Starting Local/Going Global
Wrap Up Report

For the 17th year we celebrate another “Starting Local AND Going Global” Christmas campaign. Locally, we continued our support of our own New Life Ministry by providing gifts for the women who attend and their families in addition to providing gifts for our friends who attend Third Sunday Supper, and families from our ongoing Benevolent Ministry. Globally, we have allowed our dollars to make a lasting impact on the lives of children and women in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On four Sundays in November and December the Giving Trees were set up in the Connections Center with nearly 280 gifts on offer. About 240 of these were signed out at an estimated value of $3,750 (adding up the suggested purchase price for each gift taken). All of these gifts were purchased and brought back to the church for the Hanging of the Greens Service on the second Sunday in December. In addition, the church family provided $4,398.05 in donations which was used to purchase the remaining gifts, an additional Christmas treat (in addition to a $10 Tim’s card) for our Third Sunday Supper participants, and to provide Superstore gift cards to the families in New Life and those sponsored through our Benevolent Ministry. So, a conservative estimate of giving to the Local Project is $8,148.05!

In the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, recurring wars and insecurity between several African countries and armed militia groups have made women and children extremely vulnerable to sexual violence. Rape is used as a weapon of war by the Congolese army and militia groups, but there have also been an increasing number of civilian men committing these crimes against women.

This year your giving will help in two ways: (1) Medical Care for Survivors of Sexual Violence and (2) Train Rape Counsellors. By giving $8,810.75 you have helped restore hope and dignity to survivors, protect the most vulnerable, encourage prevention of sexual and physical abuse for women and children and sent a clear message of our support for André Sibomana, our latest Partner in Mission.

André serves with Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) in Rwanda as Africa Deputy Team Leader. In this role, André will work alongside CBM’s African church partners to determine and accomplish shared objectives, as well as provide support to the Africa Team Leaders by helping to coach and empower our Global Field Staff. He will also support Canadian church partnerships and facilitate SENT trips, which provide Canadians with hands-on global discipleship experiences.

On your behalf, I thank the Social Action Team who invested hours to make the local component a reality and to Missions Committee chair, Brian McEwing for carrying the banner (and making the posters!) for the global component. AND, I thank you for your generosity this season. Again, a conservative estimate of giving to Starting Local/Going Global for 2019 is $16,958.80! To God be the glory, great things He has done!

As a church family and as individuals many of us have great blessings to count...the greatest of which is Jesus’ love in our lives. May the impact of this project lead others to give God thanks for His faithfulness and love.

Pastor Greg
January 15 when Doris Ashfield, a new member of our church, will share her faith story. She invites you to join her in the Family Room on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, to get to know a member of our church family who will share their “story” of life and faith. If you know someone who is going through marital separation or divorce, invite them to consider joining our DivorceCare ministry which begins again this Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 pm in the Family Room. Each evening includes the presentation of videos with expert counsellors sharing insights on how to move from hurting to healing. In addition, supportive conversation provides encouragement to participants. Each session stands on its own so participants can join any week. For more information please contact facilitator Gloria Tranquilla (momspalce70@hotmail.com). Please pray for this ministry as it begins in the new year.

Alyse Wilton

Couples Connection – I’d like to start 2020 by inviting you all to our Couples Connection Sunday School class! We meet at 9:50am in the Family Room, where most weeks a different married couple from our congregation will share some of the significant moments from their marriage, and the impact their faith has had. Today, Paul and Bernita Milburn will share their faith story. This term, about once a month, we will be studying “You and Me Forever” by Francis and Lisa Chan starting on January 19th with a video covering the introduction and first chapter of the book. If you are interested in this study and would like to read ahead, you will be able to find a few copies of the book in our Church Library this morning. Please promptly read and return them so that others can read along before the next study week.

Alyse Wilton

DivorceCare – If you know someone who is going through marital separation or divorce, invite them to consider joining our DivorceCare ministry which begins again this Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 pm in the Family Room. Each evening includes the presentation of videos with expert counsellors sharing insights on how to move from hurting to healing. In addition, supportive conversation provides encouragement to participants. Each session stands on its own so participants can join any week. For more information please contact facilitator Gloria Tranquilla (momspalce70@hotmail.com). Please pray for this ministry as it begins in the new year.

Meet The Family – Denise Mersereau invites you to join her in the Family Room on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, to get to know a member of our church family who will share their “story” of life and faith. Please join us this Wednesday, January 15 when Doris Ashfield will share her faith story. All are welcome to attend.

