

### Indigenous Ministries

North Sydney SDA Church p.4

**July 2025 Edition** 

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# NORTH SYDNEY SDA CHURCH

Eskasoni First Nation and Allison Bernard Memorial High School girl's drum group.

#### **Indigenous Ministries Leader Visits North Sydney Church and Eskasoni First Nation**

#### **APRIL 29-MAY 4**

This week saw the first step completed in our church's attempt to start a work with the Indigenous Peoples of Cape Breton. There are five First Nations in Cape Breton and yet little has been done to reach out to them. After months of planning between myself and Brad and DeeAnna Dennis, we have begun a work here in Cape Breton that with God's leading will help us to reach out to the surrounding First Nations.

I'm providing the following link so you can become more acquainted with them. <a href="https://tasiihasah.ca/">https://tasiihasah.ca/</a>. Also there is a film series, which at present has 5 of 10 videos completed and are posted on <a href="https://journeyhome.world/">https://journeyhome.world/</a>. I strongly recommend that you take time to view them. Brad and DeeAnna are now the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada's Indigenous Ministries leaders.

#### **STAGE ONE**

Before beginning any work with a distinct nation and culture, it is important that you have an understanding of at least the basics of that culture. As with many in the Maritimes, we live in proximity with a number of First Nations communities and yet have very little association with them. Therefore, we have much to learn. For this purpose we invited Brad to come and speak to our church body through what turned out to be an eight hour seminar that took place on a Sabbath evening and a Sabbath day. We were much blessed as he went through the history of colonization and its affects on the Indigenous population through a Biblical lense.



Brad Dennis, Sarita and Isla (his two daughters), and Bryan Sweeney.

Brad arrived on April 29, 2025 and was accompanied by his two daughters, Sarita and Isla. Besides providing some beautiful music during the presentations, they were invaluable as we visited Eskasoni First Nation and Allison Bernard Memorial High School where I work as a substitute teacher. Their open nature and friendly faces immediately broke down any reservations the students may of had and friendships were quickly formed. We even got to go smelt fishing with two classes from the high school, and the visit with the girl's drum group was unforgettable.



Two drum group members from Eskasoni First Nation and Allison Bernard Memorial High School performing the Honour Song at North Sydney SDA Church

Two of the drum group members also agreed to come to our church on Sabbath morning and perform the Honour Song. We were blessed and, gladly, so were they.

Unfortunately, the full story of what has happened leading up to what will be an ongoing endeavour between the North Sydney Church and Brad and his ministry cannot be fully recounted here. Let me tell you though that God has performed many amazing works in order for this to happen, and with His Grace and Blessing, will continue to do so.

Please pray for this outreach as it marks a beginning of a work to reconcile with the indigenous peoples here in the Maritimes. The Maritime Conference has made it part of the planned direction for at least the next five years. None of this will work if we do not pay attention to God's leading and go where He wants us to go.

#### **Bryan Sweeney**

Indigenous Ministries and Reconciliation Director
North Sydney SDA Church

#### **BATHURST SDA COMPANY**

## An Unforgettable Sabbath Day Presented by the Men's Ministry: What's in Your Baggage?



Pastor Ted Bagassien asked members to come in front to illustrate what we have in our baggage: blessings or curses.

The last Sabbath of June 2025 will forever be etched in the memory of the Bathurst Seventh-day Adventist Company as a day of profound reflection and fellowship. Carefully organized by the Men's Ministry under the leadership of the head elder, Rémy Hyppolite, this special Sabbath exceeded all expectations, bringing inspiration and sharing through the powerful message of the guest pastor, Ted Bagassien. From the morning, a unique atmosphere filled the sanctuary. The men of the church, having taken charge of various parts of the worship program, led the different segments of the worship service. Anticipation was high as Pastor Ted Bagassien, accompanied by his wife, was expected to share the sermon.



The special song by Ghislain Shukuru Mapendo.

