

YOUTH MINISTRY IN ATLANTIC CANADA

BREAKING THE CHAIN... RELEASING THE POTENTIAL

Since 2006, Nick Doyle has been Youth Pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Saint John, NB. Initially, ministry seemed to be going well but he had a sense that a change was needed in order to propel the ministry forward. "My goal is not to plan the social lives of teenagers, but to raise up a generation of youth that are totally in love with God and desire to display it in every part of their lives," says Nick.

With the church's approval, he took the summer of 2008 to seek God's heart regarding the ministry. As he prayed, fasted and searched God's word, Nick found new vision and focus. The result was "Release Youth Ministries: Breaking the Chain... Releasing the Potential".

Their mission is "to provoke a young generation to passionately pursue Jesus Christ by providing a positive reflection of the love of Jesus Christ through our actions, words, and love for others. We believe it is necessary to break the chains of sin and Release the power of the Holy Spirit."

Release Youth Ministries is impacting the community as their ball hockey team plays every Wednesday at Carleton Community Centre. Many noticed something different about a team that would pray before each game and walk away from potential conflicts. At first, other teams joked



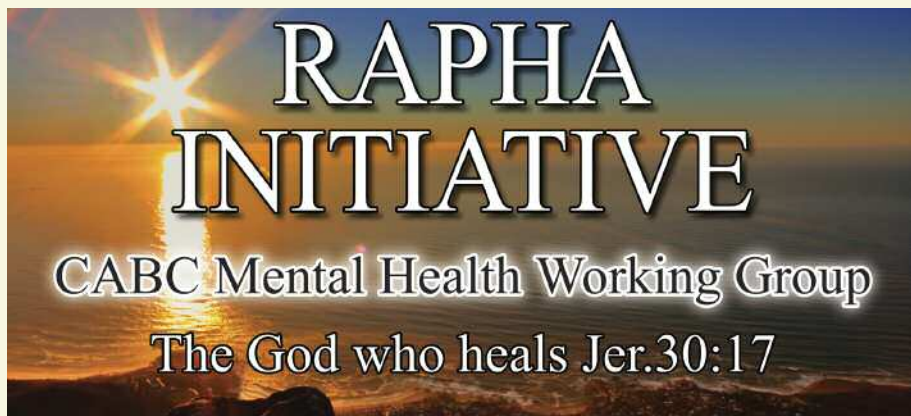
about it but soon some noticeable changes took place. There were fewer fights, less swearing and respect for leaders was growing. The changes continue to be noticed by the board of the community centre. They want to move the regularly scheduled Friday night dances so that the youth can attend Release. It's amazing to see how God works!

One of Nick's key supports is the CABC's Youth & Family Ministries Department. Rev. Dale Stairs, Director of the department, considers Nick to be one of CABC's key resources. In January, Nick will be one of nine instructors teaching in the Youth Leaders Training Program. Visit our website for more information.

Our Convention is leading the way by helping other regions in Canada think about how the local church can more effectively minister to their youth!

For more information visit www.baptist-atlantic.ca/departments/youthfamily.





“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the LORD, because you are called an outcast...”
 Jeremiah 30:17a

Under the Convention’s Department of Public Witness and Social Concerns, the “Rapha Initiative” was set up in 2007 to promote awareness of mental health issues and seek to reduce the stigma of mental illness in and through the churches of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches.

“Rapha” is a Hebrew word which means “healer”. Rapha’s objective is that our churches might be places where God can use the church family to provide settings of healing and hope for those whose lives are affected by mental illness and where we may celebrate His goodness to each of us.

The Initiative has been involved in several projects in 2009. This fall, they hosted and promoted several seminars and workshops in NB & NS around the topic of depression. They also sent out a series of five e-newsletters about depression to the pastors of our Convention. These and many other resources are available on our website: www.baptist-atlantic.ca/departments/witness/rapha

Currently, they are producing an Anti-Stigma DVD through a grant from the Mental Health

Foundation of Nova Scotia. The purpose of this DVD will be to seek to eliminate the stigma and discrimination that so many mental health consumers experience, and to promote a better understanding of mental illness. After it is produced, the DVD will be distributed to all our Baptist Associations throughout Atlantic Canada.

CURRENT MEMBERS

- Rev. Jennifer Smart (Chair)
- Rev. Marlene Knowles
- Rev. Martin Zwicker
- Mrs. Shirley Pearce
- Dr. Lois Mitchell
- Dr. Heather McNally
- Rev. Jonathon Beers

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of the end of September, giving to United in Mission continues to drop. Giving in 2008 fell short by \$100,000 and 2009 is looking much the same. It is important that our budget be fully realized so that all of our Convention’s ministries both around the world and here at home can be fully supported.

For more information, contact us or visit our website: www.baptist-atlantic.ca/donate

CONVENTION CONNECTION

Published by the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches

Dr. Peter Reid
 Executive Minister
 1655 Manawagonish Rd, Saint John, NB E2M 3Y2
www.baptist-atlantic.ca

May 7th-8th, 2010

SPRINGFORTH

Location: Moncton, NB
 Theme: Rooted
 Registration: Before April 23rd - \$40
 After April 23rd - \$50

High School Track

Speaker: Dr. Dave Currie
 Live Music: The Atlantic

Middle School Track

Speaker: Heather Flies
 Live Music: From the Deep

Leaders Conference

Speaker: Paul Robertson

For More Information Visit
www.baptist-atlantic.ca/springforth



August 1st-6th, 2010

ISLAND ADVENTURE FAMILY MISSION TOUR

Edith Lank Christian Camp, Campobello Island, NB
 Construction Projects & Basketball Day Camp
 Designed for families with children and teens, but open to everyone!

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“AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE GOD AS A FAMILY”

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www.baptist-atlantic.ca/island_adventure



CONNECTED

FOR MISSION

Transforming Churches Transforming Lives

This is our new 3 year appeal (2010-2012) intended to showcase United in Mission, the general mission fund of our Convention. It is through this collaborative giving that member churches can together have such a dynamic impact in Atlantic Canada and beyond. As a Convention, we are churches helping churches grow passionate disciples.

Information packets have been distributed to your church, including a new CFM Video, brochures, and posters. Included with this packet is a letter to your church family from our Executive Minister,

Dr. Peter Reid, asking your church to prayerfully consider their level of support to UIM for the next three years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rev. Greg Jones

greg.jones@baptist-atlantic.ca

506.655.1922 Ext. 114

1655 Manawagonish Rd, Saint John, NB E2M 3Y2

www.baptist-atlantic.ca/departments/development

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VIEW THE WEBSITE WWW.BAPTISTFOUNDATION.COM FOR ALL SERVICES

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35 Atlantic Baptist Ave., Moncton, NB, E1E 4N3

Tel: (506) 857-9482 Fax: (506) 852-4378 Email: baptistfoundation@rogers.com

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