

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR **CANADA PACIFIC DISTRICT 2022 – 2023**

This is my 6th report to you as National Director. Elected in April 2017 and assuming the role on 1st November 2017, I quickly became aware of the challenges and opportunities before me. The COVID era has morphed, and as a body of believers, we have “bobbed and weaved” our way through it. I am not suggesting that it is over, but we certainly have found a way to navigate the challenges. For this, I am so grateful. Only time will reveal the extent to which the pandemic has impacted our work. We are still wondering what the post-pandemic church landscape will look like, but one thing is certain, the Church of Jesus Christ remains strong and resolute in its mission. This report will be one of the significant changes in several areas of leadership.

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

We have a wonderful team of dedicated people at the National Office. Executive Assistant Eric White, Bookkeeper Aml Nasr and Administrative Assistant Yara Cristales continue to serve in their existing capacities, albeit from their respective home offices. This has created certain challenges for them, but they have risen to each one with a deep sense of “call” and professionalism as they effectively fulfill National Church and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada responsibilities. This has resulted in a seamless delivery of their ministry duties. Those duties are the hidden, daily mechanisms that most of you are not aware of.



NAZARENE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES CANADA (NCMC)

Reverend Elaine Bumstead continues to serve as Executive Director of NCMC. In spite of the global challenge presented by the pandemic, I continue to be amazed at the reach of this ministry into the far flung corners of our world. This past year saw the continuing development of new domestic NCMC initiatives. Elaine will share more about this in her report. Reverend Bumstead has the ability to bring those far off places into a very personal space for us. She does this through her detailed reporting and sharing of stories and experiences. This will be a year of transition for NCMC as our Executive Director will retire on 31st December. Anticipating this massive change, we have been working on a succession plan which the National Board approved. Reverend Alan Cristales who joined Elaine on January 2nd, 2019 as N.C.M.C. Project Manager will assume the role of NCMC Executive Director effective 2nd January 2023 and Ms. Nicole Solis will assume the role of Project Manager vacated by Reverend Cristales. The

NCM CANADA COMMITTEE



National Board has also approved this change. Thank you to Elaine for your years of dedicated commitment to a ministry that has expanded the Kingdom of God in ways that will only be revealed in eternity. May God richly bless you in the next chapter of your life and ministry. We are forever grateful to you. To Alan, Nicole, Yara and the NCMC Committee thank you for your tireless work and dedicated service also. (Dell Marie Wergeland, Reverend John Watton).

NATIONAL PERSONNEL

Thank you also to Helen Thiessen for your leadership of NYI Canada. Your encouragement to the district leadership is invaluable and your representation on the Regional Council is crucial. Thank you to Penny Ure, our NMI Representative on the Global Council. Both Helen and Penny have once again been nominated to serve in the aforementioned capacities post-General Assembly 2023. To Reverend Donna Wilson who serves on the Regional Women’s Clergy Committee. Thank you also to Dr. Riley Coulter for your ministry as Director of Stewardship Services, Interfaith Committee, and serves on the board of Siloam Mission in Winnipeg.



NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

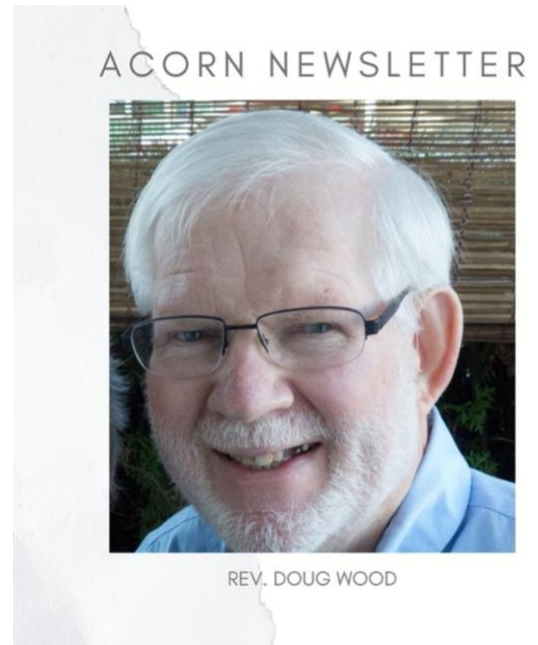


I am so grateful for the work of our National Board. To our Chair, Mr. Brian Cambers and the lay representatives, Ruth Copeland-Holtz, (Canada Central), Murray Herbert (Canada West), Kevin Seibel (Canada Pacific) & Wiléne Paul (Canada Quebec). God has brought together a wonderful team of Christlike leaders. We don’t know who will be elected at our District Assemblies in June, but if you are “returned” I will be most thankful. If you are not, I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for your faithful and Godly service. This being the last meeting of the current board, I offer special thanks to you all for your partnership in ministry. Each district assembly will elect incumbent or new National Board members.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank our great team of District Superintendents, Reverend Mark Collins (Canada Atlantic), Reverend Randy Barrington (Canada Quebec), Reverend Steve Ottley, (Canada Central), Reverend Rose Brower-Young (Canada West), and Reverend Gordon McCann (Canada Pacific). We place a high value on our ministry partnership.

