



MAY 12, 2017

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER TO END FAMINE

There are more people facing famine in the world today than at any other time in modern history.

On Sunday May 21, Canadian Foodgrains Bank is calling on all Christians and churches in Canada to join the [Global Day of Prayer to End Famine](#).

On that day, people of faith around the world will be praying for the 20 million people across South Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria and Somalia currently suffering from severe hunger, and in some cases, famine.

The day of prayer is a joint call from the [World Council of Churches](#) and the [All Africa Council of Churches](#):

“There is great danger that on its current course, the global response to this crisis will be hugely inadequate and will lead to unimaginable suffering and death, which is eminently avoidable.

We believe the churches have a prophetic role in calling to mobilizing their members, the wider society and governments, and making a difference during this unprecedented period of suffering.”

The Foodgrains Bank has [resources available](#) for individuals and churches wishing to take part in the Global Day of Prayer.

See <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/news/may-21-global-day-of-prayer-to-end-famine/>.

On May 21, will you please join with us, the Canadian churches, and with the African churches in prayer for those that are hungry and for hunger to end?

NANAIMO CHURCH WORK AND WITNESS REPORT

Our prayers were answered when we found out we were heading to the Philippines for a Work and Witness project at the Visayan Nazarene School and Bible College in Cebu City, Philippines.

This was a goal of the Nanaimo Church of the Nazarene, here in British Columbia, Canada, for many years under the leadership of Rev. Gary Nawrocki. We pursued this project and could see the valuable restoration that could be accomplished here. Typhoon rains and termite damage had attacked the chapel at the Visayan Nazarene Bible College.

We were able to raise \$17,000.00 to help our Nazarene brothers and sisters in Cebu City. The money was raised through both a Philippine and a Valentine's Dinner, silent auctions, bake sales, cleaning city roads, being paid by our government, applying for a Nazarene Mission grant, selling handmade items, and the financial and prayer support given to us from our wonderful Nanaimo Nazarene congregation.

The 16 hour trip to Cebu City culminated with a great welcoming dinner and entertainment put on by President Larnie Sam Tabuena and his staff at the Visayan Bible College. His wife, Belle Tabuena, prepared a series of gourmet meals. We feel indebted to her and her helpers for keeping us well nourished and educated about Philippine cuisine.

We got right to work the next day and began taking down the ceiling of the Chapel.



Some members of our team were working atop 30 feet of scaffolding under extreme conditions, with temperatures in the 30 to 32 degrees Celsius range. We found layers of supports under the metal circular roof where wooden framing had been secured by metal spikes and welded to the metal girders. Our top workers had to hammer these spikes loose after lowering the roofing boards to the floor. The best boards were saved and stored away for future use.

In three days, we were ready to take down the walls behind the altar (which we would later raise to 30 feet). Our goal was to defeat the termites and prevent water damage at every turn. So our new walls were created of metal supports and cross members; in addition, the wallboards were cement boards like we would place behind a shower. The new roof boards are made of a plastic material that is not part of the termite diet.



On the Sunday, the Work and Witness team broke up into 6 groups to visit Nazarene churches in Cebu City and the surrounding area. The team members felt blessed by the people, the message and hospitality shown by each congregation. Dr. Nawrocki and his wife, Lise, along with team member, Marj, were also able to visit and deliver some things we brought for an orphanage in the area.

At the closing dinner we were served Lechon, a BBQ pork treat in the Philippines with all of the fixings. The send-off included wonderful skits, gifts and a first class musical presentation.

I think of the cold bottled water we had at our breaks, and we always looked forward to the Philippine treat we would have set out for us that day. I also thank the Lord that we were able to meet fellow Nazarenes halfway around the world. We appreciated everything that the Bible College did for us. Thanks!



The trip was a success and the money we set aside to hire an electrician (the Bible College retained one on staff) was used to set up four one-year scholarships at the Bible College (or could be used for one four-year scholarship). The scholarships were donated under the name of the Nanaimo Nazarene Church.

I want to thank our wonderful Work and Witness team who worked tirelessly day in and day out. At an average age of 69 years, we could not be called rookies; however, we were called...Leakers! Why? It was because we drank so much water; and then sweated it out each day. I also, want to thank our medic, Grace Roman RN, for being there when needed. (She patches me up at home, too.)

