

FOR LEADERS

MDSI & FORMISSION NEWSLETTER

*Creating
Invitational
Culture*

JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2023



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ForLeaders, a newsletter
for leaders to resource and en-
courage leaders.



“Our fervent prayer is that ForLeaders helps to equip, empower and inspire our leaders to fulfill their God-given callings. Deepest appreciation to MDSI and our provincial directors for their work.

*Terry W. Snow,
General Superintendent, PAONL*

INVITED TO REMEMBER

By Jeremy Nippard

Executive Director of MDSI

Governor Ronald Reagan famously opened his 1967 inaugural address with the following words: “Perhaps you and I have lived too long with this miracle to properly be appreciative. Freedom is a fragile thing and it’s never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people.”

We, like the Americans in Reagan’s day, have lived a long time with the miracle. You could be thinking now of any number of the small or large miracles that we enjoy by virtue of inheritance, our thrownness, the faithfulness of our forebearers, or the vision of our leaders. Have we lived too long with them to be appreciative?

Our assumptions have been shaken in recent years of what is dependable and unchanging. In some ways, that has created significant challenges. We found out that interest rates are not dependable, nor are food and gas prices. We discovered that our ability to gather freely is not a guarantee, whether for social or missional purposes. Perhaps even our unity (confused with uniformity?) was more fragile than we had imagined. In some ways, the shaking of these things was painfully necessary – especially in the darker recesses of our hearts where we may have crafted idols from our economic, social, or religious security.

What about camps and events? Have we lived too long with the miracle of them to be properly appreciative? Were they, in our minds, ours by way of inheritance? Have we stopped in recent times to consider the unique value that is generated when we gather from all across the province, in unity, for the purpose of the mission of God? What has been lost or missed in the years of the pandemic? Have we considered the value of the various ministries that exist in our local assemblies by virtue of our history, and the tenacity and commitment and vision of Sunday School Superintendents and Women’s Ministries Presidents and Youth Executive Leaders and others from the decades past, up until today?

I read something in my devotions this morning that gives me chills every time I come across it: “Another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10). This isn’t just “the youths” or “generation next” – it’s an entire generation of people from birth to late adulthood. It didn’t happen with one societal shift. It was a slow erosion precipitated by the tragedy of living too long





with the miracle without focused effort to “remember,” “recommit,” and experience “renewal” (or “revival, whatever your preference). It occurred simultaneously in every age group and societal segment of this living generation.

If you turn back just a couple of pages, you will find the remedy to this erosion in Joshua 24. It reflects on the fact that nothing was earned or inherited by fiat. Everything was gift and grace (I took...I sent...I did...I brought you...I destroyed them...I delivered you...I gave them into your hands...). It is an invitation to perpetually remember, recommit, and be renewed. Joshua’s mission statement (as for me and my house), became a rallying cry for his generation (we will serve the Lord). This current generation is in desperate needs of Joshua’s.

If you are reading this, it is very likely that you are a Joshua already. The tragedy of this kind of communication is that you are preaching, as it were, to the choir. So, if I could say anything to you to encourage you, it is that the Lord is with you. I have the joy and heartbreak as MDSI Director to see snapshots of the whole province at once. God is doing amazing things among a faithful remnant in every ministry. The sheer number of spiritually curious and seeking people attending our churches and ministries is breathtaking.

I believe with all of my heart that our camps and events this year will be Joshua 24 moments. God is inviting us once again to remember, recommit, and be renewed and revived. In a generation that has lived too long with the miracle of our ministries and camps, God is doing a new thing. I pray that God will stir up that vision in your heart as well, and that you will see tangible fruit from your efforts at sacrificially promoting and attending our provincial events. I hope you’re not tired of hearing me say this yet, but we exist as MDSI to serve the ministries of the local church, not the other way around. If there is anything we can do to better serve you, at or outside of our events, please reach out. ■

Here to serve,

God is inviting us once again to remember, recommit, and be renewed and revived.



