

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



CANADA

JULY 2018 | NAZARENE NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord!

We have just completed a wonderful tour across the country attending our District Assemblies and Conventions. The Lord is truly manifesting Himself in the villages, towns, and cities of Canada. There is indeed a moving of His Spirit throughout the land and we are part of it. I would like to present to you part of my report that I have been sharing at each assembly. This is specifically addressing the “6 Coherent Actions”. These would/ could be implemented with full recognition and compliance with District autonomy.

COHERENT ACTIONS:

These will be clear, concise, deliberate, and consistent with our context of ministry and they will emerge as the Guiding Policy is established. The “Coherent Actions” are the implementation, the carrying out, of the dreams and wishes of God’s people in Canada. While the “jury” is still out on some of the ways forward, I would suggest the following...

1. A Mobilized Laity: (Guiding Policy 1 & 2) John Wesley, the 18th century founder of the Methodist Church is one of the great Christian practitioners. The Methodist movement had a deep impact upon the English nation before its influence spilled over into North America. At one point, there were 100,000 Methodists in England with 10,000 lay leaders. These lay leaders proved to be critical to the development of small groups. (Class Meetings - 6 to 12 individuals). Wesley considered the Class meeting to be the cornerstone of this Jesus movement. In addition to the Class Meetings, there was also the “Band System” (5 - 10 individuals) and the Select Society, which was the most intimate of all these small groups. The Class Meeting had the the greater attention of the Methodist Movement. People in these groups would report on their spiritual development. In this intimate setting, they were encouraged to share their progress, and give updates on their spiritual challenges. These face-to-face encounters were prized and provided an atmosphere of accountability that helped spur them on. Howard A. Snyder in his the book “The Radical Wesley” indicates the majority of Christian conversions occurred in the Class Meetings.

Wesley’s game plan (**Coherent Action**) was to concentrate his efforts, not on the time leading up to Christian decisions, but rather on the times after conversion. His objective was turning “converts into saints”. Snyder goes

on to declare, “The demise of the Methodist Class Meetings in large part contributed to the demise of the Methodist Church. I believe that we can learn from this.

I am advocating for a renewed emphasis on "intentional" and "lifelong" learning for our laity as well as what is already in place for our clergy. The resources I have already mentioned would provide adequate core training.” (IMPACT, LAMP & N.C.M.C Resources)

Intended Outcome: That catalytic, God called people be identified from each district. These leaders would be the core of a dynamic "Lay Movement" of mobilized people who would lead the "charge" towards a new expression of ministry and EVANGELISM. (Note: Even though within our understanding of Theological Coherence, we are described as Christian, Protestant, Evangelical, Holiness & Wesleyan, I believe a more accurate expression in Canadian culture is that we are more EVANGELISTIC than EVANGELICAL)

2. Biblical Literacy: An intentional strategy to create a climate of Biblical knowledge. That Scripture becomes our common language and conversation. This will require an intentional, nationwide effort that goes beyond memorization to the application. The new “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism” (Catechism Document) would be of great value to us. It should not be seen as optional reading, but as a core document to be used in every single one of our churches. (How can we make this happen?)

I am advocating for a renewed emphasis on Sunday School & Christian Education. That this becomes non-negotiable for membership conversation. That our local church educators (teachers) be resourced adequately, that District SDMI entities be resourced adequately, and that pastors place a high value on holistic Christian Education.

Intended Outcome: That our congregations be strengthened through knowledge and application of God’s Word. That our congregations increase in number through the entry point of SDMI. That SDMI becomes a priority once again, especially in the area of ministry to children.

3. A Prepared Clergy: I have already referred to Clergy Preparation & Development, but a clear contextual way forward should be implemented. I recognizing that the District Superintendent is the “gatekeeper” for the Ministerial Licensing process but embedded within this process is the need for adequate educational preparation. The Guiding Policy will force us to examine the various ways in which Clergy preparation takes place. I recognize that the classical approach to ministerial preparation is a Liberal Arts education, followed by Seminary. The reality, however, suggests hat in Canada we need to find contextual, affordable and portable ways to prepare clergy for the mission.

