



MARCH 1ST, 2018

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord!

“FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD, NO EXPLANATION IS NECESSARY, FOR THOSE WHO DON’T BELIEVE IN GOD, NO EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE”. These are remarkable words, not preached from a pulpit nor used in the sacred halls of a Christian edifice, but rather used by a narrator at the very beginning of a movie Pat and I watched recently. The movie was entitled “The Song of Bernadette”. Without getting into the details of the story, let me just say that the statement made complete sense to me the more I watched. As I contemplate those words, I really believe that they apply to much of what we do in our context of ministry. It is sometimes hard to explain some of the great things that God is doing in our midst. There are just no words. The alphabet wasn’t designed to communicate miracles, even if you are a great “wordsmith”, you would still struggle to articulate the visitation of the Lord because of the indescribable.” WE MUST BE O.K. WITH THIS! Not everything that God does, needs to be explained! Many times in our lives we just simply move through our day in the glow of the supernatural so, FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD, NO EXPLANATION IS NECESSARY. Now, moving on to the second part of the statement...FOR THOSE WHO DON’T BELIEVE IN GOD, NO EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE!!!! In our attempts to tell our story, and His story, leave room for the miraculous, leave room for the quickening of the Spirit of God, leave room for the prevenient grace of God to bring life to the hearer’s understanding. Why don’t they get it.....? Is a question we might ask, but this is really not our problem, this is God’s business. All we have to do is....plant the seed, tell the story, give a reason for the hope that is within you, share the experience without having to explain it, and let God do His job. In the Name of our Risen Lord.....until the next time!

Blessings
Reverend Ian Fitzpatrick.

I would ask that you be praying for the following ministry activities across our country....

CANADIAN S.D.M.I. CHAIRS WITH NATIONAL DIR:	(Thurs, March 1 st)
CANADA CENTRAL: NEXGEN RALLY & TRAINING:	(Fri 2 nd - Sat 3 rd of March)
CANADA CENTRAL ASSESSMENT CENTRE:	(Sat, March 3 rd)
CANADA CENTRAL CLERGY DEVELOPMENT DAY:	(Tues, March 6 th)
CANADIAN N.M.I. PRESIDENTS WITH NATIONAL DIR:	(Thurs, March 8 th)
GLOBAL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE:	(Sun 18 th - Thurs 22 nd of March)
INAUGURATION OF N.T.S. PRESIDENT:	(Tues, April 3 rd)
EVANGELICAL LEADERS MEETING:	(Tues 3 rd - Wed 4 th of April)
AMBROSE BOARD OF GOVERNORS:	(Fri 6 th - Sat 7 th of April)
NATIONAL BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE:	(Mon, April 9 th)
NATIONAL BOARD MEETING:	(Tues, April 10 th)
N.Y.I. CONNECT GATHERING:	(Thurs 26 th - Fri 27 th April)

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

D.S. Reverend Clair MacMillan (Donna) - Canada Atlantic
D.S. Reverend Steve Ottley (Pat) - Canada Central
D.S. Reverend Larry Dahl (Audrey) - Canada West
D.S. Reverend Earl Wood (Vernita) - Canada Pacific
National Director & DS Reverend Ian Fitzpatrick (Pat) - Canada Quebec
Ambrose President: Dr. Gordon Smith (Joella)

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

Reverend Ian Fitzpatrick.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE CANADA AND NCM CANADA

Please keep in mind, when sending mail or cheques to Church of the Nazarene Canada and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries it must be addressed to **Church of the Nazarene Canada** (It is a bank requirement).

Church of the Nazarene Canada
3657 Ponytrail Drive
Mississauga, ON
L4X 1W5

The new local phone number is (905) 602-8220
The new fax number is (905) 602-9228
The toll-free number remains the same at 1-888-808-7490

HERE IS WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING THROUGHOUT OUR NATION:

“DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS RETREAT IN SAN DIEGO”



Former National Director, Reverend Dr. Clair MacMillan and his wife Donna at the “Retirement Recognition Service” on Sunday, February 11th, 2018. This service is held during the D.S. Retreat each year and the MacMillans will retire this coming June at the Canada Atlantic District Assembly. Thank you “Pastor” Clair and Donna. The Church of the Nazarene in Canada, on the USA/Canada region and around the world is better because of your ministry.