INVITED TO PROVINCIAL EVENTS

By Owen Roberts
Assistant Director of MDSI

It's that time of year. Event season is just around the corner. There is a sense of anticipation and expectation. Our teams are in the final stages of planning after months of team meetings, emails, phone calls, budgets, and most importantly, prayer. For some of our ministries, it will be four long years since they have been able to hold their summer camps at Emmanuel Convention Center, and for others, they got back into the groove of things in 2022. Whatever the case, there is a growing excitement in the air for what's to come.

During the two plus years of the pandemic, our MDSI team took an extensive look at our yearly events, and we asked these questions, "Are events important?" and, "Should events be a part of our future?" We had honest discussions about our events because we needed to know if it was worth the effort if our future included social distancing, vax passes, and sanitation guidelines. Thankfully, we have turned the corner on the pandemic, and we are thrilled to hold in-person events for all our church ministries in 2023 without COVID-19 regulations.

Here's what our team came up with during our discussion. We likened our provincial events to Biblical feasts. The nation of Israel had different feasts set aside each year in the calendar. This was a time when the Jewish people would gather to reflect and remember. Feasts created rhythm for the Jewish people. It gave them an opportunity to strengthen their relationships with one another and the Lord. These feasts were joyous and solemn times of worship, celebration, and generosity. This is how we see our provincial events. They are times in our ministry/church calendar when we get to gather with other believers and worship the Lord. They produce moments where we get to reflect on the goodness of God. When we gather in these settings, they provide opportunities where the Spirit of God moves in powerful ways. They are sacred moments when God simply shows up and does His thing.

Here is a list of the benefits we discerned of provincial events. This is not an exhaustive list and I'm sure there are some that you can add, but these were the things that stood out the most:

- Feeling part of the big-picture
- Positive peer pressure
- Relational connections
- Big give opportunities
- Encouragement
- High Challenge
- Experiencing the presence of God
- Discipleship
- Leadership development
- Dislocation
- Creative Momentum
- Catalyst for creativity
- Joined energy and resourcing
- Networking

These events are a part of our DNA as a department and Fellowship. They are vital to the local church, congregations, leaders, and pastors. We invite everyone, no matter what ministry you are a part of, to join us in 2023 at one or more of our provincial events. I'm confident that any of our events will have a lasting impact on your life, and that God will meet you in that feast-like space. ■

INVITED INTO THE UNKNOWN

By Julia Ball
Provincial Director, Children's Ministries



If you're a parent (or a pastor!), you know that there are all sorts of activities and adventures that compete for our kids' attention. Hockey, basketball, ballet, and gymnastics. Minecraft, Pokemon, and Roblox. Homework, music lessons, and backyard play. You could probably think of another gazillion things to add to this list.

The truth is, kids love adventure and activity.

If you've been following our Kids Rock Camp journey for a while, you'll know that we believe that.

This summer, we want to create a space at Kids Rock Camp where every activity and adventure points to the greatest adventure: being a follower of Jesus.

That's why we are excited to invite you and your families to "Kids Rock Camp: Into the Unknown." Sometimes, following Jesus can feel mysterious, far-fetched, or "just for grown-ups" to our kids. This summer, we want kids to experience the truth: Jesus invites THEM, just as they are, to follow Him, and to step into the great adventure of being a disciple of Jesus.

Our prayer is that every child will leave Kids Rock Camp echoing the prayer of Job 42:5: "I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes."

We're excited to be doing that with amazing, interactive speaking, age-appropriate responses, worship that will engage kids, and more activities and adventures than you've ever seen at Kids Rock Camp before!

There are so many other things I could share with you, but let me leave you with a few practical pieces that are important for YOU to know as we head into Kids Rock Camp season:

(1) This year, for the first time ever, we are splitting our camps by age instead of region. We believe this will help us provide your kids with programming that fits their age &

stage!

(2) Our first camp, from July 31-August 2, will be for grades 4-6. Children will attend with chaperones from their church! Our second camp, from August 4-6, will be for children entering grades K-3. Parents and guardians will be attending with their children. This is going to be a family adventure you won't want to miss.

(3) We have created a new Facebook page: "Kids Rock Camp NL" for you to stay updated on all things Kids Rock Camp! We'd love for you to go on the journey with us.

