



**SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**

**MISSION  
POSSIBLE**

**MISSION POSSIBLE GALA**

Save the date!

This year, the Mission Possible Gala is going to be held on November 29, 2017 at the [Hyatt Regency](#) in Vancouver.

**This Is Our 25<sup>th</sup> Year!!!**

Come celebrate the accomplishments achieved by Mission Possible participants and the support they receive from people like you. The reception starts at 6.00 PM, and the program starts at 7.00 PM. It will be an inspiring evening with live music, humor, great food, videos and the much anticipated presentation of the Mission Possible Comeback Awards.

Mission Possible is located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. For over 25 years, Mission Possible has walked alongside people challenged by homelessness and poverty. Every day we provide street-level care for those with immediate and critical needs, as well as create jobs that build a bridge to stability through a variety of enterprising ventures. Mission Possible is helping people renew a sense of dignity and purpose through meaningful work.

Contact Matt Smedley about sponsorship opportunities at 604-253-4469.

[For tickets click here](#)

**FROM NAZARENE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES:**  
**HURRICANE HARVEY UPDATE**

Over the weekend, Hurricane Harvey slammed into the coast of Texas as a category-4 storm. Unprecedented flooding, caused by 25 inches of rainfall, has forced approximately 30,000 people from their homes. The flooding has caused massive damage in and around Houston, the fourth-most populous city in the U.S.

**This disaster will require a long-term response.**

Church leaders are still assessing needs. The most-affected areas are still under water, but Nazarene disaster response teams are ready to respond as soon as the waters recede. In addition to meeting immediate needs, the response will focus on long-term recovery efforts to help those who have been displaced from their homes.

Several Nazarene churches were affected, and many church members' homes were flooded. At least two Nazarene churches were seriously affected. The Clear Lake, Texas, Church of the Nazarene is completely flooded, and the Portland, Texas, Church of the Nazarene sustained serious damage.

Harvey, now a slow-moving tropical storm, is still dumping rain. The rains are affecting communities across the Gulf Coast from Corpus Christi, Texas, to New Orleans, Louisiana. There are 13 million people are under flood warnings and watches across the Gulf Coast from Corpus Christi, Texas, to New Orleans, Louisiana. Some areas are expected to receive as much as 50 inches of rain.

*“We encourage the church to join with others in prayer for those affected and first responders,”* says Bob Broadbooks, director of the USA/Canada region. *“This flood is of historic proportions. As soon as we know how best to serve, we will keep our church informed.”*

Please join us in prayer and support for families and individuals affected by the disaster.

**How You Can Help**

**Pray**

Please pray for families and individuals affected by the storm. Pray for those who are trapped in flooded homes. Pray for those who are most vulnerable, especially people with disabilities and seniors. Pray for church leaders and churches responding to the needs around them.

**Give**

Please make your cheques payable to **Church of the Nazarene Canada** and send them to:

Church of the Nazarene Canada  
20 Regan Road, Unit 9  
Brampton, ON  
L7A 1C3

Be sure to put **Hurricane Harvey – 128206** in the Memo area.

– Nazarene Compassionate Ministries



## **SUN AND MOON STEAL THE SHOW AT STAR PARTY** **THAT ECLIPSED EXPECTATIONS**

Many came with cereal box “cameras.” Some had safety glasses. A few had telescopes. Several brought lawn chairs, blankets and picnic lunches. All came wanting to learn about and share in a spectacular celestial event: a near-total eclipse of the Sun.

On Monday, August 21, 2017, more than 450 people of all ages – more than the number gathered at Calgary’s Telus Spark Science Centre and comprising students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends and neighbours – gathered at Ambrose University’s Mahood Commons from 10:20 AM – 12:50 PM for a Solar Eclipse Star Party that blended science, fun and community-building.

*“This was a great opportunity to help people learn and feel more connected to our planet,”* explains Dr. Stephen Jeans, Professor of Astronomy, who hosted the event along with alumni, students and members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (Calgary Centre), and with the help of departments across the university.

