

The people living in darkness have
seen a great light

Matthew 4:16

THE BEACON

Greetings from your Moderator Charlie Wright

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

June 15. send to

sharon55@nb.sympatico.ca

Greetings from your moderator. In January it was a pleasure to meet a number of you during the time of our most recent ECBA Executive meeting held in Halifax. Gospel Light in Harrietsfield graciously provided the venue. On Saturday, following our meeting but our worship service was indeed a highlight where we enjoyed each other in worship and giving God the Glory for the wonderful things He's doing amongst us. As the church we are His hands and feet and it is wonderful to experience the fellowship of enthusiastic and like-minded people as we seek ways to serve and tell others about Him.

During our meeting, amongst the things discussed by the leadership team were plans for our next Annual General meeting. We do hope you will mark September 30th and October 1st on your calendar. The AGM will be held at the "Canadian Sunday School Mission's" Bible Camp in Hampton N.B. A brief description of the camp and its activities may be found at <http://www.cssm.ca>. The facility is family friendly with over 100 acres of outdoor space. Their summer camps include the likes of horse-back riding, archery, hiking, paintball and swimming. Sleeping quarters are "dormitory style" with up to four to a room. In addition, there are two other buildings suitable for larger families and for any who are campers amongst you, there are a limited number of camping sites for those who would like to bring their own accommodations. Pricing is adults \$60.00 and children \$40.00 with a family maximum of \$200.00. This will include four meals (Friday lunch and supper plus Saturday breakfast and lunch) a guest speaker (arrangements are in progress) and a Lifeway Training presentation entitled the "Transformational Church". The added good news is that the CSSM staff will be providing a children's program making it possible for mum and dad to participate in the adult sessions. Stay tuned for more details in our next issue (registration process, keynote speaker etc). Meanwhile, please mark your calendar now and start making your plans to attend.

Other news from our meeting includes the development of suitable instructions for the direction of our Registrar - John Merks. Many of you will know John and his good work over the years in working with government authorities to register our pastors to conduct marriage ceremonies across our region. Happily we can say the CNBC churches now have "status" in all four Atlantic Provinces

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Lead Church Start Catalyst Atlantic Canada Derek Jones

Every now and then, God chooses to surprise us and, in the process, reveals Himself as the One who is calling His church to Himself. Jesus proclaimed to Peter and the other disciples, "I will build my church..." Nowhere is His work of building of the church more evident than at Providence Evangelical International Church in Charlottetown, PE. A few years ago God gave the vision of a Chinese Mandarin work to Wallace Jorden, then pastor of Community Baptist Church. And when God brought Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary Nehemiah student, Wendy Tsai, to Charlottetown in April, of last year, the work took off.



So often we see church starting as almost being impossible. And it is when we see ourselves or other leaders as the builders of the church. But Paul understood that there was a much deeper reality. He recognized that although leaders might work hard (planting and watering, as it were), God ultimately gives the increase. And what an increase it has been at Providence Evangelical International. After just one year, there are 60-70 Mandarin-speaking people attending each week and on April 17, seven are scheduled for baptism. That will bring the one-year baptism total to twenty-one.

Where did this crazy dream of a Mandarin-speaking church on PEI come from? Simply the dream came from God to a man who, while senior in years, was able to dream like a much younger man. And he passed that dream on to a Chinese lady who had a passion to see God glorified in the lives of Chinese people immigrating to Canada. Don't be afraid to dream God's dream. And don't hesitate to join Him as He amazingly builds His church. It's a trip you won't want to miss.

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and we are now in "maintenance" mode. This said, we agreed it is important for ECBA leadership to have a suitable process in place to direct additions and subtractions from the lists on file with each of the governing authorities. Presently, steps are being taken to remove the names of various pastors who have left our region. If your church body has questions concerning your pastor and / or if you wish to assure suitable arrangements are in place, John (john@monctonconnection.com) will be pleased to offer his services. In any situations where uncertainty exists, the ECBA leadership team will be pleased to assist.

Finally, our association has needs for some assistance. We would ask each one to prayerfully consider "openings" we have within the ECBA. As an association we are only "stronger together" if we keep in touch and know about the joys and sorrows we share. We have need in each congregation for someone who will be the contact person for the Beacon. Someone who will keep us up on the "news" from your church. We also have need of a web-master. Someone who will up-date and maintain our web-site to assure it is current and useful. And, lastly, we have need of an auditor who will do the annual review of our financial records. If you hear God asking you to offer your "gift of service" for any of these opportunities I would be glad to hear from you (cagney@nb.sympatico.ca).

