>The Open Door Women's Care Centre in Halifax and the Pregnancy Resource Center in Saint John give thanks for the ability to stay connected with clients via phone or video during the COVID-19 crisis. They covet prayer for young clients dealing with extra stress and loneliness, and for sufficient funding.

<sup>8</sup>Pray for children who will not have Daily Vacation Bible School or church camp to attend this summer, that they use their time wisely and grow closer to God. Pray that church leaders find creative ways to support CBM's Kids Care 2020 and ABW's children's mission action project, the South Sudan Water Project.

<sup>9</sup>Bring before the Lord children who normally participate in after-school and summer programs offered by New Life Mission in Moncton, New Brunswick. Pray for

Interim Director Joseph Martin and staff member Julie Allerston, and for generous funding for the mission.

<sup>10</sup>Administrators at Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and Crandall University, Moncton, need prayer as they make decisions regarding operating costs incurred because of the pandemic. Pray, too, for international and local students requiring funds for travel and tuition.

## CENTRAL and SOUTH AMERICA



**The Nacho Family**

<sup>11</sup>David and Suzannah Nacho, CBM field staff in Costa Rica, ask for prayer as they home-school their children. They also request prayer for good ideas to unite Christians and the community in this time of crisis and for students in the Center for

Interdisciplinary Theological Studies certificate program who need to do hands-on work to complete the course.

<sup>12</sup>Be thankful with Bill and Janice Dyck, CBM global field staff in Bolivia, for good health, God's provision, and friends around the world. Pray for the Bolivian Baptist Union's leadership, national Christian leaders, pastors in financial need, and children who benefit from the ministry of the Casa de la Amistad.

<sup>13/14</sup>Pray that these words from Psalm 18, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer ... in whom I take refuge," will be a witness and an encouragement to those with whom Bruno and Kathleen Soucy, CBM's Latin America team leaders, interact. Give thanks for the peace the Soucys have, and pray that CBM's partner churches in Latin America will be beacons of light and hope.

## ASIA

<sup>15</sup>Join Conrad and Fiona Kwok, CBM Chinese Ministry team leaders based in Thailand, in praying that God will use the circumstances of COVID-19 to turn hearts toward him. Pray that Thailand Bethel Theological Institute students who are not equipped in their home villages for online teaching can soon return to campus, and that Operation Dawn drug rehab centres can accept new clients. <sup>16</sup>Regions in Northern Thailand are suffering from extreme air pollution due to months of drought. Pray for ample rain, and for the good health



**Conrad & Fiona Kwok**

# God's Kingdom . . . through Prayer

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10b, NIV).

and energy necessary for the Kwoks and their team to provide support to those in need.

<sup>17</sup>Suraj Komaravalli, team leader for CBM's ministries in India, pleads with God for the millions of marginalized migrant workers who are most affected by COVID-19. Pray for God's protection and provision for the poor and medical staff.

<sup>18</sup>In the Philippines, most churches are not equipped for online services. Lift up pastors like Rev. Job Santiago, that God will show them ways to minister and connect with their congregations. May God's comfort and compassion overflow through Michael and Melanie Waddell, CBM field staff in Roxas City, Capiz, Philippines, who returned to Canada in April to obey a COVID-19 directive from the Philippines.

<sup>19</sup>Pray that Jehovah Jireh (the Lord will provide) will meet the needs of frontline workers everywhere and keep them safe. Those at Capiz Emmanuel Baptist Hospital in Roxas City, Philippines, for example, were unable to return to their homes due to quarantines, and needed food and shelter.

<sup>20/21</sup>Thank God for Cheryl Bear, CBM's Indigenous relations specialist, and the progress she has made in raising awareness for her people. Thank God for Indigenous fathers who have raised their children to know the Lord. Pray for improved living conditions, good mental and physical health for Canada's Indigenous people, and for any fathers struggling to support their families.



**Cheryl Bear**

## AFRICA



**Darrell & Laura Lee Bustin**

<sup>22</sup>CBM field staff in Rwanda Darrell and Laura Lee Bustin, on home assignment in New Brunswick since March, are thankful for the good communication they have had with supporters while in Canada. Pray for Laura Lee as she mourns her father, and for a safe return to Rwanda.

<sup>23</sup>Cry out to God for poverty-stricken people in developing countries in Africa who are more in fear of starving than of the coronavirus. Living from day to day, they have no income for food during lockdown, leaving them desperate.

<sup>24</sup>Pray that Marthe Nguimè Ekollo, president of the Baptist women in Africa, will be able to stay connected with women across the continent. Pray that citizens will respect government regulations and be vigilant. Pray, too, that the plague of locusts in East Africa will be arrested.



**Marthe Nguimè Ekollo**

## MIDDLE EAST and NORTH AFRICA

<sup>25</sup>Commit Emad and Almess Botros, CBM global field staff in Lebanon, to the Lord as they experience exhaustion from many factors: ongoing political unrest, the COVID-19 lockdown, the evacuation of most of the students at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Emad's doctoral studies, and Almess's online tutoring while homeschooling their sons.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up all participating in and being destroyed by drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Pray that death tolls from overdosing would decrease and addicts globally would turn to God as their refuge and strength.

## EUROPE

<sup>27/28</sup>Give thanks for the faithfulness and dedication of Lewis and Felain Lam, CBM field staff in Germany, as they remain steadfast, looking for alternative ways to share the gospel with the Chinese graduate students to whom they minister.



**The Lam Family**

## GLOBAL

<sup>29</sup>Praise God with Jeff Carter, director of the HORIZONS program for leaders of youth, for increased online interest in training during the pandemic, and that Jeff was able to speak online with over 60 youth leaders in India.

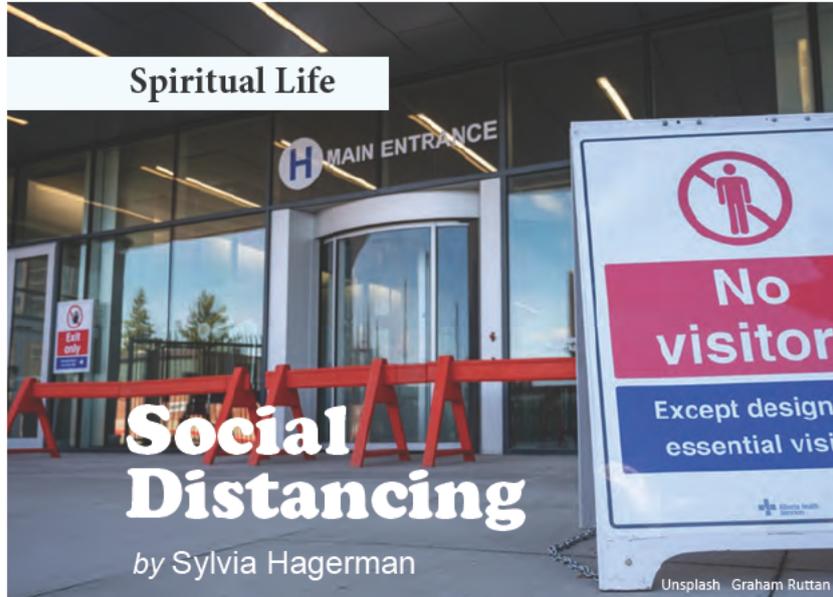
<sup>30</sup>Pray for all details of the Baptist World Alliance Congress, rescheduled for July 7–11, 2021, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Ask the Lord's help that all of the Congress organizers, participants, and attendees might continue to be still and know that he is God (Psalm 46:10).



