

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

CANADA

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CANADA ATLANTIC DISTRICT ELECTS NEW SUPERINTENDENT



General Superintendent Eugénio R. Duarte announced the election of J. Mark Collins as superintendent of the Canada Atlantic District.

Elected 1 June on the sixth ballot, Collins replaces K. Clair MacMillan, who is retiring after serving more than 15 years in the position. Collins will begin his new assignment on 1 July.

Collins is currently the lead pastor at Oxford Church of the Nazarene in Nova Scotia, Canada, a position he has held since 2010. He previously pastored in New Brunswick, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Alberta, and he has served on the Canada Atlantic District Advisory Board since 2014.

He received his Bachelor of Theology from Canadian Nazarene College (now Ambrose University) in 1984.

"The deepest desire of our heart is to honor God in all things and be faithful to Him," Collins said. "[My wife] and I have committed to going where He leads, to do what He says, and to speak His word clearly through the power of His love. We are honored and humbled by the trust the people of Canada Atlantic have placed in us and we embrace the challenge of living dangerously in the hands of an awesome God here in Canada Atlantic."

Mark and his wife, Ruth, currently reside in Oxford, Nova Scotia, Canada.

(Source: NCN News Staff; <http://nazarene.org/article/canada-atlantic-district-elects-new-superintendent>)

Reverend Mark Collins Testimony

I have always felt called by God into ministry in the Kingdom. It was February 21, 1979, when I knelt at the foot of my parent's bed and asked Jesus into my heart fully and completely. I felt in that moment a distinct fire begin to burn, I felt sins and guilt removed.

During my time at CNC, I experienced an encounter with God where I had been dealing with something I can only explain as an up and down, chaotic faith. A faith in God while struggling with self and selfish control. In the spring of 1983, I found my way to the little prayer chapel under the men's dorm and determined then and there to settle this issue one way or another. I would have this issue of control dealt with by God or not leave the chapel at all. It was here where God sanctified me and the journey of holiness began.

Ruth and I were married in 1984 and we began our ministry in 2 small churches in Middleton and Port Lorne, Nova Scotia. There were 8 people in each church the first Sunday. The last year of our time there we averaged 60 -70 in the little church that sat 75.

Over the next few years, God blessed us with 3 children and good people in the churches we pastored.

In 2005, I received a diagnosis of the beginning stage of esophageal cancer. This began a very dark journey in my life and the life of my family. I began a business and took a leave of ministry in the church. I felt alone, angry and betrayed. Here before me was my Valley of the Shadow of Death I was about to walk through. I can say without hesitation God never left me and in fact, He refused to abandon me. He showed me many things about myself, things I hated to see in me. One of the most important things He showed me was a simple fact that the Church is not God. The church is God's but the church is not God. Somewhere along my journey of ministry, I had come to believe the church was God. I had come to believe I worked for the church. When I felt abandoned by the church I felt anger at God and said He abandoned me. He gently spoke into my life; He has not left me alone. Slowly He brought me to a place deep in the house of Holiness. Very humbly, I felt His desire for me was to clothe Himself with me. The Valley of the Shadow of Death became a place of deep death to self. As I emerged from the other side of the Valley, something had changed. Out of the ashes now burns a searing fire.

Two things had been spoken clearly to me.

- I report to God, He is the one I work for; He is the One who gives me direction. From that point forward, I work for God in the church.
- I was and am to speak only what He says and when He says

The Holy Spirit has placed me on a journey of discovery and revelation. His is moving in a powerful way in the church and most importantly in individual lives within the fellowship of the Kingdom. Personally, I stand amazed in His Presence and all He is doing. He said, "I will pour you out a blessing and there will not be room enough to contain it."

General Superintendent Dr. Eugenio Duarte introducing the new Canada Atlantic District Superintendent, Reverend Mark Collins and his wife, Ruth. Mark was elected on the 6th ballot. They pastor the Oxford Church of the Nazarene in Nova Scotia.



National Director, Dr. Ian Fitzpatrick administering the sacraments to the newly elected District Superintendent and his wife, Ruth.

Newly elected District Superintendent, Reverend Mark Collins and his wife, Ruth, with our National Director, and his wife, Pat.



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