ACORN

In my last report, I paid tribute to Dr. William Stewart for his many years as editor of our ACORN Communication to retired ministers in Canada. Dr. Stewart's successor is Reverend Doug Woods. Doug has served in several pastoral roles, compassionate ministries and now as a retired minister at Vancouver First Church. I am grateful to Doug for accepting this important role. May the Lord richly bless this vehicle of communication for our retired leaders throughout Canada.



GENERAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES



We are blessed to have one Lay and one Clergy representative from Canada serving on the General Board. They are; Dr. David Falk (Lay) and Reverend Dale Thistle (Clergy). We are well served by the aforementioned, and I thank both of these men for their faithfulness. In this General Assembly year, it is time for elections to the General Board. Dr. David Falk wishes to retire from his long service on the General Board. Thank you David for the way in which you have represented Canada and served so faithfully on the Global Missions Committee of the Board.

JOINT MINISTRY AGREEMENT (JMA)

This agreement was established many years ago allowing for the flow of Canadian monies to the United States and onward. In conversation with our Lawyer in January 2023 I was advised that the Income Tax Act was amended in 2022 to make it easier for Canadian charities to spend money abroad working through organizations there. This may

make it easier for the Canadian Church to fund abroad but it will require "Agency Agreements" to be established by the donor and will also require "direction and control" mechanisms to be firmly in place. Once the CRA guidelines have been finalized our lawyer will contact me and we will address the issue. In the meantime, the current arrangement is viable. This conversation came about due to a donor request from the U.S. to fund an Ambrose building project. The GMC will establish a direct donor relationship with Ambrose which will include the GMA issuing charitable receipts to U.S. donors. We (Church of the Nazarene Canada) will not be engaged in any transactions.

NEW CANADIAN “SPONSORED MISSIONARIES”

We are delighted to report that Reverend Gaston & Lucy Echeguia have settled well into life and ministry in Seville, Spain serving as Sponsored Missionaries. This category of missionary places responsibility on the individual/s to raise their own funds. These funds must be raised within the boundaries of the district in which the missionary is a member. The initial period of service in Seville will be two years during which time Gaston and Lucy will minister in a very needy area of the city. They are now entering their second year. They will also be working with the West Mediterranean Field Strategy Co-ordinator in church planting initiatives in southern Spain. Let us continue to pray that the Lord will richly bless Pastor Gaston and Lucie in their preparation for and implementation of their ministry.



SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE

This area of my responsibility continues to be a high priority as we seek to secure quality coverage at a fair and reasonable price for all. I am always mindful of the fact that this “price” is downloaded to the local church and becomes part of their overall costs in hiring a pastor. This year saw a change regarding our brokers. Charterhouse, owned and operated by Mr. Simon Hecks had been our broker for many years. However, it is with sadness that I report that Simon passed away in December 2022 following a battle with cancer. Simon was diligent in his care for us and his relationship with us was much more than a business one. We certainly mourn his loss. Recognizing his condition, Simon sold Charterhouse to Mr. Tom Loudon, owner of Loudenclear Wealth Management. Judy Godin, who was our “person” with Charterhouse now works for Loudenclear in the same capacity and continues to be our direct connection to the company representing us to Canada Life. I do thank Judy and Simon for their service on our behalf and I have no doubt that Tom Loudon will represent us with the same diligence. This coming year will see a substantial decrease in our premiums. The premiums for this year (Effective 1st April 2024) are as follows...

Family Coverage: \$412.53 + applicable Provincial Tax. This is down from \$ 479.67 + applicable Provincial Tax. (Decrease of 14%)

Single Coverage: \$ 195.34 + applicable Provincial Tax. This is down from \$ 219.59 + applicable Provincial Tax. (Decrease of 11.0%)

DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES 2022

It was a delight to be able to travel across our land with Dr & Mrs. Busic. This was their first jurisdictional trip to Canada and they were able to capture the essence of who we are and where we minister.

