

Fall 2022

The Neighbourhood



CANADIAN BAPTISTS
OF ATLANTIC CANADA

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Thanks for reading *The Neighbourhood!* This fall edition is digital-only. The next print edition is planned for spring 2023. If your church would like to update the quantity that we send to you, please reach out to us by email: communications@baptist-atlantic.ca

We also encourage you to sign up for our email communication [on our website](#).

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A Letter from our Executive Minister



Our hope and prayer for your church this fall season is to experience a time of renewal, healing and growth in your congregation.

As we finish and share this newsletter, there are still many areas feeling the impact of Hurricane Fiona. The need is great, and I am happy to say that Baptist churches from across the region and across the country are stepping up to help in practical ways and with financial support.

We were thrilled to gather in person at **Oasis** in August, gathering around the theme, “We Are Family.” We heard powerful, biblical messages from Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton reminding us of current realities of racism and injustice in Atlantic Canada. Those messages are available on our website for you to view and download.

We are offering our first ever Justice Summit on November 4-5. I would encourage your church to send a team of delegates to experience the Summit and come away with ideas which can be implemented in your context.

Our goal is to support and equip your church, including for Youth & Family ministry, support in Leadership Development, New Congregations, Congregational Renewal and Refugee Ministry. This year, Dr. Cheryl Ann Beals has launched the Sozo Centre for Soul Care. Please check out our website for the many opportunities to support your church and your leaders.

Amidst the challenges we face in this post-COVID era, I believe if we prayerfully seek God’s direction, there are incredible opportunities for the Kingdom of God to break into our neighbourhoods. I was recently struck the words of a song, “Holy Spirit” by Maximilian:

*We don't have to ask You to come
'Cause You're already here...
Everything changes when You come around
Nothing else can compare.
Your move has already begun...*

May we have the faith to believe and to see that the Holy Spirit really is already here. May we have faith to believe that: “Everything changes when You come around.”



Rev. Dr. Peter Reid

A scenic view of a mountain trail. A stone path leads up a green hillside. The sky is blue and clear. The text is overlaid on the image.

Engaging In Soul Care: A New Chapter In Our Work With Leaders and Congregations

So take a new grip with
your tired hands and
strengthen your weak
knees. Mark out a straight
path for your feet so that
those who are weak and
lame will not fall but
become strong.

Hebrews 12:12-13 NLT

Sozo Centre FOR Soul Care

At Oasis 2022, we announced the **Sozo Centre for Soul Care**, the next stage of development for the CBAC's Department of Clergy Formation & Wellness.

Pastors who have journeyed with us have been asking how to share what they are learning with their congregations and leaders. With God's guidance, we're working to address these felt needs.

The Vision

The Sozo Centre for Soul Care will glorify God by becoming a trusted trailblazer in soul care and spiritual formation. The Sozo Centre will discover and create soul care pathways and communities by equipping, facilitating, and empowering the CBAC to join God in His Sozo mission—a healing, saving, transforming mission.

This Centre will prepare CBAC leaders to become wounded healers, embracing the fullness of our salvation in the present and bearing witness to the kingdom of God in a wounded world. Our vision is to create communities of wounded healers who know the presence and power of God personally, and desire to follow Jesus on the road less traveled, helping others along the way. We want to expand our ministry, not only to more pastors, but also to leaders in our congregations, creating more opportunities for spiritual retreats, spiritual formation, soul care, and healing.



We are thankful for the leadership of **Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Beals**, Director of the Sozo Centre for Soul Care, who will continue to guide this new stage in our work with leaders and congregations. Cheryl Ann is a trusted voice in the area of soul care and spiritual formation for our Atlantic Baptist family. You can

