



# FEBRUARY 2024

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## From the desk of the DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



*In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: (Ezra 1:1).*

When Cyrus first began his reign, the refugee Israelites had not heard from God for 70 years. Then God spoke to Cyrus, the nation's leader! Read the second half of the verse again ... *"the Lord moved (emphasis mine) the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing"*.

The following verses show an incredible act of God as neighbours from Babylon gave up treasures and riches for the Israelites so they could rebuild their temple. God was on the move. I want to encourage you today. God is in your city/town, and He is moving! Do you believe that? I do! Each day of our 2024 Pastors Prayer Retreat, our leaders were reminded to ask the question when we enter a space, **What is God doing here? What is God doing in and amongst us?**

Canada West District Vision Statement: **Here on Earth, as it is in Heaven**

We see a movement of churches who are change agents with their neighbours creating thriving communities through partnerships that result in vibrancy, support, innovation, and belonging.

Our district's vision statement sees a movement of churches who are change agents with their neighbours.

Alan Hirsch, author, and pastor, describes himself as a missionary to the West. In his book *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*, Hirsch proclaims,

"One of the most missional things that a church community could do is simply to get out of their buildings and go to where the people are--and be God's redeemed people in that place in a way that invites people into the equation!" (240) The journey itself is important; the risk and adventure is good for the soul. "We need to hit the road again. We are the people of the Way...." (241)\*

In this episode of the Loop, you will read of several churches on our district who are going where the people are. They are on the move – loving their neighbours by giving them a place to belong, finding support, building friendships. I am encouraged to see people moving into their neighbourhoods, bringing Jesus Incarnate by their very presence. I am encouraged as I hear stories of God's people listening – loving – serving – a community who may never enter our buildings. Go and Be!

Church, don't be a spectator. Ask God what He wants **YOU** to do to be part of the movement. Give yourself completely to the Lord to be used as He sees fit. If you are willing, He will use you to change your part of the world.

\* *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*  
By Alan Hirsch, Brazos Press, 2006, 295 pp., ISBN 978-1-58743-164-7

*Rose Brower-Young*

## THE BRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

You can have a lot of stuff, but **LOVE** is the greatest.



Pastor Noonan delivering forty plus Christmas International Children's Boxes (Franklin Graham's).



CWD missions' outreaches were prayed for daily with specific needs and with thankful hearts as to all our Church district carries out.



Our neighbourhood Prayer Teams of 2 continued weekly to pray over every home in our community. As we prayed, we left our door hanger and a list of Christmas events, inviting them to each.

## FILL THAT BUS

We are neighbours to a residential elementary school where most families attending are from less fortunate circumstances. We started collecting beautiful gently used items for the kids to come, choose a gift for their caregivers.

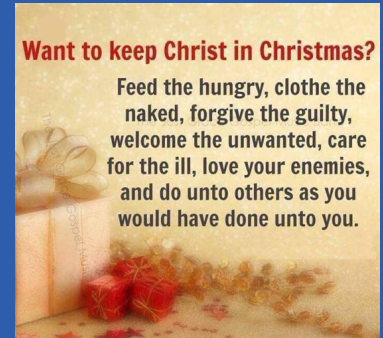
Fill that bus went to "Move that bus" under the leadership of Pastor Noonan as donations poured in went to the max. We filled a vestibule.





### SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOP

About 10 folks helped deliver those donated goods from our generous church family to the school for the school's Christmas Shop. We donated 3 plus utility bins full of gifts.



Our local Soup Kitchen outreach ministry happens quarterly. During December, 10 of our faithful volunteers went; prepped, cooked, served +100 adults that are hungry, homeless and hurting.

### OUTREACH MINISTRY - KIDS GIFTS

These are our awesome outreach ministry gals working with the elementary kids' gift choices. It was pure joy meeting, helping these plus 300 kids.

The Bridge Church family love to give and they love to serve. Here are some more of God's gals taking a shift in loving these kids. We loved, we cheered for, we wrapped the gifts. The 300+ elementary school kids over the 5 days got to know and love us back. Our leader Elaine took a week off from work. Others came each day, some kept coming back with more boxes, paper, bags, etc. What a great opp. God loves a cheerful giver!



This is our January outreach ministry. We call it "The Tree of Warmth". The Bridge Church family donated from December to January kids' gloves, socks, toques, socks, mittens, socks, hats and yes, they needed socks, so more socks. Maxine Cross is featured here helping with donations. You are never too old to be a part of God's will, ways and Word.