Charlottetown, PEI (Atlantic District): 2nd June ff
Toronto, ON (Central District): 9th June ff
Montreal, QC (Quebec District): 10th June
Calgary, AB (West District): 16th June ff

Abbotsford, BC (Pacific District): 23rd June ff

The highlight in each of these districts was the ordination service and a total of 23 persons ordained/credential recognition. Please pray for each of them:

Atlantic: Annette Smith, Brad Silliker

Central: Ruth Bissoon Ramessar, Russell Davis, Marisol Fernandez, Geoffrey Holt, Mary Phillips, John Toufankjian; Andre Cherazard (Recognition of Credential), Craig Summerfield (Recognition of Credential)

Quebec: Darius Denis, Ernseau Desmornes, Jean Saint Fort Fils Ermilus, Alex Jacques, Pierre Michel Marcel, Jean Mones St.Gourdin

West: Mark Brower- Herbert, Sheldon Hirschfield, Manuel Ronquillo, Laurel Pridgen, Ryan Herbert

Pacific: Lilia Edeni Choriego, Juan Camilo Hurtado, Marie Clementine Uwizeye.

CONNECTING THE CHURCH ACROSS THE COUNTRY

One of my tasks is to discover, facilitate and implement ways to bring us together across the vastness of our landmass. I would now present to you some of the ways in which we are accomplishing this.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT MEETINGS

I have met with our District Superintendents almost a dozen times since our last Annual Meeting. These are rich times of fellowship indeed as we address issues of current importance, praying for and discussing things pertaining to the mission of the church here in Canada. We then move into a “Peer to Peer” learning session. We place a high value on a Canadian expression of ministry lived out in the unique contexts of each district and province. As discussions become recommendations to the National Board, we then convene as the Executive Committee under the leadership of Brian Cambers. In addition to the aforementioned meetings, there is an abundance of phone calls, texts and emails. We are connected indeed!



NATIONAL PRAYER TEAM & HALF MILLION MOBILIZATION

During this past year, a great team of prayer warriors has been established. We meet monthly to intercede for our nation. This is of great value, some of which we see and most of which we don't see yet. This team is committed and courageous. Thank you Pastor Mark Collins for your partnership in this venture.

In addition to the aforementioned prayer emphasis specific to Canada, we have been heavily engaged with the regional “Half-Million Mobilization” emphasis. We are grateful to be part of a movement of God whose instruction comes from Him. So, throughout this process, and even before we have been listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit regarding steps forward.

NMI - NYI - NDI

I have also had quarterly virtual meetings and ongoing consultation meetings with our Auxiliary Department leaders & councils. I am so thankful for the leadership provided by each of these ministries. Helen Thiessen represents NYI to the USA/Canada Region, Penny Ure does the same as NMI liaison, and I represent the interest of NDI.

N.D.I. Chairs: Reverend Andrew Barker (Atlantic), Reverend Julien Lexandre (Quebec), Reverend Cindy Stavropoulos (Central), Mrs. Leah Baker (West), Reverend Lorna Bartram (Pacific).

NYI AUXILIARY LEADERS



NDI AUXILIARY LEADERS



N.Y.I. Presidents: Reverend Annette Smith (Atlantic), Mr. Robenson Augustin (Quebec), Mrs. Marg Stahlbaum (Central), Reverend Ryan Wood (West), and Reverend Matt Wood (Pacific).

N.M.I. Presidents: Mrs. Ruth Collins (Atlantic), Reverend Dianna Bradshaw (Quebec), Reverend Donna Wilson (Central), Mrs. Myrna Dipert (West), Reverend Anne Scarrow (Pacific).

I can report to you the establishment of a healthy relationship with each of these ministry departments. These gatherings are not only bringing us closer together, but they are providing a valuable space for sharing portable mission examples and ideas that benefit every district in Canada.

ALL CANADA PASTOR’S MEETINGS

These continue to be a very important part of our “connection” plan. We look forward to our times together. It is amazing to see our pastors join for a time of prayer, hearing God’s Word of encouragement and challenge, enjoying breakout discussion groups and simply being together. We have developed a meaningful “Peer to Peer” learning segment to the

NMI AUXILIARY LEADERS



gathering and this is proving to be so valuable. We have realized that there are so many ways to “meet” and when we emerge from this pandemic, we plan to continue to use the tools that have allowed us to come together. This is thrilling, to say the least.

NATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSESSMENT CENTRE

In March 2020, we met in Calgary for the first “National” Assessment Centre and we had 7 candidates in attendance. I want to make it clear that the idea of Ministerial Assessment did not begin with this National Director, but has been the passion of former National Directors, Dr. William Stewart and Dr. Clair MacMillan. I have read their work and tried to build on it. Their foundational work has provided a way for us to assist the Boards of Ministry in each district. It is required that before a Board of Ministry interview for a District License, each candidate will have attended the Ministerial Assessment Centre. We just had our “National” weekend experience (January 20th - 22nd, 2023) using Zoom and we had 12 candidates in attendance. I believe that this tool is one that provides a forum for assessment and national identity as Nazarenes. I want to thank my logistics committee, Reverend Rose Graham, Mrs. Claudia Avila and Mrs. Yara Cristales for their tireless work. My thanks are also extended to the Assessment Team: D. S’s Mark Collins, Steve Ottley, Rose Brower-Young, Gordon McCann, Randy Barrington (Assistant D.S. Quebec), Laypeople: John Graff (West), Denise Holland (Central), Kevin Seibel (Pacific), Frank Levandier (Atlantic) and Claudia Avila (Quebec). Also, to Reverends David & Nadine Filsinger (Strengthfinders Assessors) and James Greengrass (EQ-I Assessor).

CLERGY DEVELOPMENT:

Holtz Foundation: The Dave and Ruth Holtz Education Endowment was established in 2000 to assist those who have a call to full-time ministry in the Church of the Nazarene. It is designed specifically to help fund post-graduate studies. The fund is managed by the Church of the Nazarene Canada. We have a Foundation Board of Directors that receives applications, and letters of recommendation from the District Superintendent of the applicant. The annual interest yield allows us to provide support in the amount of \$2,500 to a maximum of three successful applicants. We are so grateful to Ruth and Dave for their visionary investment in others.

I am delighted to report that due to the generosity of Dave & Bev Deeks to provide \$40,000 per year for 5 years, I was able to provide each District Superintendent with \$8,000 to invest in Clergy Development. The fifth and final distribution was delivered in January 2023. This is a blessing indeed and I believe that this stewardship will make an ongoing positive difference to the life and ministry of our clergy. This is such an important area of investment as we equip and encourage our pastoral team across the country. I do report to the donor at the end of each calendar year on how the funds were spent. I also have written to and met with the donor each year expressing our thanks for such an investment in the development of our pastoral leaders.

GENEROSITY BY DESIGN

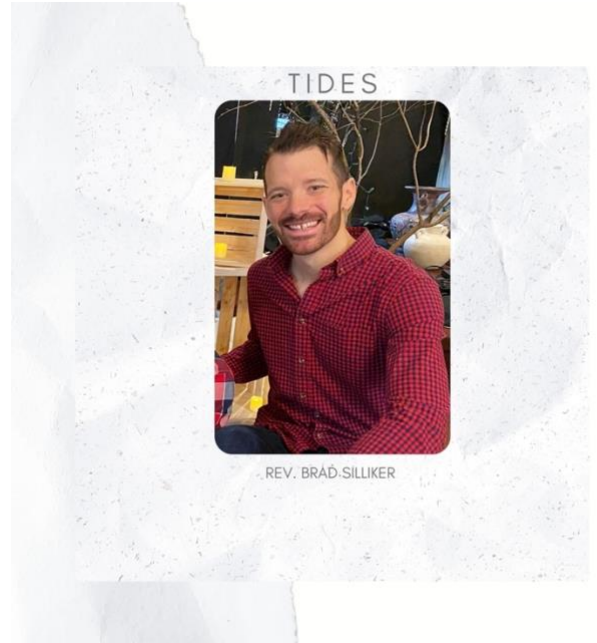
One of the new initiatives within the ministry portfolio of Dr. Riley Coulter is “Generosity By Design”. This is an attempt to help our congregations discover the blessing of stewardship as a lifestyle. The concept was first shared with, and fully embraced by the District Superintendents. It was then recommended to the National Board and implemented across the country through Zoom gatherings. Dr. Coulter will share more on this initiative and share from 4 videos that the National Office provided as yet another delivery tool.

NATIONAL WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA & NAZARENE NEWS

These resources are invaluable as the story of God in the life of his people here in Canada is told in words and pictures. The Website is current and there is a weekly message/sermon from the National Director. The Nazarene News communication is a monthly distribution with additional “Special Announcements” being made in a timely fashion. Thank you to Yara Cristales for her work in these valuable areas.

TIDES

Following a conversation with Reverend Brad Silliker (Associate Pastor Sherwood PEI) we embarked on a series of “Podcasts” entitled “Tides”. The forum includes a regular interview with the National Director and others on a variety of topics. This is then made available on the National Website, YouTube and other Social Media platforms.



FUNDING THE MISSION:

The Church of the Nazarene Canada receives funding from UCRO (USA/Canada Regional Office). We are grateful for this over the years and we trust that this “Projects Budget” funding will continue. However, we must not be dependent upon it to operate the Church in Canada. So, in order to address this and to become “Operationally Self-Funding”, the National Board (2019 Annual Meeting) affirmed a recommendation from the National Director via the Executive and Finance Committees to fund all our ministries ourselves. This was a milestone moment in the life of the Canadian church and we are grateful for those who have faithfully pioneered the way to this new reality. This new model is now operational and three years later, we celebrate God’s faithfulness in meeting our every need.

REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

I am honoured to serve on the following boards /committees: Administrators Fellowship - Ambrose Board of Governors - Nazarene Theological Seminary (Vice-Chair) - Nazarene Bible College D.S.A.C. (District Superintendents Advisory Committee) PALCON Regional Steering Committee, Wesley Chair Committee.

CLERGY PREPARATION CONSORTIUM

There has been quite a change in how the Consortium will function. At last year’s meeting, I presented a list of names that would form a “Canadian team” to help implement the new plan for the Non-Degreed Course of Study. It should be noted that the team members were affirmed by the National Board. Changes have been made regarding the function of the team, but no doubt we will draw on their expertise as the new Course of Study becomes a reality. I do work closely with reverend Terry Fach as he represents us on the Consortium Committee.

NAZARENE ESSENTIALS

It is important that we remind ourselves of who we are. Yes, we are the people of God, but we are also people who identify with the essential beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene. Before moving on to the “Coherent Actions”, I feel it is important to emphasize our essentials. I will not attempt to re-write the “Essentials document however I would offer the following...

Meaningful Worship - The **HEART** of who we are.
Theological Coherence - The **LOGIC** of what we believe.
Passionate Evangelism - The **MISSION** to which we have been called.
Intentional Discipleship - The **MANDATE** that secures a great future.
Church Development - The **EXPRESSION** of a great movement.
Transformational Leadership - The **ESSENCE** of a Dynamic Church.
Purposeful Compassion - The **INTENTION** of a delivered people.

MOVING US BACK TO OUR CANADIAN BASICS

In the following section, I draw heavily on the writings of former National Director, Dr. Bill Stewart. I believe we can “marry” the National Vision with the Action Statements established over three years ago. The Church of the Nazarene in Canada is not here by chance. We believe God brought us into existence to fulfill a purpose and to serve a cause. Our cause is greater than ourselves. We are not here for our own self-interests; to make ourselves more comfortable; to provide for ourselves warm and cozy friendship circles made up of people just like us. Our cause is even greater than our institution. We love the Church of the Nazarene, but we recognize it only as an instrument to do His will. We are not just here to make the church bigger; to increase its influence; to guarantee its continued existence. The institution is the means to an end. It is not the end in itself. Our cause is bigger than the interests of the church.

The cause does not serve the church. The church serves the cause.

What then is our cause? What are we here for? What is the Church of the Nazarene in Canada about? What does God want the Church of the Nazarene in Canada to achieve for His Kingdom? The answer to these questions is expressed by our vision. The pursuit and capturing of the National Vision is the primary task.

The purpose of defining the National Vision is to move us back to our basics. We want to release the spirit of the Church of the Nazarene so that it can passionately pursue God’s call. We want to focus our energies on fulfilling that purpose. The purpose of the vision is to stir the imagination; arouse emotions; speak to the heart.

The objective is to create a spirit and atmosphere for ministry so that our efforts unite around a few great causes. These causes must be more than numerical or statistical goals. They must reach beyond methods and implementation strategies. They should motivate us to respond to what we believe is in the heart of Christ for the Church of the Nazarene.

The National Vision must not be thought of as a wish list. It is not trying to explain everything that we wish the Church of the Nazarene could do and should do.

It is an effort to pick out the priorities and focus on them.

It is trying to determine the things we must do or we will fail in our task.

The National Vision is not a reiteration of fine general sentiments; a vague expression of good intentions; motherhood statements that everybody everywhere would agree with, but nobody feels particularly obligated to do anything about.

We are trying to focus on the primary tasks that will make ministry happen, bring blessing to people and glory to God all across this country through the Church of the Nazarene.

“We, the people in Canada called Nazarenes, commit ourselves to...”

OBEYING THE FATHER - HONOURING THE SON - LIVING IN THE SPIRIT

- By**
- Engaging in effective evangelism
- Experiencing and promoting the holiness lifestyle
- Raising a generation of competent and Spirit filled leaders

APPLICATION - PRAYING, LISTENING AND WORKING THE NATIONAL VISION!
HOW WILL WE DO THIS? WE REALLY WANT TO (AND NEED TO GET IT RIGHT!)

Seven Characteristics of the Church of the Nazarene (Manual Foreword) -

Meaningful Worship, Theological Coherence, Passionate Evangelism, Intentional Discipleship, Church Development, Transformational Leadership, and Purposeful Compassion.