On top of online communities and in-person retreats, you can also expect Sozo Centre resources and one-time events that support our efforts in this area. Our website shares more context and upcoming resources that you can dive into:

baptist-atlantic.ca/sozocentre

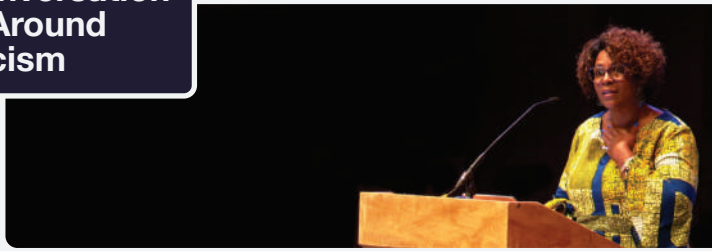
Celebrating **OASIS**

Our Annual Gathering was held
on August 11-13 at Acadia
University in Wolfville, Nova
Scotia.

we are
family



Continuing Conversation and Learning Around Anti-Black Racism



We began Oasis with Cultural Immersion: Embracing Our African Nova Scotian Family, a day trip to important sites for our Black brothers and sisters. We were honoured to have Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton as our keynote speaker for the event, and we welcomed workshop leaders to help us engage well in the conversation around addressing racial injustice in our churches and neighbourhoods.

Gathering & Learning



Oasis was hosted at Acadia University for the first time since 2018. We were thrilled to simply be together again—and being in person was especially meaningful for us. Across three days, we gathered for rallies, after-hours hangouts, partner updates, workshops, BBQs, and prayer times.

Business Sessions



The business sessions are an essential part of our participation as a denominational family. We gathered for two sessions on Friday, August 12th to consider and vote on our agenda. We're grateful that our churches and leaders can have a voice in how the CBAC moves forward! You can find the documents for these business sessions on the Oasis website.

Kids & Youth



Oasis Kids and Oasis Youth were amazing! We are so thankful for the teams of leaders from Middleton Baptist Church (Nova Scotia) and Douglas Baptist Church (New Brunswick), leading these dynamic programs for children and youth at Oasis this year.

Camp Ministry: Faith Formation in Atlantic Canada for Generations



Dan Pyke

When I walk through the lodge doors at **Camp Tulakadik**, I love looking at the old photos on the wall, a reminder of the vision held by ministry leaders a few generations ago. Beginning with tents set up on the shore of Cassidy Lake in 1961, how could those early leaders have envisioned what it would be in 2022? With thirteen CBAC-affiliated camps actively running ministry this summer, our shared ministry influences the lives of thousands.

Camp ministry has held a significant role in developing ministry leaders across Atlantic Canada. Countless

pastors and other ministry leaders were shaped by their years in camp ministry. Jacob Sorenson (author of *Sacred Playgrounds*) writes, “Summer camp has never been more valuable. What began as a series of tender shoots in the 1880s has grown into a thriving biome that nurtures life and offers a source of fruit for the church and the world. It has become an integral part of the ecology of faith formation.”

Our camps thrive when well-supported by our churches—when all of us participate in their ministry and celebrate their stories. The **1000 Mile Challenge** is an

Three Facts About Camp Ministry

1 There are thirteen camps actively running summer camps.

The first Crandall Camping Conference was held in Spring 2022.

2

3 A snowmobiling fundraiser led to \$76,250 raised for camps in New Brunswick in 2022

example of this support. In March, two snowmobilers set out across New Brunswick, completing 1000 miles in less than 24 hours and raising over \$76000 for camper registrations.

Camp Wildwood (NB) is one of our oldest camps, tracing its roots back to 1912 with a vision of creating a “safe place of acceptance, growth, and love.” This vision continues to be lived out today, as evidenced by the experience of a young staff person who showed a camper that she could come to the Lord in times of trouble and hurt.

This young cabin leader’s story began with a camper had received a scrape early one week while playing a game. After having the scrape treated, the cabin leader took time to pray for this camper who was unfamiliar with prayer, and seemed disinterested in learning about God. But later in the week, when another camper took a tumble, the camper was quick to grab her cabin leader to pray for this other child. This is one out of many stories that show the potential for growth and encounter within the camp environment.