Your Church of the Nazarene Canada
Leadership Team.

Front Row left to right:

Vernita Wood, Pat Fitzpatrick,
Pat Ottley, Donna MacMillan, Joan
Read, Steve Ottley and Audrey Dahl.

Back Row left to right: Earl Wood,
Clair MacMillan, Ian Fitzpatrick,
Terry Read and Larry Dahl

Terry & Joan Read (Former D.S. Of
Quebec) were able to join us, as they
live close to the D.S. Retreat event
location.

QUEBEC DISTRICT

Here are some pictures from his past weekend in Montreal. Here is the caption.....

District Superintendent of Quebec & National Director Fitzpatrick led a weekend of meetings on the Quebec District (25th & 26th February). On Saturday afternoon all of the pastors gathered for a “Development Session” at Montreal First Church. On Sunday 26th (morning) a great worship experience was enjoyed with the Elim family and then in the evening we celebrated with a District Rally held at the Montreal North Church.



*Montreal Elim Congregation
25th of February, 2018.*



Elim Worship Team



Elim Youth Quartet



*Worship Band leading the
District Rally in Montreal North
Church.*



*Ladies Choir singing at the
Montreal North Church District
Rally.*

YOUR GENERAL BOARD ELECTED REPRESENTITIVES:

From Friday February 23rd – Monday 26th of February Reverend Dale Thistle and Dr. David Falk represented the Church of the Nazarene Canada at the General board meetings in Overland Park, Kansas. We really appreciate their work and we look forward to their report. Thank you Dale and David for your participation in this vital leadership role.

STUDENT SUMMER JOBS UPDATE!

Now that the deadline to apply for Canada Summer Jobs grants is past, EFC's Julia Beazley, director, public policy, provides this update.

Q1. What's happening now in the Canada Summer Jobs situation?

The deadline for applications closed on Feb. 9, after a one-week extension. In spite of the extension, the government did not change their position on the attestation. It remained unchanged, and applications that did anything other than check off the attestation – unmodified and unqualified – are considered incomplete and ineligible.

Service Canada has begun contacting those whose application included an alternate attestation or a letter requesting accommodation – any group whose application did not give an unqualified agreement with the attestation. Service Canada is saying these applications are incomplete and that they have 10 business days to complete them or they will be rejected.

The Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC) has developed a template response letter that organizations may send back to Service Canada to reiterate a request for accommodation of their Charter rights.

It's not just religious Canadians who recognize how deeply problematic this attestation is. Many national columnists, commentators and editorial boards have voiced similar concern – even those who disagree with religious Canadians on issues like abortion.

Q2. What's next?

Groups like the CCCC, Christian Legal Fellowship, the EFC and others are considering all options, including the possibility of a legal challenge of the attestation.

Although the Toronto Right to Life Association's request for an injunction was denied, the court has yet to review their challenge of the Canada Summer Jobs program. The EFC will monitor this closely.

Q3. What does this mean for churches and Christian ministries in Canada?

This kind of value-laden attestation sets a troubling precedent for federal government policy, and is something that should concern all Canadians. It is inappropriate, in a free and democratic society, for citizens to be subject to a values test in order to be eligible for public benefit. The government must respect the fundamental freedoms of religion, conscience, thought, belief, opinion and expression that are guaranteed in the Charter.

A bright spot in the recent debate has been the media coverage of the work of churches and ministries in helping the vulnerable in their communities. As well, Christians have engaged with their MPs in significant numbers, which may lead to new relationships and

awareness of one another. Many MPs will have gained a greater of understanding of who these groups are, who they serve and of the valuable work they do.

However, the reality is that many churches and ministries across the country will have a diminished ability to help vulnerable people in their community without a summer student grant. Please prayerfully consider increasing your support of local churches and ministries, so they can continue to meet needs and change lives.

UPDATE ON REVEREND NEIL ALLENBRAND

The following came to the National Office via the Canada Pacific Office. It was originally sent from the Penticton Church.