## WINNIPEG CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY OF SOUTHERN ASIA

The church exists to introduce people to Jesus, so we need to be out there in the community building relationships with them. Unless we go out and welcome them, they will not see a need to come into a church. We perform acts of outreach in order to minister to people with the Gospel. From ages, outreach has become a valuable channel by which evangelism and the Gospel message is passed.

One method of outreach that we have chosen to utilize to reach out to people in our community who do not know Jesus, is to invite them into our church and celebrate Christmas (on December 25th) with them. Most of the people we reach out to are from East Indian community (Punjabis and Hindus), who never would have stepped into a church nor heard that Christmas is about Jesus. Each year we see over 50% new people. Our Christian Assembly of Southern Asia (CASA) group is small, and we have limited resources, yet every year during Christmas Jesus shows up and miraculously provides and blesses our efforts to do this outreach.

We are a PAC (Parent Affiliated Church) with River of Life Church of Nazarene in Winnipeg and have been doing this outreach through Christmas in Winnipeg as well as day camps at Lakeshore Bible camp for over 8 years. We encourage all our members to develop new relationships with their neighbors to invite them to our day camps and Christmas. Our group is quite small (between 35 to 40) and is growing and we see God's hand in unexpected ways such as by providing us with good musicians to sing Christmas carols in 7 Indian languages, and people with various abilities to help us to cook and serve, a delicious Indian spicy meal for all the attendees.

This past Christmas (2023), we were able to reach out to more than 300 people in this one event alone. We begin with singing Christmas carols in various Indian languages and then present the Gospel and explain that the central figure in Christmas is Jesus through a short message, followed by dinner.





Most of the people who come are thrilled to be invited into the church and tell us that they did not know anything about Jesus. Some of them told us that they believe Jesus is a living God! This year we had about 30 new international students who had just arrived in Winnipeg a few months back, attended our Christmas service. We were surprised to see the main Hindu temple priest with his family attending the event and appreciating the new information about Jesus Christ he heard for the first time. We heard great testimonies from people who came, that they were filled with peace when they entered the Church, some people send their prayer requests.

We thank God for using our small group of faithful people to reach out to so many people and pray that the Lord will work in their lives and the Holy Spirit will convict and convince them to follow Jesus.

By David and Grace Prathipati



David & Grace Prathipati celebrated their 35th Wedding anniversary Jan 2nd.

## LOUISE STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH

On January 15, DS Rose Brower-Young met with Rev. Deb Tanasiecuk and the board of Saskatoon's Louise Street Community Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Deb has been interim pastor for about 18 months. The decision of the board was unanimous to continue the pastoral relationship and Pastor Deb has been appointed to serve as senior pastor, effective February 1, 2024. Congratulations, Pastor Deb and Don Tanasiecuk!

Louise Street church has been supportive of the youth group, started by their local members, which is now bringing up to 50 teens together every month. The church continues to serve other ministries within the church building and is discovering how to support the needs of community members outside the church.



# KINGDOM ADVANCE KORNER

## SKYVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are engaging non-Christian couples through the Marriage Course which is designed to appeal to non-religious persons but is firmly rooted in Christian perspectives derived from biblical principles. The course itself is aimed at marriage enrichment but the opportunity to develop relationships with these couples is being realized as all couples share in a meal together prior to the start of the course.

On Sunday November 5th our youth pastor baptized Wesley, an 11 year old who was inspired to take this step of faith following a previous baptism service in which he witnessed the testimony of other young people and decided to commit his life fully to Christ and to be baptized.

The location of our church adjacent to a recycling depot results in foot traffic through our property that leads to regular encounters with the homeless and people in need of food and everyday necessities. Where permitted, our staff take time to pray and encourage these folks as well as provide them with food and supplies provided by our congregation.

## HOPE POINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH

We have prayed for many years to have meaningful contact with the local college community but with no breakthroughs. Then, as with most college towns across Canada, over 400 international students arrived for the 2023-2024 school year. Getting to know just a few of these folks has been a great blessing to the Hope Pointe congregation.

Housing shortages, job hunting and getting accustomed to the Central Alberta Canadian culture have all been challenges the students face but their tenacity, diligence to their school work and their positive outlook have been inspiring to us.

On the Friday before Labour Day the pastor received a call from a young Nigerian man who desperately needed a place to stay as classes were scheduled for the following Tuesday. A retired woman in our congregation rose to that need and David stayed with her for 6 weeks until a room became available at the College dorm. Their friendship continues to this day as you can see from the picture of January 6th Christmas/Epiphany party.

Our Coats for Everyone ministry that we have engaged in for 16 years was the next entry point for many college students. The number of households served rose from an average of 150/year to over 300 and counting. Realizing the need for warm clothing for non-dormitory students (Olds has no transit service), we partnered with the Town of Olds and the local RCMP community officer to host and participate in a Winter Readiness workshop. Over 40 students attended as did other newcomers to Olds to learn about how to stay safe and healthy throughout our Canadian winters. The pictures tell the story.

Then we launched a Boots Buddy service where our folks could ensure a student or two had warm winter boots and begin friendship(s). Following up on that we partnered with the College in a Home for the Holidays initiative as, unlike Canadian students, the internationals would be remaining in Olds for the 4 week-break and food services would be closed for the dormitory residents. Several of our congregants participated in opening their homes to welcome students from India, Guinea and Jamaica. On Christmas Eve we had 14 students and their families from 4 nations attend our Candlelight service. One young father from China asked if we "celebrated this festival every year" as he had never heard the Christmas story before.



*(Hope Pointe Community Church continued)*

During the recent extremely cold weather, three of us transported students to and from classes and deepened our circle of new friends. Another attendee is housing two Indian students who are completing Hospitality practicums at local restaurants as they are not allowed to stay in their college dorms during that phase of their studies.

I hosted the College's International Student Co-ordinator and her young daughter and together we're planning a series of community dinners held at Hope Pointe for a modest charge. A national group of students will cook dinner (with us as their helpers/providers of the food), teach us a song or game and share their stories and their hopes and dreams after their education is complete. These dinners are open to the community and, when we have held them in the past, they have increased the circle of support from Olds residents outside our congregation - and made our community a more welcoming place for all.

Our first community dinner is February 24 and will be hosted by the Nigerian students, followed by an authentic Chinese dinner in March and finishing the year with an Indian feast in April.

What a privilege to connect with people from around the globe and learn from them. NOTE: One student is in year one of his heavy duty mechanics course and needs a summer practicum. If you know of any openings, please contact Pastor Darlene at **403 559 4320**.



January 6th Christmas/Epiphany party



# EVENTS

## REACHING OUT SEMINAR with Rev. Mark Bane

When: **March 22-23, 2024**

Time: Friday 10AM - 8PM, Saturday 10AM-4PM

Where: FCJ Centre, Calgary (<https://www.fcjcentre.ca/>)

Cost: **\$60/night** per person for shared accommodation,  
**\$110/night** per person for private accommodation. ***If you don't need accomodation you can attend at no cost. You still need to register.***

Meals Provided: Friday Lunch & Supper, Saturday Breakfast & Lunch, as well as snacks & beverages

Link to Register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReachingOutSeminar>

## At the table: FROM DIVERSITY TO BELONGING

When: **February 12 - March 4**

Time: Mondays @ 6pm (CST)

Where: Zoom (Virtual)

Cost: **\$50**



This webinar is offered in partnership with the NOW Movement for clergy and laity to discuss moving as a church from diversity to belonging. It will focus on racial justice and reconciliation.

The NOW Movement is a grassroots, coordinated effort of Nazarenes in USA and Canada who are emboldened by the Spirit to pursue justice NOW.

The **\$50** registration gives you access to all 4 sessions as well as a copy of Multiethnic Conversations: An Eight-Week Journey toward Unity in Your Church by Mark DeYmaz and Oneya Fennell Okuwobi which will be mailed to you.

**REGISTER HERE**

## Fresh Expressions/Creating a culture of calling

This seminar is a continuation of the teachings at Alberta Family Camp morning sessions last summer, 2023, with Revs. Mark Bane and Jenee Noriega. It is designed to help us as churches work together more effectively and become more engaged in our communities. You will still benefit from this seminar even if you weren't at camp this summer.

This seminar is designed for both lay people and pastors to learn, to pray together, and to begin planning for their church. The goal of this seminar is for each church to leave with a plan on how to start a new work.

Pastors, please send your leaders and join them as we work together and support one another in growing our ministries and influence.

## MALAWI EVENING

Stephanie Austin, Director of Children's & Family Ministry at Hope Pointe Olds, was one of three persons from Canada West District chosen to participate in the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada Learning Study Tour to Malawi from February 15-26.

You're invited to our Malawi Evening on **Thursday, March 13**. Dinner **5:30pm** followed by Stephanie's presentation. Please RSVP by **March 6** to [office@hopepointeolds.com](mailto:office@hopepointeolds.com) with your name and number of guests.

# CANADIAN RESEARCH ON MENTAL HEALTH & ILLNESS IN CONGREGATIONS

Canadian Nazarene Friends/Colleagues:

As our team at the Flourishing Congregations Institute continue to gather and disseminate Canadian-based data that would further support and equip local congregations, I am making a personal request from within the denomination I am embedded and support: Would you be willing to complete and promote the following confidential/anonymous survey on mental health and illness in Canadian congregations?