Critical Objectives of the Church of the Nazarene (Manual Foreword) -

Holy Christian Fellowship, the Conversion of sinners, the Entire Sanctification of believers, their Upbuilding in Holiness, and the Simplicity and Spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE IS TO ADVANCE
GOD'S KINGDOM BY THE PRESERVATION AND PROPAGATION OF CHRISTIAN
HOLINESS AS SET FORTH IN THE SCRIPTURES. (Manual Foreword)

OUR OBJECTIVE IS A SPIRITUAL ONE, NAMELY, TO EVANGELIZE AS A RESPONSE
TO THE GREAT COMMISSION OF OUR LORD TO "GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES IN ALL
NATIONS" (MATTHEW 28 V 19) (Manual Foreword)

I believe that the role of the LAITY, PASTORS, LEADERS and DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, all the ranks of the church should and must follow the CHRIST model and partner with Jesus to proclaim the good news as we watch it transform individuals one by one. Having been a District Superintendent for 17 years and now National Director, I really feel that exercising the above will stimulate the office of ministry and the office bearer. I recognize the myriad of tasks that need to be done to keep the machinery of the church operating, but oftentimes those tasks take priority over the "main thing". God has designed His church and has already called gifted and ready people specifically raised up for such a time as this. These people are already in our districts and in our local churches just waiting for an opportunity to serve this "present age".

SO NOW WE ARE ORGANIZED TO
ENGAGE IN EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

The basic measurement of our effectiveness is found in a simple question... "are we changing destinies from Hell to Heaven?" We need to ask, "After a year of preaching, planning, programming, singing, and worshipping if everybody who was going to hell is still going to hell and everybody who was going to heaven is still going to heaven - what have we accomplished?" We do need to reach the "lost" but we also need to reach the disaffected or cultural Christians of Canada - these people are not useless "church floaters" but have a hunger for a better understanding of, and experience in, Christianity. What is even more exciting is that what is by far our greatest OPPORTUNITY coincides with our greatest area of COMPETENCE.

A Mobilized Laity: John Wesley, the 18th-century founder of the Methodist Church is one of the great Christian practitioners. The Methodist movement had a deep impact upon the English nation before its influence spilled over into North America. At one point when there were 100,000

Methodists in England there were 10,000 lay leaders. These lay leaders proved to be critical to the development of small groups. (Class Meetings - 6 to 12 individuals). Wesley considered the Class meeting to be the cornerstone of this Jesus movement. In addition to the Class Meetings, there was also the "Band System" (5 - 10 individuals) and the Select Society, which was the most intimate of all these small groups. The Class Meeting had the greater attention of the Methodist Movement. People in these groups would report on their spiritual development. In this intimate setting, they were encouraged to share their progress and give updates on their spiritual challenges. These face-to-face encounters were prized and provided an atmosphere of accountability which helped spur them on. Howard A. Snyder in his book "The Radical Wesley" indicates the majority of Christian conversions occurred in Class Meetings.

Wesley's game plan was to concentrate his efforts not on the time leading up to Christian decisions, but rather on the times after conversion. His objective was turning "converts into saints". Snyder goes on to declare that "the demise of the Methodist Class Meetings in large part contributed to the demise of the Methodist Church. I believe that we can learn from this.

I am advocating for a renewed emphasis on "intentional" and "lifelong" learning for our laity as well as what is already in place for our clergy. The resources I have already mentioned would provide adequate core training." (IMPACT, LAMP & N.C.M.C Resources)

Intended Outcome: *That catalytic, God-called people be identified from each district. These leaders would be the core of a dynamic "Lay Movement" of mobilized people who would lead the "charge" towards a new expression of ministry and EVANGELISM.*

(Note: Even though within our understanding of Theological Coherence, we are described as Christian, Protestant, Evangelical, Holiness & Wesleyan, I believe a more accurate expression in Canadian culture is that we are more EVANGELISTIC than EVANGELICAL. If indeed EVANGELISM is a program (a set of related measures or activities with a particular long-term aim) then in a society that is not evolving but rather devolving socially...

**WE CAN NOT AND MUST NOT CHANGE THE PROGRAM TO ACCOMMODATE
FALLEN BEHAVIOUR, BUT RATHER WORK THE PROGRAM TO UPHOLD,
HONOUR AND ASPIRE RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD!**

Evangelistic Fervour: We are in a place of great opportunity. Canada has never been so secular, Canada has never been so pluralistic, Canada has never been so socially progressive (and at the same time regressive). What a time to be a follower of the Way, what a time to be a follower of Jesus. We live in a day of great opportunity to plant the seed of truth in the midst of many religious and ideological options, and this is when God does His best work. He did it when rebellious nations surrounded His children. He did it when hostile forces (religious and secular) surrounded His Son, and He will do it today.