I am advocating for a serious conversation that would include Ambrose (President or designate), educators and practitioners.

Intended Outcome: That we would pursue viable, sustainable, affordable and contextual ways of preparing men and women for a lifetime of holistic ministerial service. This should be accomplished without diminishing the importance of “formal education”, but recognizing the geographical and cultural boundaries present in Canada.

4. Ministry Congruency: While we have great respect for the historical concept and ongoing development of N.M.I., S.D.M.I., N.Y.I., and N.C.M.C. A plan for a united missional effort must be created. Intentional efforts to educate children & teens and to understand that there is ministry behind the acronym. It is essential that ministry training and preparation include intentional teaching on our departmental efforts. You will notice that I have added NCMC to the list. I believe that Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada must be understood to be more than wells being dug in a far off land, more than containers being sent to the uttermost parts of the earth, more than responses to natural disaster. As great as all these ministry efforts are, there is more to it than that. There is the need for us to insert the theology of compassion into any ministerial or lay training effort. It is, after all, the 7th “Characteristic” of who we are and it separates what we do from what many other humanitarian agencies do. We do not want to become just another one of these agencies. We want to never forget why we do it, and in whose Name we do it.

I am advocating for the formation of a “Task Force” comprised of leaders from each auxiliary and N.C.M.C. to examine our present effectiveness and to create a new ministry design (within the existing denominational organization structure) that will be more effective and as a result, fruitful.

Intended Outcome: The alignment of our ministries through synergy and create a unified missional platform. Also, to provide an entry point for all ages into leadership roles in each auxiliary across the country, therefore, creating a healthy continuation of each ministry.

5. Evangelistic Fervour: We are in a place of great opportunity. Canada has never been so secular, Canada has never been so pluralistic; Canada has never been so socially progressive...what a time to be a Nazarene, what a time to be a follower of Jesus. We live in a day of great opportunity to plant the seed of truth in the midst of many religious and ideological options and this is when God does His best work. He did it when rebellious nations surrounded His children. He did it when hostile forces (religious and secular) surrounded His Son, and He will do it as intolerant and critical modernists bombard His Church. (Grenfell Towers)

We have our National Vision Statement: In order to make Christ like Disciples in the Nations: **“We the people in Canada called Nazarenes, commit ourselves to - Obeying the Father, honouring the Son, living in the Spirit, by - engaging in effective evangelism – experiencing and promoting the Holy Life - Raising a generation of Spirit filled leaders”.**

Five Biblical Perspectives Energize Us!

All people are lost without Jesus.

All people can be saved.

All people can know that they are saved.

All people are compelled to declare their salvation.

All saved people are under obligation to go on to Holiness.

We have our Nazarene Essentials and within that, our Nazarene Characteristics:

We have our Catechism Document: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism:

We have no need for another Vision Statement...what we have need of however is an obedience to the Holy Scriptures to "FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY"... Timothy 4 verse 5.

NIV: "DISCHARGE ALL THE DUTIES OF YOUR MINISTRY"

KJV: "MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY"

ISV: "DEVOTE YOURSELF COMPLETELY TO YOUR MINISTRY"

THE MESSAGE:

"I can't impress on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ Himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone living and dead. He is about to break into the open with His rule, so proclaim the Message with intensity, keep on your watch, challenge warn and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple. You are going to find there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching but will fill up on spiritual junk food - catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They'll turn their back on truth and chase mirages. But you - keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the message alive, do a thorough job as God's servant."

Intended Outcome: THAT THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE MAKE FULL PROOF OF HER MINISTRY; MAY EACH PASTOR, TEACHER & LEADER MAKE FULL PROOF OF HIS/HER MINISTRY; MAY EVERY LAY PERSON MAKE FULL PROOF OF HIS/HER MINISTRY, DOING THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST!

6. Holy Living: 10: "We believe that sanctification is the work of God which transforms believers into the likeness of Christ. It is wrought by God's grace through the Holy Spirit in initial sanctification, or regeneration (simultaneous with justification), entire sanctification, and the continued perfecting work of the Holy Spirit culminating in glorification. In glorification, we are fully conformed to the image of the Son.

We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devote entire to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.

It is wrought by the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, in dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service.

Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus...

Is wrought instantaneously by grace through faith...

Preceded by entire consecration...

And to this work and state of grace, the Holy Spirit bears witness.

This experience is also known by various terms representing its different phases, such as "Christian perfection," "perfect love," "heart unity," "the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit," "the fullness of the blessing," and "Christian holiness."

10.1: We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace.

We believe that the grace of entire sanctification includes the divine impulse to grow in grace as a Christ like disciple. However, this impulse must be consciously nurtured, and careful attention given to the requisites and processes of spiritual development and improvement in Christlikeness of character and personality. Without such purposeful endeavour, one's witness may be impaired and the grace itself frustrated and ultimately lost. Participating in the means of grace, especially the fellowship, disciplines, and sacraments of the Church, believers grow in grace and in wholehearted love to God and neighbour."

Without the cleansing, infilling and empowering of the Holy Spirit, we cannot possibly move forward on any of the previous actions. A renewal of the Holy Spirit would create the internal energy and enthusiasm that will help us accomplish the mission of Christ in Canada.

Intended Outcome: That every preacher “preach” holiness, every teacher “teach” holiness, every member of the church experience, testify to, and demonstrate holiness.....it’s cleansing, it’s filling, and it’s power. That holiness becomes more than a theological statement, but rather a “CRISIS” followed by a “LIFELONG PROCESS” of walking in the experience.

I want to express my gratitude to the National Board, the people called Nazarene in Canada and the church at large. I give thanks for my wife Pat and daughters, Lynsey (Kevin) Ashley and Stephanie, and grandsons Frank & James. Above all, I give thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus to provide me the opportunity to respond to His offer of salvation, to respond to His call upon my life in the anointing of His Holy Spirit.

In the Name of our Risen Lord and until the next time!
Blessings,
Reverend Ian Fitzpatrick

I would also ask that you be in continual pray for our district leadership in Canada...

D.S. Reverend Mark Collins (Ruth) - Canada Atlantic
D.S. Reverend Steve Ottley (Pat) - Canada Central
D.S. Reverend Rose Brower-Young (Brad) - Canada West
D.S. Reverend Earl Wood (Vernita) - Canada Pacific
National Director & D.S. Reverend Ian Fitzpatrick (Pat) - Canada Quebec

Pray also for...

Dr. and Mrs. Macmillan and Dr. and Mrs. Dahl as they enter this new phase of life called retirement. We are so grateful for their ministry to the Church of the Nazarene in Canada.

Pray also for...

Director of Stewardship Services: Dr. Riley Coulter (Karen).
Ambrose President: Dr. Gordon Smith (Joella)
NCCM Executive Director: Reverend Elaine Bumstead (Dennis)

My prayer for you...

“May you experience PEACE in the midst of trial, JOY in the midst of sadness, COURAGE when you face the “impossible”, CONFIDENCE when others would seek to strip you bare, REFLECTION in looking back, EXCITEMENT in looking forward, LONGSUFFERING when your patience is exhausted, and LOVE FOR ALL - AMEN”.

Blessings
Ian Fitzpatrick

CUBA DISASTER FUND



Thank you to everyone for your tremendous response to this crisis. We have now sent over \$7,000 from the Disaster Fund for the specific purpose of helping the immediate family members of those affected by the crash.

STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

PREPARING A WILL

Only 50% of adult Canadians have a Will; only 30% have an up-to-date Will! One of the greatest gifts you can give your children and loved ones is to prepare a Will. Wills express your wishes concerning your estate when you die, and often are an expression of our values and commitments. Dying without a will can be very problematic, and could cost your estate - and your loved ones! - significant expense. See a lawyer; talk to your pastor; call me if you have questions.

For help with Wills & Estates, plan to have a seminar in your church this fall; contact me for available dates.