Apologetics Bible Study – On Wednesday, January 15 join Daniel Savard as he presents a 6 week bible study based on William Lane Craig’s series “APOLOGETICS” (Apologetics: Answering critics who oppose or question the revelation of...
God in Christ and the Bible). This is a series for people who do not believe in Christianity or who are new in their walk as Christians, and would like to know what to answer when people are confronting them on their belief. Because this presentation comes directly from RightNow Media, there are no study materials required. Participants will meet from 6:30pm – 8pm in Room 313, 3rd Floor. All are welcome.

512 NEIGHBORS – The 12 Neighbors Project asks the most important question of our time, “what does it really mean to love your neighbor?” The goal is to create a movement of people who are inspired and educated to love their neighbors like never before. This 7-part film series was created so that people may gather together as a group, watch the films, discuss appropriate action in their own communities, and then take action together as a group. These films will challenge your perspective on poverty, marginalization, and effecting real change. Please join Pastor Steve Wednesday evening in the family room at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

6GRIEFSHARE BEGINS – Grieving the loss of a loved one, recent or not, can be an isolating experience. For this reason we offer GriefShare, a gentle, caring ministry that includes mutual support and helpful video presentations by experts on grief recovery. A new session of GriefShare begins on Thursday, January 16, 7 pm in the Family Room. For more information please email facilitator Cheryl Gibson (bsbc@bsbc.nb.ca).

7BSBC Youth – Thanks for a great kickoff last Friday! It’s true that 2020 is in full swing and this week we are rolling right into our first split night of the year. This week the middle schoolers will be heading to the gym to play soccer baseball while the high schoolers participate in the first ever "Rec-room Olympics"! It all starts this Friday at 7:00; we can't wait to see you there.

8MEETING OF THE JOINT BOARDS – Members of the Boards of Deacons and Management are reminded about their joint meeting with the Social Action Team on Sunday, January 19, 6:30 pm at the Barnabas Center. Thank you for noting this additional commitment in addition to regular meetings.

9SENIORS LUNCHEON – Our first luncheon of 2020 is offered on Monday, January 20 at noon with a very special presentation as Neil Livingstone takes on his multi-month hike of the Appalachian Trail extending between Springer Mountain in Georgia and Mount Katahdin in Maine! Pastor Greg will be sharing a devotional moment and some music. A delicious lunch will be served by our dedicated kitchen crew. Brave the cold for a warm welcome and great fellowship!

10SMALL GROUP PALOOZA - Are you a member of a small group? Would you like to explore membership in a small group? THEN, please join us in the gym on Sunday, January 30 for our Small Group Palooza which will start at 5:30 pm with a potluck supper and then we’ll engage in activities that will encourage growth in the effectiveness of your small group experience...or help you understand the benefits of being a small group member. We'll also be sharing about some of the great materials available to you (personally or corporately) from Right Now Media. It's going to be a great evening - you'll enjoy yourself and be on the way home before 8 pm.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

OUR SYMPATHY is expressed to Lillian Laaper and family on the passing of her husband, Ted on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

PLEASE PRAY for our seniors friends not always able to be with us...Diana Lapointe, Eldon Maston, Claudia McKiel, Marjorie Miller, Madeline Oliver, Muriel Phillips, and Marie Roberts.

PLEASE PRAY for Pastor Greg and Margaret who are on vacation from Monday, January 6 up to, and including Saturday, January 18.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

LOVE OFFERING – After an 8 month study, the Board of Management has prayerfully made the decision to discontinue the position of Maintenance Director at BSBC as of January 31, 2020. We have appreciated the services provided by Tom May for the past 17 years and we wish Tom well in future endeavors. Tom will be taking the month of January as vacation time. As is our custom, we invite the congregation to contribute to a Love Offering for Tom to thank him for his service with us. This will be presented early in February. Simply place your gift in an envelope marked Love Offering and place it in the Sunday offering or deliver it to the Church Office. Cheques should be made payable to Brunswick Street Baptist Church. We ask you to note that by the rules of Revenue Canada, such gifts are not eligible for receipting as a charitable donation. Please be in prayer for Tom as he begins a new path.