**Pastors** – would you complete the survey and then share/encourage those in your congregation to do likewise?

**All** – share this with any/all church leaders and attenders in your network, regardless of denomination, to do likewise?

More information is below to access the survey along with further resources to promote in your church; you could simply forward the note below to those in your network too.

Thanks in advance for considering.

Grace and peace.

Joel Thiessen, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology

Department Chair, Social Sciences (Behavioural Science, Psychology)

Director, Flourishing Congregations Institute

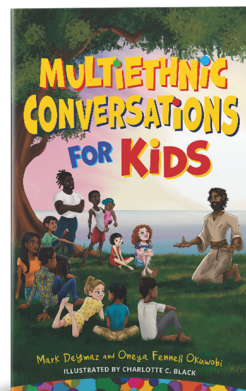
**SURVEY LINK:** <https://ca1se.voxco.com/SE/90/SMHM/>

**Resources to promote this survey in your congregations**





Coming February 1, Canada West Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) will be hosting a conversation for Churches and Pastors, Families, and Kids about living in unity even though we have differences. These conversations are a part of furthering our district's vision of "Here On Earth, as it is in Heaven" as we talk about how our faith communities and families can bless our communities in 2024. We start February 1 and continue through March 21 (the week before Palm Sunday) with a few posts each week in the Canada West Kids Facebook Group. The conversations are based on the book **"Multiethnic Conversations for Kids"**.



We will include Scripture lessons and activities that can help us talk about how our faith communities and families can bless our communities in 2024 through:

- learning more about each other
- becoming better listeners and learners as others tell their stories
- living out the ways Jesus taught us to live with others
- what we can do to make others who are different from us feel more included
- how to invite others to join you on your journey with Jesus
- and so much more...

If you aren't a member of the Facebook group, join here:

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canadawestkids/>

Each church received a copy of this book thanks to Canada West NDI & NMI this summer. If you are interested in downloading a PDF copy of the book, use the QR code below or go to this link (<https://finelink.com/wphstoreretail/dig458.html>) to buy it for about **\$13.50 CDN** per copy (there are no print copies on Amazon and US postage to mail is prohibitive)

Ways to use material:

- Download lessons from Facebook Group to share as a part of church or kids' worship/Sunday school at your own pace
- Participate in conversations in Facebook Group during the 8 weeks. Encourage your families to then have these conversations with their children.
- Build full lessons around each week to help kids learn to understand the concepts for blessing their neighbours.

Please contact Pastor Tammy at [trherbert@gmail.com](mailto:trherbert@gmail.com) if you are unable to join the Facebook Group or have any other questions.

**STARTING FEBRUARY 1, JOIN CANADA WEST CHURCHES,  
FAMILIES & KIDS FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT LIVING IN  
UNITY EVEN IF WE'RE DIFFERENT.**

Canada West Kids Facebook group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/canadawestkids>

# NAZARENE DISCIPLESHIP INTERNATIONAL



**CANADA  
WEST  
DISTRICT**

In the last few years, there's been lots of changes in the area of discipleship, including changing the acronym used for this auxiliary ministry from SDMI (Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries Int'l) to NDI (Nazarene Discipleship Int'l). It does not mean Sunday School ended at all, but that it is seen as one of the many ways we are disciplined and we disciple others. So when you see **NDI**, remember, it covers discipleship work from birth to grave through A Journey of Grace. We will walk together from grace to grace to grace as we grow into faithful and mature followers of Jesus. We hope the resources we share will help to empower your local ministry to walk a Journey of Grace with your neighbours and brothers and sisters in Christ.

We'd love to hear about what is happening in our local church and surrounding community. You can contact me at **403-581-1717** (cell/text) or [trherbert@gmail.com](mailto:trherbert@gmail.com) or hit reply to this email and we will contact you.

**NEWLETTER LINK:** <https://mailchi.mp/f62dc6804b78/2024jancanadawestndiupdate>



In 2022 God called Nazarenes across Canada and the USA to prayer. Over the last two years, The Half Million Mobilization did just that, and out of the prayers came a grassroots vision for our region as those who prayed shared what they heard the Spirit saying to the Church.

There were four "*heart cries*" that emerged from God's people, regardless of their role or age group.

- Mobilizing all Nazarenes in unity in the middle of a polarized world
- Calling our churches to engage in Blessing our community
- Bringing people to Jesus , especially our younger generations
- Embracing the transformation of the whole person through becoming Christlike disciples.