In looking back, it is truly amazing what a dedicated group of Nazarene church members could accomplish in two weeks. I want to thank the congregation for the support we received, and last but not least, the flexible and hardworking Work and Witness team...and I stress the word "team."

Team members included: Our pastor, Dr. Gary Nawrocki and his wife, Lise; Bernie Lafrance; Jack and Mary Grinyer; Lay, Lemuel and Nona Mayona; Marj Shepherd; Brian and Bea Cardinal; Veronica DeGoutiere; John and Grace Roman, team coordinators.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Roman

VANCOUVER FIRST CHURCH FAITH PROMISE WEEKEND **FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. HOWIE SHUTE**

Dr. Howie Shute is the Faith Promise Weekend keynote speaker at the Vancouver First Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Shute left a promising business career at the age of 40 to answer God's call on his life. After completing studies at Nazarene Theological Seminary, he pastored in the USA for eight years. Then, at the age of fifty, he and his wife, Bev, responded to a missionary call in the Horn of East Africa.

Howie had previously invested time in this area as part of Work and Witness trips. It was during those trips in Kenya and Tanzania that Dr. Shute experienced God's direction to return as a full-time ambassador for the Global Church of the Nazarene.

Dr. Shute is a published author of three books which tell of his personal experience and observation while in the Horn of East Africa. His first book, **UNDERGROUND**, tells of his first-hand experience working as a missionary to highly resistant people groups, such as Muslims. His second book, which was also a NMI Reading Book, **REVIVAL FIRES** (2015–16), recounts the amazing Jesus movement that took place while he and Bev were a part of a strategy of multiplying and developing the Church of the Nazarene.

His latest book, **MURSI – REACHING THE UNREACHED OF ETHIOPIA**, is now being released as an NMI Reading Book for 2017–18. This latest book tells the stories of this missionary couple during their first eleven of fifteen years in the Horn of Africa. This part of the continent of Africa is an amazing mosaic of multitudes of diverse cultures and 600 languages.

The public are invited to hear Dr. Shute at Vancouver First Church of the Nazarene (998 19th Avenue East in Vancouver, BC). The first scheduled event is a breakfast sponsored by Blackfish Accounting on Saturday, May 13 at 9:30 AM. He will also speak on Sunday, May 14 at 11:00 AM. Dr. Shute will also be speaking at Primera Iglesia on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM.

For further information, please contact local NMI President Douglas Woods at (604) 214-7702 or contact the Vancouver First office at (604) 874-2022.

MURSI
Reaching the Unreached of Ethiopia





NEW BOOK RELEASED!
FLOURISHING CONGREGATIONS IN CANADA

Greetings on behalf of the Flourishing Congregations Institute at Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta!

Some of you participated in our phase one interview and focus group research last spring/summer, several were instrumental to network us with church leaders across the country, and others have graciously followed and supported us from a distance. Thank you for your interest as we seek to better understand flourishing congregations in a distinctly Canadian context, mindful of variations along Christian traditions and Canadian regions.

As we enter our second year as an Institute we highlight some of last year's activities, feature some upcoming initiatives, and make you aware of resources that may be useful in your local contexts.

Thanks to generous funding and partnerships with – Ambrose University, Cardus, Christian and Missionary Alliance Canadian West District, Christian and Missionary Alliance Canadian Midwest District, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Turning Point Consulting, University of Saskatchewan, Willow Creek Canada, and World Vision Canada – we embarked on over one hundred interviews and focus groups with church leaders across five Canadian regions.

Key research findings on the Canadian context for congregational life as well as preliminary insights on dimensions of a flourishing congregation have already been presented at academic conferences, plus various invited presentations to faculty, church, and denominational leader groups. Some of these findings are available on the resources tab on our [website](#).