**bwarrio.org**

## Elaine Huntington

*Sources: CBM Prayerline, blogs, emails, and newsletters from CBM representatives and global field staff, and personal emails.*



# Social Distancing

by Sylvia Hagerman

Unsplash Graham Ruttan

Believe it or not, it has been months since I have written an article for *Tidings*. Before I stepped into ABW's interim executive director's position in January, I wrote all of my upcoming articles except June's. For those who have been following my articles for the past 12 years, you know that I am a self-proclaimed procrastinator. I cannot blame it on being too busy. Part of the procrastination has to do with a busy mind. There are so many things I want to say and read, yet in the end I usually have to ask *Tidings* for an extension. The editors have always been gracious.

We have been living in different times. As I write my article, we are living with social distancing (it may be lifted by the time you read this), and self-isolation if we have travelled. The familiar is not the same; our habits have changed. We cannot just run out and get that item at the grocery store. Our

children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren cannot go to school or do all of their other activities. We cannot go to our local coffee shop with a friend, or go to church. Even something we hold dear has changed. For those of us with computers, we can still hear our pastor, or two or three pastors on Sunday mornings. (How is that for church hopping?) But our times of gathering together with our local church family to sing, hug, and pray have disappeared for the time being. We have not been able to have our Woman's Missionary Society meetings or Atlantic Baptist Women's groups to learn and pray together, and to support one another. And how many of you miss the snack that someone prepares for us to enjoy at the end of those meetings? Our lives have changed.

Do you know what has stayed the same? Our good friend, Jesus! In Hebrews 13:7-8, the writer, in his concluding exhortations, reminds the

readers of that day and us to remember a few things: "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. *Remember* (my word), Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (NIV).

One afternoon I went to a local grocery store. As I was walking to the door, I met a lady who was a bit older than me. I noticed that all she had purchased was one of those yogurt parfaits that stores make. I always try to smile and speak to those I meet whether I know them or not, so I greeted her. She stopped and said, "Thank you for saying hi to me. The only reason I came out today was so someone would say hi to me." My natural instinct was to run over and give her a hug then take her out for coffee. However, because of social distancing, I had to send her on her way, but with a smile and, "Have a great day!"

For the past nine months my articles have been looking at prayer. Has your prayer life changed with social distancing? Mine has! My prayers have become less self-centred and more outward focused. I am praying more for our political leaders (federal and provincial), doctors, nurses, nursing home attendants and residents, retail workers, first responders, as well as all

who have lost their jobs. I am also now praying for those who lost someone dear to them in the Nova Scotia tragedy, as well as the RCMP and first responders there. I have not had such a long list in a very long time. Wow, we have such a responsibility as pray-ers. I am so glad that we have a great, big, wonderful God who always listens and hears and brings us comfort. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) encourages us to, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Another verse that brings me comfort in times of discouragement and stress is 1 Peter 5:6-7 (NIV): "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." I find myself humming the worship song that echoes those words. What is your favourite de-stressor song?

We all have different stressors in our lives at this time. How we handle them is up to us. My biggest solution to all that life is throwing at us is to find a close friend to cry and pray with, and, more importantly, to turn to God and "cast all your anxiety on him."

Blessings,

Sylvia

**I** don't know about you, but I am not fond of change. I don't mind it, but if the truth be told, I do like things to stay the same. I like routine, I like



Rev. Gail Whalen-Dunn

to know when things are going to happen and how they are going to unfold. But sometimes things change, and we have to go with what is happening or go with the flow. Some changes we are prepared for, like the changing of the seasons, and others we are not,

such as the events of the past few months. Our lives certainly changed as we adjusted to the restrictions brought on by COVID-19, and we were all saddened by the lives of so many people being forever changed with the tragic shooting in the area surrounding Truro, Nova Scotia, in April.

It is easy to lose hope and focus when change happens, so when things don't go according to plan, I find myself doing two things: praying and reading God's Word. When change happens, I am drawn to God's promise in Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV), "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he

will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Change happens, and when it does, we are to trust in God, and the promise that we claim is that God goes before us and is with us. That is what we hold on to. The second part is that we are to not be afraid and to not be discouraged. These words are so true and, time and time again, God has proven himself to me to be right and has never failed me. We serve an amazing and loving God, an always God, who gives us strength, wisdom, guidance, and courage in it all.

ABW is currently going through change. For 20 years, Marilyn Steeves served the women of Atlantic Baptist Women with a gracious, kind, and humble spirit. Back in October, just as I was getting my feet wet as president, Marilyn decided that retirement was in her near future. Although we were saddened to see her go, we could not help but feel so blessed to have had her as ABW's executive director for so many years. It was the plan that, at interMISSION, ABW's annual May conference, we would formally

thank and express our gratitude to Marilyn for her many gracious years of service, but as we all know, that plan changed. On behalf of the women of Atlantic Baptist Women/ United Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, I want to thank Marilyn for all her faithful years of service and pray God's blessing on her in the next chapter in her life.

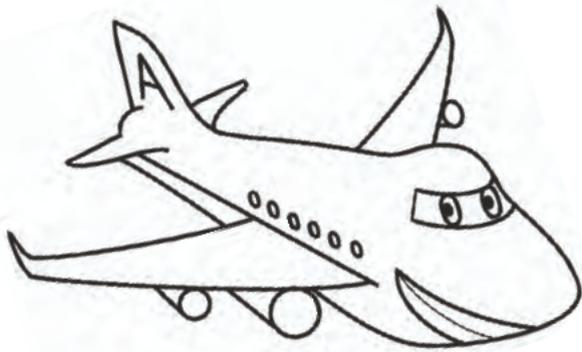
In saying goodbye to Marilyn, we now welcome a change in leadership: Lisa Lohnes begins as executive director on June 1. It is interesting that last June, Lisa welcomed me in *Tidings* as president and now this June, I welcome her as our new executive director. Lisa is no stranger to ABW and preceded me as our president and, of course, is now past president. She brings a commitment to serving the Lord and the women of ABW, and has a wealth of knowledge of ABW, Canadian Baptist Women, Baptist Women of North America, and Canadian Baptist Ministries. We are confident that she will be a strong leader through the changes that we as ABW will experience as we "Grow ABW" into the future.

As I have said before, there is a reason why the rear-view mirror is so small and the windshield so big. God does not mind us looking back, but wants us to keep focused and looking and moving ahead. When we are tempted to say, "Well, we have never done it like that before," let's instead welcome change and say, "Well, that is something new to try," and trust God in the change. In all the changes that we have experienced thus far this year, let us continue to trust God through our Lord Jesus Christ and, as women of ABW, in it all, let's press on.

Rev. Gail Whalen-Dunn  
President, ABW/UBWMU  
gailwhalen@ns.sympatico.ca



Caleb Bustin



# Adventure Time with Ace the Airplane

by Bronwyn Bustin

## Take-Off

*Hey everyone! My name is Ace the Airplane, and I am so excited that you're coming along on an adventure with me! Every month we travel somewhere different and get to visit some pretty amazing people all around the world. Are you ready? Let's go!*

## The Trip

Kids, I can't believe that we've visited so many countries so far in 2020! Do you remember all of the adventures we've had? We've visited Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, and Rwanda together and have seen some of the amazing ways that God is at work through his people.



I have something to tell you! I've also been flying around Canada and I've seen some of you taking part in our adventures! It has been so great to see you reading these stories, doing the crafts, and learning more about God.

I get so excited when I see you learning together with your churches, your friends, and your families. God doesn't just work in different countries around the world—he is working in YOU and through you! When you read your Bibles and talk to God, you can get to know him better, grow in your faith, and learn more about what he wants you to do.

I have a challenge for you as we head into summer, and I

know you'll be up for it! I want us to spread God's love to all of the people around us, no matter where we are! It can be when you're at home with your family or

when you're playing in your neighbourhood with your friends. It can be when you're at the grocery store or when you're at daycare or camp. You can do some big, creative things, but you can also do lots of little things, too. I want you to start thinking of some ideas while we look at a Bible verse together.

