

Our Stories

“GO” AND MAKE DISCIPLES

The Great Commission tells us to “GO” and make disciples. As a church we continually wrestle with how to live that out in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

Four years ago we felt God leading us to make some big changes to our VBS program at West End Baptist Church in St. John’s, NL. Rather than running a VBS in our church and inviting the community to it, we canceled the event and partnered with a local community centre who works in a low income housing area. Instead of saying “Here’s what we want to do” we asked “What can we do to help you?” Every year since this change we’ve helped the community centre run a variety of programs like luncheons for seniors, carnivals for children, nights for teens, and community BBQ’s. Members of our church also have become regular volunteers in the community centre year round tutoring or running programming during the summer months.



Then something amazing happened. The centre asked us if we’d run a daily children’s Bible club in their building as part of their programming! God is so good! We’ve now ministered to hundreds of children, youth and their families through this program, and have seen many of them become part of our church family as a result of it. God not only says to us “Go”, but he also prepares every step of our path along the way.

Continued from cover

offer comfort as needed. Many of us have heard Malcolm speak these timely words to us: “You’re a good person, you have gifts and we need you.”

Reflecting on Malcolm’s transition, Executive Minister Dr. Peter Reid stated “While we say congratulations to Grand Bay and to Malcolm in this new calling from the Lord, we are saddened to think that Malcolm is moving on. Malcolm has served so long and so well as a Senior member of the staff and has gained great respect throughout

our constituency as a leader and I am deeply grateful for his partnership in ministry.”

We will miss Dr. Beckett at the denominational level. His wisdom and sensitivity to spiritual matters within our Convention has been invaluable. **Malcolm, please accept our deepest thanks and appreciation for your years of dedication and service to the CABC, the churches and the Kingdom of God. God bless you and Laura as you move into this next phase of ministry.**

**New CABC Website Launching Soon!**

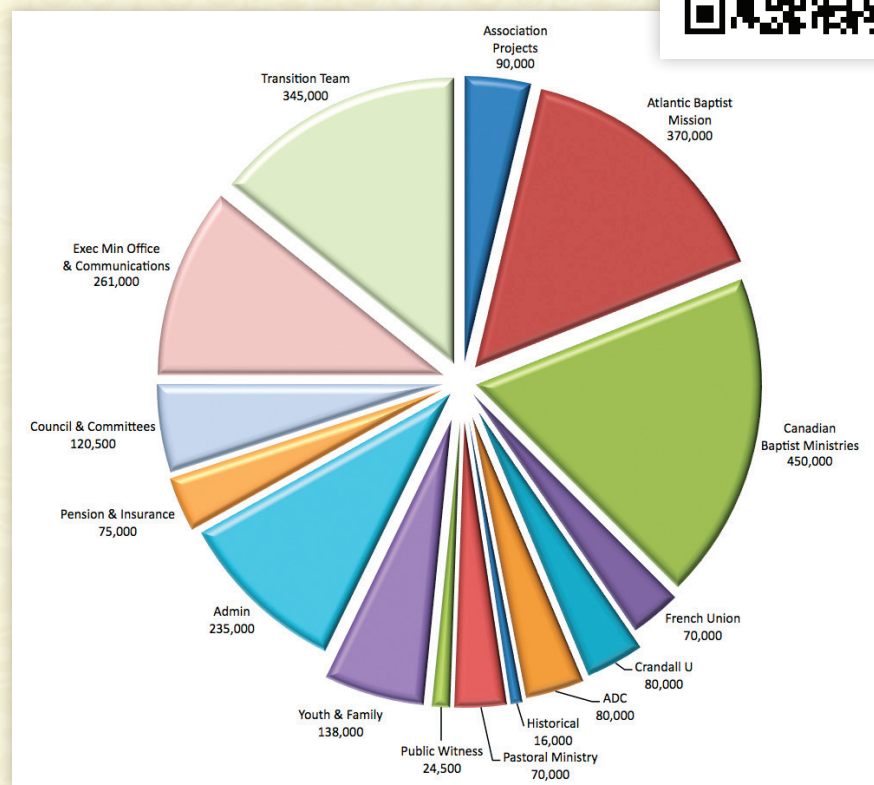
UNITED IN MISSION

“Where does the Convention receive its money to do all that it does?” This was the question recently posed by an active lay-leader of a member church of the CABC. This individual, who has recently begun to serve on one of the CABC boards, is beginning to see the scope and importance of the ministry of our Convention – whether in, the **resourcing** of local churches, **developing** of current and future pastoral leaders, **equipping** of lay leaders, **investing** in youth and their leaders and families, and much more.

The answer is that the vast majority of the monies the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches receives for fulfilling its mission of supporting and strengthening local churches comes from the member churches (and a few individuals) giving to the **United in Mission** fund of the CABC. It is through this giving

to missions by local churches that enable us as CABC churches to fulfill the mission that we as churches have been jointly called to. As Dr. Bob Wilson (Professor of Church History at Acadia Divinity College) has said, “No one funds our mission but us.”