#### What's in Your Baggage: A Call to Evaluate One's Past

The sermon's theme, "What's in Your Baggage?" immediately captivated the congregation. With eloquence and authenticity, Pastor Bagassien wove his personal immigration experiences with relevant biblical narratives. He shared the challenges, joys, and lessons learned from his personal journey, building a bridge between his life and realities many in the congregation face. He encouraged everyone to reflect on their past and identify the wounds and emotional burdens accumulated over time. The call to acknowledge our invisible "baggage" – past pains, regrets, or traumas – touched the hearts of both men and women, inviting them to an honest self-examination.

The discussion resumed after a delicious potluck lunch in a friendly and warm atmosphere in the afternoon. This is where the day took on an even more personal dimension. Church members, both men and women, feeling comfortable after the morning's sermon, began to share their own experiences. Testimonies flowed freely, each person opening their heart to recount challenges, trials, and victories. The "baggage" mentioned by Pastor Bagassien became tangible through poignant stories of resilience. Valuable lessons were exchanged, strengthening the sense of community and mutual support.

#### **An Experience Worth Repeating**

This special Sabbath was much more than a simple church service; it was a day of sharing and connection. The initiative by the Men's Ministry, under the head elder's leadership, bore fruit. The inspiring presence of Pastor Ted Bagassien and his wife left a lasting impression, leaving behind a resounding call for personal reflection and the release of burdens. Without a doubt, this day will remain a highlight in the life of the Bathurst Company, reminding everyone of the power of vulnerability and shared faith.

#### **Communications Ministries**

Bathurst SDA Company

## WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR CHURCH?

We want to know what God is doing in your church! Don't keep the blessings to yourself! Let us know so that we can be inspired!

Submit your reports for the MC Spotlight to ron.marshall@maritimesda.com before

the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (except for July & December, it will be on the 03<sup>rd</sup>)

"Tell the world about Jesus...tell them about His love...as you go... tell the world!"





CARE TAKERS

If God Gave You Financial Advice, Would You Listen?

Bible verses will revolutionize your finances.

Most of us have learned a few things about money, some of us the hard way. We've weathered job changes, supported growing families, and watched prices creep higher while we sometimes struggled to maintain our savings. But what if the One who created the universe offered us a roadmap for peace and purpose in our financial lives? Wouldn't we want to follow it? Here are five biblical principles that can bring freedom, joy, and stability, no matter your income bracket.

#### 1. Put God First (Matthew 6:33):

Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." When we prioritize God over wealth, we invite His peace into every part of our lives. Finances included. This means trusting Him enough to make spiritual values (not material ones) the foundation of our financial decisions.

#### 2. Give with Joy (2 Corinthians 9:7)

"God loves a cheerful giver." As a Christian giving isn't just about duty; it should be a joy. Whether it's supporting your local church, helping a neighbor, or donating to a mission project, giving shifts our focus from what we lack to how we can bless others. When we give, we are richly blessed ourselves.

#### 3. Practice Gratitude (1 Timothy 6:6)

"Godliness with contentment is great gain." Gratitude softens the grip of consumerism. It reminds us that what we already have is truly a blessing. It helps us to realize that joy is found not in having more, but in recognizing what we already have.

#### 4. Beware the Love of Money (1 Timothy 6:10)

"The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." Money isn't the problem, it is our attachment to it. If we obsess over getting or keeping it, we risk losing what matters most. God calls us to use money as a tool, not to make it an idol.

#### 5. Tithe Faithfully (Malachi 3:10)

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven." Tithing is not about experiencing a loss, it's about trusting in God's promises. When we return to God a portion of what He's given, we're saying, "I trust You to provide." as He always does.

No matter where you are financially, God's Word offers more than tips. It offers us an opportunity to experience transformation. So, if God Himself gave you financial advice... the real question is: are you ready to take it?

#### **Angel Germosen**

Assistant Treasurer of the Maritime Conference



#### **Baked Cauliflower and Asparagus Simple and Delicious!**



Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit In a large bowl add:

- 1 head of cauliflower chopped into bite-sized pieces (or 1 pkg of Costco cauliflower)
- 1 ½ lb. of asparagus chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 2 cups organic roasted chestnuts

#### Then mix in:

- 2 tsp. (maximum) of your choice of oil or vegan butter
- 1 tsp. of paprika
- Herbamare to taste
- ¼ cup nutritional yeast

Bake uncovered at 350° Fahrenheit for 1 hour. Then bake at 425° Fahrenheit for 10 minutes in order to lightly brown the cauliflower and asparagus. Serve on a bed of seasoned rice. Enjoy!