Now in 2024, we still pray but we set our communities into action with a regional focus on Blessing our Community in 2024, which we hope will start a Cycle of Resurgence that will be our mission from now on. We pray. We bless our communities. We bring people to Jesus. We embrace becoming Christlike Disciples.



# THE JOY OF GIVING

In a world that often seems hectic and chaotic, finding moments of joy and fulfilment can be a challenging endeavour. One powerful source of well-being is charitable giving. Giving to causes that help others has a profound impact on mental health and happiness.

When people engage in acts of kindness and generosity, they experience an uplifting emotional response. This surge of positive feelings contributes to an improved mood and a sense of fulfilment. Generosity not only addresses an immediate need, but also creates in us a pathway for a personal journey toward fulfilment, purpose and a more resilient sense of meaning in life.

Giving provides individuals with opportunity to connect and support causes that matter to them, aligning actions with their values. This alignment fosters a deep sense of purpose. Participating in charitable activities involves collaboration with others who share similar values. This is Important for us who embrace and share Kingdom values. We join with others in supporting what is important to us and what we believe in. Living a life of generosity, as a learned and practiced lifestyle, is an abundant, overflowing way of life gratefully released to God for the blessing of others.

I read one time: Every sanctuary and chapel in which we have worshiped, every church organ that has lifted our spirits, every pew where we have sat, every communion rail where we have knelt, every hymnal from which we have sung, every praise band that has touched our hearts, every church classroom where we have gathered with our friends, every church kitchen that has prepared our meals, every church van that has taken us to camp, every church camp cabin where we have slept – all are the fruit of someone's Extravagant Generosity. We have been the recipients of grace upon grace. We are the heirs, the beneficiaries of those who came before us who were touched by the generosity of Christ enough to give graciously so that we could experience the truth of Christ for ourselves. We owe the same to generations to come.

For a whole variety of reasons, let us commit ourselves to living a life of generosity.

R Riley Coulter  
Director of Stewardship Services  
Church of the Nazarene Canada

Phone: **403.829.6949** or Email: [richardrileycoulter@gmail.com](mailto:richardrileycoulter@gmail.com)



# INDIGENOUS RESOURCES CIRCLE

## What is a Land Acknowledgment?

A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

## Why do we as Christians recognize the land?

We serve a reconciling God who has called all of us to a ministry of reconciliation. The apostle Paul said, "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). Experiencing authentic reconciliation evokes a response of awe, welcome and trust.

We serve a God who created, loves and desires to be in a deep relationship with all people. He also intends us to be loving, caring neighbours with the original inhabitants of this land. While we might distinguish ourselves from denominations that knowingly or unknowingly partnered with the Government of Canada in subjugating Indigenous Peoples, outsiders do not make that distinction. The Church is seen as one entity.

We are a missional people intended and equipped by God to be a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:3) and we know that does not mean only those in other countries. Being missional means we learn about what is important for the cultures we are dwelling among and communicate in ways that respect and honour their ways of being. May our congregations respond to our nation's Indigenous People with the attitude of the apostle Paul described in 1 Corinthians 9: 19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

## A Sampling of Canada West Land Acknowledgments:

**SPark Church, Sherwood Park, AB** - Sherwood Park Church respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we meet, fashioned by a loving Creator, is also the traditional and ancestral territories of the people of the Treaty 6 region which encompass the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux and Nakota Sioux nations, and that this territory is home to the Métis Settlements and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland.

**Woodland Drive Community COTN, Lacombe, AB** - Woodland Drive Community Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that the land upon which we meet is Treaty 6 territory. It is the traditional home and meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples, including the Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, and Métis. We acknowledge the land as an act of respect, in recognition of the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples here, long before the arrival of our ancestors. We give thanks for their stewardship of the land and its resources. We also acknowledge the long history of broken promises and grievous harms endured by our Indigenous neighbors, wrongs which were perpetrated by the Canadian government and the Church. We are sorry for these wrongs, and we commit our hearts and hands, in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, to the work of reconciliation and healing.

**Skyview Community COTN, Calgary, AB** - Skyview Community Church acknowledges the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3..

**Hope Pointe Community COTN, Olds, AB** - We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 Region of Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (the Siksika, Piikani and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation and the Stoney Nakoda (the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley First Nations). This area is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. We value the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples here and their faithful stewardship of the land and its resources. We grieve the broken promises and harm endured by our Indigenous neighbours, wrongs committed by both the Government of Canada and the Church. We commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation.