Your Board of Management

CHURCH FAMILY LIFE COORDINATOR – Your Board of Deacons is accepting applications for the part time position of Church Family Life Coordinator at BSBC. This position of 10 hours per week at $15 per hour supports the pastors and ministry groups of the church in providing opportunities for small groups, enriched fellowship/connecting opportunities, follow up with those new to BSBC and other duties. A full
position outline is available at the Connections Center. Applications for the position will be accepted by the church office until Friday, January 24th at 4 pm. An application consists of a cover letter, including your Christian testimony and why you believe you would be a good candidate for the position and your resume with three references (one may be from the BSBC church family). Interviews will be conducted the following week with the successful candidate starting the position on February 1st. For more information please contact Pastor Greg (greg@bsbc.nb.ca). The congregation is invited to pray for the search process.

UPDATE FROM NEXTGEN PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE – Notice for the ministry opportunity was sent out mid-December. Please continue to pray for our two search committees’ work and for the people the Lord is preparing to come to BSBC. If anyone has questions or suggestions concerning NextGen Pastor search, do not hesitate to contact the office or the committee at: 458-8348 or next.gen.bsb@gmail.com Sally Crawford

A REST IS GOOD – The Board of Deacons and our entire church family are very grateful for the energy, time and unlimited interest that Pastor Greg has poured into BSBC ministries during this extended “interim” period. Without his leadership and familiarity with our church, together with the contracted support of Pastor Steve, Dr. Keith, Dr. Brian and Jon, the continued vibrancy of our services and programs would certainly not be so smooth. Many additional volunteers and contracted individuals have contributed to this team effort that testifies to a cause much greater than self-interest, that is service to our Creator, Savior and Lord.

Nevertheless, sustained energy requires periods of necessary rest. To this end, the BOD is pleased to advise our congregation that Pastor Greg will be granted a one-month paid leave this winter. As per his wishes, it will not be taken in a single block; he and Margaret have made some special plans, and beginning January 6 to 18, their interlude will begin. It will be taken up again in March, when they will encounter a southern destination that contrasts nicely with their cottage on the Northumberland Strait. Imagine. We wish them “comfort and joy” in these extended breaks from daily service. Please continue to pray for His guidance and direction for our church, and for the continued health, inspiration and strength of our staff.

Your Board of Deacons

OFFERING ENVELOPES – Scriptures encourage us to regularly give back to the Lord a portion of the material blessings that are ours. A former pastor maintained that financial stewardship should not be understood as equal giving by each member of the church family but equal sacrifice on the part of each one of us. One of the best ways to be reminded to give regularly is to have the church office provide you with a box of offering envelopes - which provides one envelope dated for each Sunday in 2020. You may not give each week but the box of envelopes will remind you to remember to give and, using such an envelope when you do, allows the church to record your giving and provide a receipt for you at year’s end. To secure a box of offering envelopes simply contact the church office (458-8348 or receptionist @bsbc.nb.ca). Thank you for considering the opportunity to give regularly. Pastor Greg

ANNUAL REPORTS – Don’t forget that all ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BEFORE FRIDAY, JANUARY 17! Please be considerate of this deadline. Report information can be emailed directly to the church office at bsbc@bsbc.nb.ca or dropped off at the office in typewritten form, if possible. Thank you.

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT STORMS? Just a friendly reminder that if the weather turns wild you can find out about cancellation of church services and ministries in three ways: (1) call the church office (458-8348) and listen to the recorded message on the main greeting or on the storm cancellation extension; (2) check our Facebook page (Brunswick Street Baptist Church) or the website (www.bsbcs.ca); and (3) listen to local radio station cancellation updates. Decisions about cancelling morning or afternoon services/ministries are made by 7 am; cancellations for evening services/ministries are made by 3 pm. Please remember that if school is cancelled this DOES NOT necessarily mean that church ministries are cancelled. In any event, we always advise caution when making a personal decision about coming to services/ministries in bad weather. Always be safe!

FINANCIAL REPORT – The church treasurer wishes to advise the church family that financial reports will not be printed in the Banner during the month of January. Printed reports will resume in February. Thank you.

COMMUNITY NEWS

FINANCIAL SEMINAR – The York Baptist Association is pleased to host a Financial Seminar titled “Free Money: Principles For Living A Freed Up Financial Life”, on February 1st at Marysville Baptist Church from 9:00am - 12:30pm. The cost for the seminar is $10 per person. The morning will consist of two separate tracks; one dealing with Debt Issues, led by Financial Coach Neil Horner; the second dealing with Legacy Planning, led by Greg Jones with the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada. Individuals are encouraged to attend the track most applicable to them. Please register by January 28th to Jason Hinsdale (jasonhinsdale@gmail.com) or Larry Matthews (pastorlarry@faithbaptistchurch.ca).