

The people living in darkness have
seen a great light
Matthew 4:16

THE BEACON

From Tennessee to Canada and Back Again

Mark Puckett

The Beacon

Is a bi-monthly publication of the East Coast Baptist association in Canada, serving New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island Nfld & Labrador and far eastern Quebec



Our Mission:

Churches partnering together to start and strengthen churches and take the gospel to all people on Canada's east coast.

Our Vision:

To see God transform lives in healthy, cooperating, and reproducing churches for every language group and within each community on Canada's east coast.

A partner, "on mission" with the Canadian National Baptist Convention

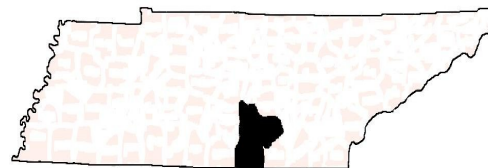
Deadline for submissions for next issue

April 15. send to

sharon55@nb.sympatico.ca

In his book, "Experiencing God", Henry Blackaby says that in addition to speaking to us through the Bible, prayer, and the Holy Spirit, God speaks to us through the wisdom of other Christians. As we began to sense that God was telling us our time in Canada was coming to an end, I often thought about the fact that during our time in Canada, a number of pastors and leaders in our convention had told me that they thought I would be a good Director of Missions (DoM). In the states, a DoM gives oversight and coordination to the work of a group of churches in a local region who cooperate in ministry to do things together that individual churches could not do alone.

In the process of seeking God's leading in our next ministry assignment, it became obvious that He was leading us to a DoM position in Tennessee, just one hour away from our hometown. Many have thought that we intentionally pursued a position that would bring us "home", but in fact, I desired to stay in a more pioneer area for Southern Baptists and applied for positions from Maine to Alaska. It was, in fact, the Lord who brought us back to Tennessee.



I now serve as the Director of Missions for the Duck River Baptist Association, headquartered in

The area of the Duck River Baptist Association in Tennessee is shaded in black.

Tullahoma, Tennessee. Our association serves 46 churches in 3 counties. From where I live our association extends about an hour's drive south and an hour's drive east at its furthest reaches.

One of the things that the search committee said attracted them to me was my missions background and they charged me with focusing on missions and evangelism. We already have multiple mission projects lined up for 2011,

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starting with ministering to the poor right here in our own counties and extending to Montana where we will be building a parsonage (manse) for a small church whose pastor lacks adequate housing. We are already starting to think about plans for one or more international mission trips in 2012.

We are also gearing up for an outreach event in April called GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) through which we will prayer-walk and pass out invitations to potentially every home in our three counties.

Another initiative being launched is called the Next Generation Leadership Network. This is the leaders of youth and young adults in our churches who will be working together to strengthen ministry to the next generation of church leaders and impact young people with the Gospel.

Ministries of the Duck River Association include:

- a full-time counselling center with licensed Christian counselling available to the public on a pay-as-you-can basis
- jail ministry
- Hispanic ministry
- campground ministry at two state parks
- an active Disaster Relief team that deploys across the state and the nation in times of need.
- a fulltime campus

minister at Motlow State Community College

A unique ministry opportunity we have that literally impacts people from around the world is called "More Than Music". The city of Manchester in our association hosts one of the largest music festivals in the world called "Bonnaroo". Each year in June, 80,000 people from every continent gather for 4 days and more than 250 music acts in a modern-day version of Woodstock, complete with all the decadence. Our association has a large tent on the festival grounds where we offer water, fresh fruit and snacks, internet access, a place to get in out of the summer heat, and other treats. These acts-of-kindness give us opportunity to give away Bibles, literature, and share the Gospel with more than 2,000 people each year.

The association also offers numerous training events to equip leaders for various ministries in our churches. My position gives oversight to all these and other ministries.

We will always treasure the time we had to minister in Canada. We also know that in His grand design, God was using our time there to prepare us for our next assignment here with the Duck River Association. The churches and folks in Atlantic Canada will always hold a big place in our hearts. May the Lord richly bless your ministries there and all you set your hand to in His Name.

Operation Christmas Child

Norma Wright

I would imagine you are wondering why an article on this topic would be in the Feb. issue of The Beacon. I would like to tell you about something our little church is doing in a new way for the first time this year and which we are excited about. Each month, a basket is placed on our bookshelf marked "Operation Christmas Child" and each month a specific item is being requested for anyone who would like to participate. This is open to members of our church on Sunday mornings, to the Youth Group who meet on Friday evenings, to the Ladies Bible Study on Monday evenings (not just the ladies of our church, but others from the community) to the Wednesday evening Prayer Group and anyone else who may come through the doors of Hope Community Church in any given week. In January, small stuffed animals (toys) were requested, in February - toothbrushes, children's hairbrushes and combs will be the special of the month ... March - boys stuff, and so on. It is our plan to have a "box-packing party" in November where all the gathered items will be laid out and everyone will have the opportunity to help. This will include our seniors, youth and folks from the community. Also, it will be our plan to have a celebration service the following week in which the boxes will be blessed and carried to a waiting vehicle by every hand at the service. We pray this will be an awesome experience for all and especially to our friends and family who have yet to know our Lord. If anyone would like more information or the list I have compiled, please do not hesitate contact me at teagan-skye@hotmail.com or 459-8436. May God bless each one of you who have read this article. **In His Service with you Norma Wright, Hope Community Church, Fred-erickton, NB."**



VBS Training

Lifeway's Vacation Bible School 2011

Big Apple Adventure: Where Faith and Life Connect

Learn how to step out in faith and connect with Jesus sharing the message of Christ with the world.

These hands-on training clinics give an overview of Lifeway's VBS materials for 2011. Participants will learn how to promote and plan the events, recruit teachers, decorate and do the crafts, music, games, snacks, missions, Bible study.

All VBS directors and leaders are invited to attend the following training clinics:

Clinic 1

Saturday April 2nd, 2011 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Georgetown Baptist Church
P. E. I.

Clinic 2

Saturday April 9, 2011

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Providence Christian Church
Riverview N. B.

Clinic 3

Saturday April 16, 2011

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Gospel Light Baptist Church
Halifax, N.S.

For more info or to confirm your attendance contact the Associational VBS Director: Juliana Jorden at (902) 962-3196 or email: jmjorden@hotmail.com

To learn more about Lifeway's VBS go to: <http://www.lifeway.com/vbs2011>



Gospel Light Baptist Church

1266 Old Sambro Road, Harrietsfield

Presents

Peter Sparrow of CMI-Australia

Wednesday March 30, 2011

7:30pm

Genesis: Foundation of Biblical Truth, followed by Question and Answer Forum

For more information: Pastor Sean Crowe at 902-479-3322.
All are welcome. Resources will be available for purchase.

Dynamic Church Planting International

Church Planting Conference

April 19 - 21, 2011

Dynamic Church Planting International is hosting a conference in Baddeck, Cape Breton in April. They are an evangelical nondenominational ministry that trains leaders all over the world to plant new churches. They believe that church planting is the most effective means of evangelism, that more people will be saved through new churches starting than through any other means.

The course is called "**Church Planting Essentials**"

THREE THINGS WE PRAY GOD WILL DO IN AND THROUGH THE ESSENTIALS TRAINING are:

- Help you get a clear **VISION** of what God wants to accomplish through you and church planting.
- Help you to prepare a **PLAN** to fulfill the vision.
- Help you produce action steps on a **TIMELINE** to accomplish the plan.

They will also teach the Biblical Principles of Church Planting and 19 Landmines of Church Planting.

In October I took one of their courses which was held in Toronto and I found it to be a great encouragement. It was also very helpful in causing me to evaluate what I was doing and where we as a church were headed.

I believe this course could be very valuable to give us direction in reaching the Maritimes with the gospel. We need churches started everywhere if the spiritual landscape is going to turn around in the next 10 years. This is not going to

just happen. It will take the evangelical church waking up to its responsibilities and privileges. There is no question that Jesus desires to save people and that He desires to establish churches in every community. We just have to link up with Him. Hallelujah, we can!!

Outline of what will be covered.

- 1). The Twelve Biblical Principles of Church Planting
- 2). Five Reasons why we should be Planting Churches.
- 3). The Lord of Church Planting.
- 4). Prayer and Church Planting.
- 5). Developing:- a Vision for Planting Churches- a Plan for Planting Churches - a Timeline for planting churches.
- 6). The Four Phases of Church Planting.