**Canada West District Church of the Nazarene** - We would like to acknowledge that the Nazarene churches of the Canada West District are located on the traditional territories of many of Canada's First Peoples and the homeland of the Metis Nation. These territories include the land of Treaties 1 and 2 in Manitoba; Treaties 4 and 6 in Saskatchewan; and Treaties 6 and 7 in Alberta.

We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to these lands. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in these communities, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with First Nations people.





# CAMP HARMATTAN

Greetings from Camp Harmattan,

The Board of Directors at Camp Harmattan would like to extend our warmest regards to you as we get ready to dive into the 2024 Camp Harmattan season. Our message today serves to highlight the board's responsibilities and communicate the ways in which we add new members.

The board functions as a Policy Governance Board offering strategic guidance to the organization and operating under an established set of bylaws. It is responsible for developing and supporting the strategic plan, values, vision, mission and objectives of the organization. The board articulates the expected outcomes from the Camp Management Team. The management team is tasked with implementing the strategic plan and is responsible for achieving the outcomes through the day-to-day operation of the camp.

We have posted application forms, orientation material, and board member prospective profiles accessible throughout the year. Additionally, details about ad hoc committees of the board are provided as an alternative avenue for involvement in Camp Harmattan. This information is available at [www.campharmattan.com/board](http://www.campharmattan.com/board). We continually monitor the applications for profiles that fit the needs of the board and committees. You can also sign up for the emailing list for updates from Camp Harmattan on the website homepage. We look forward to serving God in this ministry and seeing you at camp this year.

Sincerely,

The Camp Harmattan Board  
[campboard@campharmattan.com](mailto:campboard@campharmattan.com)



## AMBROSE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

On behalf of the Board of Governors of Ambrose University, I am pleased to bring you the following announcement:

After a rigorous presidential search, the Search Committee was pleased to advance a candidate to the Board of Governors for their consideration on December 19th, 2023. The Board of Governors has unanimously endorsed the committee's candidate. We are delighted to present:

Rev. Dr. Bryce Ashlin-Mayo as the new President of Ambrose. Rev. Dr. Ashlin-Mayo will begin his new position on **May 6, 2024**. This will allow him time to complete his portfolio as Dean of Theology and fully acclimate in his new role as President, Ambrose University.

We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Gordon T Smith for his commitment and passion over the last twelve years. We also appreciate his engagement in this time of transition. Your board was witness to God's hand in this entire process. A hearty welcome to Bryce and Laurie as they embrace this new opportunity. We look forward to serving the mission of Ambrose University together.

Rev. Dr. Bryce Ashlin-Mayo is currently the Dean of Theology and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Ambrose University. Bryce graduated with a Bachelor of Theology (Honours) from Canadian Bible College (now Ambrose University) in 1998, a Master of Divinity from Taylor Seminary (Valedictorian) in 2008, and a Doctorate in Ministry from Portland Seminary in 2013. Before coming to Ambrose, Bryce served for twenty-five years as a pastor with The Alliance Canada. Bryce's research and writing focus primarily on pastoral ministry and digital media. Bryce has written several books, including his most recent, "Digital Mission: A Practical Guide for Ministry Online." Bryce is married to Laurie, and they have three adult children.



Kind regards,

Debi Mills  
Chair of the Board of Governors of Ambrose University



## NCM FOCUS 2024

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada (NCM Canada) encourages "Compassion as a Lifestyle". Compassion is most evident when we love our neighbour. As a ministry of the Church of the Nazarene, we work for the transformation of individuals, families, and communities (our neighbours) such that they thrive and become all that God has designed for them to be. One of the ways we love our neighbours is by caring for the environment in which we all live and upon which we are all dependent.



### WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT THE EARTH?

There is much discussion and news these days concerning environmental issues and care of our environment including climate change.

Such discussions are often politically and ideologically polarizing.

Environmental issues are complex and controversial and Christians, particularly evangelistic Christians have tended to avoid discussions about the environment.

But should we?

Here are six points to consider when thinking about why and how we as Christians should care for the earth:

- God cares for creation and has charged humankind with the stewardship of His created world.
- God cares for His creation and therefore we as Christians and the Church ought to care for His creation. Genesis 1:26-28
- God's mission is the redemption of all of creation including the created world. This therefore is our mission and the mission of the Church. Romans 8:19-23a
- Every generation has a role to play in caring for God's creation and this is grounded in the first and second commandments. Caring for creation is one way we love God and love for our neighbour. John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 3:22
- When we abuse our world, we all suffer the consequences, but particularly those who are poorest and most vulnerable. Manual, Church of the Nazarene Section 924.
- Everyone is our neighbour whom we are commanded to love. We are to help them thrive and become all that God has designed for them to be. Luke 10:25-37
- Our actions prove our love for God and love for neighbour. We can accomplish more together. 1 Peter 1:21-22



