

ANNAPOLIS-DIGBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 9th, 2011

The Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association held its Annual Meeting for 2010/11 at the New Tusket Baptist Church in New Tusket, Digby County.

Rev. Fred Bigelow, Moderator, welcomed everyone and thanked Pastor Dave Cawley, the Pastor of the Church and his members, for hosting our Association at this time. The church bell pealed to start the procedures. Pastor Cawley gave a welcome and made announcements. He read Psalm 100 and then we sang, "Come to the Saviour", followed by prayer. An offering was taken for Canadian Baptist Ministries, followed by the singing of the Doxology.

The programme for the day was divided into two sessions with Dr. Lois Mitchell as our Special Speaker. Her first session would be at 10 am with a break at 11:15 and then another session with Dr. Mitchell at 11:30am.

Rev. David Phillips, Vice-Moderator, introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Lois Mitchell, Director of Public Witness and Social Concern for our Convention. Lois lives on Deer Island in New Brunswick in Lambert Cove. Her husband is a fisherman and they have a son and daughter and one grandchild. Lois has worked with CBM in international situations, in several countries, working with some of our Global and Strategic Staff members of CBM. She has taught Development and Global studies at St. Stephen University and she just recently returned from a mission trip to Kenya where she worked with Tim and Dianne Bannister in Nairobi. She also visited Eric and Erika Kenny in Eastleigh in a very poor part of Kenya and worked with displaced women in a programme, called, "Ifthen for Women".

Lois showed slides of the work she did with women in Kenya and commented on the profound difference in the rights of women and men in Kenya. Women have no rights and suffer abuse and indifference. Women have to work at menial jobs if they are lucky enough to have a job, and most of the jobs are created by themselves. Music background such as "There Must be a God", "These Are the Ones I Love", and "God's Great Plan", added to the meaning of the slide presentation that Lois presented to us. Lois went on to tell us that we need to be conscious and intentional in proclaiming our message to reach others for Christ. If our churches are to be "in action", we must know what God's plan and purpose is for us. We start by asking ourselves four questions: Who are the poor? What is the "Good News"? What is "our Mission?" Is the "Good News" always the same?

When we read Acts 1:8, and Matthew 28:18-20, we know that our mission is to take the gospel to all the world! The poor people are those who are spiritually poor as they do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The poor are also those who suffer from poverty and abuse of all kinds, and those who do not have enough in life to survive. The poor suffer from lack of food, money, jobs, medical attention, education, social benefits and essential needs. They have no protection from the dangers of everyday life. We know that the Good News is the Gospel of Jesus Christ ; that He came to save all who believe on Him and accept Him as Lord and Saviour of their lives. And yes, the Good News **is** always the same, but it is bigger than we are. We may have to find new and innovative ways to reach all people with the Good News. It is imperative that we be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit who directs and leads each of us to be His hands, His feet and His heart in a cruel and hurting world.

Lois showed a film of a Muslim lady named Zara who became a Christian and we discussed the problems she had to overcome other than just accepting Christ as Lord and Saviour. There were many problems facing her and other women like her. They all suffer much by opposition from their families, the laws of the state, moral issues, culture, confusion, conflict, economic conditions and

legal issues when they step out of their own to accept Christ. Zara stepped out in faith in spite of all the dangers to her, and we too, must step out in faith to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God doesn't need us to do His work as He can do anything He wishes without our help, through His Holy Spirit. But He has commanded us to be doers of the Word, so we have no choice but to obey His commands. All life is spiritual and since God is concerned with the whole person and the whole community, so we must be committed to all of God's people!

Lois had us examine issues that we encounter in our world today, such as family breakdowns, unemployment, addictions, suicides, abuse, teen rebellion, casual sex, pornography and an increase in crime, to name a few. "How is your church addressing these concerns in your community?" she asked. God has a plan for us and his plan is that we must tell the "Good News" to everyone in our local area. The church and the people in the church have to be the answer. The church is the only Christian emphasis in our community today as our schools are becoming more involved in being socially correct, rather than morally correct. Lois read Romans 12:1-2, James 1:27 and Jeremiah9:24 as the advice we should follow every day, no matter how bad the world is or how corrupt it becomes. We must not give in to the world and its cynicism. In today's world we celebrate wealth, being famous, strength, wisdom and freedom to do what we want. Lois pointed out that Jesus told us that we will always have the poor with us so we will always have work to do for the Kingdom. When we look at the Parable of the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18: 28-29 and the message in Matthew 26:11, what really matters is that if we know God, then we should give our all for the sake of His kingdom. If we do give our all to Him, we will receive many blessings, eternal life and much more. "What is impossible with men, is possible with God!"

Lois closed with prayer that we would seek our Lord and know how He is calling us to seek justice for all. WE need to seek God's will for our lives and for our churches, so that we can make a difference in the lives of those around us. This was a powerful message to really have our churches actively doing what God has commanded us to do.