#### **Catherine Walsh**

Health Ministries Director of the Maritime Conference

#### CAMP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: SHAWN BOONSTRA



Due to his new role as an associate editor for the Adventist Review, unfortunately Shawn Boonstra will not be attending the Maritime Conference Camp Meeting for 2025. However, we are in discussions with him for potential dates in the future. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jeffrey Brown will be filling in for Pastor Boonstra.

Administration

#### **NAD PRESS RELEASE**

https://www.nadadventist.org/news/shawn-boonstraspeakerdirector-voice-prophecy-leave-media-ministrywill-join-adventist-review Nothing God is Impossible with Jod

Prayer is the answer to every problem in life ... So often we do not pray in certain situations, because from our standpoint the outlook is hopeless. But nothing is impossible with God. Nothing is so entangled that it cannot be remedied: no human relationship is too strained for God to bring about reconciliation and understanding; no habit so deep-rooted that it cannot be overcome; No one is so weak that he cannot be healed. No mind is so dull that it cannot be made brilliant... If anything is causing worry or anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and trust God for healing, love and power.

Pat Mudgett, "On His Knees Looking Up," Last Generation, Vol. 16, No.4, p.3.

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#### MARITIME CONFERENCE PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

The Maritime Conference Club Ministry department held their Conference Camporee from June 6-8, 2025. Three clubs attended the event, which was themed "Journey Of Faith" based on the life of the biblical character of Joseph. The weekend was calling for heavy rain, but God is good, and we had a beautiful kind of rainfall for that weekend. It only rained late Saturday evening and through the night, and we woke up to sunshine and some wind on Sunday.

During the Camporee the Pathfinders learned about the different characteristics of Joseph, and took part in the Sabbath worship, which included our guest speaker, Pastor Ron Marshall. Our Pathfinders also had an opportunity to complete their *Joseph and tiedyeing honor*.

On Saturday evening they had a social event where they played games, socialized and ate chips with some juice. On Sunday, they

played some games, and we were able to present to them the year awards. This Camporee was a meaningful journey of faith and friendship. We extend heartfelt thanks to all participants, leaders, and volunteers for making it an unforgettable experience.

#### **Brenda Henry**

Club Ministries Director of the Maritime Conference









Health Ministries Department presents Dr. Don Straub July 28th to Aug. 1st check the camp meeting schedule for the time

Series Title: "Bridges to Freedom"

#1. Everything Happens for a Reason and

Other Lies I Used to Believe.

- #2. Why Do I Do the Things I Do?
- #3. Emotional Dishonesty
- #4. Is Self-love an Oxymoron?
- #5. Letting Go of Deep Hurt



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- BA Religion
- · RN to BS Nursing
- BS Public Health
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**Camp Pugwash** is happy to introduce our first ever family camp week. We want to also extend a special invitation to all **ALUMNI** camp staff—and their families—who have previously worked at Pugwash. Family Camp is a great way to enjoy all that Pugwash has to offer, together! **Register now!** 

https://www.camppugwash.com/

#### **Activities**

#### Crafts

- Arts & Crafts
- Baking
- Ceramics
- Tie Dye
- Rocketry

ADVENTURE - REVIVAL

Music

#### **Outdoor Pursuits**

- Archery
- Rock wall
- Sports
- Family Fitness

NATURE

- Zumba
- Bible Study\*

#### Waterfront

- Swimming
- Tubing
- Paddleboarding/ Canoeing

- BONDING

Dates aug 4 - aug 8 Ages

Ages FAMILIES!