(4) There are so many activities we are excited to provide for our kids this year. Kids can come to Kids Rock Camp expecting to spend lots of time outside, get messy, and enjoy some delicious surprises along the way.

Our Kids Rock Camp team believes that camps still have incredible value in the lives of our kids! Getting away from the hustle and bustle of life to focus on one amazing adventure - following Jesus - can be life-changing and impactful.

So, consider this your invitation.

Put the dates in your calendar, pack your fans, and we will see you "on the hill" for Kids Rock Camp: Into the Unknown. ■

"This summer, we want kids to experience the truth: Jesus invites THEM, just as they are, to follow Him..."



INVITED TO STORY

By David Daniel Kentie
Ordained Pastor, PAONL

I could tell you that I am a Christian. I could even tell you that Jesus has redeemed and transformed me. But it is unlikely that you would truly understand the depth of what that means for me. Conversely, I could share with you the story of my faith journey, of being raised as a pastor's kid, of my struggles to find self-worth in God, of the many mountains and valleys that have led me to this point. Then, I think you would have deeper sense of what it means when I say, "I am a Christian, who has been redeemed and transformed by Jesus."

Humans thrive on stories. They help us navigate complex issues and relay ancient truths to succeeding generations. Whether we are confronting topics such as morality or ethics or even theology, stories can inspire us, teach us, and even challenge us to see the world in less monolithic ways. Stories acknowledge that life and its many challenges are more complicated than we could possibly imagine. There is nuance within relationships. There are reasons behind every fateful decision. There are perspectives we've failed to consider.

This is perhaps why Jesus used stories to talk about the Kingdom of God. As someone who has studied and written extensively on the topic, I've come to realize that a single conversation about the Kingdom will rarely suffice. The Kingdom of God is deep and complex and entirely foreign to our human impulses. Jesus needed to talk about the Good News of the Kingdom in a way that people could understand its full complexity. And he chose stories to do so.

Think about the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:25-37). On the one hand, you have a Jewish man who has been robbed, which is tragic enough, but then he is left to die by his fellow countrymen, which is heartbreaking. This is simply one layer in which Jesus

comments on how his fellow Jews were treating each other. But then he takes it a step further.

The Jews who ignored the plight of their suffering countrymen were also religious leaders. The people who claimed to speak in the name of God were, ironically, the most ignorant of the ones God had called them to care for according to the Law (Lev. 19:18; 34). Jesus goes further. The hero of the day, the one who rescues the suffering Jewish man, is his enemy, the Samaritan. Talk about a complex story. The one demonstrating a love for their neighbour is not the one we would expect, such as the religious leaders, but the one who has absolutely no reason to help and is considered detestable according to

Stories can inspire us, teach us, and even challenge us to see the world in less monolithic ways.

the culture of the suffering Jewish man. From here, we can deduce that the Kingdom of God is about role reversal. Those who are the most marginalized, forgotten, and detested have a huge role to play in the Kingdom of God, while those who have it all, are the first in every way, and ignore the responsibilities God has given them to care for people, may find themselves on the periphery of the Kingdom.

As we've seen, Jesus uses the parable to say multiple things about what the Kingdom is and who Kingdom people are. This is the beauty of using story to convey Gospel truth. It's engaging and invites one to consider the issue from all angles. It's not simply "telling" people the truth, it's inviting them to experience it.

It should come as no surprise that in a post-Christian and pluralistic culture, simply telling someone about the truth of the Gospel may not be the most effective approach. I firmly believe that pulpits and churches are conduits for the Spirit to share the truth of Jesus, but we may need to step beyond simply proclaiming it, as well as the expectation that the louder we proclaim it the more people will listen. The same is true for all

Christians. We are certainly told to proclaim the Kingdom of God, but Jesus demonstrates the method in which proclamation is to be carried out: through stories. Many of the more evangelistic Christians among us have often told me that their most effective interactions with the lost happened over a coffee or a meal, sharing their stories. “God saved me” is certainly true, but “this is how God saved me” invites people to engage with the Gospel on a whole other level. In a grander sense, we need to adopt the posture of Christ, which is to invite people into a redemptive story that has been happening since the beginning of creation. This is how early Pentecostals evangelized.