## Return Flight

When Jesus was teaching his followers about how they should live, he said, "You are the light of the world... Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14a, 16b, NIRV).

Jesus wants us to be lights for him everywhere we go, shining God's love to our families, friends, and communities! Did you notice what he said will happen when other people see the good things we do? They will see God at work and praise him! Remember, we don't want to do good things in order to make ourselves look good. Instead, we want to point people towards God through our words and actions. We can tell them about God's amazing love!





- ➔ Why do you think Jesus said we are like light? How can we be like light?
- ➔ How can our words and actions bring glory to God?
- ➔ How have you seen God's love through the "good things" that other people have done?

### Back on the Ground: Paper Chain

Lets make a "Light of the World" paper chain!

You'll need paper, scissors, tape or a stapler, and something to write with.

OK boys and girls, this is something exciting that you can work on all summer! We're all going to make paper chains as we help other people and share God's love with others over the next several weeks!

First, you can cut out strips of paper right now: it can be white paper, or coloured paper, or whatever kind you have. Next, we are going to write out a couple of Bible verses to start our chain.

*"You are the light of the world... Let your light shine so others can see it" (Matthew 5:14a, 16b, NIRV).*

*"You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples" (John 13:34b-35, NIRV).*

Once you have written these verses on a couple of your strips of paper, you can tape or staple them together to begin your paper chain.

Here's the fun part: this summer, as you shine your light for others to see God at work, you can keep adding links to your paper chain! Maybe you might decide to help your brother or sister clean up their toys. You can

write that on a strip of paper and add it to your chain. Or maybe you can call and talk on the phone with your grandparents or an older person from church. You could have a lemonade stand or bake sale to raise money to give to others who need help. Or maybe you can draw some pictures or make cards to give away and remind people that God loves them.

I'm sure that you can come up with a whole bunch of ways to share God's love this summer, and the next time we see each other you'll have a really long paper chain!

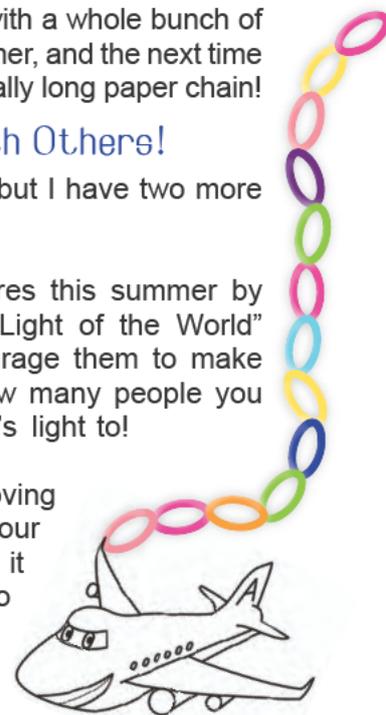
### Share Your Adventure with Others!

It's almost time to head home, but I have two more things I want to tell you!

1. You can share your adventures this summer by telling your friends about your "Light of the World" paper chain, and you can encourage them to make their own chain. Just think of how many people you and your friends can shine God's light to!

2. Sometimes it's easy to be loving towards our friends and people in our neighbourhoods or churches, but it can be hard to always be loving to our families. We spend the most time at home, and sometimes we can feel grumpy and tired and angry. But God wants us to shine our light in our homes too! So don't forget to find ways to share God's love with your parents and brothers and sisters this summer!

*Well, friends, thanks for joining me on our journey today! I can't wait to see you again in September and head off on another adventure. See you later!*



## Reaching Today's Teens



### Better Days Coming

by Marsha Boyd-Mitchell

**M**y maternal grandmother was one of 14 children. As a young girl, she had a great desire to play the piano. She loved music. But coming from such a big family, she knew that there was no extra money to pay for lessons. So, after determining what she was going to do, she walked up the hill to the Presbyterian manse, where the minister's wife taught piano lessons. My grandmother knocked on the door and asked if there was any work that she could do in exchange for lessons. Apparently the minister's wife was a true gem, and she said, "Well, I was thinking of hiring a little girl to do some house cleaning for me. If you would be willing to do that, I would teach you to play the piano." My grandmother played the piano for the next 80 years and would often tell this story when she sat at our family piano to play. Her desire to play never waned and she loved to hear any of us kids sing.

When I was a very little girl (about 3), she taught me the first song that I could sing to music by heart. It was a song written by Jean Bradford and made popular by groups such as The Speers and the Cathedrals. The song was called "We're Not Home Yet Children." The chorus went like this:

We're not home yet, children  
So keep your eyes on the savior  
Just a few more days to labor  
And we'll sit down beside the  
river.  
How we long to be with Jesus  
And our loved ones  
gone before us,  
There's a better day a comin'  
We're not home yet.

I would stand by my grandmother, and she would play and I would sing. The first verse starts out, "This old world is filled with disappointments and trouble every day." I've known this song all my life and, as I became an adult, I would smile to think about how weighty those lyrics were for my little 3-year-old self. Spiritual songs often have this winsome way of talking about heaven, eternal life, and exchanging the troubles of this life for the glory in the next. I'm not sure our current worship music highlights this idea of human struggle in a fallen world the way that spiritual songs did in other seasons.

I also remember singing this Albert Brumley number as a little girl:

This world is not my home,  
I'm just a passing through  
My treasures are laid up  
somewhere beyond the blue;  
The angels beckon me  
from heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home  
in this world anymore.  
Oh Lord, you know  
I have no friend like you,  
If heaven's not my home,  
then Lord what will I do  
The angels beckon me  
from heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home  
in this world anymore.

*Hymns of Faith*

I recall singing the lyrics, not knowing exactly what they meant, but picturing those angels peeking through heaven's door. Heaven seemed so close and the people who

loved me most were so confident that we would all be there together quite soon. Their voices were strong as they sang of a faith that had them "Looking for a City" where we will never die, meeting on the shore "In the Sweet By and By," and asking, "Shall We Gather at the River?"

Our world, our country, and our Maritime region has fallen on hard times. As I write, we are under COVID-19 restrictions, we are trying to adjust to the idea that Canada's largest mass murder has taken place in our beloved Maritime region (and some may be in direct mourning because of this), and all of it has us spiraling both economically and emotionally. That is enough for us adults to digest—but what about our kids?

As funny as it seems now about my grandmother teaching me lyrics about "loved ones gone before us," we are never too young to learn how quickly life can change. While we hope to protect the kids in our sphere of influence from the results of a fallen world (and it is our job to do so), we also need to teach them biblical truths of what it means to walk through this world as Bunyan's Pilgrim did. A pilgrim is on a journey through the brevity of this life and on to a life eternal with the Lord Jesus. Jesus suffered and died on his earthly mission to seek and save those who were lost in their sin. We may suffer along the pathway, and it is good to know in our spirit that "there's a better day a comin', we're not home yet."

My Grammie Rita has been with Jesus five years now. How we miss her and her piano playing.

by Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell  
Principal, Sussex Christian School  
Executive Director,  
Christian Action Federation of NB Inc.

# Church in an Unprecedented Time

by **Sonia Miller**

These days of shutdown and quarantine due to COVID-19 have been interesting, challenging, and unique for all of us, and the Church is no exception.

While it has been difficult to not be able to worship together in person, Christ's Church has an unprecedented opportunity to minister, both to our congregation at First Baptist as well as to the greater community. Some of the ways that

First Baptist in Moncton, New Brunswick, is doing that is through partnering with New Life Mission, which offers an after-school, drop-in program for children in a few areas of the city. Our church has been helping provide groceries to some of their families which has been appreciated by all the families that are receiving the food boxes. We also know that this is a blessing to the donors of the food because they are able to participate in assisting others when they are unable to go and help in other ways.

