

Through it All!

The Maritime Conference Welcomes a New Church into It's Sisterhood of Churches!



MARITIME CONFERENCE
SPOTLIGHT
MARCH EDITION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Burman University Announcement	03
Through It All	05
Prayershop 2024 Announcement	08
Health Retreat 2024 Announcement	08
We Will Miss You Guy !	09
Unto the Least of These My Brethren	10
World Adventurer Day Announcement	12
Maritime Conference Camporee 2024 Announcement	13
Reach the World Next Door	14
Health Emphasis Day Announcement	15
Café Caye Mangé	17
Maritime Conference Business Directory	18



Bring a new student to Burman and receive \$1,000 for your church budget!

Hello! Burman University is excited to share a new collaborative opportunity for all Seventh-day Adventist churches across Canada.

Do you want to contribute to the development of Seventh-day Adventist education by shaping the educational future of our children while also supporting your church's budget?

Follow these simple steps!

- Register your church for the program.
- Submit the names of potential new students to Burman.
- Motivate these students to study at Burman University.
- Earn \$1,000 for each student who enrolls at Burman University.

Conditions of the Program:

- The student must take at least 12 credits (80% course load) in a bachelor's degree or the 2-year Education after-degree program.
- Incentives do not apply to students enrolling in online programs.
- There is no limit to the number of incentives a church can receive.

Additional details:

- **Register your church** here today to participate in the program. Based on the information provided, the BU promo box will be sent to your church. Burman's advisor will contact the church representative for more details.
- **Submit the names** of prospective students who will enter university in the 2024/25 academic year in the form provided.
- **You will receive confirmation** from Burman University that these students

are eligible. Churches will be eligible only for students not currently in Burman's prospective student database.

- **Motivate** students to request info from the Burman website.
- **Receive** \$1,000 for your church budget after the eligible student has enrolled in their program.

Have more questions?

Please feel free to contact Mario Parchment at mario@burmanu.ca or call him at 587.438.9244. He'll be happy to assist you further.

Join the program today and let's work together to fulfill the mission that God has entrusted to us and contribute to a better future for our children!



"Woodside is a place that feels like a home away from home. Walking through the doors, the first time, you feel the warm embrace..."

Through It All

On Sabbath, March 23, 2024, the Maritime Conference had the privilege of welcoming the Acts Seventh-day Adventist Church into our fellowship of churches. It was held in the gymnasium of Sandy Lake Academy in Bedford, Nova Scotia to accommodate the growing numbers attending their inauguration service. The theme for the day was *Through It All*, reflecting on God's goodness and His sustaining presence being with them as they grew from a small number of believers to the church they are today.

They started out as *the Shiloh Group* on February 07, 2015, with approximately fifteen people attending their services. They rented the neighbourhood community centre, and every Sabbath, they would have to set up and tear down their equipment before and after their services. Within several years, their numbers started to grow, and they moved their congregation to a bigger location in Dartmouth, where they are currently worshipping.

From the beginning they encountered various challenges. One of those challenges was watching their congregation dwindle down to only the six people that started the group but fortunately they kept the vision alive. Under these circumstances they had a difficult decision to make. Should they close their doors, or move forward with God's vision for Shiloh? God impressed upon them to keep moving forward with the vision they were given. They held on to the promises of God, knowing that it was His plan to have small churches all over their community. Believing that they were missionaries and desiring to spread the gospel, they trusted that He would send the help they needed. Pastor Gary Belhomme declared, "We decided to fast and pray."

As a result, God started to work. He multiplied their small group of six people to a congregation that is now struggling to find room to fit inside the building where they are presently worshipping. They currently have





33 members, not including the many children that attend, and three people who are currently waiting on their transfers. They are looking for a new building to accommodate their growing numbers. This is a blessing because Elder Duaine Stewart said, as he reflected on the past when they were only six people, “At the initial stage, it was difficult in the sense that I didn’t have many people to call upon to do stuff. Especially when it came to preaching. I didn’t like to preach to the same congregation too often, and I found myself having to be doing that. Going against what I would rather do.”

“But, you know, pastor said to me one day, ‘You know what? If you have to do it, you have to do it’ and I prayed, and I asked God. I

remember there was a sister who was visiting from the Caribbean, and she prayed, saying, “God, I’m asking you to send some help. Send some men so that this brother can get a little break...” Then, brother Ruel Willoughby came on the scene...and then I saw Dwayne Goodhall in the supermarket...” They started to visit the group and started to help out. “... I say praise be to God because I don’t have to do much anymore. I can just sit and allow the program to flow, and I just give God thanks.”