Another significant moment comes from **Camp Pagweak (NS)**. At a campfire with a Q&A time, a young boy raised his hand and asked the profound question: “What does it mean that the Kingdom of God is here now?” A staff member who was there says, “It was in this moment that I remembered the impact of camping ministry and how vital it is that we make the most of our God-appointed opportunities as Christian camps. Through the work of the Spirit and through the work of the staff team, this child was able to grasp a deeper understanding of the Kingdom of God and that that Kingdom is for him. It is privilege to join God in His Kingdom work at camp as we seek to make Him known and share with youth that the Kingdom of God is not simply a far-off reality but that we can be a part of it in the here and now.”

These two encounters highlight that camp ministry has been an integral part of faith formation in our region. They’re also an invitation for our churches to continue supporting the significant work of our camps—because there is Kingdom work that is done in our entire CBAC family—in leadership development, in faith formation, and in changed lives.

Dan Pyke is the Director of Youth & Family for the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada.





**Justice
& Advocacy**

Justice Summit 2022

**November 4 – 5
Immanuel Baptist Church, Truro**

From Education to Action

This catalytic event equips CBAC churches to engage in neighbourhood-level justice & advocacy movements.

For more more information and to register a team of delegates for your church, visit:

baptist-atlantic.ca/justicesummit

Canadian Baptists Provide Support After Fiona

Hurricane Fiona Relief Fund

In late September, we shared an appeal for funds to support our churches' relief efforts after Hurricane Fiona. The needs are many—and we're accepting donations to distribute to CBAC churches who quickly depleted their benevolent funds as they gave help to those in need.

We celebrate that God has already used our CBAC churches to give thousands of dollars to support our churches in these relief efforts. We invite you to consider donating to this fund. This is an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus—a way to demonstrate a deep love and care for our neighbourhoods.

Canadian Baptist Ministries has joined in our appeal, bringing in support from our partner churches across the country.

Thousands of dollars have been raised already from churches and individuals in our partner Canadian Baptist groups. We thank God that we have a national network of Baptists who are praying and giving financial assistance.

Jennifer Lau, Executive Director of CBM, shared her support as part of our joint appeal:

“We are grateful for our partnership with the CBAC and the opportunity to respond to the needs that have resulted from this devastating storm. This crisis response is a way for the Canadian Baptist family across the country to come together and empower local churches who are providing practical assistance in the name of Christ to people in their communities.”

baptist-atlantic.ca/fionarelief



Vennture

Canadian Baptist Ministries Launches New Faith + Work Global Initiative



Michael Waddell
Vennture Lead



My story is quite common and may be relatable to you. Prior to being appointed by CBM in 2015, I worked in small business. I enjoyed my work and was dedicated to delivering quality service and offering the best products possible. I was also very involved in my local church and saw my involvement as meaningful and valuable to God. I struggled, though, to see how my daily work, my Christian faith, and church involvement connected. I struggled to see how my work provided me with regular opportunities to participate in God's redemptive mission in the world; or how my work was in fact, ministry, or that I could be "called" to it in the same way that I might be called into 'ministry'.

I felt regular tension between the responsibilities of my day job and wanting to serve God with my life, which up until this point, I believed meant serving on a church

committee, playing guitar on the worship team, or leading a small group. I couldn't possibly serve God through my daily work, could I? Can you relate to anything of this?

As a global mission organization seeking to embrace a broken world through word & deed, CBM has seen the tremendous value of God's people living out their faith, not just on Sundays, but the other six days as well. The global church has emphasized so adamantly the church gathered and neglected the vital part of the church scattered out into homes, communities, schools, workplaces, and around the world. The truth is both the gathering, and the scattering of God's people are important for spreading the Gospel and building God's Kingdom.

Over and over again, we have seen the phenomenal impact that ‘ordinary church-goers’ have on helping shape local communities, often through their daily work. They are teachers and health-care professionals, government employees, tradespeople, truckers and farmers, businesspeople, merchants, and day-labourers. They understand that God had called them to live out their faith in and through their work. On the other hand, we have also heard church-leaders send confusing messages that God’s work is only what’s being done in the church; singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school, being a deacon, serving on a committee, or sometimes, just being a means of generating income for what they understand to be God’s work (i.e., in the church). Sometimes people feel like they are second-class citizens in the kingdom, sometimes disparaged for choosing what has been labelled as ‘secular’ work vs the ‘sacred’ work of the church. These realities have sent CBM on a journey over the past number of years; a journey to discover the connections between faith and work, whether paid or unpaid, formal employment or household chores. The fact is, everybody works, even students have ‘home-work’. Our work matters to God and coming to a deeper understanding of how our daily work connects with God’s work is crucial in becoming whole-life disciples.

