

NL ADVENTIST eREPORT

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

Greetings! In this issue Woody Acres Camp Update, Adventist Membership, St. John's Pastoral Search Update, Volunteer Highlight, Heart Surgery Fundraiser, plus more...



David Trim, director of Archive, Statistics and Research I
Photo by Brent Hardinge / ANN

Adventist Membership Grows Substantially but Challenges Remain

World church secretariat's team highlights milestones as well as historical challenges. Oct 09, 2017 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Adventist Review Staff

Seventh-day Adventist membership around the world is growing at an increased rate, said Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR) director David Trim, in the opening presentation of the Secretariat's report. He was the first of several speakers from the world church's Office of the Secretariat, during the Oct. 8 session of the church's Executive Committee in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States.

Trim's presentation, which highlighted statistical trends, announced that as of Jun. 30, 2017, the Adventist Church had

20,343,814 baptized members around the world. He explained that the increase includes the fact that an auditing process, which attempts to account for members who left the church, has slowed after several years of steady implementation in most regions of the world. Members' mortality rates are also lower, he said.

The membership auditing process, however, must go on, said Trim. "Knowing the real numbers helps us to be good stewards, and assists us in our strategic planning," he said. Membership auditing "is a vital tool in pastoral ministry."

Trim also shared with Executive Committee members that member loss rate is quite high—39 percent or 2 out of each 5 new members. "Let me remind you that members do not usually leave because of theological differences but because they go through a crisis in life or experience conflict in the church community," he said. "They might feel unmissed, uncared for, unimportant, and after a few years, they just slip through the cracks."

Despite losses, Trim said that total accessions are going up, as many places around the world are experiencing missional success. "A person is baptized into the Adventist Church every 23 seconds," said Trim. "For the last two years, baptisms have averaged over 3,000 a day." And the number of new churches is



Events

- **October-November** (8 weeks) - Dr. Nedley's Community Depression & Anxiety Recovery Program, Conception Bay South
- **October 27-31, 2017** - NAD Year End Meetings, Silver Spring, MD.
- **October 28, 2017** - Jayden Purcell Heart Surgery Fundraiser
- **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

Upcoming Events In Your Area?

Does your church, company, or group have any events it would like to submit to be included on the NL Adventist Calendar?

Submit to: nladventist@gmail.com

Fundraiser for Jayden Purcell Saturday Night

St. John's, Canada | St. John's SDA Church

Everyone is invited to come out Saturday night, Oct. 28 at 7:00pm to a fundraiser in support of Jayden Purcell's trip to Toronto for heart surgery in November. There will be a talent show, silent auction and bake sale. Contact Jenny at jennypurcell1981@gmail.com or Margaret at eroomme@gmail.com with any questions.

growing—one of the best indicators to fuel steady growth.

Trim displayed figures that show that while in 1991, there was one Adventist member per 758 inhabitants, as of 2016, that figure has gone down to one member per 371 people. Another way of seeing it? In 1991, there were 13 members per 10,000 inhabitants, while currently there are 27. "It has more than doubled in a quarter of a century," he said.

A great challenge remains, said Trim, in what is known as the "10/40 Window," a geographical comprehensive region comprising 69 nations where most of the population is not Christian. "While around 40 percent of the world population lives in that region, there are less than 3 million Adventist members there," said Trim. "It means just 10 members per 10,000 inhabitants."

Trim closed by reminding Executive Committee members that counting is always a means, not an end in itself. "It helps us to know how we are doing, and to know where to go," he said. "But if we use numbers to define ourselves, they will harm us."

Read full article on Adventist News Network at <http://goo.gl/crQ5wZ>

Update: St. John's Pastor Search Resumes

Oct 15, 2017 | St. John's, Canada | NL Adventist Communications

The search for a new St. John's Church pastor has resumed after receiving news Pastor John Fournier withdrew his name.

Pastor Fournier had accepted the position upon condition his home in Nova Scotia would sell by or before Thanksgiving, 2017. The deadline passed, but the house did not sell.