Rate

1 PERSON - \$300 EVERY ADDITIONAL PERSON - \$200 4 YEARS AND UNDER - FREE

JULY 2025 | **DEPARTMENTAL 19** 



#### SHOUT IT FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP: A MESSAGE & A LIFE FOR THESE CRUCIAL TIMES

The Maritime Conference was truly blessed on the weekend of May 16-18, 2025, as approximately 110 members filled Camp Pugwash campgrounds to attend our annual Spiritual Emphasis Weekend and Work bee (SEWW). This gathering marked the official opening of the campgrounds for the year as members of our Conference took the time to pray for God's presence to be with individuals frequenting the camp as well as for activities that will be happening there throughout the year. For the next six months various ministries will be holding events at Pugwash such as Blind Camp, Junior Camp, Teen Camp, Family Camp, Club Ministries, Prayer Ministries, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Health Ministries, Camp Meeting, etc.

At SEWW, members prayed for the safety of attending children and camp staff workers. They also prayed for lives to be transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit and for a spiritual revival within the Conference. In order for 2025 to be a success, it is important for our members to come together as a community to ask God for His presence to be with us. We were grateful for Pastor Bill Brace who was the keynote speaker. Pastor Brace is a native of New Brunswick and was born in the city of Moncton. He is a retired pastor from the Southern New England Conference and currently resides in Maine, USA.

He had a very important message for all throughout the weekend. In reflection of the biblical understanding that God's church is often referred to as the "Bride of Christ", he said that *God is looking for a mature bride*. The church in its *infancy* and *adolescent* stages

may have had an "ego centric" love relationship with Him as do human beings have with others in their *infant* and *adolescent* stages in life. However, he pointed out that as we are coming closer to the second coming of our Lord and Saviour, that the "ego centric" love needs to evolve.



Members praying for God's presence to be with individuals frequenting Camp Pugwash as well as for activities that will be happening there throughout the year.

He described an "ego centric" love as being a kind of love that centers itself predominantly around one's own needs. However, in one's adulthood as one grows in a marriage relationship, their love for each other becomes more and more "other centric". Pastor Brace challenged our members to ask God to help them to have a love for Him that is "other centric". An "other centric" love for God is a love that is more concerned about God and what He desires from us rather than a love that centers itself around what we want from Him.

Pastor Brace is not a stranger to the Maritimes and many of our members were happy to see him. We wish to thank him for joining us

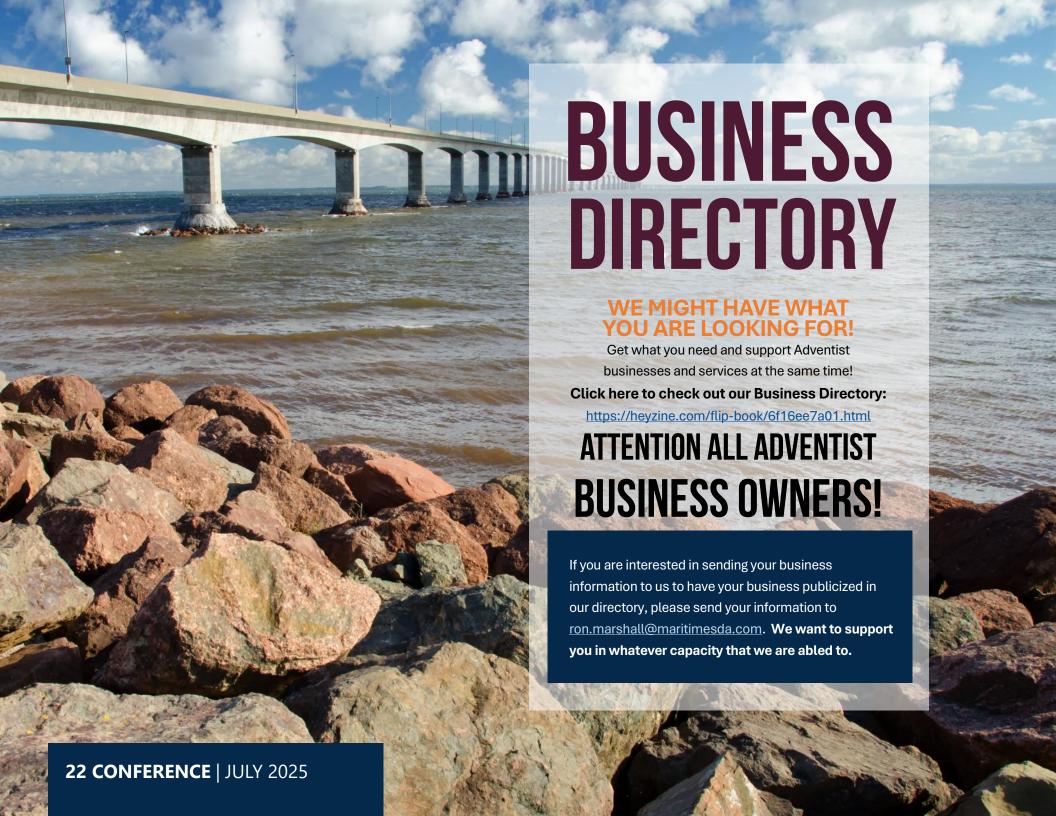
for SEWW. We also would like to thank the talented dedicated song leaders and musicians who helped out during the worship service, and the tremendous kitchen staff who prepared the delicious meals. We are also grateful for the support, prayers, and hard work contributed by our members.