For this reason, CBM has launched a whole new Faith+Work global initiative, which we call VENNTURE, aimed at helping people discover how their faith meets work. When faith meets work all the hours of our lives can be infused with meaning.

You might be wondering, ‘why did they spell their name incorrectly’? Well, it’s not a mistake, but let me take a moment to explain our reasoning. Many of you will know what a Venn diagram is: two-overlapping shapes that demonstrate the logical relationship between two or more sets of ideas. It was named after a British mathematician, John Venn, in 1880, who was trying to help people understand how seemingly opposing concepts can actually be closely linked together. So, a simple version could look like this:



As our new VENNTURE logo shows, we see that discipleship is the great integrator, the very heart of life as God’s people. It is where faith meets work and equips people with useful resources to live out their faith every single day of the week.



VENNTURE is strategically working within our partner framework through a tri-fold approach, which is quite straightforward:

1. **FORMATION:** Through sound biblical teaching, training, coaching, and mentoring, VENNTURE is helping equip the whole people of God to participate in God’s work and to bring about transformation.
2. **CREATION:** VENNTURE works within a partner network and in a spirit of mutuality, to assist in the creation of transformational businesses that lead to human flourishing and provide meaningful work for individuals.
3. **MOBILIZATION:** VENNTURE is building networks in order to mobilize God’s people to see their work as mission and accept their role to help heal a broken world through it.

We are excited to launch this important new work on behalf of CBM and our partners locally and around the world. If you’d like to learn more, or to sign-up for our newsletter, *In the Loop*, please visit our website, vennture.ca. We also invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for daily posts featuring scripture and quotes focused on the integration of faith and work. Or, for deeper content on this topic, consider joining our network on LinkedIn.

Michael welcomes opportunities to connect with you and your churches to discover how faith meets work.



The locally-based mission event, empowering young people to lead and engage the entire congregation to join them in serving their neighbourhood.

Many student ministries take the opportunity to plan local serving projects during the summer-time—and these initiatives remind students and churches that God invites us to participate with him where we are, and to share in the love that God has for our neighbours.

Mission tours have long been significant to the youth ministry culture of Atlantic Canada. We have seen lives changed as teens serve together in community. Mission tours strengthen both peer and intergenerational relationships, and they reinforce the value of serving the local community—building partnerships and simply blessing our neighbours. These are opportunities for teenagers to grow

to grow in leadership and important reminders for adults of the capacity of teenagers.

As the CBAC, we are committed to joining God in our neighbourhoods and inspiring churches to live on the edge of mission where they are. **Tidal Impact** is a long-running event that invites youth groups to travel to a region for a week. However, we wanted to continue encouraging churches to find ways to serve in their own communities without needing to travel. We wanted churches to be asking what God was doing in their own neighbourhood, and how they could participate in that.

To facilitate that, the CBAC's Youth &

Family department has created a set of resources called **Undercurrent**, which empowers young people to lead and serve their neighbourhoods through partnerships in their community. No two Undercurrent initiatives look the same, and the experience doesn't need to be called Undercurrent. Whether a church uses the name or resources, we celebrate when students find creative ways to impact their neighbourhoods.

Serving together is a significant way to impact a student's faith, creating lasting memories and strengthening the intergenerational and peer relationships that are so significant to their faith journey.

The opportunities of a local-focused mission event like **Undercurrent** can be life-changing for students and everyone else who joins in, serving Christ every day, everywhere, particularly in their own neighbourhoods.



Middleton Baptist (NS) and Cornerstone Baptist (PEI)

Middleton Baptist (NS) hosted Cornerstone Baptist (PEI) for a week in July 2022 for their Summer Serve event. Through nursing home visits, car washes, VBS, cookie baking, and even a concert, students from these churches served together.

