

# NL ADVENTIST eREPORT

A digital publication brought to you by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador

Greetings! In this issue: Adventist/Eastern Orthodox Christian Family in Remote Newfoundland, Update on Pastor John, NL Rep for Burman University and North American Division Boards, and more...



## Adventist/Eastern Orthodox Christian Family in Remote Newfoundland

Rahwa Menges, her husband Dr. Dereje Habte, and their two children, Yadon and Melkam, live in Roddickton-Bide Arm, a small community located on the eastern side of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. By most standards, the family lives in a remote area. Roddickton-Bide Arm is located about 5 hours, by car, north and a little east of Corner Brook, and approximately 10.5 hours non-stop east then north from St. John's.

Both Rahwa and Dereje, originally from Ethiopia, moved to Canada with the hopes of establishing

themselves in North America. Dereje, an Eastern Orthodox Christian, and a licensed medical doctor/surgeon with over 9 years of experience practicing medicine in Ethiopia, upon arrival in Canada, began the process of becoming licensed to practice medicine in Canada. Rahwa, a trained school teacher and baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, was the first of the family to arrive in Canada, thus preparing the way for Dereje to join her.

Up until early 2017, Dereje, was stationed as a physician in St. Anthony, NL on a temporary basis, but finally transferred to Roddickton-Bide Arm for a 3.5 year term. He currently serves as one of two primary physicians servicing the White Bay Central Health Centre in the community. Meanwhile, Rahwa and children lived in St. John's and attended the St. John's SDA Church regularly. Once Dereje was settled, Rahwa and children moved from St. John's to Roddickton-Bide Arm to join her husband and their father.

"The community up here is so supportive", says Rahwa. "They have really tried to make us feel welcome." Neighbours often bring food, offer assistance, and generally treat the family with real kindness. While the family enjoys the people and the community, being such a great distance away



## Year-to-Date (YTD) Financial Report January-September

Total Members: 566

### Tithe YTD

2017: \$446,309

2016: \$402,310

### Tithe Per Capita YTD (Members)

2017: \$789

2016: \$712

### Sabbath School YTD

2017: \$9,776

2016: \$8,692

### World Budget YTD

2017: \$10,528

2016: \$9,058

### Newfoundland Advance YTD

2017: \$15,171

2016: \$13,905

Source: SDA Church in NL Tithe, Sabbath School, and World Mission Fund Comparison, Report Period September 30, 2017. Financial figures rounded to nearest dollar.

from larger communities such as Corner Brook or St. John's has its unique challenges. Winter can be quite daunting. Sometimes the only way to get around is with a snowmobile or in a big four-wheel drive. It can take a while for the roads to get plowed. Fresh food can be challenging to obtain at times. Fresh fruits and non-root vegetables are not always readily available.

One significant challenge for Rahwa is being 5 hours away from the nearest Adventist Church family. When they first moved to Roddickton-Bide Arm, Yadon and Melkam used to ask: "Are we going to church today? Why can't we go to church today?" To meet this need, Rahwa started to hold worship services in the home with her children, but without a church family it is not always easy to do. "Sometimes it can be challenging" said Rahwa.

In spite of the challenges, the family is of a good spirit. They are happy to be together and to be in such a welcoming community. Rahwa and her husband, Dereje, would appreciate your continued prayers for them and their two children, Yadon and Melkam. Visitors, phone calls, and letters are welcome. "I really miss my church family" said Rahwa, "please send my greetings to everyone."

To contact Rahwa and Dereje call 709-697-5089 or email rahwafish@yahoo.com

## Update on Pastor John Brushett

Pastor John and Pauline flew out of St. John's airport Sunday and on Monday, of this week, began health treatments at the Bayside Natural Health Centre, in Baie Ste. Anne, New Brunswick. He is scheduled to be at the centre for 20 days. The decision to go to Bayside Natural Health Centre came after learning the Canadian based centre offered comparable treatments as Adventist run Uchee Pines Lifestyle Center, located in the U.S.

Pastor John and Pauline want to thank everyone who has offered prayers and support through this time. They ask that you continue praying for them as he undergoes treatment.

## Events

- October 5-11, 2017 - GC Annual Council, Silver Spring, MD.
- October-November (8 weeks) - Dr. Nedley's Community Depression & Anxiety Recovery Program, Conception Bay South
- October 18, 2017-Camp Committee Meeting
- October 22, 2017 - Special Pastor's Meeting with Dr. Bruce Boyd
- October 27-31, 2017 - NAD Year End Meetings, Silver Spring, MD.
- November 6-8, 2017- VOAR Sharathon
- November 14-20, 2017 - SDACC Year End Meetings, Oshawa, ON
- December 4-6, 2017 - NL Workers Meeting
- December 6, 2017 - Deadline for Operation Christmas Child Boxes in Burin Peninsula, Marystown

For the latest news, updates, and events, please like us  
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## NL Rep for Burman University & North American Division Boards

Diane Burns, from Corner Brook SDA Church, is the NL representative to both the Burman University Board of Directors and the North American Division Board of Directors.

Each Canadian conference/mission is represented on the university's Board by each conference/mission president and at least one other selected member from each province. Burman University had its latest board meeting, and Diane's third to attend, in September in Lacombe, Alberta.



Familiar Faces in NL: Pr. Ken Corkum, Pr. Jeff Potts, Almyra Hodder, Pr. Gary Hodder, Diane Burns, Barry Bussey

The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists hold their annual Year-end Meeting every fall in Maryland. Each Seventh-day Adventist Union, within North America, sends representatives from each of its constituent districts to the NAD Year-end Meetings. This coming week will be Diane's second chance to attend the NAD Year-end meetings. Her first being the fall, 2016 session. She is scheduled to serve until 2020.

This year's meeting will take place in the new NAD office building located in Columbia, Maryland.