On Sunday, May 18, 2025 many dedicated volunteers helped the camp immensely by cleaning cabins, washrooms, painting the cafeteria, helping to install a new garage door in the auditorium, and building tent platforms. These are but a few of the tasks that were accomplished through the leadership of Stoy Hancock, our Camp Ranger, for whom we are grateful. We also would like to express a special thanks to those who donated financially to help defray the costs of food, water and electricity. We appreciate everyone's help and we anticipate an even greater turnout next year. We can't wait to see you there!



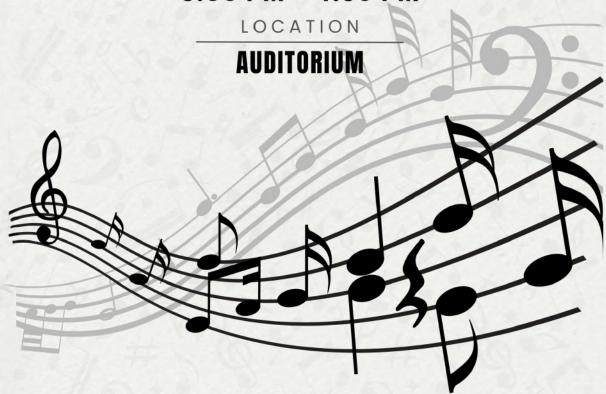
Ron Marshall

Executive Secretary of the Maritime Conference



## AFTERNOON JULY 26, 2025

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM



If you feel called and confident to share your musical gift—whether singing or playing—we'd love to have you help us kick off the week by lifting up Jesus through music.

#### CALLING ADVENTISTS AGES 18 TO 35



#### **Upcoming Trips**

Trips are exclusively for those ages 18-35 from most conferences. You must come with your local pastor.

#### 2025

June 4-16	Georgetown, Guyana
June 11-23	Liberia, Costa Rica
Jul 23-Aug 4	Chitré, Panama
Jul 23-Aug 4	Jinotepe, Nicaragua
Jul 30-Aug 11	Danlí, Honduras
Jul 30-Aug 11	Santa Ana, El Salvador
Jul 30-Aug 11	Totonicapán, Guatemala
Aug 6-18	Bogotá, Colombia
Aug 6-18	La Vega, Dominican Republic
Aug 13-25	Cancún, Mexico

Aug 13-25	Nagua, Dominican Republic *
Aug 20-Sep 1	Belize City, Belize
Sep 10-22	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Sep 17-29	São Paulo, Brazil
Sep 24-Oct 6	Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Oct 8-20	Pucallpa, Peru
Oct 15-27	Viña del Mar, Chile
Oct 22-Nov 3	Quito, Ecuador
Oct 29-Nov 10	Holguín, Cuba

<sup>\*</sup> possibilité de prêcher en français



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## Samp Metings

Preparing the tarvest

Save the Date
July 25-August 02, 2025



Seventh-day Adventist Church

**26 CONFERENCE** | JULY 2025

For More Information

https://www.maritimesda.com/pugwash/camp-meeting2



Maritime SDA Conference Media Ministries



June 6, 2025
Re: Thank You to Our Dorm Donors

Dear Donors,

It is with gratitude that I write to you for your faithful financial contributions to our dormitory renovation fund over the years. Your sacrifice and commitment to Adventist Education is deeply appreciated and you should know that the dorm building is in a good state of repair largely due to your faithful giving.