Dear church family and friends of our church,

By the grace and mercy of God, Pastor Neil was able to be with us in our service this past Sunday morning. I knew that once he got here in person, he would either share for 5 minutes and give a brief update, or for 45 minutes and give a whole sermon. God gave him the strength to be able to share his testimony of God's power moving even in his weakness. His message is one of hope and is a challenge and a call to all of us who know him well, or perhaps have only met him briefly in passing.

For those of you who were unable to be here in person on Sunday morning you can either listen to the audio from his message which will be posted on our website soon. Or, thanks to Neil's sister-in-law, we have a copy of the video from his message. It has been posted on the church's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/ThePentictonChurchOfTheNazarene/>

Or, it has been uploaded onto YouTube as well for those who are not on Facebook: <https://youtu.be/sXmuIlXXZQs>

God is using Pastor Neil's battle with cancer as an example to us all to challenge and inspire us in our walks with God. Please watch it, share it with those who would benefit from it, and keep praying for Pastor Neil, his dear wife Heather, and all of his family during this difficult time. Thank you for your time and for your prayers for our beloved Pastor Neil.

May the God of peace bless you richly,

Pastor Adrian

IN MEMORY

REVEREND PETER O'BRIEN

Canada West District Superintendent Dr. Larry Dahl reports the sad news of the passing of Peter O'Brien. Peter suffered a stroke on the 27th of February and passed away yesterday the 28th. Peter is a graduate of Canadian Nazarene College and Nazarene Theological Seminary and served in Pastoral assignments in Simcoe, Ontario, Special Assignment in Winnipeg. He then was the Pastor in the Brandon Church of the Nazarene for 13 years before retiring in 2009. Please remember his wife Linda in prayer. Notes of condolence can be sent to their home.

58 Santa Clara Court

Winnipeg, Manitoba

R3T 4K3



NCMC COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES



Part of the NCMC Team debriefing after a recent trip to Malawi done by Pastor Dennis Hubert and Pastor Alan Cristales.



Reverend AnneMarie Snijders (Eurasia Region M+Power Director) and Reverend Elaine Bumstead following a presentation made by the Eurasia Region to Elaine for her many years of dedicated service to the people of the South Asia Field.



Milon Patwary (Manager of South Asia projects for NCM) makes a presentation to NCM Canada Executive Director Reverend Elaine Bumstead and National Director, Dr. Ian Fitzpatrick in recognition of the Church of the Nazarene Canada's support of the work in Bangladesh. The Church of the Nazarene in Bangladesh just recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary



Left to right; Reverend John Watton, Mr. Milon Patwary, Dr. Ian Fitzpatrick, Reverend Elaine Bumstead and Reverend AnneMarie Snijders. (M+Power Director Eurasia Region)

THE CHURCH IN ACTION! – NCMC REPORT ON MALAWI

"I have seen and heard from the beneficiaries time and time again that when they had no hope, the church responded"

"When they cried out in desperation, only the church heard their cry and took action. One of the many questions I had coming into this experience was, "how exactly is the church mobilized through NCM Canada?" What I have discovered and confirmed is that NCMC IS the church in action, casting the net out into a vast ocean, while at the same time providing practical and tangible help to the most vulnerable people in developing countries. There are no words to describe the genuine expressions of gratitude on the faces of the Malawian people I have encountered on this journey.

Alan Cristales wrote these words in his recent report to Rev. Ian Fitzpatrick and the NCM Canada team. Alan who is a Junior Pastor at Brampton Spanish Church of the Nazarene, recently visited Malawi, along with Rev. Dennis Hubert of the O'Leary Church of the Nazarene, PEI.



From left to right: Reverend Wellington Obotte (Mission Coordinator for Malawi), Reverend Alan Cristales (Canada), The Village Chief, Reverend Praise Nkosi (Africa Regional NCM Program Manager), Reverend Dennis Hubert (Canada) and Reverend Chinsinsi Phiri (NCM Malawi Coordinator)

"We have had a full schedule during our stay in Malawi. 7 Villages in Lilongwe were visited and also Zukuma Nazarene School, which was an adventurous and bumpy 7-8 hr. drive to Northern Malawi. We have been greeted with warm welcomes, children singing and dancing, and an abundance of "zikomo's" (which means, thank you) from many grateful hearts.