First Baptist has worked hard to ensure that our



info@firstmoncton.com www.firstmoncton.com  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstMoncton/>

church community is connected through Pastor Richard Jackson's weekly encouragement video ([www.firstmoncton.com](http://www.firstmoncton.com)). Emails are being sent out on a weekly basis, and we are using our Facebook page to assist in keeping current news and items for praise or prayer before the congregation. The

staff have been greatly encouraged by seeing the church family connect and engage with one another digitally. The church family is encouraged to pray for one another

through using the church membership directory. They have also been encouraged to make calls to those who might be more confined to home than others, and to call others to let them know they are thought of and missed. Some are delivering meals to others in the community. Some are assisting with the school lunch program that is being supported by the United Way. This is a wonderful way of continuing to provide for the school children who

had been dependent on this program through their school.

We also want to be mindful of the incredible opportunity to speak hope to a confused, fearful, and hurting world in these days. To that end, we offered a virtual Daily Vacation Bible School called "Fear Busters," led by Pastor Andy Scott. Pastor Sandy Sutherland led a children's story time through Holy Week, as well as special times for children during our Sunday services. Some of our staff and lay leaders provided special video devotionals during Holy Week as well. One of our members, Sylvia Williston, prepares a devotional for each Wednesday which is sent out to the church community. This is very encouraging while the church is not able to have its Wednesday evening prayer meeting. We see a great opportunity for our church and other congregations to be creative in how churches can continue being what they are called to be even in times of difficulty. God is in control, and he provides ways and means for us to reach the lost and the seeking.

## People Reaching People

We have been blessed and encouraged by the number of people who have stopped by our YouTube channel and checked out our Sunday and Easter services. People may not typically attend church on a Sunday morning but a number are now attending online church, and the gospel is being heard by countless people each week. Praise the Lord! Our prayer is that those attending virtually and hearing about programs that are offered by the church will decide to come and attend our services and programs as a natural follow up. We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to speak to their hearts.

Ensuring that each service is planned, put together, and livestreamed takes a strong team, and it is a joy and an encouragement to have a dedicated team of staff and volunteers make this possible! A huge thank you to Pastor Richard Jackson, Pastor Sandy Sutherland, Pastor Andy Scott, Pastor John Ferguson, Sonia Miller, Scott Robinson, Rob Melanson, and the many members of First Baptist who have participated in our services during these unprecedented times.





# A Tale of Translation and Trousers

by Dan Grove

Twenty years ago—where were you and what was happening in your life? Melody and I had arrived in Cameroon and were adjusting to a Great Adventure—a new life in a new country with three children in tow. There had been two-and-a-half years of studies and full-time preparation for mission work and language translation, and before that, years of other preparation and planning.

It is quite a task to gain a vision of ministry and follow step-by-step where God leads. You gather many friends, supporters, and prayer warriors along the way, all of them necessary, for the work ahead is unknown and full of obstacles and rocky (and muddy!) roads.

I was recently looking back at some early prayer letters we sent out and found the Canadian Baptist Ministries prayer calendar from November 2000. On the 21st, there are our names, requesting prayer for our assignment to a village and for money to purchase a new truck. God answered both those prayers, the truck first that next year and the village assignment when we went to Bambalang in 2002. Our Christmas letter the next month mentioned some work in the Ndop region which actually got sidetracked for a couple of years.

There were two things that happened that November that were a confirmation to me of why we had gone to be involved in Bible translation.

The first was a bookstore I walked into in the village of Ndu where I was helping run an orientation course for new missionaries. (Because we had arrived 11 months earlier, I guess we were now experienced!) Imagine walking into a Christian bookstore (or going online) and finding everything you want, except it is all in Russian: the music, the calendars, the books, and most important of all, the Bibles. I had walked into a bookstore in an area where people spoke Limbum and everything was in English!

The second thing that happened was when I went to a tailor shop in that same town. I had bought a pair of trousers in the market and needed them to be hemmed. As the tailor and I chatted, I found out he was a Christian. We talked about a number of spiritual things and I happened to say something about Jesus coming again. When I said that, he stopped sewing, his eyes grew big, and he looked at me and said, “He’s coming again?!?” My mind raced through the Bible passages and events of the

second coming: where do you begin talking to someone for the very first time about Jesus’ return?

I went back to my room and thought about those Limbum Christians. This group was first surveyed in 1969: so long with no

Bible. That same surveyor was still working in Cameroon and was the translation consultant for that language group, helping them get their New Testament. She had given us some copies of the book of John that had just been printed. The next morning, I went back to get my trousers and gave the tailor the small Gospel of John with its green cover. He was so excited and said over and over, “Thank you! Thank you!” I marveled at the effort that so many people had made over so many years to bring that Word of truth to him. A few hours later, I walked into another building and saw four young men sitting around a table, talking with excitement. I looked closer and saw the small green book open in front of them.

The Limbum people received their New Testament in 2003. In January 2020, Melody and I attended the dedication of the Bambalang New Testament. What a privilege to be a part of the wonderful work God is doing around the world. I still marvel at the dedication of those who go, but especially of those who send. It seems to be getting harder and taking longer to find people who can help send new mission staff to the field. I want to encourage you to continue to send and pray. There are still many tailors in their small shops, unaware that Jesus came for the first time, let alone that he is coming again!

**“M ka’ du kupshi dīī’ neè weèè, m kútīī vú lor weèè tá seèè duè, tá weèè bo ba foñ faèdīī’ ce m yu.”**

*John 14:3, in Limbum*



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*Dan and Melody Grove are former staff with Canadian Baptist Ministries, and lived in Cameroon for many years as they served with Wycliffe Bible Translators. The Groves have relocated to Canada and continue to support work on the Ndop cluster of languages in Cameroon and other language and ministry avenues.*



## A Kaleidoscope of Love

by **Rev. Joanna Doak**  
Youth & Creative  
Outreach Coordinator  
Atlantic Baptist Women

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Atlantic Baptist Women is 150 years old! Wow! Isn't that amazing? We had planned a huge party ... that we've had to postpone until interMISSION and Camp - interMISSION in May 2021.

But it seems to me that it's more important than ever to celebrate the continued mission ABW has—to share Jesus' love to those near and far. So, how do we get together without contact? Or encourage each other from far away? Celebrate 150 years? Have purpose when staying home? Share our resources in a pandemic?

We've been using butterflies as a symbol at Camp - interMISSION for the last few years. Butterflies have an interesting life cycle. As caterpillars, they crawl around in the dirt, looking up to the sky and seeing the beautiful colours of the butterflies flying around. Then instead of things getting better, the caterpillars wind up in a dark cocoon where they can't even see the sun anymore, just waiting, stuck in the dark as they transform. Even when they finally get to fly, to be what they're designed to be, it's only others who can see the beauty of their wings.

Sometimes we can feel like we're stuck crawling around in the dirt of our lives watching others as they fly, and praying to the Son of God that one day we'll be out of the dirt and flying free. Sometimes it's even worse and we feel that life is closing in around us. We can't see what God is up to and waiting in the dark is hard. We try to trust that God is transforming us.

And some days, we get to fly. It feels like we're in the right place at the right time, doing or saying the right thing, living out who we are designed to be. And our beautiful wings are an encouragement for others. Unlike butterflies, humans go through the cycle over and over and over again as we move through the circumstances of our lives.

At Camp - interMISSION, where 40 girls and their leaders and leaders-in-training gather for a weekend, we said we were "catching butterflies" when women from interMISSION popped their heads into our room. When the women shared their stories and answered our questions, it was like they were showing us their beautiful wings.

