

NL ADVENTIST eREPORT

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

Greetings! In this issue, I'm an Optimist: Reflections on 2017; Congratulations on Engagement Kaitlynn Symonds & Etienne Harushimana; Funeral Held for Mary Bridget Oakley...



Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newfoundland and Labrador Worker's Meeting | Spring, 2017 | Photo by Pastor Ken Corkum

I'm an Optimist: Reflections on 2017

Jan. 10, 2018 | By Pastor Ken Corkum, president

The report of Caleb and Joshua of what was seen in the Promised Land gripped by faith the word of God that "He" was in charge of His work and would lead His people into what seemed impossible places. I have always been encouraged by what I have seen God do with a "little" that is dedicated to Him. Being optimistic is not denying challenges but embracing them as opportunities for God to work. If NL had great numbers and all the resources we needed then we would tend to take the credit for any success.

Pastoral Staff

This has been a year of transition for our pastoral staff. I am thankful we have had most

of our pastors in their districts for some five years. This is good news and I am grateful for each one of our pastors who have served giving their best to the NL members.

This year we have had Pastor Jon-Ross Ennest decide to return to school to take up Physiotherapy, Pastor Eric Ollila move from being pastor in St John's to communications director until August 31, 2018 when he will move on, also, to further his education. It was a sad experience to see Pastor John Brushett lay aside his mantle and laid to rest. Pastor Victor Reyes-Prieto is in the process of returning to the USA after ministering in Marystown for approximately five years. All of these transitions create challenges, but also open up possibilities. I commend the NL Board of Directors for their vision and balanced judgment in responding to what appeared to be a "Promised Land" hurdle.



Anointing Service for Pastor Brushett | 2017 | Photo by Pastor Ken Corkum





Lawrence & Diane Burns, Corner Brook | 2017 | Photo by Diane Burns

Gander, Lethbridge and Cape Freels

Gander, Lethbridge and Cape Freels are now one district under Pastor David Boutcher who brings his Pastoral skills to serve the three churches. Lethbridge has more than doubled its attendance under his leadership and we expect to see the Lord do some great things in this new district.

St. John's

We thought we had our pastor for St John's in Pastor Fournier, however that door closed, but I have learned that when one door closes God has a window for you to go through. The lateness of the year on having Pastor Fournier withdraw his name has created a challenge in finding a new pastor as we were going into winter. But I have no doubt that God has someone in mind as we pray and search for the one He wants to serve Him in our capital city.

Corner Brook

The NL Board voted to enter into an Agreement with Lawrence and Diane Burns to look after Pastor John Brushett's district of Corner Brook for 2018 while we look for a new pastor. I am pleased with the level of support this couple has from their church and we will see some positive visitation and capable leadership in this district.

Marystown

A surprise to many of you will be the decision for a young couple to take the lead for the Marystown district. Etienne Harushimana and Kaitlynn Symonds have accepted to be our new pastoral team for Marystown. They recently announced their engagement. To have Etienne, who has been coming to our field with the Burman VBS Team and working at our camps, and our own Kaitlynn Symonds, who has led the past Burman VBS Teams, is a huge blessing for Marystown. Administration is very pleased with their accepting our invitation. Administration along with Pastor Eric Ollila will work with the Marystown district to help in the transition until the young couple come during the summer of 2018 and finally January 1, 2019.

VOAR

2017 has been a banner year for our Radio Station. Having the CRTC vote in June to grant VOAR the license to move from an AM station to FM is a huge blessing. The license also grants that the station can move from 10,000 Watt to 100,000 Watts resulting in an increase in our potential listeners in the Avalon alone of 49%.

During the fall the foundation was laid for the 350ft tower, the tallest free standing structure in NL. It is

Mount Pearl-based VOAR gets CRTC blessing for FM move

Station launched in 1929, and for years was 1 of only 2 Christian radio stations

By Stephanie Kinsella, CBC News Posted: Jul 10, 2017 9:27 AM NT | Last Updated: Jul 10, 2017 9:27 AM NT



Sherry Griffin, VOAR's station manager, says switching to an FM frequency is 'a huge move for us.' (VOAR/Facebook)

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The faith-based programming and songs on VOAR — the almost 90-year-old Christian radio station based in Mount Pearl — will soon be even clearer, now that the station is preparing to move to the FM band.

"We are just so thankful that the CRTC approved us for this," says Sherry Griffin, station manager.