5 Biblical Perspectives Energize Us!:

All people are lost without Jesus...

BUT THE PREVENIENT GRACE OF GOD IS AT WORK

All people can be saved...GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT IS MOVING

All people can know that they are saved...FULL ASSURANCE IS PROVIDED

All people are compelled to declare their salvation...TESTIMONY BECOMES NATURAL

All saved people are under obligation to go on to Holiness...PURITY, POWER & LOVE

Let us.....“FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY” ... 2 Timothy 4 verse 5.

NIV: “DISCHARGE ALL THE DUTIES OF YOUR MINISTRY”

KJV: “MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY”

ISV: “DEVOTE YOURSELF COMPLETELY TO YOUR MINISTRY”

THE MESSAGE: "I can't impress on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ Himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone living and dead. He is about to break into the open with His rule, so proclaim the Message with intensity, keep on your watch, challenge, warn and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple. You are going to find there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food - catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They'll turn their back on truth and chase mirages. But you - keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the message"

Do we have a burden for millions of people in our country who are lost, and they don't know it or don't care that they are?

Are we praying, interceding and petitioning?

Are we organized effectively to reach those millions?

WE NEED LEADERS who will “LEAD” the evangelistic charge.

Intended Outcome: THAT THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE MAKE FULL PROOF OF HER MINISTRY; MAY EACH PASTOR, TEACHER & LEADER MAKE FULL PROOF OF HIS/HER MINISTRY; MAY EVERY LAY PERSON MAKE FULL PROOF OF HIS / HER MINISTRY, DOING THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST! (Ephesians 2 verse 10)

**NOW WE ARE ORGANIZED
TO EXPERIENCE AND PROMOTE THE HOLINESS LIFESTYLE**

Holy Living: 10: “We believe that sanctification is the work of God which transforms believers into the likeness of Christ. It is wrought by God's grace through the Holy Spirit in initial sanctification, or regeneration (simultaneous with justification), entire sanctification, and the continued perfecting work of the Holy Spirit culminating in glorification. In glorification, we are fully conformed to the image of the Son.

We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotion to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.

It is wrought by the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service.

Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus...

Is wrought instantaneously by grace through faith...

Preceded by entire consecration...

And to this work and state of grace, the Holy Spirit bears witness.

This experience is also known by various terms representing its different phases, such as “Christian perfection,” “perfect love,” “heart unity,” “the baptism with or infilling of the Holy Spirit,” “the fullness of the blessing,” and “Christian holiness.”

10.1: We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace.

We believe that the grace of entire sanctification includes the divine impulse to grow in grace as a Christlike disciple. However, this impulse must be consciously nurtured, and careful attention given to the requisites and processes of spiritual development and improvement in Christlikeness of character and personality. **Without such purposeful endeavour, one’s witness may be impaired and the grace itself frustrated and ultimately lost.**

Participating in the means of grace, especially the fellowship, disciplines, and sacraments of the Church, believers grow in grace, and in wholehearted love to God and neighbour.”

Without the cleansing, infilling and empowering of the Holy Spirit, we cannot possibly move forward on any of the previous actions. A renewal of the Holy Spirit would create the internal energy and enthusiasm that will help us accomplish the mission of Christ in Canada.

"My Utmost for His Highest" - Oswald Chambers - February 8th Devotional Thought: "Instantaneous and Insistent Sanctification" ... "and the very God of peace sanctify you wholly" (I Thessalonians 5 v 23-24)

When we pray to be sanctified, are we prepared to face the standard of these verses? We take the term sanctification much too lightly. Are we prepared for what sanctification will cost? IT WILL COST AN INTENSE NARROWING OF ALL INTERESTS ON EARTH AND AN IMMENSE BROADENING OF ALL OUR INTERESTS IN GOD. Sanctification means an intense concentration on God’s point of view. It means every power of body, soul and spirit is chained and kept for God’s purpose only. Are we prepared for God to do in us all that He has separated us for? And then after His work is done in us, are we prepared to separate ourselves from God even as Jesus did? For their sakes I sanctify Myself. The reason some of us have not entered into the experience of sanctification is that we have not realized the meaning of sanctification from God’s standpoint. Sanctification means being made one with Jesus so that the disposition that ruled Him will rule us. Are we prepared for what that will cost? It will cost everything that is not of God in us. Are we prepared to be caught up in the swing of this prayer of the Apostle Paul...Lord menace me as holy as you can make a sinner saved by grace? Jesus has prayed that we might be one with Him as He is one with the Father. The one and only characteristic of the Holy Ghost in a man is a strong family likeness to Jesus Christ, and freedom from everything that is unlike Him. Are we prepared to set ourselves apart for the Holy Spirit’s ministrations in us?