It is my observation that NCMC's work currently in motion has mostly resulted in its intended outcomes - food security, empowerment of the most vulnerable & an improved quality of life for many - That said, there is still work to be done and challenges to face in partnership with the local people. Abusa Dennis' (Pastor Dennis') report will highlight our findings and recommendations for the team to consider in terms of existing projects, exit strategies and future work in Malawi.

Meeting the NCM Malawi team has been very helpful and beneficial. A lot of our sources of information comes directly from them, which is why seeing them face to face and having open and honest conversations helps maintain lines of communication clear and transparent. As you all know, having a good rapport with our partners helps us ensure that donor contributions are used in the most effective way possible. One thing I appreciate about getting to further immerse myself in the work of NCMC, locally and now globally, is seeing that accountability is a value shared by the NCMC team. Though we are working in different cultural contexts, I think that this message has been stressed in many ways, and is being understood by our partners on the ground, as well.

I have witnessed church and community leaders engaged in many aspects of the work we do. I have seen how NCMC initiatives build bridges with people from all walks of life, individually and in communities as a whole. There is a ripple effect that happens, which, in turn creates opportunities to reach others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Beneficiaries, or "pre-believers" know that we come in the name of Jesus Christ! Pastors in the villages we visited shared with us that people end up congregating in their churches and coming to Christ sometimes because of the connection made through an NCMC initiative."

Rev. Dennis Hubert said, ""People need full bellies, but they also need full hearts". Alan observed, "This raw statement captures the essence of the work we do. I look forward to the next leg of this experience and hope to be able to contribute more to the NCMC team as I continue to absorb the work we do as a church through NCM Canada."

Read the next NCM Canada newsletter for a full report and pictures of this recent visit to Malawi. Subscribe to the NCM Canada Newsletter online - on our website www.ncmcanada.ca or by calling the national office 1-888-808-7490

Videos taken by Rev. Dennis Hubert are also posted on Facebook.

LETTER OF GRATITUDE – REPORT ON UKRAINE

The religious community "Light" of the Church of the Nazarene in _____ Ukraine expresses its sincere gratitude to the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and to the people of Canada for provided humanitarian assistance, which has supported many poor families, families in difficult life circumstances, difficult financial situations, children with disabilities and ministries of the Church of the Nazarene in _____ (names of locations withheld for security reasons), territorial hospital in _____ and the district hospital in the _____. Also, this humanitarian assistance helped our local communities of believers a lot in the evangelistic efforts.

Report from recipients in the Ukraine (after the distribution of items in a shipping container shipped by Compassionate Resource Warehouse, funded by NCM Canada).

The religious community of the Nazarene Church in _____ (location withheld for security reasons) expresses its sincere gratitude to the charity service of the Church for

material support. Each time it's a great support for us. For each family, every member of our church.

Especially for the leaders of our church, this is a great testimony of God's love. You are doing a great deal that shows the love of God in deeds. Therefore, once again, we thank you, because it is a very substantial contribution in the life of our community.

From the ministry of mercy of Nazarene Church in _____, many thanks, from every child and parent, who was blessed with clothes and goods. With great love in their hearts, ministry leaders want to thank you for not getting weary in doing good things. You can't even imagine how important it is for these children who cannot always go to school, because there is nothing to wear. Thank you very much!



Pastors - Do you have students that:

Are natural born leaders

Want to make a difference

Feel a call to ministry

Are looking for what's next after high school

Then Join Us for NEXGEN

March 2-3 2018

With Lynnlee & Chris Moser

Director of NexGen, USA/Canada Region COTN

**Friday Night Youth Rally
7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday NexGen Interactive Training
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

@ Rosewood Church of the Nazarene
657 Milner Ave.
Scarborough, ON M1B 2K4

Discover The NexGen Challenge

10 Principles of Next Generation Leaders
The Impact of Good Choices
Landmines Next Gen Leaders Must Avoid
The Importance of Mentoring
Myths and Truths about the Next Generation
Why Church Planting is Vital



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