On May 18, 2017, *the Shiloh Group* officially became a company with Paul Lewellyn officiating the service. Nine days later on May 27, 2017, at a business meeting, the group officially changed its name and have been known since as *the Woodside Company*.

Towards the fall of 2023 Woodside made an application to be recognized as a church and after carefully reviewing the documents that supported them to be moved from a company to a church, the Maritime Conference Board of Directors voted to approve the application.

“Woodside is a small church, but we have big love...” says sister Shaunette Bucknor when asked the question, ‘What is so special about Woodside and why are people drawn to it?’ “As soon as anyone comes through our doors, they will feel a sense of warmth. Our visitors will tell us after sitting in our congregation for one day...how warm the service is, how welcoming we are. We go the extra mile to make sure that our visiting friends, regular visitors and even our members...are seen. We



Submitted by

Ron Marshall

*Executive Secretary
of the Maritime Conference*

go the extra mile to make sure that they are comforted when they come to us. They never leave here without feeling the love, feeling the warmth that we exude.”

Sister Felicia Cherenfant added, “Woodside is a place that feels like a home away from home. Walking through the doors, the first time, you feel the warm embrace... the welcome feeling...the opportunity where everyone is able to display the talents that God has graced them with. When you come to Woodside, you are not going to be a bench warmer. You have people who will definitely try to pull what God has given to you, out of you, so that you can continue to minister to the ones who are here and when we go our separate ways. I love coming here and my kids are excited to come to Woodside...we feel refilled.”

When asked the question, ‘*What is next for Woodside?*’ Elder Duaine responded, “I think we just need to continue with what we have been doing. For me, I summarize it in this way, WWF. The first ‘W’ is for *worship*. Worship means a lot for us at Woodside. The second ‘W’ stands for *witnessing*. We try to reach out as best as possible. The ‘F’ stands for *fellowship*. I think fellowship keeps us together. We look out for each other, not only when we see each other on Sabbath but throughout the week. We have our annual sports day. We have lots of get-togethers and all of that. If we continue in this vein, it can only get better. Because if you worship and you witness and you have love for one another, then others will join, and it will just grow beyond what you will even expect.”

Along with becoming a new church they also changed their name to Acts Seventh-day Adventist Church. At the inauguration, Elder David Miller preached a stirring sermon on the Great Commission, which can be found in *Matthew 28:18-20*. His sermon was entitled, “*I Will Go*”. He emphasized the importance of prayer and prophecy as well as evangelism, challenging the newly formed church to ‘go’ and to do God’s will, being a witness to those who are around them. We at *the Maritime Conference* sincerely wish God’s blessing upon our new church’s congregation, and our prayer is that this new birth will result one day into another birth of another church in the future.

Save the Date:

PrayerShop 2024



When: June 14-16

Where: Pugwash

Theme: Lord Teach us to Pray

Including: Be Still and Know, and Am I Missing Something?

Plan to come spend the weekend in prayer and fellowship with us at Pugwash! More info and registration coming soon.

ROOTED IN WELLNESS RETREAT

6-9 JUNE 2024

REVIVE *Your* HEALTH

INVITE YOUR
NEIGHBOURS

CAMP
PUGWASH



Hands-on
Massage

Cooking
Workshops

Health Talks

Hydrotherapy
Techniques

Natural
Remedies

Tranquil Walks

**100 SPOTS
ONLY**

Prices include a cabin, meals, and workshop supplies:

Until May 14th:

Per person: \$150

Couples: \$250

Family: \$350 (Please specify the number of family members)

After May 14th:

Per person: \$200

Couples: \$300

Family: \$400 (Please specify the number of family members)

Day passes (Includes lunch and classes):

Per person: \$25

To register, please contact catherine.walsh@maritimesda.com

PASTOR GUY LACOURSE ANSWERS A CALL TO GO TO QUEBEC

We are saddened to learn that Pastor Lacourse will be leaving the Maritime Conference to pursue his ministry in Quebec. Pastor Guy was the first pastor of the Bouctouche Company, he also had the Miramichi church and oversaw evangelism efforts in the French-speaking sector. He joined our Conference in 2016 and quickly took over the reins of the French Ministries. In Quebec, he will have four churches in French-speaking areas and will also be busy evangelizing through Adventist media. We wish him much success in his service to our Lord. We look forward to seeing him again at our Camp Meeting!