May God Bless you in your journey
Charlie Wright - Moderator

Changed by Mission

Jim Tranquilla

Partnerships Coordinator—Atlantic Canada

I remember exactly where I was on the morning of 11 August 2001; I was perched on the top of a ladder on the outside second story of my house, hurrying to complete a staining job while the weather was sunny and hot. Exactly 1.1 seconds later, I was lying on the deck with a broken ladder, a concussion and a badly broken knee. It's amazing how much stuff you can think of in 1.1 seconds! Ten years later the knee is still hurting and it will never be the same as it was in 2001. Permanently changed!

Some changes catch us completely by surprise, others seem to let us know they are coming. Either way, we must know as Christians that God is constantly at work to bring changes into our lives in ways that will lead us further into building His Kingdom. Partnerships is one of those ways.

I hope you caught the small article in the December-January Horizon about Jason and Karla Johnson; I have never met the Johnsons but their story has had an impact on my life. After leading several mission teams to rural Saskatchewan, and while on their way home to Texas after the latest mission, they both suddenly realized that they were being called to move to Saskatchewan to plant a church. Now they, with their 3 daughters, are serving in Rosthern, Saskatchewan. They probably didn't see that change coming when they went on that first mission trip. Changed by mission! Some day, I'd love to sit with the Johnsons and hear their story firsthand.

I have some exciting news about changes coming to Atlantic Canada this summer! So far, there are at least 8 confirmed mission teams coming from the Carolinas, heading to churches in Halifax, Cape Breton Island and New Brunswick. I'm sure there are a few others that I'm just not aware of yet. A big surprise to all of us was the way that God orchestrated a special project at Hampton Bible Camp where about 40 Carpenters For Christ workers will come to do some much-needed work in July (we'll get to see the results at our ECBA Annual Meeting) and one of our ECBA churches is planning to send a team to work alongside them. There's a family of 5 coming from Alberta to Atlantic Canada where they want to do a mission project this summer. In April, we'll be receiving a wonderful gift from several SC churches ... a complete Block Party Trailer, ready to be used throughout the ECBA region. First stop will be a special celebration event at Hope Community, then off to Nova Scotia, and then coming to a parking lot near you!

Going in the other direction (and this is REALLY exciting), one church is planning a mission trip to New England and we are in the process of organizing another. You can join us!

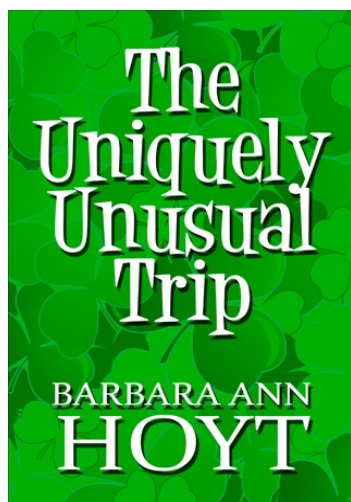
I want to challenge you to look for changes this summer. If your church is hosting a mission team, please pray that those who come will experience change and that you and your church will be changed, too. Coming here on a mission trip is not just something that these folks are doing because they have nothing else to do; they are looking for God's direction and they are responding to His call on their lives. God is changing their lives, maybe calling some of them into a ministry like the Johnsons, and we are a part of that story. But beware; God is out to change our lives just as much as theirs. Maybe God has stirred your heart for a life change.

Are you looking to be changed? Is that your prayer? Become part of Partnerships; be changed by mission. Permanently changed! jmt@warppnet.ca

Book Review

By

Lisa Tranquilla



Barbara Ann Hoyt, is a local icon in her community. With a passion for working with youth and seniors, Barb oversees the youth program at Hope Community church, Mactaquac, New Brunswick. Leading a crew of young people to participate in community work projects in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island for the past three summers, Barb was asked by the North American Mission Board to co-ordinate the entire PEI work-project last summer.

Barb is a devoted wife to Duane and mother to Brett (15) and Brady (8).

While her children are in school Barb offers care and assistance to local seniors in her community.

She is an outdoors advocate enjoying family time, hiking, biking, camping and geocaching and was instrumental in fighting against the closing (for the winter) of the Mactaquac Provincial Park. Indoors, she spends time reading, writing, and painting.

As a child Barb regularly spent time on her aunt and uncle's farm where many adventures left lasting impressions that spun her first published book, *The Uniquely Unusual Trip*.

In the story, Anna Belle Watson is a young girl who is curious about her surroundings and as she explores her grandparents' old home she finds many unique surprises.

Sharing her finding of a four-leaf clover with her grandmother sparks an adventure back in time.

Focusing on the importance of love in a family and above all faith in God our Father, *The Uniquely Unusual Trip* is a quick read for readers of all ages. It left me reminiscing of past family gatherings and a longing for simplicity.

