



Maritime Conference

SPOTLIGHT

Vestiaire Dorcas

August 2024 Edition

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In partnership with Wasoqopa'q First Nation

Free Pantry

AOK
ACTS OF KINDNESS

take what you **NEED**
leave what you **CAN**





Vestiaire Dorcas

I just want to share with you some of the activities that have been happening at the Bouctouche Seventh-day Adventist Company. We started a little community center that is called the Vestiaire Dorcas. We meet every Thursday from 10am-2pm and sometimes even later. We have a drop box in front of the church and people in our community bring clothing, household items and once in a while they even donated furniture. Then, we ask around searching if there is anyone who has a need for such items. It is all by word of mouth and people come and they are very happy.

We have our regulars that come every week for their hugs and love, some of them share with us their concerns and their joy. We are blessed that the Lord provided this place for us. Vestiaire Dorcas operates from the basement level of our church. We also give out our books and bibles. God is truly blessing this place. We get to listen to people who come to us and we pray with those who are hurting, and God is blessing this ministry. They are very happy to have such a place as this. They are happy to leave with someone saying to them, “Don’t

forget Jesus loves you, and we do too,” or, “God bless your day” or, “God is good, all the time!”

During the holidays, we had gathered about 17 boxes of food for families that were in need. They were happy and felt that we really cared for and loved them. There is no charge for the clothes and everything else that we give out. Word is spreading around about us in the communities all around Bouctouche. We have many newcomers that come to us also...anybody who is in need.

A miracle happened on January 22, 2024. The building next door to us caught on fire. There was a Dixie Lee restaurant and a flower shop, and everything burned down to the ground. We had many firemen from all around, even coming from Moncton. Our building was just a driveway away from the building that was on fire, and it was spared. We were fortunate because the wind had shifted the other way, and the smoke went the other way. We were able to have bible study in our building the next day, which was Tuesday. The tenants of the building that was burnt down were all saved, but they all lost their belongings. However,



God is good because He spared their lives. The restaurant on the other side is still closed due to the smell of the smoke, but our community center was not affected at all.

In total we are four volunteers, Rose Marie Cormier, Denise Desjardin, Lynn and Lucille. We work very well together in unity and love. Starting January 31, 2024, Denise will be doing a four week cooking class. We will meet every 2 weeks. We are inviting people from the Vestiaire Dorcas to come. Katherine Walsh had come in the Fall of 2023 to do some presentations on health, and we had 15 people present.

To sum things up, at the Vestiaire Dorcas people get free clothing, household items, free prayer and they get to share their experience. They receive strength and hope, free books and bibles, free hugs of course (hugs not drugs). Hugs and the love of Jesus is medicine to the heart. Most of all people receive free blessings from the Lord...thank you Jesus!

Submitted by

Bouctouche

Seventh-day Adventist Company



Sandy Lake Academy

Sandy Lake Academy ended its year on a high note. One point of interest is the number of students who opted to do Bible studies on their own. One such student was Mia Du Plessis. She had done Kids' Zone last year and was instrumental in getting other students at the school to participate. Ms. Luttrell would have about seven students drop in at random times during the year with their lessons. It was a welcomed interruption from her duties to accept their lessons and give them their next lesson. If time permitted Ms. Luttrell went over their answers while they were present. Students were encouraged to finish by the end of the year so they could "graduate" in front of their peers at chapel where they would get a certificate and bag of books by our Adventist authors. Four students were diligent to get their lessons done by the last chapel of the year. Mia finished the Amazing Facts'

Bible lessons entitled *"Amazing Adventure: A Journey for Life with Jesus"*. Aaron Mathew, Hannah Mathew, and Morayooluwa Bode-Owolabi were presented their certificates of completion with Kids' Zone. The other students were encouraged to finish over the summer or wait until the new school term to complete their lessons.

Ms. Luttrell encourages all churches to consider having Bible lessons for their young ones. Children at this age love to read, to receive gifts, and enjoy puzzles and games that are incorporated in these lessons. The children come regularly with their lessons, with minimal reminders, with happy countenances! Why not give it a try in your church?

Submitted by

Shirleen Luttrell

Sandy Lake Academy



ADRA Project-Free Pantry

Yarmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church

This spring the *Yarmouth Church* requested funds from *ADRA* to build a the pantries. *Free Pantry* for the town. *Acts of Kindness* had already had one built in the south end of town and we thought it would be good to add another one. The idea of the pantries is that anyone who wants to can donate food to the pantries and anyone who needs food can take what they need from them. These two pantries both have a refrigerator in them so that they can be stocked with perishable food items.

