

WONDER WORLD

What does a rural church do with an elderly congregation of around 35 people? If you're Community Life Church (formerly Grand Harbour Baptist Church, Grand Manan, NB), you get on your knees until God exchanges your grim future for a vision of a vibrant ministry to kids and teens.

After being hired as part-time Children's Pastor, Joy Green put together a "dream team" to examine needs of children in the community and God's plan to address them. The result was the creation of "Wonder World," a weekday ministry to kids in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Along with a volunteer staff of thirty-five to forty teens and adults, the church is now filled on

Tuesday nights with the noise of 80 – 100 children experiencing church kids-style! The two hour Wonder World experience consists of a live teen worship band led by Youth Pastor Brent Green (Joy's husband) along with times for play, art and going deeper.

Now in its second year, the community's response to Wonder World has been overwhelmingly positive, and has been suggested by several teachers to be making a difference in the public school. It has also spurred on the creation of a new Sunday Morning children's ministry appropriately named "Camp Wonder."



INN FROM THE COLD

Sponsored by the Bridgewater Ministerial (NS) and concerned community members, "Inn From the Cold" is a program designed to provide food and overnight accommodations to those needing somewhere to go during the cold winter months. Adopting a similar model from the Annapolis Valley, local churches take turns opening their doors one evening per week to provide shelter and to minister to those who find themselves in need.

Since 2009, Bridgewater Baptist Church, other churches in the ministerial and key volunteers have offered time and resources to help make this ministry a success. In the first year, Bridgewater Baptist used its vacant parsonage four nights a week. The people helped are often transient, in crisis and/or young people who have fallen between the social network cracks.



Senior Pastor Rev. Eric Campbell has witnessed the impact this has had on the community. "What has happened is that there is an awakened awareness of the need all around us, a renewed commitment of Christians and others to help when and where they can, and evidence of a renewed spirit of cooperation in the Town."

Any person needing assistance can speak to a policeman, call a church, or call the dispatchers number provided on the posters around town.

CONVENTION CONNECTION

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Executive Minister

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Dr. Peter Reid
CABC Executive Minister

Dr. Allan Demond
NewHope Baptist Church
Melbourne, Australia

Worship Leader

Jeff Somers & Band
Moncton, NB

Rev. Dr. Allan Demond will be our keynote speaker for Oasis 2012. Originally from New Brunswick, Allan has been the Senior Pastor of NewHope Baptist Church in Melbourne, Australia since 1995 and previously was the Senior Pastor of Highfield Baptist Church in Moncton. Allan holds a PhD in education and homiletics, teaches preaching at Whitley



College and was the keynote speaker at the BWA 2010 World Congress in Hawaii. Leadership mentoring, organisational consulting and conference speaking are extensions of Allan's leadership and communication ministries. He is married to Janet, an artist, and they have three adult children. You can read Allan's blog here-
www.notestoallan.blogspot.com

Jeff Somers is from Moncton, NB and grew up at Lewisville Baptist Church where he currently serves as the Worship & Communication Pastor. He is an accomplished musician and worship leader having toured with his own band (Jeff Somers Band) across Canada and the U.S. sharing the stage with Starfield, Leeland, Geoff Moore and The Newsboys. Jeff has a heart for worship and giving leadership to worship leaders in the Atlantic Provinces. Jeff is married to Andrea and they live in Moncton. You can read Jeff's blog at -
www.worshipperiod.com



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CRANDALL UNIVERSITY IS ON A MISSION

When I joined the team at Crandall University a number of years ago, I did so because I believed in a university that was both ministry-oriented and missional in nature. Crandall believes that, to accomplish our calling, we must provide strong academic programs that are led by world-class faculty. Students must have the opportunity to join an intimate and diverse campus community. We must show pride in our students and graduates who are known for making an impact in their communities. In challenging financial times, we must provide this

education for the best value for students' higher education dollars in the region. It's no mean feat, but Crandall is quickly being recognized as a university dedicated to the exploration of truth and excellence for all students, both those with faith backgrounds and those without. We are increasingly seen as Atlantic Canada's leading liberal arts university devoted to the Christian faith.