Now, our collective mission is to be "sending out butterflies" and getting creative with sharing Jesus' love

and the hope that we have in the midst of difficult times. Our "butterflies" will be all the little things we can do to help, encourage, and support our neighbours here at home and around the world. And it may feel like these are small things, but remember those first ABW women who shared their pennies and prayers: God did more than they could imagine. In the same way, we will share our 150 encouragements (butterflies) and prayers this year and God will continue to do more than we can imagine. Since I know we do better if we have a goal, let's each aim for 150 "butterflies" as a way to celebrate where we began while still continuing the mission! I know that 150 sounds like a lot, but we have a whole year until the May 2021 party.

**Did you know? A large group of butterflies is called a kaleidoscope.** I can't wait to see your kaleidoscope of butterflies over the next few months. Here are a few suggestions of things you can try even while isolating. I'd love to hear other ideas you come up with. In fact, if you can take photos and videos of some of your butterflies in action, we can celebrate with you and encourage others to be releasing butterflies of their own. Share them with me ([joannadoak@yahoo.com](mailto:joannadoak@yahoo.com)) so we can share on the ABW Facebook page.



- *Phone/video-call a friend, neighbour, church member, missionary, pastor, or others.*
- *Send a card in the mail (could even be in the shape of a butterfly).*
- *Decorate your windows/driveway/sidewalk with butterflies.*
- *Make butterflies (crochet, cardstock, paper, fabric, crayons, rainbow loom, etc.) and share them with a note/Bible verse/quote.*
  - *Pick up some rocks on a walk, paint butterflies on them, put them back on another walk, and watch them make someone smile.*
  - *Take part in the ABW walkathon.*
  - *Send a letter, postcard, picture, craft, or email to a mission staff person.*
- *Reach out by carrying out a "Grow ABW" project: [www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/Programs/GetInvolved](http://www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/Programs/GetInvolved).*
- *Drop a treat off to someone (safely following all health guidelines).*
- *Share a song or story.*
- *Dress up in purple and/or green (ABW colours).*
- *Invite someone "virtually" to dinner or a tea party.*
- *Give a subscription to Tidings Magazine.*

Who is

## Raimelys?

by Rev. Anne Drost



*Rev. Anne Drost, former Canadian Baptist Ministries regional representative for Central Canada, led a SENT short-term mission team of women to Cuba in November 2019. While there, Anne had a conversation with a local woman in ministry for Tidings Magazine.*



focused her learning on general leadership in the church.

Today Mely gives leadership to children's ministry and summer camp ministry in her church. She is also very active in women's ministry. Women of the church meet regularly with women in the community. This group, made up of housewives and seniors, do crafts together and discuss topics like what does it mean to be a Christian. Mely learned as a young person that you don't need money for activities; everyone chips in and brings snacks or whatever is needed from home. On Tuesday mornings, the women come to pray for the needs in the church and the community. These women pray fervently, believing God will answer.

This young woman is affectionately known as Mely to all who travel to Cuba on a Canadian Baptist Ministries SENT team. She is the valued translator for those who are not Spanish speakers. Mely's English is superb and a wonderful gift, as not many Cubans speak English. Mely was glued to our hips most of the time while our team of eleven Canadian women learned from and participated in activities of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba (FIBAC).

the church in Cuba. Mely was convinced she would become a pastor. When the first Canadian SENT team went to Cuba a few years ago, one of the youths on the team commented that churches in her association had pastors but not many leaders. As Mely prepared for what God was calling her to be, she realized that to become a leader was where she would focus; being a leader was what God required of her. As she studied for her Bachelor of Theology, she

Cuba presents many challenges, especially for women, but they are creative, resilient, and resourceful in how they meet those challenges. When food is scarce, medicines are unavailable, transportation is difficult, or jobs are hard to find, Cuban women rise to the challenge! Cuba is a macho society so just being a woman in that setting is difficult. Abuse of women in Cuba is common and happens in all of society, even to

Mely has been married for nine years. She grew up in her grandmother's home close to Matanzas, a seaside city outside Varadero, a common tourist destination. Mely lived there with her mother and her younger brother and sister until she was 9. Then, her aunt Orchardia moved her into Matanzas where she could have a better life.

Mely went to her grandmother's on weekends, and on one of those occasions when she was 13 years old, she met a missionary who shared the need to serve

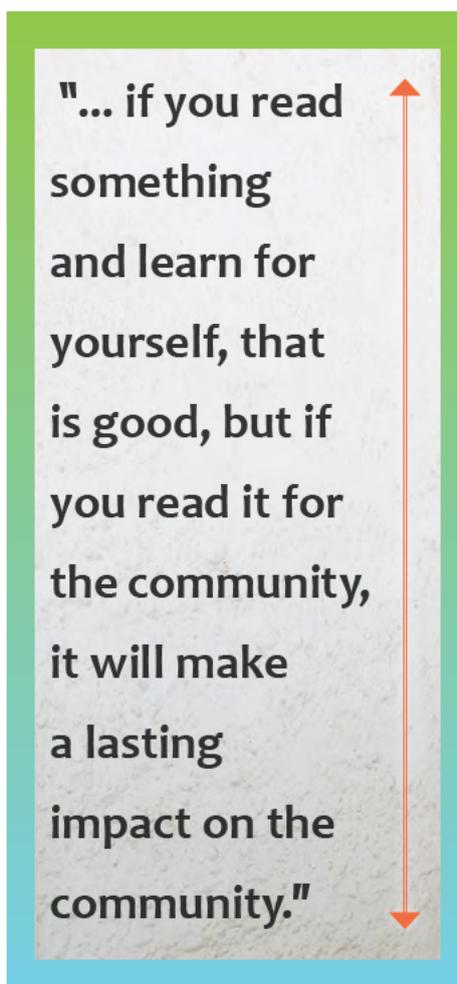


A team of 11 Canadian Baptist women in Cuba (November 2019) with Raimelys, who served as their translator.

women who are Christians or part of Christian families. Yet, they find their way to places where they can lead and can stand for justice. Women are not seen as leaders or decision makers, but in spite of the challenges, Cuba has social equality for all. Women can study what they want and can be an engineer or architect or whatever they choose.

Within the association, there is opportunity for women to be pastors and leaders. Leadership in the church can spread over to the community as well. Women can have a voice and express their needs, and they are listened to. The pastoral leadership in the association churches is 50 per cent male and 50 per cent female.

Often the youth in the church will clean houses and raise money to do social work in the community. They are able to raise about \$20 US each year which helps them with their programs. Slowly Cuba's youth are



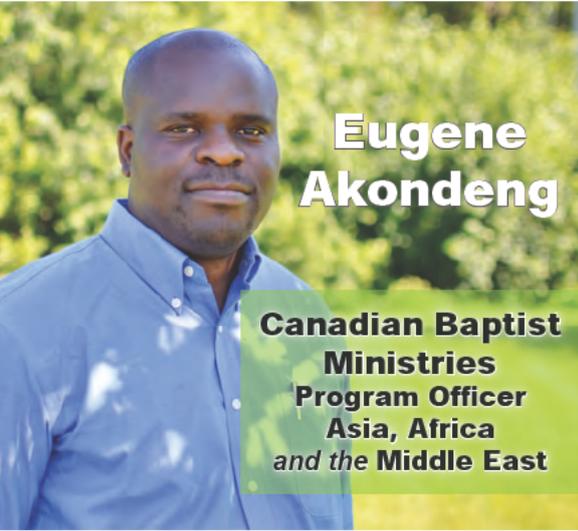
changing how the general society acts toward women.