Submitted by

Administration
of the Maritime Conference





UNTO THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN

Recently I had one of those rare moments in life where I got a small glimpse of how a different group of people live. They are a group of people that most of us try to avoid and ignore; they are the less fortunate that do not have a place to lay their heads and who call the streets their home.

As a result of some left-over money from our 2023 ADRA project aimed at helping our local food bank, our Dieppe Church had an opportunity to do something that I've always thought of but never undertaken. We decided to use the left over ADRA funds to help reach

one of the fastest growing groups in our cities today. Yes, you guessed it; one of the fastest growing groups in our society today are the homeless. Due to the soaring costs of living and other growing factors like the breakdown of the family and addiction to pharmaceutical drugs, etc. many have found themselves living on the streets.

We are all aware of their presence; they can be seen everywhere nowadays. Some wait at busy intersections with their coffee cups held out, some stand or sit in front of the grocery store, as we enter, hoping for a merciful donation, others can be seen busily wheeling around all their possessions in shopping carts.

Let's face it, as their numbers soar, we are

encountering them in more and more places. So, what are we doing about it, and are we trying to reach them? Well, if we are honest with ourselves, we would admit that the timing of most of our encounters with them aren't convenient ones. We are simply too rushed living our sheltered lives. Yes, many of us would like to help, but we are afraid and feel that we are not educated enough in this department. So how do we go about trying to reach these poor souls and offer them a helping hand?

Personally, I started researching on-line the do's and don't's, and I learned a wealth of information that I would never have been able to come by on my own.

Then I went about trying to locate them in my city. I looked on the internet and wrote down the addresses of the local homeless shelters, thrift stores, and soup kitchens. Working for Canada Post I even asked the ones walking the streets every day where the best place to have an encounter would be.

I shared this info with my little group of volunteers at church, and it was decided that it would be best if we went out individually. I would be lying if I didn't admit I felt a bit out of my comfort zone, but I truly believed that God would see me through.

When the day finally came for me to hit the streets I prayed earnestly for God's guidance. I didn't just want to get the job done. No, I wanted divine encounters that would lead souls closer to Christ. So, I put on my old jacket, filled a shopping bag with new pairs of socks that I had purchased the night before and enough copies of the book "Steps to Christ" that I could hand out as I went. I also filled my pocket with \$10 gift cards for Walmart. I drove to an area that had a soup kitchen and I parked. After a quick prayer, with my heart racing, I exited the vehicle and walked over to a group of people sitting on the front steps of an old building.

I awkwardly asked them how they were doing, introduced myself, asked their names and shook their hands. Once I had their attention I

asked if any of them could use a new pair of warm socks. All enthusiastically said yes and each took a pair. I asked them where they were staying and they pointed to a local shelter. One asked me if I was staying there as well, I guess the old coat I was wearing made me fit right in. I then asked them to tell me a little bit about themselves and how they found themselves in their current situations. They were very open with sharing and appreciative that someone was taking interest in them.

Their stories made me realize that these folks did not plan to be living on the streets. No, they were there because of a bad chain of events that any of us could live through. One went through a bad divorce, lost his job and then lost his house. Another elderly lady said her husband passed away and that she fell on hard times. Another man probably in his thirties came to join us and said that he was from West Kelowna, moved here with his construction job and moved in with a lady that was addicted to drugs. He said he stayed away from them at first but gave in and he lost everything to feed his addiction. He is in the process of trying to clean up his life. The senior woman said that she had a daughter and grandchild somewhere but did not want to contact her for help because she didn't want her daughter to see her the way that she is now.

I then asked them if they believed in God and got an enthusiastic Yes! They started to give me testimonies on how God spared their lives. I asked them if they wanted a book that would lead them closer to Jesus and they each took a copy of Steps to Christ. A person that was not apart of our little group came asking if he could receive a book as well.

I then asked them if they ever went to Walmart, and gave them each a \$10 gift card. One of the members of this group put out his hand to take the gift card and I gasped looking at the condition of his hand. He had lost the end of his thumb to frostbite; he had dark speckles on his fingers and some of his fingers had really deep cracks that looked like they went through all the layers of skin. I told him that that must be horribly painful and gave him an extra gift card to go buy himself some bandages.

I felt very accepted with these people but decided to move on after a while. The elderly woman told me in leaving that I was a messenger from God to them! I told them I would be praying for them and I pleaded with the elderly lady to contact her daughter so that she could help her out.

I met with several others that day, who were also stuck in very difficult situations. Most of

them were not as open to accept a book about Christ but I offered them the socks and the gift cards anyways. One even added God bless after!