Jerry Muisse built the pantry for us and did a very professional job. Nathan Hamilton and other church members moved the large pantry to the spot that *Acts of Kindness* had arranged for it. The *Acadia First Nations* gave permission to put it on the reserve property where they allowed it to be hooked up to their electricity source. It is on a main road and anyone who wants to can “take what you *NEED*, leave what you *CAN*”. We are pleased to be able to work with the band and AoK to benefit the people in the town who need help.

Since it was put on site, we have used *ADRA* funds to keep putting in healthy food items and others have been donating to it as well. The food does not stay there long because many people are in need. We anticipate that in the fall many people will donate fresh produce from their gardens.

Acts of Kindness is instrumental in getting many other smaller pantries built (without a refrigerator and a quarter of the size) throughout the county. The last number that I heard was 12 with plans to have at least 6 more! Some of these are in front of churches who help to maintain

I would suggest that other churches consider making use of *ADRA* funds to build such a pantry in their community. It doesn't have to be large and could be a big help to those who need food. The *ADRA* logo is on one end and the *Yarmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church* logo is on the other side. This lets the community know that we care enough to help.

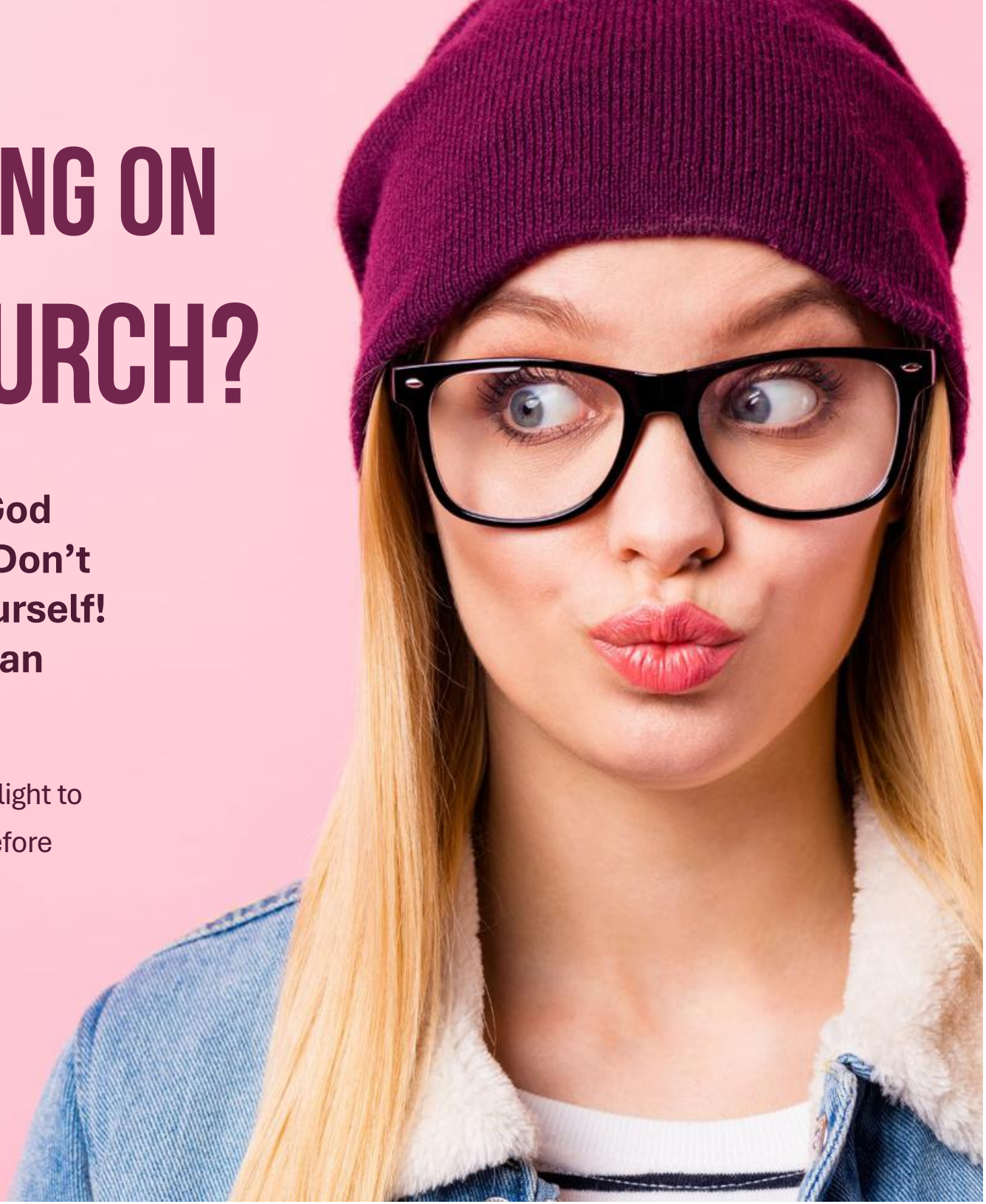
Submitted by
Bonnie Parsons
Yarmouth Seventh-day Adventist Church

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





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.