Don't miss NCM's podcast 'Faith In Action' on YouTube. Click on the link below to watch the first four episodes. Remember to subscribe to their channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frb-bVmqiKl>



# NMI

**God:** Knock, knock...

**Me:** Who's there?

**God:** God. You know, your Lord and Saviour?

*May I come in and share a conversation with you?*

**Me:** Uhmmm, okay, I guess. Sure. What's on your mind?

**Me:** Loving your neighbor.

**Me:** Alright. How long is this going to take? I'm busy.

**God:** If you are willing for me to do so, I will help you make time.

**Me:** ...as in make time multiply or something?

**God:** I will redeem your time management and productivity levels  
(if that is truly your concern).

**Me:** Really...I suppose I am willing.

**God:** Good. Invite me to your table and let's talk.

This is a paraphrase of several conversations the Holy Spirit and I have exchanged over the years. Now, most of the time I am excited to invite him in for a chat, and when my heart and mind are focused on him, he truly speaks. Those are the best times--those listening conversations. We use the scriptures and the still small voice in my heart guides me. Sometimes words jump off the pages, and other times I feel this strange and wonderful excitement form. Somedays, I drag my feet to the table or am too distracted to pay attention. But when I do, the conversations are meaningful. I find strength and wisdom for the rest of my day.

God brings several subjects in a very natural way into our conversations: current events, family matters, economics, and health issues. I ask questions; he answers. He asks for my thoughts and I share them with him. Prayer is not difficult. It can be multi-faceted like any communication with friends and family members.

Please consider inviting God into your day to converse with you. One topic to consider is: "Who is my neighbor?" I think someone in the Bible asked Jesus that question. Perhaps you have read that story.

Please make a point of conversational prayer and mark your calendar for **February 25th to March 2nd**. You can forward the topics from our NMI 2024 Global Week of Prayer event, which will feature all kinds of topics for you and God to consider: NMI 2024 Global Week of Prayer. You could even host a prayer party with your church buddies. Let me know if you enjoyed your conversations with our Lord God. I am interested in comparing notes.

<https://www.nazarene.org/nmigwp>

Heather Prendergast



AVAILABLE  
IN 15+  
LANGUAGES!



# IN MEMORY



**John Goudy**

Oct 10, 1936 – Nov 6, 2023

John Wesley Goudy passed away peacefully at his daughter's home near Marker-ville on November 6, 2023. He went to be with his Lord and Savior at the age of 87 years.

He is predeceased by his parents, Laura Goudy (Croswell) and Myles Goudy and his brother James Goudy. He is survived by Lorna Elizabeth Goudy (Hamilton), his loving wife of 61 years. Lovingly remembered by his 4 children, 15 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

His oldest son, Wesley Goudy and wife Victoria along with their 3 children: Myles Goudy and wife Kori and 2 children, Elizabeth and Rebekah; Kristin and husband Francis Quinn; and Carlin Goudy; His oldest daughter, Shaunah Coad and husband Bruce and 5 children: Kailynn Coad; Karl Coad and wife Sophia and 2 kids, Brielle, and Renley; Rachel Coad; Rebekah Coad; and Debra Coad.

His second daughter, Dawn Russell (Mitch, deceased) and 4 kids: Alexander Russell and wife Erika and 3 kids, Clara, James, and Benjamin; Matthew Russell and wife Vanessa; Mitchell Russell and Ashley; and Meaghan Russell.

Although John was exceptionally gifted and hard working at his business, his deepest devotion was first to his Lord and Savior, Jesus, his family and his church. He will be missed by many in the Drumheller Nazarene church where he faithfully attended and served as a board member and Bible study leader for several decades, including those who grew to know and appreciate him through his attendance at, and support of the Nazarene camp Harmattan near Sundre.

He has left a legacy of faith, generosity, strong work ethic, grace and forgiveness. He will be sorely missed.

John Goudy's memorial service held on Saturday, February 3 at 1:00 pm MST is available online through the Drumheller Nazarene Website and their YouTube Channel.