Mely is continuing to study at the seminary in Matanzas in a program leading to a Master in Theology degree. She has been deeply impacted by Ivone Guevara, a Catholic nun and author who was expelled by the church because of her views on women's leadership. Ivone believed that women should be leaders and serve in the communities around them. Inspired by this, Mely feels called to Christian education. She wants to be practical and engaged in her community. One of her professors says if you read something and learn for yourself, that is good, but if you read it for the community, it will make a lasting impact on the community.

This young woman is making a real difference in the lives of any who meet her. She has a real servant's heart, and we were grateful for all she did with us and for us. She would like to encourage women from Canada to come to Cuba! You are invited to come, connect, and serve together and learn from each other. Come and allow the Cubans to love on you! We did, and our lives will never be the same!



Left: over her years in ministry, Mely has taken part in many programs and church activities. Here, she leads an exercise to help a group think about balancing the many "balloons" that people try to keep afloat in life and in ministry.



**Eugene  
Akondeng**

**Canadian Baptist  
Ministries  
Program Officer  
Asia, Africa  
and the Middle East**

*In the fall of 2019, Eugene Akondeng visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo to get to know Canadian Baptist Ministries' church partner and its people and projects in the country.*



Canadian Baptist Ministries supports several initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in partnership with the Communauté Baptiste au Centre de l'Afrique, (Baptist Church in Central Africa or CBCA). Founded from the work of the Unevangelized Africa Mission, which started its ministry in 1927 in the DRC's current North Kivu Province, the CBCA operates mainly in the east of the country. After weaning from the church's work in Rwanda, which became an autonomous body, the CBCA now is extending its mission work to Uganda.

The CBCA ministers to over 511,000 members (children included) in 440 parishes led by 715 ordained pastors and evangelists. It is highly involved in social work with more than 625 schools, 150 health institutions, and 15 socio-economic projects. It also organizes three Bible schools and universities to train its human resources, and is active in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the Ebola epidemic.

The CBCA's vision is "Transformed for Change Through Word and Action."



nsformed

Children receive trauma care and an education.



This three-year agriculture and livelihood project will benefit 600 households.

ormed

Projects work with farmers to improve crop production.



Transfo



Beneficiaries of a village's savings and loan association count the savings.

Tra



Transform



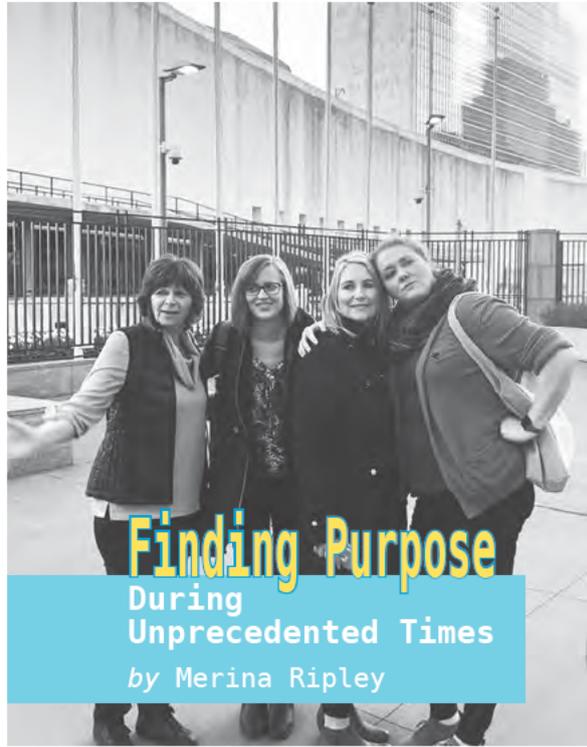
Handicapped people are given training in a trade.



These women who are deaf and unable to speak are being trained in basket weaving.

nsf

ransforme  
for Change Through Word and Action



## Finding Purpose During Unprecedented Times

by Merina Ripley

L-R: Baptist World Alliance Interim Executive Director Moreen Sharp in New York, March 2020, stands with three of the team members from Maritime Canada.

On March 7, a group of 14 women travelled to New York City to discover what God had in store for them. This group of 14, which included Melody Maxwell, Shannon Skafta, and myself from Atlantic Canada, had initially planned to attend the United Nations 64th Conference on the Status of Women and the parallel sessions with the help of grants from Atlantic Baptist Women. However, the UN cancelled all CSW events due to the coronavirus. When that happened, Lauran Bethell of Amsterdam reached out to her contacts in the New York area and created a week-long learning endeavour through the Baptist World Alliance Women that none of us will ever forget. We were a very diverse group of women from Canada, Nigeria, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, each with different strengths and abilities. The Lord quickly united our hearts, and we soon felt like family. Throughout the week, many participants shared their testimonies, work, and missions. Let me share some of these with you.

Our first guest speaker was Baptist World Alliance UN Representative Dr. Scott Stearman, pastor of Metro

Baptist Church. He enlightened us about the consultant status of the BWA and the three main issues they address: religious liberty/freedom; human rights; and economic and socioeconomic development. He outlined the history of the development of the UN's 17 sustainable development goals, which strive to ensure human rights for all. He gave us an example of how faith groups were able to help change a political situation for Muslims sent to re-education camps in China. The global Interfaith Executive on Religious Freedom addressed this violation of human rights and ordered the country to release the one million prisoners.

Scott invited our group to visit Metro Baptist Church located in New York's Hell's Kitchen area, where we met his coworkers. His co-pastor, Tiffany Triplett Henkel, is the executive director of Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries. This ministry presently has a soup kitchen, food pantry, community garden, after-school programs, summer camps, veterans program, bee program, and a program that helps women who have experienced homelessness and domestic abuse. Their efforts are needed for food justice, homelessness support, and youth programming. They assist 13,000 people yearly with 3,000 volunteers

and 15 paid staff. She explained that getting fresh food into the hands of those most in need was very difficult, so they created a 4,000-square-foot rooftop garden. As well, God faithfully provided a farmer as a partner who supplies low-cost food for their clients. They offer a cooking class and recipes so clients will know how to prepare nutritious meals.

Allison Woodfin introduced us to Street2Street's work with inner-city youth. Street2Street shares the message of Jesus Christ, and their motto is, "Play, Belong, Matter." Woody Woodfin, her father, is the founder and CEO. Woody partners with Wall Street contacts and provides basketball tournaments, leagues, homework clubs, and mentors for youth. Allison became our unofficial tour guide, sharing her knowledge of New York with us, and dedicated her week to be with us on our learning adventure.

Lauran Bethell is a global consultant specializing in responses to human trafficking, sponsored by International Ministries and American Baptist Churches USA. In 1986, she was originally assigned to Thailand to teach English and offer pastoral care in a boarding school, but God had other plans and, to her surprise, led her to participate in starting a project for girls and young women.



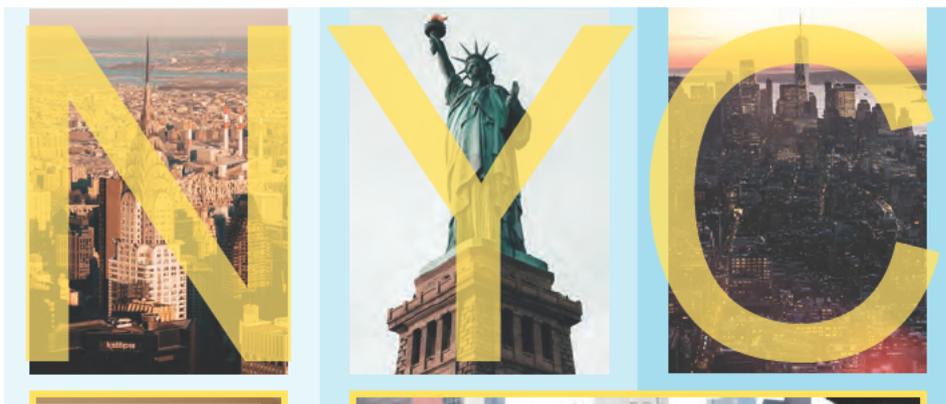
Part of our group in front of the sign for the cancelled Status of Women conference.