Reading this short (60 page) adventure took me back to jam-jam cookies in my own grandmother's kitchen, square dances of my youth and exploring family treasures.

The *Uniquely Unusual Trip* can be purchased on-line at

www.amazon.ca,

www.barnesandnoble.com, www.chapters.indigo.ca and

www.PublishAmerica.com.

Barb can be reached by email at barbie@nb.sympatico.ca



South Carolina Churches Donate Block Party Trailer to ECBA

ECBA churches are being blessed with a wonderful gift in the form of a fully-equipped Block Party Trailer. The trailer is a self-contained party-central for kids' activities, special events, community picnics ... you name it! In places where this has been used, it has proven to be a wonderful attraction and a very effective outreach tool.

The trailer will be arriving in Fredericton on April 27th and will be officially received by the ECBA at a special presentation on April 30th. Rev. Paul McKee, a NAMB Missionary from Spartanburg, SC, and two other men will be driving the trailer from SC to Fredericton after which they will continue for planned visits with several churches in Nova Scotia. Paul will be ministering at Hope Community Church on May 1st before heading home. The following weekend the Block Party trailer will be featured at a special Family Fun Day celebration at Hope Community Church in Keswick, NB.

Be sure to watch in the next Beacon for more details about the special presentation and how your church can use this great resource. Meanwhile, this is how it looked before it was transformed from just a plain trailer into a Block Party Trailer.

Jim Tranquilla

CNBC Partnerships Coordinator – Atlantic Canada



Blitz Christian Football Camp

Serving Young Athletes with the Love of Jesus Christ

The inaugural Blitz Christian Football Camp will be held July 18-20 in Moncton, New Brunswick at Rocky Stone Field. The camp will run from noon to 5pm each day.

A coaching staff continues to be assembled and already includes experience from all levels of football including CFL Alumni, including a former defensive player of the year.



Blitz has been sponsored by the Moncton Football Association for the provision of injury insurance and the provision of safe and maintained equipment.

As well as lots of great football, this is a great opportunity to share the Gospel with lots of local young athletes. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the soil of these young athletes hearts and that He would grant them faith to trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and lord.

There will be no registration fee for the camp, but we will be asking registrants to make a donation towards a fund to help under privileged youth pay for league registrations and equipment such as football cleats. Registration will be done online at www.blitzministries.com or by phone, (506) 870-0975. Deadline for registration will be June 30.

There are still many needs for coaches and volunteers. If you wish be to involved please contact us at via our website, phone, or Facebook.

Blitz Christian Football Camps is a ministry of Providence Christian Church in Riverview, New Brunswick.

Jason Terris, Camp Director

Churches Get Ready for VBS 2011 Big Apple Adventure

Vacation Bible School training clinics were held on April 9th at Providence Christian Church in Riverview, NB and on April 16th at Gospel Light Baptist Church in Harrietsfield, NS. with over 30 children's ministry leaders and helpers in attendance. The training was led by Juliana and Angela Jorden who represented the ECBA at the national training clinic offered by *Lifeway* earlier this year.

The clinics provided an opportunity for children's ministry leaders from ECBA churches to view *Lifeway's* VBS 2011 materials. The theme for *Lifeway's* VBS 2011 is "The Big Apple Adventure: Where Faith and Life Connect". The backdrop is New York City, the 'crossroads of the world'. The age-graded materials are available from babies to adult and can be customized to meet the needs of individual churches.

During the morning sessions, the participants enjoyed the fun and fellowship of collaborating and planning together for this important summer ministry. The clinic familiarized children's leaders with the Bible study themes, and gave some ideas on sharing their faith, planning, decorat-

ing, and follow-up. Those who attended created graffiti posters of the daily Bible themes and verses. They learned the music and actions for the worship rally songs; made crafts; learned about a southern Baptist missionary therapy dog named 'Proof' and took part in relay races and NYC trivia games.

Vacation Bible School is the single largest outreach event for most churches. Its purposes are to share the good news of the gospel with children and their families and grow the Sunday School and children's ministry. Children ages 4-14 are the most receptive to hearing the gospel and making a decision of faith.

If you did not attend the clinics and would like information or to view the resources please contact Juliana Jorden at (902) 962-3196 or email: jmorden@hotmail.com There will be another VBS training clinic at Georgetown Baptist Church in Georgetown, PEI, later in the spring.

We are grateful to Providence Christian Church and Gospel Light Baptist

Church and their VBS directors Sharon Gautreau and Dawn Lawrence for hosting these events. We are thankful for the support of the East Coast Baptist Association. A special thank you to Yuki Saito for sharing her talents in decorating and crafts. We look forward to the great things God is going to do in VBS 2011!



Yuki, Julie and Angela



Gospel Light Church



Providence Christian Church