



JUNE 17, 2016

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

TRANSFER OF LEADERSHIP

The board of Mission Possible has announced the transfer of leadership from Rev. Brian Postlewait to Rev. Matthew Smedley. Matt has been a part of Mission Possible in a number of capacities since 2007. Most recently, he has served as the Deputy Director. He has facilitated goal-setting groups to assist people with moving toward life change, implemented the Transformational Community Co-op – a grassroots approach to community organizing in Vancouver’s DTES – and was the Community Life Manager, where he had oversight over the daily operations and programming at Mission Possible.

Rev. Brain Postlewait has served as Mission Possible’s Executive Director since 2007, when he succeeded Rev. Douglas Woods. Mission Possible has served Canada’s poorest postal code since 1991, when Rev. Elizabeth Wall and her husband, Gord, went on a holy mission to the streets of Vancouver’s skid row with sandwiches and clothes. She served Mission Possible for its first nine years.

Matt has helped catalyze the growth of Mission Possible’s social enterprises, and up to his recent appointment as the new Executive Director, worked as the Manager of Enterprises. He has five years of previous experience working in the trades and maintenance fields, as well as pastoral experience in the inner city. He holds a B.S. from Cairn University and has done graduate work in theology and sociology. He lives in Vancouver with his wife, Kadee, along with their daughter, and three sons. Matt and his family have been a vital part of Vancouver First Church of the Nazarene since their arrival in Vancouver more than a decade ago. His wife, Kadee, has served their church as an associate pastor and most recently as interim pastor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Douglas Woods



OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER

On Sunday, June 19th, something remarkable, if not superhuman, is about to unfold on the streets of Winnipeg.

Last year, local runner Ed Toews decided to tackle 20 marathons all over the world in just 15 months. That alone is a commendable achievement. However, it's just the beginning of the story.



You see, Ed's well-developed endurance and lung capacity are only exceeded by his benevolent heart and sense of community. Under the title of "Run Ed Run," he has used his marathon tour as a vehicle for raising funds and awareness for Siloam Mission.

"If you've ever been involved in the running community, they're very positive people and you just get a sense of belonging and I feel very strongly about that with Siloam Mission," Toews said in a recent interview. ***"Siloam does a really great job of bringing people back into a community and making them feel part of something."***

Toews went into Run Ed Run with a goal of raising \$25,000.00 for Siloam. He has far

exceeded that amount and he hopes to raise even more as we head into Manitoba Marathon weekend.

“In the last year, it’s hard to think of any other individual who’s done more for us from a fundraising point of view,” said Mike Beauregard, Siloam’s Director of Development. *“We can’t thank Ed enough for what he has done in our name.”*

When Ed Toews crosses the finish line at the University of Manitoba on Sunday, he will have accomplished an incredible physical feat. Perhaps more importantly, he will have opened eyes and hearts when it comes to caring for Manitobans dealing with poverty and homelessness. Run Ed Run! We are all cheering for you!

There’s still time to join Ed’s cause. Visit www.runedrun.com and click on the Donations button.

GA2017 – OPINIONS NEEDED

As General Assembly 2017 draws closer and planning increases by the day, the Church of the Nazarene’s General Secretary’s Office requests opinions from Nazarenes around the world on their expectations for the event.

The denomination’s 29th General Assembly and Conventions are 21–30 June 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. For information, visit nazarene.org/ga.

What makes General Assembly a success for your life, family, and ministry?

What do you look for in the Exhibit Hall?

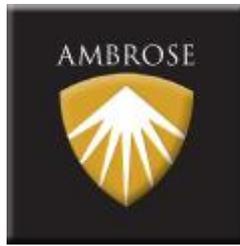
What do you enjoy about the services?

What resources do you use or would like to see?

The General Secretary’s Office wants to know.

To submit your opinions on the questions above or additional topics, write to generalassembly@nazarene.org.

The above article appears courtesy of NCN News. For more global Nazarene news, please visit www.ncnnews.com.



LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

For the past three years, students from the Ambrose University Business program have been returning to the barrio of Maria Auxiliadora in the city of La Vega, Dominican Republic, where they have the opportunity to learn about the needs and goals of the community. Working in partnership with [TEARS](#), a mission and development organization, Ambrose students conduct interviews and then compile and present their research, which TEARS can use to generate community development strategies.

“Community development centers around relationship,” says Business Program Chair, Randy Poon. ***“This travel study gives students first-hand experience of what they are learning in their courses. In addition to reading about poverty and holistic development, they also get to see what these things look like and truly immerse themselves in relationship.”***

From May 3–20, students travelled from their starting point in La Vega through the neighbouring communities of Jarabacoa and San Francisco de Macoris, interviewing stakeholders from many walks of life: small business owners, community organizers, farmers, students, teachers, and parents.

“By the end of our time here in the Dominican, we conducted 39 interviews, which has been the most that any DVST 304 class has ever done,” explains third-year Behavioural Science Student, Katie Knopp. ***“Although getting the research and fine-tuning it was a lot of work, it all came together and not only gave TEARS a better idea of their community, but also showed us what the communities of La Travesia and Maria Auxiliadora are all about.”***

Maria Auxiliadora

Ambrose students began and ended their trip in Maria Auxiliadora, La Vega, one of the poorest and most dangerous barrios in the Dominican Republic, where TEARS focuses on building schools and providing high quality education to children. As they continued to interview people, students were struck by the strong sense of community they encountered. Generosity, a willingness to help others, and an emphasis on friendship repeatedly stood out as they travelled.

“I can’t say enough how much I love this priority of relationships that is so prominent in this culture,” says third-year Business Student, Jacqueline Peeace. ***“Joy and purpose is not found in wealth here; it is found in relationships and passions.”***

La Travesia

Next, students hiked into the lush mountain village of La Travesia, where local farmers depend on coffee for their livelihood and are working to strengthen this trade, while also diversifying their economy.

Students continued to be amazed by the welcoming culture they encountered. *“Having a cup of coffee in the Dominican is more than simply drinking a very sweet, hot beverage,”* Jacqueline observes, *“it shows the overwhelming hospitality, kindness, and generosity of a people who value relationships.”*

“I am very grateful for the time we spent in Travesia, the people we met, and the stories we heard,” says fourth-year Business Student, Zander Coutts. *“Our time here demonstrated the need for development through the eye of the people – development that is focused on what they want and what they think should be done. I sincerely hope that the people obtain their wish for a road system and that they may be blessed in many other ways.”*

Sharing Results

Upon returning to La Vega, Ambrose students presented their research to the TEARS team, summarizing the interviews and proposing creative solutions to community problems. For instance, since the school in La Travesia doesn’t have capacity to teach past Grade 5, the research team proposed the idea of continuing to Grade 6 and beyond through distance education.

“Our work with TEARS and the people of Maria Auxiliadora builds upon the 20 years that TEARS has been working in the community,” Randy observes, *“The insights we share are based on limited experience, but when we work with the experience and the relationships that the TEARS team have already established, we leverage our efforts with theirs, hopefully in amazing ways!”* *“We know that community development is best achieved when we can bring together partners from a broad network such as the community, non-profits, academia, and the business world,”* he adds, *“and this travel study does just that.”*

[Learn more about Business at Ambrose](#)
[Read the full travel blog](#)

Partial funding for this travel study was provided through CAGFIL (Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning) Grants from Alberta Innovation & Advanced Education.

Send your news items of national interest to Diane at national@nazarene.ca
and see your information appear in the next edition of

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