Intended Outcome: That every preacher “preach” holiness, every teacher “teach” holiness, and every member of the church experience, testify to, and demonstrate holiness...it’s cleansing, it’s filling, and its power. That holiness becomes more than a theological statement, but rather a “CRISIS” followed by a “LIFELONG PROCESS” of living like Jesus. This can and must be lived out in LOVE.

NOW WE ARE ORGANIZED
TO RAISE A GENERATION OF COMPETENT AND
SPIRIT-FILLED LEADERS.

We cannot possibly separate the previous from the present.
The Holiness Lifestyle is the Spirit-Filled Life and the Spirit-Filled Life
is the only legitimate criteria for raising up Spirit-Filled Leaders!

Biblical Literacy: An intentional strategy to create a climate of Biblical knowledge. That Scripture becomes our common language and conversation. This will require an intentional nationwide effort that goes beyond memorization to application. It's old now but the "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism" (Catechism Document) would be of great value to us. It should not be seen as optional reading, but as a core document to be used in every single one of our churches. (How can we make this happen?) Also, the "Journey of Grace", "Nazarene Essentials" and the latest "Half Million Mobilization", models which guide us in maturity and ministry to people at each stage of the journey from spiritual awakening to maturity. We have a wonderful opportunity to employ all of these effective tools and not allow them to get lost in the myriad of new materials that are released constantly. Let's build our arsenal of spiritual weaponry.

I am advocating for a renewed emphasis on Sunday School & Christian Education. That this becomes non-negotiable for membership conversation. That local church educators (teachers) be resourced adequately, that District NDI entities be resourced adequately, and that pastors place a high value on holistic Christian Education.

Intended Outcome: *That our congregations be strengthened through knowledge and application of God's Word in order to become competent leaders. That our congregations increase in number through the entry point of NDI, and that NDI becomes a priority once again, especially in the area of ministry to children.*

A Prepared Clergy: I have already referred to Clergy Preparation & Development, but a clear contextual way forward should be implemented. I recognize that the District Superintendent is the "gatekeeper" for the Ministerial Licensing process, but embedded within this process is the need for adequate educational preparation. I am so delighted regarding the progress made on the new "course of study" initiative. In Canada, we need to **contextual, affordable and portable** ways to prepare clergy for the mission.

Intended Outcome: *That we would pursue viable, sustainable, affordable and contextual ways of preparing men and women for a lifetime of holistic ministerial service. This should be accomplished without diminishing the importance of "formal education", but by recognizing the geographical and cultural boundaries present in Canada. That a truly prepared clergy would be ready, willing and able to navigate the shifting sands until we come to the "movement bedrock" upon which we stand, anointed by the Holy Spirit to accomplish great things for God here in Canada.*

"A challenging word..."We have never had a time in the history of the Church of the Nazarene when we have had more seminars, think tanks, gatherings, encouragement sessions, lifelong learning opportunities and resourcing. Yet, our numbers indicate that we are heading in the wrong direction. It is almost counter-intuitive. We have become more focused on the health and well-being of the spiritual leader (and this is very important), than on the mission. I have always believed that the best tonic for a spiritual leader (pastor) is to witness life-changing miracles in their community and congregation. When this is not happening, then a certain "sickness" sets in and that then requires attention, but that seems

to become the primary focus. I want to challenge our leaders in Canada to rise above their own challenges and disappointments and re-focus on the evangelistic mission to which the Lord has called us..”

CONCLUSION

In 2017 when I was elected as your National Director I was tasked with a number of responsibilities. One of those was to “**lead organizational assessment and possible change for greater missional effectiveness**”. At that time there perhaps was the idea that this assessment and change would concentrate on geographical district boundary revision. I have come to the conclusion that the task is much more complex than re-drawing the geographical organizational map. The re-drawing or re-affirming of a mission effective way forward is much more challenging, however, we have the tools at our disposal. We have God’s Word, we have God’s people, we have God’s Spirit, and we have a nation just waiting to hear what we have to say. Let’s equip the saints, let’s mobilize the troops, and let’s fulfil our ministries to the Glory of God and in so doing, let us be the leaders in whatever change is needed for greater missional effectiveness.

A thankful word...It is a distinct honour to serve alongside all of you in Christ’s Kingdom work. Therefore, I want to express my gratitude to the National Board, the people called Nazarenes in Canada and the church at large. I give thanks to God for my wife Pat and daughters, Lynsey (Kevin) Ashley and Stephanie, and grandsons Frank & James. Above all, I give thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus to provide me with the opportunity to respond to His offer of salvation, to respond to His call upon my life in the anointing of His Holy Spirit.

Grace, Peace and Blessings:
Ian Fitzpatrick.