As you may know, we are no longer operating the dorm for the purpose of housing students, opting rather to construct a classroom upstairs that now functions as an elementary classroom and utilizing the two apartments as rental units. This school board decision was made to help us accommodate the growing day school enrollment and in response to a decreased demand in families looking to relocate their high school age children away from home for educational purposes.

Given the means by which the conference collected and disbursed dormitory donations, the school did not know by name who was contributing to the fund. Hence, we have written this general letter to thank all those people who have given to this cause over the years. If you are considering donating to Sandy Lake Academy in the future, we encourage you to support our kitchen and hallway renovation fund in which we will match every dollar donated up to \$30,000.

May the Lord's peace be with you today. Thank you for your support of Adventist Education in the Maritimes.

Sincerely,

#### Stephen Kibbee, BSc., MEd.

Principal of Sandy Lake Seventh-day Adventist Academy

435 Hammonds Plains Rd. Bedford, NS, B4B 1Y2 (902) 835-8548 (phone) principal@sandylakeacademy.ca

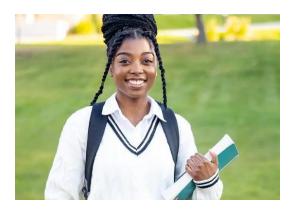




#### **Burman Joins ACAC**

The Burman University athletic department is excited to announce that we will join the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) in badminton for the upcoming academic school year. The ACAC comprises 18 institutions in Alberta and one in Saskatchewan. The Badminton division hosts post-secondary institutions like NAIT Polytechnic and SAIT Polytechnic, both with enrolments of over 14,000 students. We are excited for our students to have the opportunity to compete in badminton, and we look forward to a great year.

Athletic scholarships are available for students with badminton expertise. Please let us know if you know of any individuals who would excel in competitive badminton!



#### **New BBA Marketing Track!**

The School of Business will be launching a new Bachelor of Business Administration Marketing Track for this fall! The four-year BBA Marketing Track is designed to provide students with the knowledge to thrive in today's dynamic marketing environment. Courses such as Consumer Behaviour, Marketing Communication and Marketing Research provide a thorough understanding of how to analyze consumer trends and leverage data-driven information for making strategic decisions. With hands-on experience in a marketing internship, students are equipped to begin their career in the field of Marketing.



#### **Campmeeting Season**

Campmeeting season is upon us! We continue to pray for all the planning of the campmeetings across Canada. May we use this time for fellowship and the continued growth of God's work! Make sure to watch out for our Burman team as they travel across Canada and stop by our booth/tent and say hello!

Burman University
Newsletter



## Contact your local pastor!

Maritime Conference Administration



HOPE IN ACTION: THE MINISTRY OF PARKER STREET FOOD AND FURNITURE BANK

By Sydney Mogae – President CCNS

In the heart of Halifax's north end, compassion and service meet at **Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank**—a place where hope is restored daily through practical support, kindness, and Christian love. Rooted in values of dignity, generosity, and inclusion, Parker Street has become a lifeline to thousands of families across the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Founded in 1983 as a faith-based response to community need, Parker

Street provides essential services to individuals and families facing financial hardship. Its mission: to assist those in crisis by providing food, furniture, education support, and emergency assistance—all while treating every client with compassion, care and respect.

At its core, Parker Street is a **Food Bank**, distributing groceries and fresh produce to over 1,000 households each month. Whether it's a single parent struggling to feed children, or a senior on a fixed income, clients can rely on Parker Street to help fill the gap. Workers and volunteers greet each visitor with kindness, often offering encouragement alongside practical aid.