Phase One - God to You

-Leadership Development
-Building a Process of Discipleship -
Building a Launch Team

Phase Two - You to the Team

-Gathering and Developing a Team
-Avoiding 19 Church Planting Landmines
-How to Use a Timeline
-Developing a Culturally Relevant Outreach

Phase three - The Team to the Church

-Landmarks of a Healthy Church
-Why Plant a Daughter Church

Phase Four - The Church to the World

-The Challenges and Joys of the Church-Planting Family
-The Seasons of Church Planting

- 7). Every Person will do a presentation of their vision of church planting in their

region and they will be evaluated on this vision. They will be given time during the three days to work on this and also it is expected that this will be homework for each participant.

Those interested in attending will need to contact Pastor Hugh Morrison by March 15. The registration fee will be \$40.00, this will cover the expenses of hall rental and snacks. The sessions will run from 9am to 5 pm each day.

If you are interested in finding out more, you can call me at: (902) 248-2735 or email me at: hugh.tracey@ns.sympatico.ca

Blessings,

Pastor Hugh Morrison Margaree Valley Baptist Church

ECBA is seeking volunteers for the following positions

Web master - A website developer is needed

Auditor - looking for an individual who has experience in this area .

For more information contact Charlie Wright at: cagney@nb.sympatico.ca

Disaster Relief in Eastern Canada

Mike & Donna Boisvert

In December, south western New Brunswick experienced flooding that damaged roads, bridges and homes. Charlotte County was the hardest-hit area and at one point during the flooding, more than 100 roads were impacted to some extent. It was hard for us to watch the devastation on television and not be able to respond in some way. We were happy to hear that Samaritans Purse, from Calgary, was able to take action to help flood victims clean up and begin repair of their homes. It made us think about our time in New Orleans in 2007 following Katrina and our call to help bring Southern Baptist Disaster Relief to Eastern Canada. More than ever before, Canadians are being impacted by these kinds of disasters and more than ever before, we feel the call for an organised CNBC relief organization in every region of our country.

After our experience in New Orleans and the devastation we witnessed, we felt called to begin to train and develop a SB disaster relief team in our church (Sequoia Community Church) in Ottawa and within the greater national capital region. This US NAMB organization, started in the 1950's, now has over 100,000 trained volunteers and works closely with the American Red Cross and Salvation Army. Their motto is "A cup of cold water in Jesus' name." That one phrase describes best the philosophy of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. As followers of Christ, this is what we are called to provide to those in need. Jesus always met people where they were at, in the midst of their circumstances. He saw to their physical needs and through that action ministered to their heart and spiritual needs. His love was unconditional and He followed the Will and the action of the Father to provide hope and a future to the lost and broken.

We first had the opportunity to experience this love in action, as we joined the Canadian Baptist Builders and Western Disaster Relief team (led by Ken & Dar-

la Ponath) in New Orleans in 2007. Four years later, we are so excited to see how God has brought so many people who are passionate about sharing and serving Christ through this ministry. We have trained over 60 people, participated in eight separate trainings and developed a great partnership with our brothers in New England. Members of the Eastern Canada team have been deployed to New Orleans, Frenchville Maine, Galveston, Cameron Louisiana, and New England, as well as, having been able to use their training to participate in other mission opportunities, both in their own community and all over the world. We just returned from the town of Montellano in the Dominican Republic. Our mission to build a home for a widow with three children was used as a training exercise for some members of our DR team.

Peter Blackaby, Ministry Leader for Partnerships & Volunteers, is providing leadership and working with the regional coordinators to help develop and build this ministry in all of Canada. Presently, we have three regional CNBC DR Coordinators, Darla Ponath in Western Canada, Bob Rankin in Central Canada and ourselves, Mike & Donna Boisvert in Eastern Canada. The training includes Disaster Relief Orientation, Chainsaw Safety, Mud-Out (Flood response), Feeding, Chaplaincy, Evangelism, and many others. We have developed basic training in the above areas which involves both theory and practical elements. There are usually two planned trainings per year and we have also been able to contribute and participate in trainings with our New England

Convention partners. The team is so excited to be planning our first French Training near Quebec City in April. Our hope is that an Atlantic Canada team will soon be in God's plan for DR.

We had no idea that one mission trip to New Orleans would have such an impact on our lives and we are so thankful that God continues to bless us by allowing us to be a part of this great ministry. We are continually amazed at how quickly we are invited to "give the reason for the hope that we have", and asked why we do what we do, when ministering in this context. By demonstrating Christ's love in this tangible way, CNBC churches have a great opportunity to proclaim the reality and truth of the Gospel in a powerful way.

(For more information about the CNBC Disaster Relief Ministry in the East, please contact Mike & Donna Boisvert at donnab@sequoiachurch.org)