Great things are happening in response to the campus wide efforts. This year marks the third consecutive year of enrolment growth, and we are on track for one of the highest enrolments in our 60+ year history. A recent national survey, the 2011 SSI, shows that we are moving in the right direction. Over 87% of students said that Crandall met, or exceeded, their expectations; 81% said they were satisfied with their experience; and 77% of students would consider doing it all over again. While there are still many challenges, we are making a difference as we move forward.

While all of these things represent both great challenge and great celebration, they really point to one thing: Crandall is here to change lives. While numbers and programs might excite administrators, the real joy is found in student success. Students are here, the reason we are here, plain and simple. To invest in their lives, prepare them for what's next, help students ask the deeper questions of life, to shake their hands as frightened freshmen and then again as they walk the Convocation stage as more confident men and women, is a joy like no other. It's a great calling. We have a great deal of work left to do and the challenges are real. Yet, Crandall changes the world, one life at a time, by providing a world class education, by offering real faith, and by seeing every student as valuable and worth everything we can offer. It's that simple, and it's that difficult.

Rev. Sheldon MacLeod
Assistant Vice-President (Enrolment Services) and Registrar

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THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

We want to wish our four retiring Regional Ministers the very best in their future endeavors. We have been blessed with their service and commitment. Please stay in touch!



Clockwise from bottom left: Ron Baxter, John Weiler, Wayne Fevens, Frank Guinta

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CONVENTION CONNECTION

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TOP 5 QUESTIONS FOR THE TRANSITION TEAM

At the end of 2011, we said farewell to Regional Ministry as we have known it for many years and we are now transitioning to a new way to resource our pastors and churches. As well, we said farewell to four of our Regional Ministers who are retiring and moving on to new opportunities - Rev. Ron Baxter, Rev. Wayne Fevens, Dr. Frank Guinta & Dr. John Weiler. This fall, the regions took time to honor the work and dedication of these servants. Also, at our Christmas



Clockwise from bottom left: Elias Mutale, Greg Jones, Peter Reid, Jerry Horsman, Malcolm Beckett

party in December, Convention staff had the same opportunity to say thank you to each of them for their excellent service in the Convention. We produced a video of the four sharing their thoughts and memories of their time in Regional Ministry - www.vimeo.com/33922112. Please take time to share this in your churches.

As any church has experienced, the process of transitioning to something new can lead to some bumps in the road. This being said, as a Convention we are diligently working at making this transition as smooth as possible. We currently have a four member Transition Team in place to assist churches and pastors with needs and requests that would have normally been forwarded to the Regional Ministers. Working closely with the Executive Minister Dr. Peter Reid, the team consists of Dr. Malcolm Beckett, Rev. Jerry Horsman, Rev. Greg Jones & Rev. Elias Mutale. There will also be a new

Coordinator of Ministry Priorities working with the Transition Team who will be available to answer your inquiries and direct you to the right person. Also, in order to extend the impact and reach of the four member Transition Team, we will be recruiting and training volunteers early in 2012. These individuals will be available for the Transition Team to call upon in assisting and supporting churches and their leaders.

So, what do you do with your questions you previously took to your Regional Minister? Questions such as:

- "I'm a pastor considering a move - who can help me?"
- "We're a church looking for a pastor - who can help us?"
- "I'm a pastor facing a crisis - who do I call?"
- "We're a church in need of direction and vision - what resources are available?"
- "I'm available for pulpit supply - who do I tell?"

The easy answer is to first contact our Coordinator of Ministry Priorities for the Transition Team Wendy Jones by phone (506-635-1922 ext. 102) or by email (transition.team@baptist-atlantic.ca). From there, she will direct your request to the appropriate Transition Team member.

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