As the Spirit was falling in places like Azusa and St. John’s, early Pentecostals believed that they were living out the Scriptures and the Gospel. At the same time, they were inviting men and women from every tribe and nation to experience this redemptive story firsthand. In many ways, this was the power of Pentecost, to invite diverse listeners who came from different backgrounds, ethnically, socially, and theologically to experience what God was doing, not only in the life of the Church but in the lives of individuals. “Testimony time” is not some antiquated tradition from a bygone era, it is a window into the Kingdom of God at work in the world. As one who grew in faith due to the testimony of older saints, we need to understand this powerful and uniquely Pentecostal tool at our disposal.

In our present reality, we should take the Lord’s sheep on a journey, inviting them to experience the truth of the Gospel in their lives. This may require re-orientating our homiletics, our ecclesiology, and even our evangelistic methods. For instance, it’s not enough to simply say or preach “all are welcome” but we must actively cultivate it in our churches. As parishioners, it’s not enough to simply believe “all are welcome” but actively strive to welcome the most desperate and marginalized among us. It should get to the point where the most skeptical person can walk amongst our various faith communities and experience incomprehensible welcome. How you get there is yours to envision through the Spirit, but in building such communities, we are inviting all of humanity into a redemptive story that has been going on since the dawn of creation. ■



“Testimony time” is not some antiquated tradition from a bygone era, it is a window into the Kingdom of God at work in the world.



INVITED TO MOVE FORWARD

By Mary Bowers
Provincial Director, Women's Ministries

As we are moving to post-pandemic, so many things seemed to have changed and yet so many things are still the same. The year ahead is uncertain and yet we recognize that we must move forward.

Women's Ministries 2023 is off to a great start! As I'm writing this article, we have concluded five Spring Retreats that took place across the province of Newfoundland & Labrador this year. The reports that are coming out from the retreats are both encouraging and uplifting. It is great to see the women of the province gathering within their presbyteries and being encouraged through worship and the word. As the Women's Lead Team, we are so appreciative of the Spring Retreat Reps who took oversight in the running of the retreats. The reports of the 'Change Matters' giving at the retreats has been phenomenal. We are blessed to have such faithful women who give to this very important Home Missions fund.

The PAONL theme for 2023 is INVITE. We encourage our ladies to take the initiative and make every effort to invite someone to come with them to the events that are happening in Women's Ministries. Whether it is locally to an event in your church/community or joining us at our provincial events, as we reach out with an invitation for others to join us, we open the door for relationship and community. We open the door to help others to hear about Jesus. That is our mission!

The theme for Women's Ministries for this year (2023) is 'forward'. Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

This scripture refers to the time when the Israelites were making their way to the Promised Land. There were many difficulties and many delays, and now Moses had died. What would happen next? Would they ever get

there? Had God forgotten them? No, God had a plan; it was time for Joshua to take the reins and lead the people. He was now the one chosen by God to lead them to the land that was promised to them. In Joshua 1:9, God is commanding Joshua to be strong and courageous, not in himself, but in God and in His power. God knew the task would still be difficult, but He promised Joshua that He would be with him and would continue to lead them.

God's invitation to us in this season is to move forward in step with His Spirit. As we continue to seek direction, God will show us who He is, and will demonstrate His power in and through us. Moving forward means that we are trusting God to lead us no matter what is happening around us; recognizing that as we put our faith and trust in who God is, He will lead and guide us in the year ahead. This promise is for each of us individually. No matter our circumstances, God is with us!

The Women's Conference taking place this September 15-17, 2023 is shaping up to be another great one. You won't want to miss it! The team has been filled with excitement as we've made plans for you to join us. Brooke Nicholls will be joining us as Worship Leader this year, and we look forward to having her with us. Pastor Jennie Baker from Moncton, New Brunswick is joining us to be our speaker. We are so excited about what God is going to do! We are believing for greater things as we move forward.