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Saying Good-bye to Noreen!

Dear Maritime SDA Conference, Churches, and Members,

My heart is filled with gratitude and fond memories as I say goodbye to this wonderful Conference. The reason for my departure is a happy one. As some of you know, I recently got married and am now starting a new chapter of my life with my husband in Kentucky, USA. While I may not be there in person, please know that you all hold a special place in my heart and prayers.

The *Maritime Seventh-day Adventist Conference* was the first to give me the chance to minister as a pastor. I got to serve the *Bathurst Company*, whose love for their community and desire for unity, despite the church's language barrier (a reflection of the city's diversity), was truly inspiring. I not only pastored the church, but also had the chance to speak at the *Halifax SDA Church* and *Sandy Lake Academy*. Working with all of you this past year has been an enriching experience that I will always cherish.

To my specific church, thank you for welcoming me with open arms and making me feel like part of your family. Your support, kindness, and unwavering faith have been a source of inspiration and strength. I am immensely grateful for the friendships formed, the lessons learned, and the love shared. May God continue to bless and guide each of you in your endeavors.

With heartfelt appreciation and warmest regards,

Pastor Noreen Geffrard
Former Pastor of the Bathurst SDA Company

We Will Miss You!

On behalf of the Administration, we would like to express our appreciation for Pastor Noreen Geffrard and her faithful service as she worked at the *Maritime Conference*. We appreciate her hard work ministering to the *Bathurst Company* as well as to the *French Division* of our 2024 Camp Meeting. We pray for God's blessings upon this new chapter of her life, that He will do even greater things through herself as well as her husband Pastor Paul Geffrard as she joins him to live in Kentucky, USA.

Administration



PRAYERSHOP 2024

What do you expect when you think about a prayer weekend? If you've never been to PrayerShop, I can tell you that it isn't what you'd expect!

It is a weekend of connecting, with God and His children. Yes, we spend time praying, but we also spend time listening and letting God talk to us. We spend a lot of time sharing what He's taught us, and not a lot of time listening to preaching.

This year we also had a group study time which was something new ... but not the kind of study time where someone tells you what the Bible is saying ... more like everyone looking into God's word on their chosen topic and then sharing in their small group what God taught them!

We love to praise God with singing, and this year we had some spontaneous volunteers do special music, too. We meet in the Prayer Chapel every morning from 6-7 am for prayer and praise with those who like to rise early. We always finish off the weekend with a book draw, and this year's highly recommended books were:

- *One Miracle After Another* - by Pavel Goia
- *Closing Prayers* - by Randy Maxwell
- *God's Love Affair with the Guilty* - by Bill Lehman
- *Escape to God* - by Jim Hohnberger
- *God Still Lives* - by Don MacLafferty
- *God Guides* - by Mary Geegh

When we survey our attendees as to their favourite part, the majority vote was for God and Me time where we send them out to listen to God speak to them in nature, as well as time to share with each other. Another favourite is our Holy Spirit time when we pray in small groups

for people and situations that are on our hearts.

The physical food was excellent as it always is with Beverly McGrath and her team, and we appreciate all her/their hard work for us. Our other volunteers were Andy Smith who looked after all the AV, and Kevin McGrath who rang the bell. We couldn't do it without them!

I also want to thank my *Prayer Team* again. The planning that goes into a weekend like this is more than I could ever do alone, so I'm extremely grateful for each of them and all their willing help: Leta Dukeshire, Wilma O'Dell, Claudine Belhomme, Nicole Thorsteinsen, Vange Hubley, and Ben Zebeljan.

May God bless you all, and I can't wait to see what He gives us for next year!

Submitted by

Erna McCann

Prayer Ministries Director of the Maritime Conference



ADRA is Hiring!

We are excited to share some fantastic career opportunities at *ADRA Canada* . These opportunities will remain open until filled. While we appreciate every application, please note that only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

Thank you for your support in helping us find dedicated individuals who are eager to make a difference.

For More Information go to this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/adra/accounting-assistant-job-posting-1017594?e=face8112f3>

Be Still AND KNOW...

WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT 2024

👉 SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024

CAMP PUGWASH

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DEEANN BRAGAW



Registration Fees & Deadlines

Early Bird: \$125 by August 26, 2024

Late Registration: \$150 after August 26

Deadline: Monday September 9, 2024

Payments

E-transfer to:

treasury@maritimesda.com

or

Make payments in **cheque or in cash** at
the Maritime Conference office





Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church

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