*“The general public doesn’t fully understand cosmic events and there are lots of misconceptions,”* he says. *“This wasn’t a ‘lesson,’ but a way to increase interest and understanding. The Sun is still a window to knowledge about how the universe works, and eclipses are very important for helping solve some of its mysteries. It was also a way to show people – and especially young people – that science can be approachable and fun.”*

Dr. Jeans regularly hosts evening Star Parties throughout the academic year to enable students and guests to peer into the night sky, but the solar eclipse offered a rare opportunity to bring the telescopes out during the day.

### **Daylight Shines on Celestial Learning**

Calgary experienced a partial eclipse of about 80%, so while the skies didn't go completely dark, at 11:33 AM and Calgary's maximum eclipse, the drop in daylight and temperature was noticeable. So was the group's enthusiasm.

Using pinhole "cameras," special solar-viewing glasses and Ambrose University telescopes, people watched the eclipse progress as the Moon slowly cast its shadow on the Earth. Eclipse-themed music (think *Don't Take My Sunshine Away* and *Moondance*) and baked treats (crescent-shaped cookies) added to the festive atmosphere.

For students and alumni, the eclipse was a tangible link to their course learning. For community members, Dr. Jeans made frequent announcements to explain what was happening in the sky. Following up on questions resulted in a running commentary, and trained alumni and student volunteers were on hand to answer questions one-on-one.

Learning happened all day long – and will continue long after the eclipse. Cameras attached to the telescopes captured beautiful images, which Dr. Jeans will use in his astronomy classes in the future.

***"We're losing our stars in Calgary because upward-directed light 'pollution' is making the night sky bright,"*** Jeans says. ***"Therefore, people have lost touch with the cycle of the Moon and stars. So this was a chance to get some of that back."***

### **Connecting to Quality Science Education**

The window into learning that the Sun opened during the Star Party was also a window into Ambrose University and specifically the Bachelor of Science program, where biology blends with Earth and space sciences (astronomy, geology, physical geography) to offer a more integrated view of the world.

***"Astronomy is about the universe, planets and stars, but it's really about what we can see that helps us learn more about Earth,"*** Jeans explains. ***"Geology is about what's under foot and how the Earth functions, whereas physical geography looks at the surface of the Earth and how humans interact with it. This all connects with biology because without geology, we wouldn't understand the origin of minerals that keep us alive. Without astronomy we wouldn't know that those minerals we're all made of is 'star stuff,' and without physical geography we wouldn't be able to track the cycling of those minerals in our environment."***

Breaking down what have long been disciplinary silos deepens and broadens learning, and the success of Ambrose's B.Sc. grads confirms the program's quality. It's a rigorous program, *"but we want people to know science isn't an arduous path,"* Jeans says.

### **Preparing People to Deal with an Increasingly Complex World**

Technology is changing so quickly that growing scientific literacy – including events like Dr. Jeans's Star Parties – is becoming increasingly essential to navigate the world successfully.

*"People walk around with cell phones, but don't understand how they work,"* Jeans notes, *"or are making decisions about resource extraction, but don't understand how science and regulations made these processes clean and efficient in some areas, but not in others. "It can be very confusing and feel like the answers are out of reach, but the liberal arts grounding in science, accessible small classes sizes and wonderful instructors at Ambrose University better prepare students to deal with the complex environment they'll be immersed in as graduates."*

[Explore the Ambrose Bachelor of Science Program](#)

[Check out this Astronomy Courses offered This Fall at Ambrose](#)

### **Evening Star Party**

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Monday, October 23, 2017

Explore the night sky! Bring family and friends to learn more about stars, nebulas, galaxies and other celestial sights. Hosted by Ambrose's own Dr. Stephen Jeans, Professor of Astronomy, and Larry McNish, Astrophotographer from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Calgary Centre.

Start at 6:30 PM in Room A2131

Viewing 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM outdoors

Dress warmly!

For more information, please contact [sjeans@ambrose.edu](mailto:sjeans@ambrose.edu).

**Send your news items of national interest to Diane at [national@nazarene.ca](mailto:national@nazarene.ca)  
and see your information appear in the next edition of**

**Nazarene News**