Make plans to join us for a great time together. Invite a friend, a co-worker, a family member. We look forward to seeing you there! ■

"God's invitation to us in this season is to move forward in step with His Spirit."





INVITED TO NEW THINGS

By Ashley Kentie
Provincial Director, Youth Ministries

“God, why do I have to do another new thing this year?”

That was my honest question to God when we began to unroll the plans for Youth Breakaway on the Road in early 2022. After an online event in 2020 and a watch party event in 2021 due to the pandemic, I was tired of dreaming new things – and wearing the purple tracksuit. I wanted a “normal” year, a “normal” camp, and I know our students and pastors wanted it too. Desperately. The lockdowns, continued sickness, post pandemic weariness, and a whole host of unknowns around reengaging in person events weighed really heavily. We had to let go of normal for this year. We had to do a new thing again.

The unknowns and what if’s felt terrifying.
What does this kind of thing look like?
What if pastors don’t buy in?
What if sickness comes up last minute?
What if we become a super spreader event?
What if students don’t engage with God?
What if this totally flops?
What if people think we made a huge mistake?

Is it okay to admit as a leader that I was afraid, insecure, and worried? If not, I apologize. I was about as human as a human gets in this season. I leaned heavy on a friend who continued to remind me of God’s faithfulness, my calling, and the gift of the team who would carry this together.

And honestly, God did the thing he always does. I pray to doubt Him less – as if he ever doesn’t do the thing. He showed up at YB on the Road. He was faithful. We gathered over 350 students and leaders in two events that were filled with energy, excitement, life, and the profound presence of God.

Seeing the team and ministry guests serving at the highest capacity in their unique strengths and gifts was fire in my bones. I’m grateful for these servant leaders who pour into students and pastors with both hard work and Holy Spirit zeal, believing at every corner that there is good to come for the kingdom in this generation. I am stirred afresh with the realization

that God has called, equipped, and placed passionate leaders all over our province who, serving in their unique gifts, will lead and love this next generation into the kingdom.

That is indeed no small task, and the unknown of the spiritual landscape of our students post-pandemic was daunting. We wrestled with how students would engage and respond in all aspects of Youth Breakaway from rec to the altar. It felt like a social and spiritual experiment, and somehow, we were the guinea pigs. What we observed lit the greatest spark of hope - the hunger in our students to encounter God was palpable. Students are desperate to encounter God. I’m confident that if the crowd in the upper room in Acts 2 who had never seen or experienced the Holy Spirit and managed to get it done, our students can too as we continue to make space for the Holy Spirit to move and journey with them in discovering the depths and wonders of His presence.

As we prepare for Youth Breakaway 2023 and begin inviting students into this new season, I sense maybe the Holy Spirit has checked my heart since that honest question earlier this year. It’s time to get comfortable with new things and with unknowns. We serve a God who does a new thing and the future is still full of unknowns. Yet I am confident in the midst of it that there are remarkable leaders who are giving it their all, students who still hunger to receive from God, a God who longs for us to seek Him – and a promise that when we do we’ll find Him. Let’s go into the unknown together. ■

“It’s time to get comfortable with new things and with unknowns. We serve a God who does a new thing and the future is still full of unknowns.”



INVITED INTO OUR LIVES

By Taylore Anstey
Ordained Pastor, PAONL



“One of the great things about hospitality is that YOU are the greatest resource.”

Recently, I attended a new church for the second time. I was there a few months prior and had briefly met one of the Pastors. When I showed up again, I was greeted with a big “hello,” a smile, and then I was called by name. For context, this wasn’t a rural church, nor was it Pentecostal. I was a nobody, and the Pastor remembered my name after meeting me once, even though months had passed.

I also recently heard a restaurant owner tell a story (via the Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast). He said that his employees were instructed to fill up the parking meter for customers at the restaurant. This was to ease the minds of their guests and ensure a great experience. These are examples of radical hospitality.

Have you ever stopped to consider the link between hospitality and invitation? As believers, we know that we are called to spread the “Good News” of Jesus (Mark 16:15). That’s a given. But, have we ever stopped to consider our hospitality in the midst of this endeavour? Have we ever stopped to wonder how we make people feel when we are in their presence?