Rev. Hannah Bartlett (Cornerstone Baptist) reflects on the week by recalling an outdoor coffee house their students planned in support of Ukraine, unsure of how many people would show up. “We had a great turnout, served cupcakes, home made cookies and root beer floats and raised I think \$400 for Ukraine. That was all student dreamed up and they pretty much executed it themselves! A cool offshoot was there was a seniors apartment complex right around the corner and they came outside to hear the music. Our students brought them over cookies and cupcakes, and they were so thrilled!”



RiverCross Church (NB) and Forest Hills Baptist Church (NB)

This summer, RiverCross and Forest Hills Baptist Churches partnered together and facilitated an Undercurrent experience at Arrowhead Bible Camp, a summer camp for First Nations Children. Team members from those churches spent the week serving as cabin leaders, activity leaders, and filling maintenance roles. One grade 8 team member writes:

“Undercurrent was a very meaningful experience for me. It brought me closer to Jesus and taught me to seek Him every day. Working at Arrowhead taught me to show God’s love to others. Undercurrent changed my relationship with Jesus for the better.” She recognizes that she learned to take time to help others, by spending the mornings organizing sheds and hanging out with the campers throughout the days. She appreciated the connections she made with a couple of campers through meaningful conversation and sharing her own experience of kayaking with another camper.

FROM OUR CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Leadership Development Intensive

A new 18-month program designed to help all pastoral leaders understand themselves, the theology of leadership, and the culture of the church and community they are called to lead.







The CBAC needs leaders who are prepared to skillfully, prayerfully serve our congregations as we join God in our neighbourhoods.

Our brand new **Leadership Development Intensive** addresses an ongoing need for structured professional development and deeper engagement for pastoral leaders serving in our churches.

Leaders who enroll in the Leadership Development Intensive will take part in monthly peer group learning circles and four in-person summits throughout the program.

There are four broad themes that the program's in-person summits will be based on:

-  Understanding Leadership & Self
-  Leading Self
-  Current Cultural Challenges
-  Current Congregational Challenges

Our CBAC congregations can invest in the growth of our leaders by providing encouragement, time, and financial subsidy for them to participate in this program—and most importantly committing to praying for our leaders.

The Leadership Development Intensive is starting in January 2023. Registration is open now and closes December 15th, 2022.

Visit the Centre for Leadership Development on our website: baptist-atlantic.ca/leadershipdevelopment

Supporting your ministry, behind the scenes.

In every organization, there's always work that doesn't make the headlines. Here are some things that you might not have realized we're doing to support our churches.

Our Finance Department can handle **Pre-Authorized Debit giving** for your congregation. Our Finance Officer, Debbie Barriault, is open to chat about that and other questions you may have about church finances—including payroll questions, tax forms, and more.

We have negotiated a **group cell phone plan** with Bell Mobility, which can provide adequate data, affordable cell phones, and favourable terms to eligible church staff and spouses. Andrew Myers (andrew.myers@baptist-atlantic.ca) can answer any questions you may have.

For pastors and congregations in transition, we have a website page for **ministry openings** for CBAC and affiliated ministries, as well as a regularly-updated **Pulpit Supply & Interim list** of pastors who could be available to give help.

Our Leadership Development department holds an annual event called **Explore**, an orientation designed to be one of the first steps in the process for leaders pursuing ordination in the CBAC.

Kevin Vincent, Director of New Congregations, has developed and produced videos on YouTube called **reShape 333**. These videos offer easy-to-understand concepts and conversation starters for your church's leadership team, designed to help you shape vision and kickstart a new moment in your ministry.

We have a benevolent fund for pastors and their families who are experiencing financial needs, as well as for pastors' widows and widowers. Traditionally this has been called the **December Communion Offering** fund, and our churches are invited to support this by collecting an offering near the end of the year.

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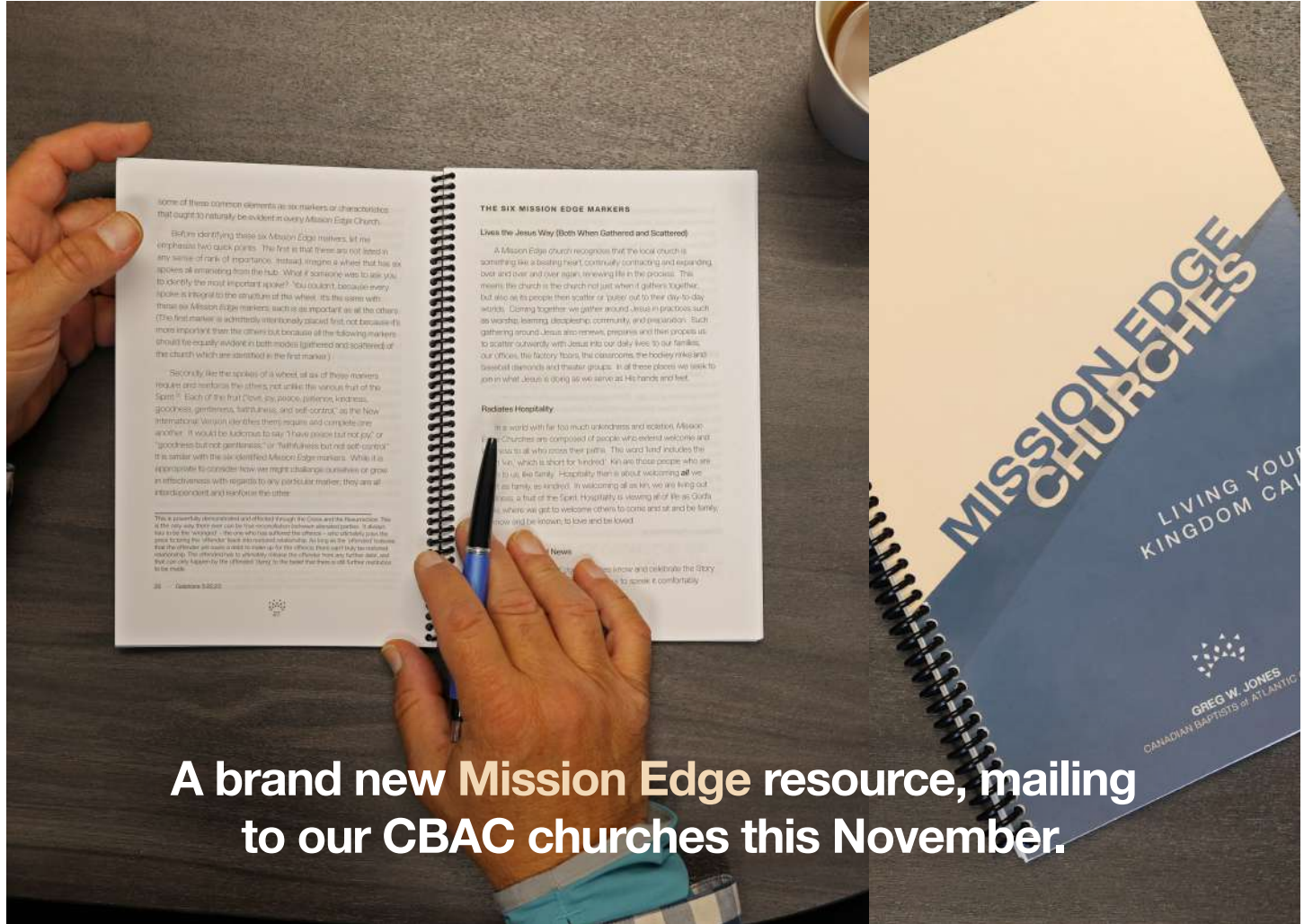
Learn more and take action at

OLIVERCHAIR.CA



ACADIA
DIVINITY COLLEGE

Equipping Christians to Serve



A brand new Mission Edge resource, mailing to our CBAC churches this November.



CANADIAN BAPTISTS
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Joining God in our neighbourhoods

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