When interviewed shortly after receiving the news, Pastor Ken Corkum, president of Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador, indicated search for a new candidate began immediately.

Volunteers Construct Maintenance Shed at Woody Acres

Oct 18, 2017 | Mount Pearl, Canada | Eric L. Ollila

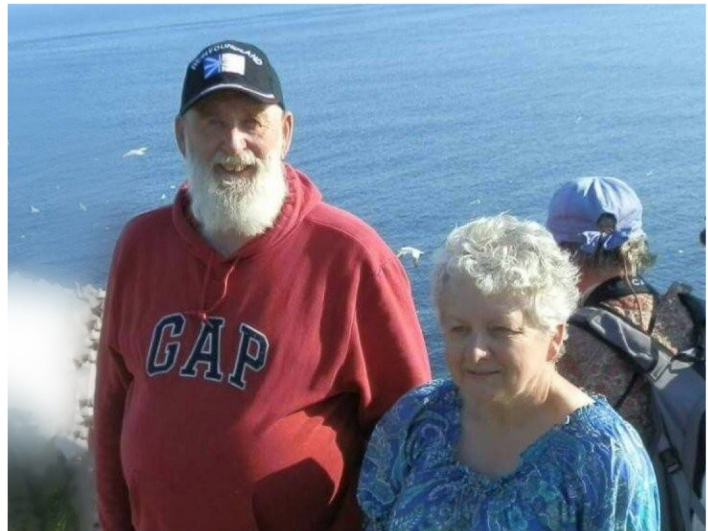
Ron and Justina Stagg, two Seventh-day Adventists from Bay Roberts, NL recently completed the outside construction of a new maintenance shed at Woody Acres Camp.

The Stagg's have been working as volunteers on the project 4 or 5 days per week for the last 6 weeks. Last Monday, they completed the outer structure and siding. Now they are waiting for the electric to be installed and then they will insulate and finish the building interior.

Since 1983, Ron has worked primarily in construction, but also pursued interests in education. For a number of years he and Justina lived in Alberta. While there, Ron attended Burman University (then called Canadian Union College (CUC)) and took a two year program in Religious Studies. During that time he also worked on converting the old CUC Girls Dorm into the CUC Fine Arts building. Justina worked in the school's furniture factory and also did sewing.



New Maintenance Shed, Camp Woody Acres | Photo by Eric L. Ollila



Ron & Justina Stagg | Photo courtesy of Ron Stagg

In 2008, Ron and Justina retired and moved back to Bay Roberts, NL. Since then, the couple have taken on various mission projects for the church in the province. In 2001, the couple moved a large metal building from Botwood to Woody Acres, where the building was set up to serve as the worship auditorium for the camp. In 2011 or 2012, at the request of the NL Adventist Mission, Ron and Justina refurbished the same building, fixed the roof, and finished the inside making it more suitable as a worship centre.

Although it was not on a voluntary basis, in 2015, Ron and Justina built another shed located near the zip line, just off the road leading to the waterfront at Camp Woody Acres.

This year's project has been the maintenance shed. When asked what the main reason for their serving as volunteers on this project, Ron gave the following reply: "We enjoy it! And it helps save money for the NL Mission."

Ron and Justina have worked on a number of other projects at Camp Woody Acres over the last few years including re-siding the men's and women's washrooms, and installing a new roof on the Juniper Lodge.



Woody Acres Camp Committee: Ken Corkum (chair), Jack Baier, Joe Bergen, Christine Bergen, Ron Stagg | Photo by Eric L. Ollila

Woody Acres Camp Committee

Oct 18, 2017 | Mount Pearl, Canada | NL Adventist Communications

The Woody Acres Camp Committee met October 18, 2017 on the camp grounds, located about 30 minutes from St. John's, NL and located on Southwest Pond. The group dealt with items related to additional camp trailer spots, a new stove, camp wrap up for the winter, and the possibility for one more camp rental this fall.

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