But food is just the beginning.



The **Furniture Bank** ensures that people have more than just shelter—they have a home. Beds, tables, chairs, and appliances are donated and delivered to clients transitioning out of homelessness, escaping domestic violence, or recovering from eviction. Every couch and mattress represents restored comfort, dignity, and peace.

In times of urgent crisis, Parker Street provides **Emergency Services** such as power disconnection prevention, rent support, transportation, and essential medical needs. These interventions, often done quietly and quickly, prevent homelessness and alleviate suffering. With the rising cost of living and housing in Halifax, this part of the ministry has become more critical than ever.

One of Parker Street's most beloved outreach efforts is the **Christmas Hamper Program**. Every December, the organization delivers over 1,000 holiday hampers filled with festive food, gifts, and essentials to families who might otherwise go without. For many, it's the only celebration they'll have. Church groups, schools, and businesses across the city come together to support this initiative, spreading the light of Christ during this season of the year.

Parker Street also runs a robust **Education Support Program**, equipping children and youth with school supplies, backpacks, and access to technology like laptops and calculators. The goal is not only to meet physical needs but to build long-term resilience and opportunity through education.

Parker Street operates with a small but dedicated staff and a wide network of volunteers—including many former clients who now give back with gratitude.

The Seventh-day Adventist community has long supported Parker Street through volunteering, donations, and seasonal drives. This support has, however, faded over the years hence local churches are encouraged to deepen this partnership—there's always room to serve.

Jesus said in *Matthew 25:40*, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me." At Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank, that mission is alive and well.



Learn more or get involved at www.parkerstreet.org.

#### Camp Meeting 2025

### Speakers

#### **Main Auditorium Speaker**

#### **Youth Tent Seminar Speaker**



**Dr. Stanley James,** MD, MDiv Physician, Assistant Pastor, Researcher in Faith, Health. and Wholeness.

Dr. Stanley James serves as the Assistant Pastor of the *Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist Church* in Bermuda and leads a medical practice specializing in lifestyle-based, whole-person care. With more than two decades of experience in both ministry and medicine, Dr. James is committed to restoring hope and health through the power of practical faith and compassionate science.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in

Biochemistry and Religion from *Oakwood College*, a Master of Divinity from *Andrews University*, and a Doctor of Medicine from *Loma Linda University*. He is currently completing his PhD at the *University of Aberdeen* in Scotland, where his research explores racial health disparities, spiritual identity, and the healing of ontological trauma—especially among marginalized communities.

Dr. James has shared Christ-centered messages across the Caribbean, North and South America, and Africa. Whether in a pulpit, clinic, classroom, or community, he seeks to make faith real, relevant, and redemptive.

His life's work is fueled by a deep conviction that the transforming power of God's grace prepares hearts for healing now—and for the soon return of Christ. In a world searching for wholeness, Dr. James stands as a voice reminding us that true restoration is found in Christ alone.



#### **Wedson Devil**

Pastor of LaSalle New Life & Mount Moriah SDA Church

Wedson, a child of Canada, has lived in Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario. He has been married for 20 years to his first and only love, Biztha Rancy, and together they are the proud parents of two sons: Diamond and Jayden.

After working in the banking sector, he responded to God's call and earned his degree from *Burman University*. He served as the district pastor in Terrace, British Columbia, and later became the senior

pastor of the Westminster Seventh-day Adventist Church. Today, he serves as the senior pastor of LaSalle New Life and Mount Moriah churches within the Quebec Conference.

His ministry is inspired by Christ's model of leadership: identifying with those he serves, living out the biblical message, and relying on the Scriptures. Known for his warmth and genuine hospitality, he loves building bridges between generations and sharing Jesus with passion and authenticity.

#### CAMP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: DR. JEFFREY BROWN



The Maritime Conference is looking forward to having Dr. Stanley James as our main speaker for Camp Meeting this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances Dr. Jeffrey Brown will not be attending our 2025 Camp Meeting. However, we are in discussions with him for potential dates in the future.

Administration



MARITIME CONFERENCE