At the New Life Center, she worked to help them escape commercial sexual exploitation. The centre offers literacy education and vocational training, providing economic choices and hope for a different future. She now helps grassroots projects around the world to identify risk factors for exploitation and to network together for training and support. She is the coordinator for International Christian Alliance on Prostitution (ICAP).

Ruth Robb is part of the ICAP leadership team. She is a UN delegate, and the CEO of Azalea Luton, a faith-based recovery program that helps women, men, and children recover from sexual exploitation. Ruth presented what she is doing in Luton in the United Kingdom to help women escape the world of sexual exploitation and trafficking. She shared the importance of the gospel as the life-changing piece of their work.

Irina Sorrels presently lives in southern Indiana and is working as a sexual assault and domestic violence advocate. She explained that the state does not have a consent law, so people are lobbying government. Local hospitals were not using rape kits to assist when processing victims; she helped hospitals acquire them and has ensured nurses would use them. Her work involves public education focusing on teen dating violence, date rape, and sex trafficking, and she uses curriculum to help women struggling with trauma and addictions.

Elizabeth Chen, acting assistant professor of lawyering at NYU School of Law, met us via a Zoom computer meeting and shared her work in reproductive justice. She works with pregnant women to ensure that employers provide what employees need and is working to see a nationwide family leave program as well as lactation laws. She spoke about her work on creating a sexual



Unsplash Top of columns, L-R: Michael Descharles

Lauran Bethell (L) and Dr. Elizabeth Chen (on TV)



The rooftop community garden at Metro Baptist Church



Kerri Johnson of Graffiti 2 in their sewing supplies room.



L-R: Clint Werezak, Allison Woodfin, and Woody Woodfin of Street2Street.



With Dr. Scott Stearman

assault policy for use by churches that would outline best practises for addressing the needs of both victims and perpetrators.

Our group visited a domestic violence and sexual assault centre that assists women. The centre provides counselling and education to help the women gain needed skills for independence. They have created a very loving space and welcomed us to have lunch with their staff amid their busy schedule.

Nearing the end of our week, we visited Graffiti 2 Baptist Church and met two of the pastors, Kerri and Josh Johnson. They live and work in the neighbourhood of the Bronx. They explained the high rates of poverty, unemployment, drug addiction, food shortages, and homelessness in their area. Their church provides an after-

school program, adult education centre, and an artisan sewing group that sells products on WorldCrafts and through Graffiti 2's online store. They are supported by World Vision to create bags to provide items of need to the homeless.

The week was full and included attending the Lunch Hour of Power at the Mariner's Temple Baptist Church. Overall, we spent the week witnessing the work that the Lord is doing in New York and hearing from each other about the transformational work that God is doing around the world. We were so grateful for the opportunity, despite how different it was from our original plan. God's plans are always far better than we can imagine.

## A Deeper Look at Camp Ministry

by Candice Main  
Executive Director  
Kingswood Camp

I love summer camp! For many, the mention of summer camp brings to mind images of various adventurous activities. The smiles, laughter, and fun are at the forefront of our thoughts about camp. And that is part of what camp is about.

Kingswood Camp is an evangelical Christian camp situated on Lake George in Kings County, Nova Scotia. It is owned and operated by the Eastern Valley United Baptist Association, and is run in cooperation with the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association. These Associations are part of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.

Campers that come to Kingswood have an absolute blast. We strive to make their experience memorable, full of new experiences, and packed with fun. But these adventures only make up a small portion of why camp ministry really exists and it is my hope that the Church will begin to think about camp ministry at a deeper level. Lives are impacted and transformed through camp. For a myriad of reasons, I'm convinced summer camp is what children and youth need. Let me share a few.

**At Kingswood, kids grow in independence and confidence.** They step outside their comfort zone, challenge themselves, and achieve something they never have before. For some, this is reaching the top of the rock climbing wall, building a fire on their own, or mastering a canoe stroke. **At camp, kids are away from technology, they adventure in nature, and grow in wonder of our Creator.** This is seeing a shooting star or fireflies, going on a nature walk, and learning outdoor skills. **Kids grow in creativity and problem solving.** Creativity happens in a camp-wide game or in assembling a cabin presentation or making up a cheer for their own cabin. **Campers have the opportunity to step out in leadership** when they are

declared king or queen of the activity island at swimming time, take on a role in a skit at campfire, or put forward a strategy in a group game. **At camp, kids make life-long friendships and become a part of a positive community,** one built on Christ, one where they are celebrated and encouraged. Friendships are formed through belting out silly songs at campfire, playing and laughing together, adventuring together, and through the deep life-chats that happen at camp. **Camp is an opportunity for children and youth to gain positive role models** in the camp staff who are there first and foremost to share God's love with campers. **The 24-hour immersive experience of camp allows campers to let down their guard and to be real with themselves and others.** It is Christ who shines through the staff in these interactions in an authentic and relatable way. **Most importantly, at camp each camper hears the life-changing message of God's love for us, the gospel of Jesus Christ.** Many take steps and make decisions to build their life around Jesus' love and a relationship with God.

Camp ministry has an incredible capacity to reach families that have no church connection. A youth pastor recently told me a story about his former supervisor at his workplace. This supervisor was an intimidating man with tattoo sleeves, complete with a tattoo depicting Satan. One day, the youth pastor wore his Kingswood T-shirt to work and his supervisor, noticing his shirt, enthusiastically said, "Kingswood Camp, that place is awesome, I send my kids there!" The youth pastor was shocked to see this man have such a positive connection to a Christian camp. Parents that would normally be quite unwilling to send their children to a church program or go themselves are actually thrilled to send their kids to Kingswood Camp. Each summer, around half of our campers have zero connection to a church. A priority for us is to work with churches to bridge these campers from camp to a local church. A favourite Kingswood testimony is seeing a camper of mine who had no church connection and who had never heard the gospel put her faith in Jesus at camp and then get connected to a youth group. Now, a few years later, her whole family regularly attends a local church. I'm honestly amazed at the way God has positioned camps to reach these families.

Camp ministry makes a lasting impact both on the campers and the youth who are developed into leaders through a summer volunteer or staff experience. It is a powerful vehicle for transformation in the lives of individuals and, ultimately, in building God's kingdom and seeing the transformation of our communities. We praise God for ministries like Atlantic Baptist Women that invest in Kingswood Camp. When organizations and individuals support camp ministry, they are investing in people and the kingdom of God.



**Elie and Mireille Haddad**



Elie and Mireille Haddad were born and raised in Lebanon. In 1990 at the end of the civil war in Lebanon, they emigrated to Canada and later were granted citizenship. While in Toronto working in the field of information systems and management consulting, Elie enrolled at Tyndale Seminary and completed a Master of Theological Studies degree. After 15 years of pastoral involvement in the Middle East Baptist Church, they felt the Lord's call to return to Lebanon in 2005 as field staff with Canadian Baptist Ministries. Elie joined the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) where he now serves as its president and lectures in missional ecclesiology and leadership. The Haddads also serve as CBM's team leaders for the Middle East and North Africa region, and as they direct and coach, the CBM field staff are empowered to reach their organizational goals.

The ministry of Arab Baptist Theological Seminary strengthens national partners through the training of new leaders, building strong spiritual character and competence in ministry skills. The staff of ABTS seek to model leadership with a vision for what God wants to accomplish in the midst of crisis. The students are taught to move from a survival-mode attitude to be the much-needed light in the darkness. Churches are discovering how to be agents of hope and

reconciliation in the middle of hopelessness around them. They are taking the initiative of gathering their own limited resources and putting them at the disposal of displaced people.