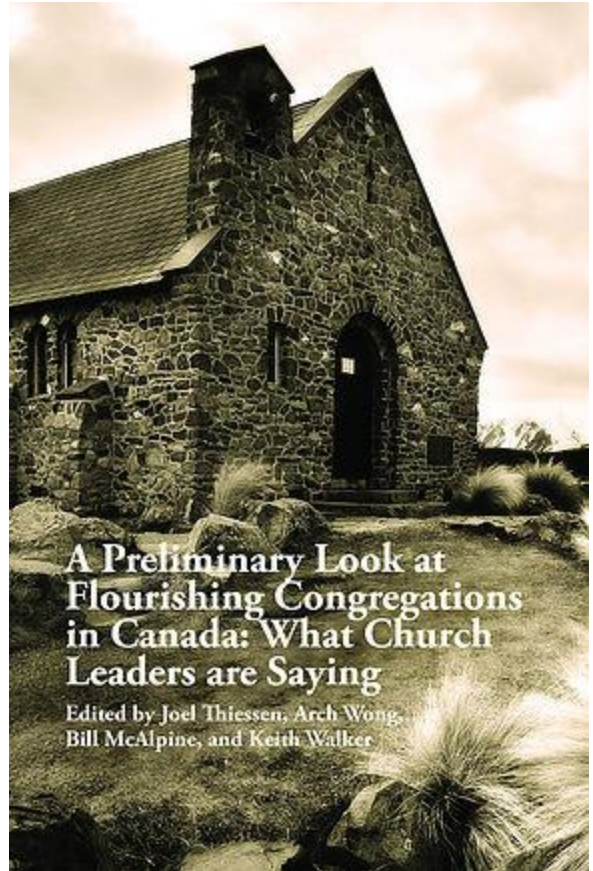
We are excited to announce the release of a monograph titled, “A Preliminary Look at Flourishing Congregations in Canada: What Church Leaders are Saying,” based on our phase one interviews and focus groups. This book is available for purchase via [this link](#), or can be downloaded for free on our website by mid-May. In short, this book is an attempt to document the central findings and presentations from our Launch in November 2016, plus a series of blogs written for our website over the past year.

Looking ahead we are working on several articles to emerge from our initial data collection, plus we are setting the stage for a national survey, detailed case studies, additional interviews and focus groups, and various public and national events that bring together academics and practitioners with an interest in congregations in Canada. Among other objectives, we intend to generate empirically-based and theologically informed tools and resources that benefit churches and denominations toward flourishing.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with and serve congregations and denominations across Canada – let us know if you have suggestions or ideas that would be helpful for you. Also, we invite you to check out our [website](#), track with us by signing up for regular updates and resources, and stay connected via [twitter](#) and [facebook](#).

Sincerely,

Joel Thiessen, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology, [Ambrose University](#)
Director, Flourishing Congregations Institute



CANADIAN FRIENDS AND ALUMNI BREAKFAST **AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Join Canadian friends and Ambrose University (NUC, CNC) alumni on June 24 at the 2017 Nazarene General Assembly for a special breakfast, co-sponsored by the Church of the Nazarene Canada and Ambrose University.

Learn how the Church of the Nazarene Canada and Ambrose University are partnering together to equip the next generation of Nazarene leaders and strengthen our churches.

Indiana Convention Centre
Saturday, June 24, 2017 | 8:00 AM–9:30 AM
Tickets \$65.00 | Available online at www.eventbrite.ca

Schedule

8:00 AM – Prayer and Welcome with [Terry Fach](#), Chaplain at Ambrose University

8:10 AM – Fellowship over Breakfast

8:35 AM – National Board Update with [K. Clair MacMillan](#), National Director of Church of the Nazarene Canada

8:40 AM – Learning at Ambrose with Mo Hickman, Church Ministry Student and Winner of the 2015 Ambrose University Presidential Scholarship

8:50 AM – Ambrose Video Update with Helen Thiessen, NYI Field Youth Coordinator (Canada) and Director of Enrolment at Ambrose University

8:55 AM – Research at Ambrose with [Joel Thiessen](#), Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the [Flourishing Congregations Institute](#) at Ambrose University

9:15 AM – Greetings and Reflections from [Riley Coulter](#), Director of Stewardship Ministries at Church of the Nazarene Canada (and Chancellor of Ambrose University from 2008–2011)

9:25 AM – Closing Remarks with [Terry Fach](#), Chaplain at Ambrose University

This schedule is subject to change – visit the Alumni page at [ambrose.edu](#) or contact the Alumni Office (alumni@ambrose.edu) for up-to-date information.

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

Nazarene News