As I drove off that afternoon, I felt that my heart had been strangely warmed by my encounters. The hustle and bustle of all the people around me, the big expensive vehicles, the latest fashions, etc. had lost their luster in my eyes. For a moment I allowed myself to be taken to another world that was not so empty and materialistic.

As I pondered on my experience and how I was able to reach some for Christ by dressing and talking like them, I thought about how Christ had left His celestial home of glory and left off His crown and the homage of the unfallen angels to become one of His fallen created beings. He dressed like us, lived like us, all to reach us. What a glorious God we serve!

I strongly encourage each of you to reach out a helping hand to the needy near you! In the end you will be surprised to find out that *you* will be the one that was most blessed!

God bless!

Submitted by

Paul Walker

Église Adventiste du Septième Jour de Dieppe



MARITIME CONFERENCE CAMPOREE



FREEDOM OF CHOICE

MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2024

Camp Pugwash, Nova Scotia



REACH THE WORLD NEXT DOOR

TRAIN FOR MISSIONS BY DOING MISSIONS

Would you like 6 hours of mentoring for cross-cultural and refugee ministry? I am looking for a group of people who would like to be equipped in the Level 1 training of **Reach the World Next Door**.

I will open a training by Zoom on four Thursday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. Central Time.

April 11: "Befriending the Unreached Next Door."

April 18: "Enjoying and Navigating Cultural Diversity."

May 2: "Coming Close to the Heart of Refugees"

May 9: "Tangibly Helping New Arrivals."

Think about it while you check out our short summary of lesson 1, [Befriend the Unreached Next Door](#).

[Explore all four topics and training options.](#)

The cost of the course is \$50USD which simply goes to pay for the three books and access to all video materials.

[\(Order here after registering with us\).](#)

Each class has an assignment, so you need to consider carefully if you have the additional time of 1 hour a week for homework and 1 hour for outreach.

Apply by April 1. [Register now.](#)

We are praying for God to put together His team for this time. Please pray and consider what He wants you to do at this moment for those who have newly arrived from unreached countries.

For His Joy at the Soon Coming of Jesus!
Pastor Scott Griswold

Submitted by

Cheryl Hamilton

Compassion Ministries Director

ADRA Liaison

Joy through Grief

Maritime Health Day 2024

We've all experienced varying degrees of suffering. We've all wept tears that seemed endless. We cry out, "Where are you, Lord? This pain is too much to bear. "We feel our cries are not heard.

Grief tends to destroy vital forces. Sadness weakens circulation. Grief cannot remedy a single ailment.

We live in a world of suffering. Difficulties, trials, and sorrows await us along the way to our heavenly home.

Jesus knows that this life will have its ups and downs, which is why he asks us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

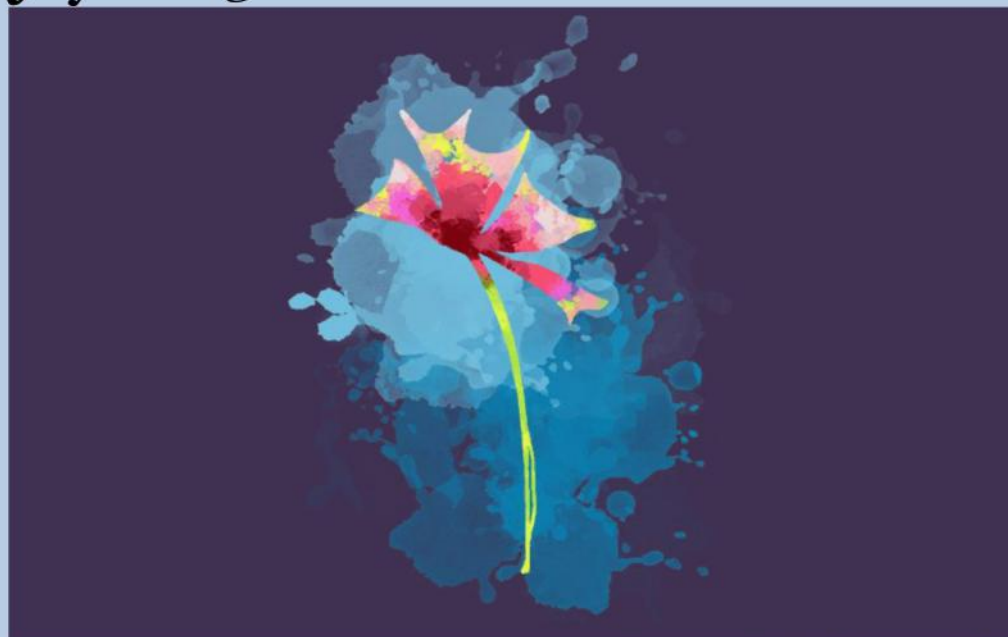
Jesus is there for us, are we there for each other?