[youtube.com/@drumhellernazarene1521](https://youtube.com/@drumhellernazarene1521)

Cards of condolences to:  
Shaunah Coad  
37044 River Road  
Red Deer County, AB  
T4G 0M9



**Vi Stover**

Dec 19, 2023

Vi Stover, long time active member of Calgary North Hill and Sherwood Park Churches, passed from this world into the loving arms of Jesus December 19, 2023 after a short battle with cancer. A memorial service was held Saturday January 27 at 2:00 pm at Sherwood Park (SPark) Church and streamed from the church YouTube channel

[youtube.com/@SPark-Church/streams](https://youtube.com/@SParkChurch/streams)

Cards of condolences to:  
Les Stover  
573 Evergreen Park  
Edmonton AB T5Y 4M2

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Rivercrest Care Centre, 10104 101 Ave, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 2A5

**Ken Neufeld**

Apr 15, 1977 - Jan 8, 2024

It is with sorrow that we share the news that Ken Neufeld passed away yesterday. For those new to the Hope Pointe family, Ken was a long-time member of this church, taught Sunday school for decades, served as church treasurer and on the church board and was always a faithful follower of Jesus. He was an avid supporter of Nazarene missions around the globe. Ken also served on the Camp Harmattan board and in various other ways to advance the work of the Canada West District. Please keep Vera and the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

[heartlandfuneralservices.com/memorials/kenneth-ken--neufeld/5358696/index.php](https://heartlandfuneralservices.com/memorials/kenneth-ken--neufeld/5358696/index.php)

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**Eileen Ruth Newsham**

June 1941 - Jan 23, 2024

Eileen was born to Louis and Ruth LaRose in Stettler, Alberta in June 1941. Later on in her childhood she moved to Calgary with the rest of her family where she attended Queen Elizabeth High School. She graduated from high school at Canadian Nazarene College in Red Deer in 1959. It was at CNC where she met Claude. He married his high school sweetheart in 1961 (when Eileen was only 19 years old!).

They began married life in Calgary where they had 2 sons - Laurie, Randy, and daughter - Michelle. In September of 1968, they moved west of Innisfail to take over the family farm. In 2004 they (semi) retired from farming and moved onto an acreage nearby. Eileen volunteered regularly for the Innisfail Hospital (Extended Care) and with Home Care services, visiting with clients in their homes, supporting activities at Rosefield Centre, and sitting with many palliative patients as they moved from this life into the next.

Eileen was an amazing cook and loved to have family, friends and special speakers from church in their home for meals. She was famous for her maple walnut chiffon cake. Eileen was an avid supporter of her children, attending many sporting events, 4-H shows, band concerts, etc. She volunteered for these, too, ensuring success in her kids' areas of interest. She is fondly remembered for her enjoyment of Christmas, including antics fraught with laughter. This intense, breathless, tear-producing laughter was passed on through her mom and now on to multiple generations.

She enjoyed knitting, quilting, reading, and skating parties at the river. Eileen loved to spend time with her grandkids - music festivals, motocross races and gingerbread house-building were highlights. Claude and Eileen could usually be found at Southern Gospel music events and enjoyed several cruises later in life, visiting many countries in the Americas.

Eileen spent her final years at Points West Living (Taylor View Towers) in Red Deer, where she received exceptional care. Her family will always be grateful for the amazing staff who took care of her so personally and professionally.

Eileen was predeceased by her parents and brothers, and is survived by her husband, 3 kids and their spouses, 4 grandkids (and spouses), 5 great-grandkids, many nieces and nephews, and other extended family.

A Memorial Service was held at the Innisfail Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, February 3rd.

Cards of condolences to:  
Claude Newsham  
RR #3, Box 3052  
Innisfail AB T4G 1T8

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**Marjorie Gilroy**

Aug 14, 1938 - Jan 27, 2024

Mother of Rev. Brian Gilroy, passed away January 27, 2024 at the age of 85 years. Marjorie was a long-time supporter of the Church of the Nazarene in Canada Central.

Cards of condolences to:  
Rev. Brian Gilroy  
7644 Cavendish Rd., Rte 6  
North Rustico, PEI C0A 1N0

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## DISTRICT FAMILY UPDATES

Please be in prayer for these congregations as they experience times of transition.

### **Claresholm**

Walter Gripping currently serving as lay pastor.

### **Fort Saskatchewan**

Currently without a permanent pastor.

### **High Prairie**

Placement pending final confirmation.

### **Louise Street Community Church**

Rev. Dr. Deb Tanasieuk has been appointed as senior pastor effective February 1.

### **Medicine Hat Glenview**

Rev. Bryan Roller currently serving as transitional pastor.

### **Rimbey**

Rev. Dale Fallon currently serving as transitional pastor.

### **Stettler**

Rev. Frank Chouinard currently serving as interim pastor.

### **Wapella**

Currently without a permanent pastor.

### **Winnipeg New Hope**

Rev. Alfredo Velazco currently serving as interim pastor.