Riley Coulter
Director of Stewardship Services
Church of the Nazarene Canada
Contact: richardrileycoulter@gmail.com or 403.829.6949

HERE IS WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING THROUGHOUT OUR NATION:

2018 DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

ATLANTIC DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & CONVENTIONS:

Thurs 31st May- Sat 2nd June

CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & NMI CONVENTION:

Tues 5th- Thurs 7th June

QUEBEC DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & NMI CONVENTION:

Fri 15th- Sat 16th June

QUEBEC DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & NMI CONVENTION:

Fri 15th- Sat 16th June

WEST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & CONVENTIONS:

Thurs 21st - Sat 23rd June

PACIFIC DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & CONVENTIONS:

Thurs 28th - Sat 30th June

Be sure to click on the new

“Click Here”

tabs under each district heading on the main e-newsletter page to read more.

QUEBEC DISTRICT

At the Sunday School Convention on April 14, 2018, we emphasized the importance of putting your Time, your Treasure and your Talent at the service of God through your local church and district.

Instructors & Monitors work very hard to teach in our churches. Take a special time to pray for them and encourage them.

Pastor Jean L. Julien
SDMI Superintendent



Instructors and graduate students
of the IBNQ

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE UPDATE

With the election Reverend Mark Collins as District Superintendent of Canada Atlantic District, the District Office will be relocating to Oxford, Nova Scotia. The plan is to have a space in the Oxford Church, which will serve as the District Office and be a place for Reverend Mark and Ruth to work out of on behalf of the District. Ruth will be taking on the responsibilities of the Executive Assistant position as Brian Cambers retired at the end of June 2018.

The mailing address for the District Office effective July 1, 2018 is P.O. Box 252, 199 Lower Main Street, Oxford, NS, B0M 1P0 and the telephone number is 902-447-2539. Reverend Mark can be reached at 902-669-1180 and his email is jmcollins@live.ca. Ruth's email is ruth-collins@hotmail.com.

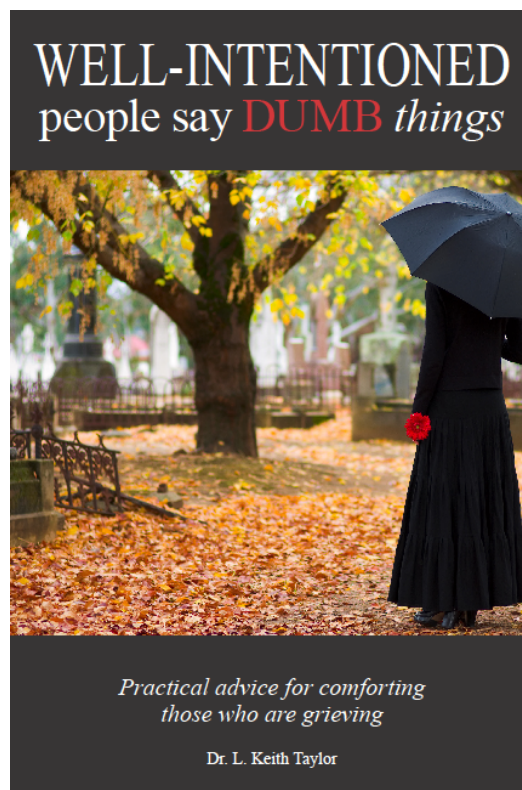
All cheques and correspondence for the District Treasurer should be sent to Brian Cambers 113-2380 Mountain Road, Moncton, NB E1G 5W4. Also, please amend the email contact to cambers@rogers.com and the phone number to 506-204-1405.

WELL INTENTIONED people say DUMB THINGS

Dr. L. Keith Taylor gives us a practical advice book for comforting those who are grieving.

Cost: \$15.00 each or \$10.00 if 10 or more are purchased.

If you would like a copy, you can email keith.taylor@ody.ca.



CANADA NYI



Canadian N.Y.I. Presidents:

(Left to right): Brad Silliker (Atlantic), Robenson (Quebec), Helen Theissen (Canadian NYI Global Council Vice Chair), Ian Fitzpatrick (National Director), Matt Wood (Pacific), Ryan Wood (West) & Marg Stahlbaum (Central)

CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT NYI PRESIDENT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NAZARENE YOUTH CONFERENCE 2019 IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA.



Note: If you would like to Unsubscribe to the Nazarene Monthly Newsletter, Please email Yara Cristales at ycristales@nazarene.ca