Four things we can do when we know someone is grieving: 1. We can be present, letting them know we're there for them. 2. We can do small things like prepare a meal, do the laundry. 3. Offer hope. Acknowledge that their pain is real and encourage them to believe that things will get better, and 4. just listen.

Visit North American Division (NAD) or Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) for more information on supporting yourself or someone you know who is grieving.

Never forget what Psalm 30:5 says that weeping may last a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Joy through Grief



Maritime Health Emphasis Day

Sabbath, March 30th, 2024.

**The road in this life can be a bumpy one.
Let us be there for one another.**

**“Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.”**

Romans 12:15

Maritime Health Ministries

MARCH 2024 | **MC Spotlight 15**



"Meatballs"
with
pasta

Café Caye Mangé

Have you heard about the Centers of Influence being built in other countries where missionaries are trying to reach the people? These centers are impacting people's lives by promoting good health and otherwise meeting needs of people in the community. Have you heard about one right here in Nova Scotia?

Café Caye Mange is a new vegan café in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. This is the project of Pamela Leonforde, a medical missionary from the island of Saint Lucia. Even before she opened the café, she had put on vegan dinners, gave lectures on food and nutrition and put on cooking schools.

Her goal is not to have a successful business, but to influence people in the community to better their lives through healthful living. She spent months getting the café ready. When I peeked in as things were progressing, I often looked through the window and saw her in her overalls painting or drywalling or decorating. Many people helped her including her husband Tyron and daughter Amelia, friend Andrea and other church members and new friends who were willing to put in some time and energy. Sitting in her café is a relaxing experience with a beautiful decor influenced by her native country of Saint Lucia.

Pamela will take the time to stop and talk to anyone. She met a man while walking on the

waterfront last year and as they talked, she shared what she wanted to do at the café. It turns out that his wife is editor of a magazine in British Columbia called NAHS (Nanaimo African Heritage Society) and she did a two-page full-colour spread in her magazine about Pamela's journey to a love for plant-based cuisine.

But the influence - where does that come in? Before opening, Pamela walked the streets of Yarmouth and stopped at many stores including those you might consider a competitor in the food business. But she made friends, got insights and shared her enthusiasm and delight in providing good food for Yarmouth country residents. So many people now know Pamela by sight and by name.

At her café you can get a meal of Pad Thai, Souvlaki Bowl, Cream Broccoli Spinach or Montreal Steak Calzones among other items. Or just stop in for a healthy dessert such as Cinnamon Rolls, Mini Banana Choco Chip Cupcakes, or Gluten free, Oil Free, Chocolate Brownies all of which that are a delight to look at as well as to taste. Of course, with that you might like Cocoa or one of a Range of Saint Lucian Organic Tea which are also for sale in the café. Her menus vary from day to day, but you can always find something that will delight your appetite.

The Café is closed on weekends and some people were inquiring why she would not stay

open during those days? On Facebook Pamela explains: "Many have been enquiring about our closure on the weekend, so we need to let you know that we are Sabbath Keepers. That means we observe the Friday Sundown to Saturday Sundown Sabbath Celebration and will be closed these times." Since then, people have been saying that they respect her Sabbath keeping and are asking further questions about the Sabbath.

Now Pamela is taking one more step as she implements a Pay It Forward program. Anyone may donate the price of a meal and that meal will be given to anyone who needs it. This is being started with ADRA funds, but Pamela is confident that the community will rally around the idea. She also intends to place some ready-to-eat meals in the local Free Pantry which she is allowed to do because she has a commercial kitchen.

There is so much more to Pam's café (as we call it) and you can find her on her Facebook page under Café Caye Mangé. Pamela is putting her trust in God that He will use her and her helpers as a good influence in this community.

Submitted by

Bonnie Parsons

Digby Seventh-day Adventist Church

Café Caye Mangé is an independently owned business.



ATTENTION ALL ADVENTIST BUSINESS OWNERS!

We are currently working on formulating a **Business Directory for the Maritime Conference**. If you are interested in sending your business information to us to have your business publicized in our directory, please send your information to ron.marshall@maritimesda.com. We want to support you in whatever capacity that we are able to.

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 to the MC Spotlight to ron.marshall@maritimesda.com before the 15th of each month (except for July & December, it will be on the 03rd)

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





Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church

MARITIME CONFERENCE