Mireille works with a Christian nongovernmental organization, Heart for Lebanon, that provides humanitarian aid and relief to marginalized people groups, including an increasing number of refugees. She serves primarily among women, caring for their physical, emotional, and educational needs as she continues to develop and teach Bible study materials for displaced people.

People in the Middle East are seeking reform as negative economic and social effects are felt all around the region. The students attending ABTS come from a variety of countries and backgrounds, and are taught in such a way as to be brought from a discussion of revolution to a dialogue about citizenship. While distressed by the trials facing family and home countries, the students can look to an imperishable inheritance reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:3–9). In teaching the course, "Kingdom Ethics," Elie guides students to live as citizens of God's kingdom, partnering with God to restore the lost to salvation, and prevailing daily to seek justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

One student shares this: "The 'Kingdom Ethics' course stressed integrity. Integrity means that we

do not compromise even when no one is watching. When we abide by integrity, however, some may shun us because we please God and not people. Overall, it was quite convicting. It led me to ask if I am willing to speak the truth even if it costs me my life."



Pray for the students and graduates of ABTS as they proclaim Christ under difficult circumstances, and for the churches in the region to be God's agents in the midst of conflict.

**Read further:**

Arab Baptist Theological Seminary website publications and blog posts of Elie ([www.abtslebanon.org](http://www.abtslebanon.org)); *Standing in the Fire: Courageous Christians Living in Frightening Times*, by Tom Doyle (a 2020 ABW Reads! choice).

Sources: [www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org), [abtslebanon.org](http://abtslebanon.org), and the ABTS December 2019 newsletter.



Photo used with permission



*Rev. André Sibomana is Canadian Baptist Ministries' team leader in Africa. The following excerpt is adapted from his March 2020 CBM ministry update.*

### **CBM's Team in Africa**

The beginning of 2020 was full of enthusiasm because we were exploring new opportunities in different areas. In January, we had our team retreat to reinforce our team spirit but also to discuss our overall five-year field strategies. We were blessed to have our spouses with us so that they could learn a bit of what we do, as we depend very much on their support and encouragement. They do great work with us, serving behind the scenes, supporting us. Carla Nelson, Canadian Baptist Ministries' Africa liaison and educational specialist, joined the retreat from Canada via Zoom for three days.

### **Launch of Gisenyi Covenant Advisory Committee**

As we concluded the Africa Leadership Exchange conferences, the four executive ministers of CBM's church partners-in-mission in Africa and CBM co-signed a covenant to encourage more multilateral initiatives where churches in Africa can share resources and experiences as they carry on their God-given mission. CBM will facilitate rather than lead these initiatives. CBM and each partner will have two representatives at the meetings, and the committee of 10 will meet every month via video conference to discuss ways of implementing this covenant.

### **Gato Munyamasoko Embedded with New Church Partner in the DRC**

In 2020, CBM entered a new partnership with the Community of Baptist Churches in Eastern Congo, where Rev. Gato Munyamasoko, CBM's Africa peace and reconciliation specialist, serves as a resource person to reinforce unity and reconciliation in communities affected by wars, division, and ethnic conflicts.

### **Polisi Kivava Baudouin Introduced as CBM's Africa Relief and Community Development Specialist.**

After being introduced to the CBM partner in Rwanda in February, Polisi was in Kenya to be introduced to the Africa Christian Church and Schools, CBM's partner in Kenya. It was an opportunity for him to visit the Guardians of Hope and the food security projects, and to meet the staff and members of the communities there. He brings to this role 30 years of experience and the passion he displayed in previous work with communities in Congo and Tanzania.

### **Team from Prince George Baptist Church Visited CBM's Partner in Kenya**

In February, four people including the senior pastor from First Baptist Church of Prince George, British Columbia, were connected to different ministries with CBM's partner in Kenya (ACC&S) including women's ministries, a Bible college, and the Guardians of Hope and food security projects. During the visit we were amazed by the story of a farmer from the Embu community who had abandoned her land for several years because she thought it was not fertile anymore. After receiving training on conservation agriculture, she learned how to take care of her land, and as she returned for this last season, she was able to harvest more than five bags of maize, enough to feed her family for the next 12 months.

### **Exploring Opportunities with African Francophone Baptist Communities**

In the beginning of March, I travelled to Togo to meet the leaders of the Baptist convention there, and to visit the Baptist seminary that trains students from Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, and Burkina Faso. More conversations are still to come after COVID-19, to identify some partnership possibilities.



L-R: Darrell and Laura Lee Bustin, Gato Munyamasoko and his wife Ann Marie, André Sibomana and his wife Therese, and Polisi Kivava Baudouin and his wife Elizabeth.

Pixabay Miss C



**Planning for the Future of Mission**

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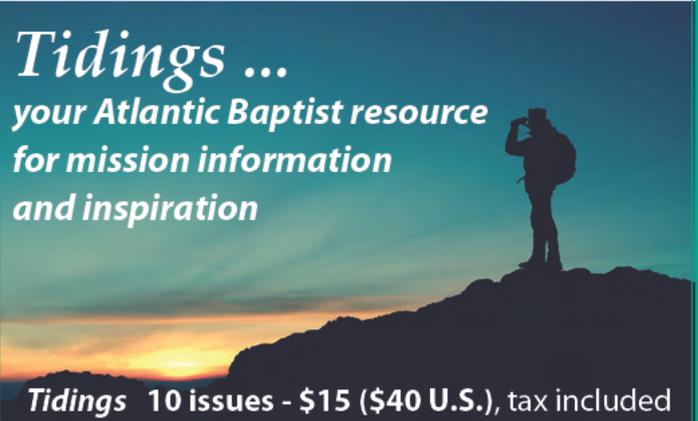
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**Baptist World Alliance Women  
President-Elect Karen Wilson**

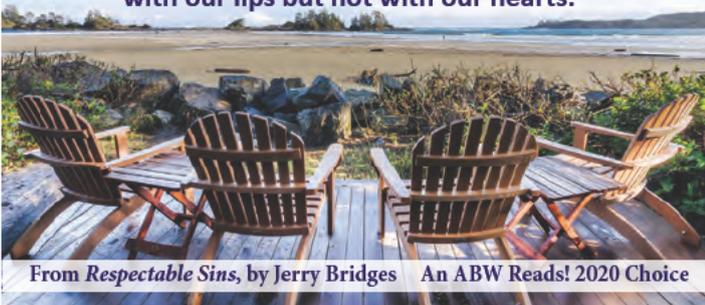
Baptist World Alliance Women is pleased to present Karen Wilson of Maylands, Western Australia, as president-elect for the next five-year term, running from 2020–2025. Karen, who will assume office after outgoing President Dr. Ksenija Magda, will be inducted in the summer of 2020 along with Sherri Cherdak of Fairfax, Virginia, the secretary/treasure-elect.

Karen Wilson states her vision for BWA Women as follows:  
"I dream of a global ministry where women champion one another and stand together (Zephaniah 3:9); where they understand their responsibility to the family of God and encourage one another forward (1 Thessalonians 5:11); where they meet regularly and are aware that they are not alone (1 Corinthians 14:26); where they come together and await the move of the Spirit of the living God (Acts 2:1); where they stand alongside their brothers in unity (1 Corinthians 1:10) and where they stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the Gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:27)."

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**"So the giving of thanks in a disappointing or difficult situation is always to be done by faith in the promises of God. It is not a matter of doing it by sheer willpower. If we do that, we are giving thanks with our lips but not with our hearts."**



From *Respectable Sins*, by Jerry Bridges An ABW Reads! 2020 Choice

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