One of the great things about hospitality is that YOU are the greatest resource. If your pews are old, or your carpet needs to be cleaned, that doesn’t affect your ability to be hospitable. The lonely senior adult doesn’t need a beautiful pulpit, nor does the single mother need a projector screen (or a hymnbook). What a broken world needs is to be seen and valued, to feel the love of Christ radiating through you, to them!

While I was a Pastor, I was frequently invited out for meals. While I enjoyed some fabulous cooking, it wasn’t the food that

made me long for a repeat visit. Instead, I longed to return to homes where I was seen, loved, and valued. It was the homes of those who saw me laugh and cry that I enjoyed most. It was the places where I could take off my “Pastor hat” and be myself. That included the good, the bad, and the ugly. Even then, I was cared for! I believe this is what the world needs—especially today!

The days of cold-call comments like “you better get saved before it’s too late” to strangers should be a thing of the past. Many people don’t even know what it means to be saved anymore. The next generation will not be drawn by looks down our noses, or even by invitations to a church service. People will be drawn by invitations into our lives—invitations drenched in hospitality.

I believe people will be drawn to Christ in us when we sit with them in their pain. Not with perfect answers, but with kindness. Not with rushed platitudes, but with the gift of time, and the gift of a listening ear. If we are inviting people to a life in Christ, we are inviting them for their entire lives, not simply for salvation. This is the harder option. The more costly option. The discipleship option (is it an option?). You will have to sit with people who annoy you, or eat with people who talk too much, or too little. It might get awkward, but we are in it for the long haul. Hospitality isn’t the prettiest church, or the best music. It is a loving welcome, an offer to sit with someone who is sitting alone, an invitation to spend time together. Hospitality is how you make people feel. I trust you have all felt the love of God even (especially) when you were at your very worst. That’s your example. Go and do likewise. ■

INVITED TO HOSPITALITY

By Tyler Cramm
Lead Pastor, Bay Roberts

I'd like you to think back to the first date you ever went on. Let me guess the scene: romance is in the air, butterflies are in your stomach, and most likely, there is food on the table. My first date with my wife happened over a meal of sushi! Though she didn't realize it was a date and brought along a friend, I still count it as our first! If you want to get to know someone, you take them for a meal. I believe that something special happens over a meal. The table is a place where people feel a unique sense of openness and inclusion. Author Tim Chester says that "meals are full of significance. Few acts are more expressive of companionship than a shared meal, someone with whom we share food is likely to be our friend, or well on their way to becoming one."

Jesus knew this too. In fact, as author Leonard Sweet notes, you can summarize the gospel with the phrase: "Jesus ate good food with bad people." Jesus loved people who thought they were far from God and saw the table as a place of intimate connection that allowed Him to meet people where they were. In Luke's gospel, Jesus was often seen going to a meal, being present at a table, or coming from a meal. This is what garnered Him the reputation of "a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" I would contend that it was His most effective method of discipleship, and I believe it can be ours, too.

What I love most about our Newfoundland culture is that we love a good feed around a table with as many people we can cram around it. We have a rich history of hospitality in our province. The Broadway musical "Come From Away" captures this well. In one scene, there is a giant BBQ being organized, and the mayor asks someone from the flight to go around to neighbours' backyards and take their grills. The man responds "Take their grills? Someone is going to shoot me!" Despite his fear, he makes his way to the neighbours' yards. When he returns, he exclaims: "I got offered a cup of tea in every single backyard – and most of them offered to help me steal their own barbecues!"

In our province, there are so many people



who are longing to be invited into a loving community like the church, and I believe it starts with a meal. In 2021, Statistics Canada reported that "young people in Canada reported experiencing loneliness more frequently than older people. Among youth aged 15 to 24 years, nearly one in four (23%) said they always or often felt lonely. This compared with 15% of those who were slightly older, aged 25 to 34. People aged 75 and older (14%) reported feeling lonely more often than did those aged 65 to 74 (9%)." My goodness, there is such a need for community and connection.