"It will mean about a 49 per cent increase in area that we can reach, currently from the metro area. And it will go from 10,000 watts to 100,000 watts ... so we'll be in stereo and the sound will be so much better."

"Every day is different here at Christian radio and praise the Lord, this is a huge move for us."

- Sherry Griffin

VOAR, which stands for Voice of Adventist Radio, is currently heard on

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St. John's Gander Deer Lake Channel-Port aux Basques Happy Valley-Goose Bay

VOAR Gets CRTC Blessing for FM Move | Jul 10, 2017 |
By Stephanie Kinsella, [CBC News](#) | Screen Shot by Pastor Ken Corkum

expected the tower will be erected by the end of June with the transition from AM to FM by the fall of 2018.

One story that you may not have heard involves our Satellite provider, Bell Express Vu. We are charged \$65,000 each year by Bell for broadcasting our VOAR Signal to the World. Their billings over the last few years have been a little erratic (we had not received a bill) so we went bold thanking them for their generous gift to VOAR by not charging us for their services. To our surprise and delight they told us, during a teleconference, our account was zero. We did not owe them anything for the past and there would no longer be any charge for services. At the time they told us, we owed them about \$110,000. What a blessing for VOAR, we praise the Lord!

Woody Acres

This was a year of expansion for our camp. It was decided to move our Youth Camp program from a one week to a two week. The first being Junior Camp and the second Teen Camp. The growth has been impressive, growing over the last five years from about 45 youth attending camp to this past year approximately 110. We are encouraged by the way our camps are impacting community youth who are attending our Christian camp program.

Two major projects took place in 2017, the development of our new Playground across from the Cafeteria and the construction of our new Maintenance Building. The playground quickly became one of the centers for parents and youth to relax and enjoy themselves.

Finances

It is always a challenge to balance one's needs, wants and dreams with the funds that are available. I want to praise the Lord for the support and faithfulness of our members who are returning their tithe to the Lord and supporting with freewill offerings the program of the local church.

I can praise God that 100% of the dollar figure of tithe we receive from our members stays in NL for

Ministry. How is this possible since we share with the higher organizations? It is true because we receive so much more from the North American Division and the SDA Church in Canada than we send out. We receive over \$500,000 to help us operate from the NAD & SDACC.

It should be mentioned that for 2017, NL is leading all Canada and I am told second in North America in our tithe increase. Although at the time of this writing I do not have the Dec. figures but as of Nov we were 10.47% (\$53,977) ahead of last year and some \$30,000 more than our highest year of 2015.

Conclusion

The NL Church has had setbacks and made steps forward in 2017. I choose to see the glass half full. I'm optimistic that the Lord is in charge of this great field and therefore close the chapter of this past year encouraged and optimistic. Let us praise the Lord for His goodness!

NL Adventist Events

1st Quarter, 2018

- **Mar. 25** - NLSDA Board of Directors Meeting

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

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"Engaged" Etienne Harushimana & Kaitlynn Symonds | Jan 4, 2018 | Photo by Jacqui McCarty

Congratulations on Engagement Kaitlynn Symonds & Etienne Harushimana

January 4, 2018 | NL Adventist Communications

We want to congratulate Etienne Harushimana and Kaitlynn Symonds on their engagement, on January 4, 2018.

The future newly weds have accepted the ministry invitation to the Marystown district, starting in January, 2019. Etienne will serve as pastor, and Kaitlynn will likely work in health care, and actively engage in ministry alongside her husband.

Funeral Held for Mary Bridget Oakley

January 8, 2018 | NL Adventist Communications

On Monday, January 8, 2018 a funeral service was held at Carnell's Funeral Home, in St. John's, for Mary Bridget Oakley. The service was conducted by Pastor Jason Williams of Bay Roberts. Internment took place at the Anglican Cemetery followed by a reception at the St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mrs. Oakley was predeceased by husband Fred, and parents Charles and Irene Firth of New Brunswick. Leaving to mourn with loving memories children Sharon (Mark), Fred, and George; grandchildren Amy, Emily, and Katie Worden, Rhiannon and Georgia; special family: Dena Daniels, John Garland, Faron Paul. Bridget was involved with the SDA Academy orange and grapefruit sales for close to 30 years and was known to many as "The Orange Lady".

She will be greatly missed, but we are anticipating seeing her on resurrection morning.



Mary Bridget Oakley Internment | Jan 8, 2018 | Photo by NL Adventist Communications



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