This fall the CABC will be making a new approach to churches asking them to consider the level of their financial support to this mission for the year 2013 and beyond. We ask you to be praying about and encouraging your church to **accept the challenge** presented so that together we’ll be able to continue to fulfill our mission of being “Churches helping churches grow passionate disciples of Jesus Christ.”



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CABC Executive Minister  
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NewHope Baptist Church  
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**Jeff Somers & Band**  
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Register at [www.baptist-atlantic.ca/oasis](http://www.baptist-atlantic.ca/oasis)

Commissioning Service for Dr. Bruce Fawcett,  
incoming President of Crandall University.  
Thursday, 3:15 - 4:15pm

Alumni BBQs:  
Crandall Alumni - Thursday at noon / ADC Alumni - Thursday at supper  
Pre-registration required – 506-863-6445

“...but the labourers are few.” Luke 10:2

## Lay Pastor Training Program

Now accepting applications for September 2012 class in Dartmouth NS

[www.baptist-atlantic.ca/lay-pastor-training](http://www.baptist-atlantic.ca/lay-pastor-training)

**CONVENTION CONNECTION**  
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**Dr. Peter Reid**  
Executive Minister  
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ADC - New Brunswick

**Carolyn Steeves**  
Bachelor of Theology student



**Why did you choose to study with Acadia Divinity College?**

*I am currently pastoring in a member church of the CAB, so it made sense for me to pursue my theological studies at our denomination's seminary. At the time I began, "ADC in New Brunswick" didn't exist so I accepted the reality that I would only be able to go so far before exhausting all the "distance course" options and perhaps be unable to complete my degree. I wasn't sure how to resolve this, but began the journey trusting that God would make a way.*

**Will "ADC - New Brunswick" help you to meet your academic goals?**

*The establishment of ADC New Brunswick is how God is making a way for me to complete my seminary degree! This new and fresh approach developed by ADC's visionary leadership acknowledges the variety of people whom God is calling into formal ministry and who value a theological education. Like me, many are unable to leave their current ministry positions or jobs to pursue full time seminary studies. This extension program creatively uses technology to allow me to at times be a distant "virtual" student for some courses, while at other strategic times throughout the academic year I am in a classroom interacting with others.*

**How has your understanding of God grown since starting your program with ADC?**

*I now realize how vital it is for those who are called into formal Christian ministry to have a solid theological foundation as well as practical pastoral leadership training. My studies have opened my heart and my mind to a deeper understanding of God's love and grace for me – which in turn spurs me on to confidently and compassionately proclaim the same love and grace to those whom I am called to reach and to serve.*

**What are your future plans for ministry?**

*I continue to work out God's calling on my life within the context of a local church. Equipping and mobilizing His people to go out into their worlds, both locally and globally; extending the same love and grace that they have received by sharing the good news of the gospel message through word and deed to those whom God places along their everyday life journeys.*



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**THANK YOU, MALCOLM!**

**A**fter nearly 24 years of dedicated service at the denominational level, Dr. Malcolm Beckett will conclude his responsibilities at the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches to assume the role of Lead Pastor of Grand Bay Baptist Church (NB) in September. As one of the longest serving senior staff members, Dr. Beckett (or "Malcolm" as he is known to many) has had the pleasure to meet countless people as well as preach and minister in approximately 330 of our churches.



Malcolm was called from pastoral ministry to serve as the Director of Evangelism in 1988. Since March of 2000 he also served in other roles such as Interim Part-Time Director of Home Missions and Church Planting, the Director of Atlantic Baptist Mission (2001 to present), Interim Executive Minister (2007-2008) and Transition Team Member (2011 to present). Without question Malcolm has served capably and very competently but he hasn't always felt that way. *"Indeed, the whole journey has been one of constantly being in over my head... But that is always a good place for learning that you need to depend on the Lord."*

**What would you consider to be a highlight of your ministry?** *"I would have to say, the churches and people of the Convention. I have been privileged to get to know, and minister to, and work alongside of, and be blessed by so many congregations and so many people over these years that even now, before I have even left denominational life, I am grieving the loss of that continued privilege."*

What some do not know is that Malcolm loves to drive and spend time in the woods. He has commented that if he was not in pastoral ministry, he would probably be found behind the wheel of a Mack truck or clearing some trees in his woodlot – or a combination of the two. Some may find this

fact interesting: Since 1988 he has logged over 500,000 kilometres on Convention business (equivalent to approximately 4545 hours of driving).

In the CAB office, Malcolm has been a greatly respected team member, colleague, friend and a pastor to the staff. When times of crisis would arise or when advice was needed, he would be there to mentor and

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