So then, if Jesus was right, and the table is indeed a place of intimate connection that allows us to meet people where they are, given our rich history of hospitality, we are poised for a great move of God. I would encourage you to begin to view your table as a place of ministry, and ask the Spirit who to invite around it. After all, we potentially eat three meals a day, seven days a week; that's upwards of 21 opportunities for ministry without adding anything to your schedule! ■



INVITATION TO PRIME TIME

By Catherine Snow
 Provincial Director, Prime Time Ministries

This year, for the first time, we have encouraged those attending the Prime Time Retreat to invite an unchurched family friend, neighbour, or co-worker to attend with them. There are many 50+ adults all around us that struggle with loneliness and disconnection. The joy and delight that this type of faith connection could bring into their lives is immeasurable. Imagine the delight they would feel if a member of the church would think to invite them to attend a retreat with other adults their age. A “retreat” is a supportive, neutral event that is an easy space to share with others in a relaxing atmosphere. Befriending and inviting others to a get away with other Christian adults of the same age group seems to be a win-win cause. To facilitate this, we created a simple invitation that could be printed and placed into the hand of that friend. Sometimes,

something as small as an invitation card might help break the ice and send the message that even the organizers of the retreat want them to come too. And we do!

For many older adults, coming together brings back old memories of bygone youth meetings days, which have been a lifeline for their faith. Yet others, though older in years, may be young in their faith and have never experienced anything like this. They, too, need an event like a Prime Time Retreat at this time of their life, to deepen their roots with God and meet other believers. Building new friends and establishing new support systems on the Christian journey is so critical for all of us in as we grow in our spiritual and mental health. The fellowship of a Prime Time retreat is such a time of encouragement and connection. We believe that God arranges these special times of meet-

ing new people for purposes beyond our understanding. It is not about YOU needing others as much as OTHERS NEEDING YOU.

50 + Prime Time Ministry is not a corner to itself. It is a people celebrating the second half of their journey and reaching out to others on the journey with them, saying, “This is what I have learned.” Consider this quote from author Ann Voscamp:

“Success isn’t about being amazing...it’s about being obedient. Before you blink and your one life’s a tendril of smoke, a memory, a vapour, gone, know this: you are where you are for such a time as this—not to make an impression, but to make a difference. Break free of your comfort zone today and do something --- touch someone, give something, help someone, pray for someone, serve someone.” ...and we will add, invite someone. ■



“Building new friends and establishing new support systems on the Christian journey is so critical for all of us as we grow in our spiritual and mental health.”

Artist Spotlight: Hannah Meade

This issue’s artwork was created by Hannah Meade. Hannah is a youth and children’s pastor in Robert’s Arm and has recently lead worship at several regional youth retreats. She is highly creative and has a passion for both art and the Gospel. As her former pastor and university professor, I’ve been able to journey with her and see her grow, both in ministry and artistry. She brings such a unique understanding of the faith and the world through her art. As such, I knew she was up to the task of creating something unique and engaging.

In describing her artwork, she writes: “With the theme of invitation, I was reminded of when the disciples accepted Jesus’ invitation and ‘left their nets to follow him.’ I wanted the abandoned boat and net to be the focus of the piece.” Of course, we can all agree that Jesus has called us, but how often do we dwell on the reality that we have been ‘invited’ by the Son of the Living God in such an intimate manner. What a wonderful inspiration and we hope these pieces on the last page and back cover present effective imagery on which to meditate. ■