After the blessing on the food, a delicious dinner was served by the Church at 12:30 pm and was enjoyed by all. After lunch, we had a tour of the newly renovated church.

AFTERNOON SESSION

We began our afternoon session with the singing of "Be Thou My Vision" and hearing a devotional by Pastor David Cawley based on Psalm 46. Pastor Cawley spoke on the fact that God is always present with us but we are not always aware that He is right there beside us. God wants us to really know Him and know that He is our God. He will watch over us and care for us in the best times and the worst. God wants us to know that He is our refuge and our strength at all times. We don't have to fear anything if we know God, and if we really believe His promises to us. It is such a wonderful and reassuring promise that we do not need to be afraid of anything because He will be with us even if the "earth be removed" or the "mountains be carried into the midst of the sea" or if the "waters roar and be troubled" or the "mountains shake with its swelling". What a promise!

Pastor David showed a beautiful video with the hymn, "Be Still and Know That I am God" and then closed with prayer.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING SESSION

The Clerk read the Rules of Order and opened the meeting with prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION # 1: K. Purdy/R. Purdy, that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on March 27th, 2010 at Desmond Piers Hall, Cornwallis Park, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: M. Billard/D. Longley, that the Annual Financial Report for 2010/11 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

The Clerk reminded many of our Churches that their \$50.00 yearly administration fees have not been paid, but thanked those churches which have remitted their fees.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION # 3: M.Billard/J.Hirtle, that the Proposed Budget for 2011/12 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 4: D. Cumby/D Cawley, that Pastors Ron and Karen Purdy be the two Association Delegates for 2011 at Oasis Assembly of CABC which will be held in August at Acadia University. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 5: R. Legassie/L.Simpson, that a permanent date be set as the last or second last Saturday in April for our Association Annual Meeting as part of our Constitution, so that the date will correspond to our present date for Revenue Canada Financial Reports. **CARRIED.**

REPORTS:

MOTION # 6: C. Batson/M.Reece that the **Moderator's Report** presented by Rev. Fred Bigelow be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 8: J.Thompson/ K. Purdy, that the **Licensing Committee Report**, as presented by Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie, be accepted as showing those who have come before the committee to obtain new or renewed licences. New licences are to be issued to Etta (Libby) Amirault, and Janet Kwantes and licences are to be renewed for Pastor Herb Anderson, Pastor Patty Beals, Pastor Mark Cress, Pastor Linda Demone and Pastor Virginia Hurlburt. **CARRIED.**
Rev. Bill McLeod offered prayer for those who were granted new or renewed licences.

MOTION # 9: D. Longley/D, Mullen, that the **Camp Kingswood Report** as given orally by David Longley, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 10: B. McLeod/ R. Purdy, that the Council find another member for the Licensing Committee. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 11: B.MacLean/E. Waugh, that the **Regional Minister's Report for Region II**, which was presented by Rev. Ron Baxter, be accepted as presented and circulated to all members present. The written report will be attached to the Original Minutes.) **CARRIED.**

Janet Kwantes thanked Rev. Ron Baxter for his years of service as Regional Minister for the Annapolis County part of the Annapolis-Digby Association. A round of applause was given to Rev. Baxter as this will be his last Annual meeting with us before he retires at the end of December.

MOTION # 12: D. Robertson/ R. Purdy, that the **Regional Minister's Report for Region V**, which was presented by Rev. Wayne Fevens, be accepted as given and circulated to all present. (The written report will be attached to the Original minutes). **CARRIED.**

Wayne thanked the members for his association with Annapolis-Digby Association and wished God's blessings on the work which we will continue to do.

David Phillips thanked Rev. Wayne Fevens for his work within this Association on behalf of the Digby County Pastors and their churches. He wished him blessings as Wayne will also be retiring as Regional Minister in December. David commented that we will miss both Ron and Wayne and will hold them in prayer while they answer God's call on their lives after their retirement.

MOTION # 13: K.Purdy/S.Longley, that the **Report on the Formation of Cluster Areas**, as found in the Annual Booklet and explained by Rev. Fred Bigelow, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

OASIS 2010 DELEGATES' REPORTS:

Lic. Janet Kwantes and Rev. David Cumby were our two Association Delegates who attended Oasis 2010, and both presented their reports. Janet concentrated on an overall summary of events which she attended: seminar speakers, worship and music times, evening socials and optional programmes David concentrated on events in which he was interested: the Historical Society, seminars, workshops, worship and Business sessions and other events. He gave a good summary of the business of incorporation which began during this convention and will be completed in 2011. David gave his report in a David Letterman style format. Both reports are on file with the Clerk if anyone wants to read them.

Both David and Janet thanked the Association for sponsoring them at Convention and urged others who have never attended Oasis, to take advantage of going as an Association Delegate if they are interested. They both said that you'll never regret it or forget the experience it allows.

With no further business, on motion by Rev. Bill McLeod, the meeting was adjourned. Rev. Fred Bigelow closed in prayer and a closing hymn was sung.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk