

# CONVENTION

Stronger. Together.

# CONNECTION

of Atlantic Baptist Churches

www.baptist-atlantic.ca

## #BETHECHURCH

**W**hat a difference 10 years can make! In 2001, iPods were only in development, Google was just a search engine, and we were still driving to the video store to rent movies. Today all of this, and more, is available on our phones and mobile devices.

The advent of social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) has also revolutionized the way we use technology today. As of June 2011, Facebook reported 750 million users and Twitter generates 350 million tweets a day. The shift towards texting, on-demand video, real-time updates from news sources and “likes” from our friends have changed the way we see our world and have also **broadened our definition of community.**

Online communities like Facebook and Twitter have become places for individuals and organizations to come together regardless of geography. They are places for asking questions, developing conversations and listening to what others may be saying about you or your organization. But community, in whatever form it may take, is always about relating to people. Jesus’ command was to “*go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone*” (Mark 16:15) and this includes the online community. So, instead of creating the conversation in an attempt to get people

to come to you, **go where the conversation is and join it. That’s being missional!**

This summer, we used Twitter to communicate real time updates about @TidalImpact2011 and Oasis 2011. Through the use of hash tags (#), anyone could tweet about what was happening – anything from what the speakers were saying to how youth were involved in communities.



**So how can the church leverage social media to advance the message of the Gospel?** For the last few years, Rob Nylen, Senior Pastor of Main Street Baptist in Saint John, NB has been using Facebook and Twitter both for personal use

and for the church. “*We largely use Facebook as a place for Main Street people to connect and even get introduced to each other. The main purpose for using Twitter is for people outside the church. It’s a way to try and change their perception of ‘church’.*”

The church has always been about community. Many of our churches and pastors are using social media to communicate to their congregations and communities. Your Convention has been using Facebook & Twitter (along with monthly newsletters, Youtube, Vimeo and iTunes) as a way to quickly get our message out there. Find us there – search for “**atlantic baptist.**”

*Come join the conversation!*



CONVENTION  
of Atlantic Baptist Churches  
des Églises Baptistes de l'Atlantique

TOP QUALITY TRAINING  
for  
**YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S**  
MINISTRY

**YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES COURSE**

Fall - 3 Weekends  
*Crandall University - Dr. Jody Linkletter*

**YOUTH AND SHORT TERM MISSION**

Feb 7 - 11, 2012  
*Acadia Divinity College - Dr. Bruce Fawcett*

**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE**

April 20 - 21, 2012  
*Hillside Baptist, Moncton - Carey Neiuwhof*

**YOUTH LEADER TRAINING PROGRAM**

*Classes starting regularly in various locations*

**EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP OF YOUTH**

Winter - 3 Weekends  
*Acadia Divinity College - Rev. Dale Stairs*

**SPRINGFORTH VOLUNTEER LEADERS CONFERENCE**

May 11 - 12, 2012  
*Moncton*

**COUNSELLING ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

June 4 - 8, 2012  
*Acadia Divinity College - Dr. Marv Penner*

For more information about these and other events,  
contact the Youth & Family Department

[www.baptist-atlantic.ca/departments/youthfamily](http://www.baptist-atlantic.ca/departments/youthfamily)  
[youthandfamily@baptist-atlantic.ca](mailto:youthandfamily@baptist-atlantic.ca)

506.635.1922