CAMP 1

JULY 31 - AUG 2

GRADES 4 - 6

CAMP 2

AUGUST 4 - 6

GRADES K - 3

EMMANUEL
CONVENTION
CENTRE

BREAK AWAY 23

CAMP

CAMP 1 JULY 3-7

SPEAKER WORSHIP JAMES CLARENCE
MIKE SNOW

CAMP 2 AUG 21-25

SPEAKER WORSHIP CHRIS CHASE
GREG BOWERS

BREAKAWAY '23 BREAKAWAY '23 BREAKAWAY '23

FORWARD

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2023

SUMMONED
SURRENDERED
SERVICE

SPEAKER



REV. JENNIE BAKER

WORSHIP



BROOKE NICHOLLS

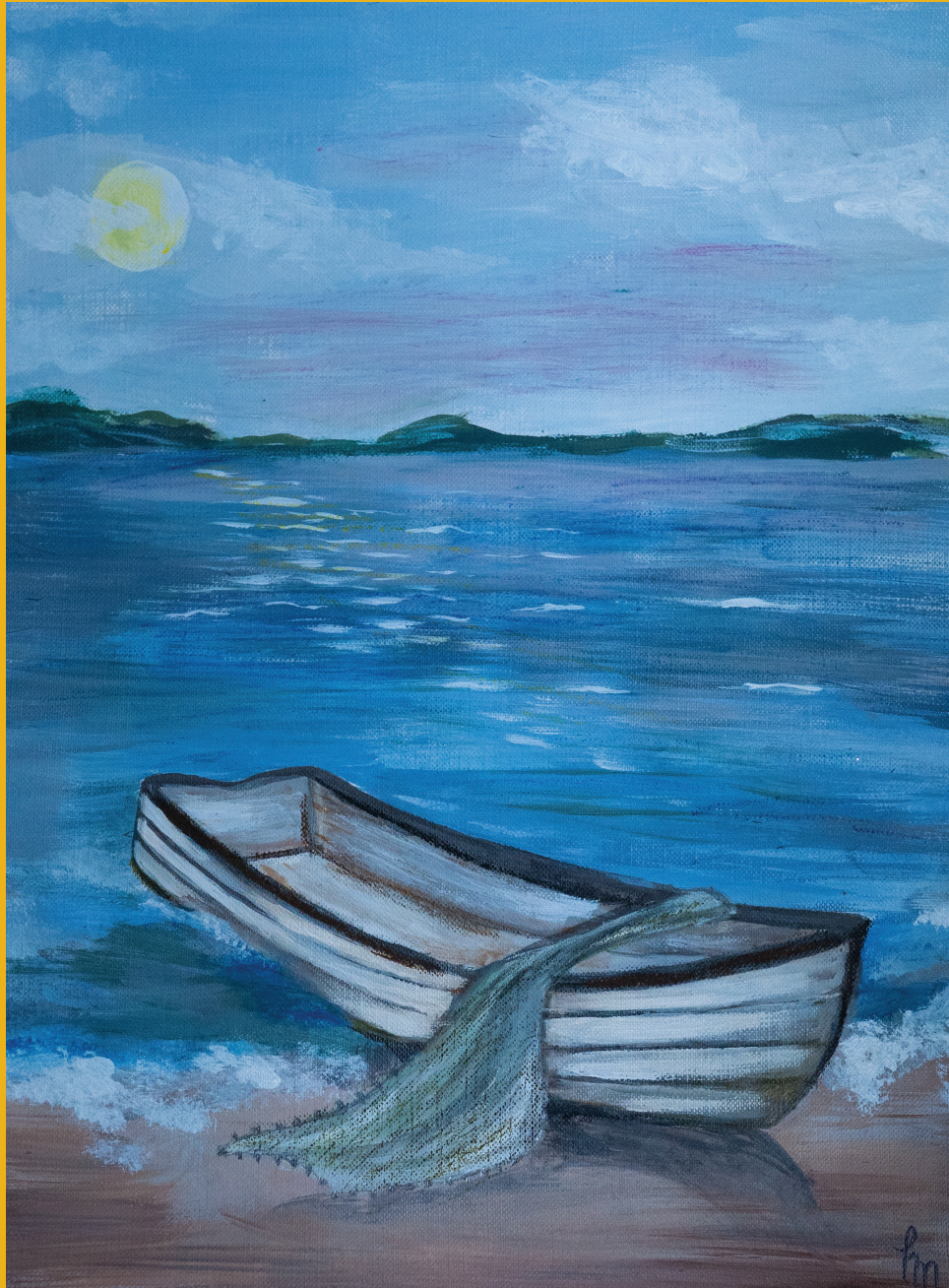
Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

JOSHUA 1:9





For Leaders, a newsletter
for leaders to resource and en-
courage leaders.



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