

# CONNEXION

## REPORT TO DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2017

I am so thankful for what God has done in the lives of the youth and emerging generations from our Quebec church family since last District Conference. With the challenges that our family faced—particularly over this last year—there was potential that we would retreat rather than advance in what God was doing in our churches. However, the effects have been negligible, because our young leaders made a decision to continue to push ahead and to continue to follow God, joining Him in His plans for our churches—especially among the young generation.

Here is a summary of the last year, particularly regarding how I invested my time, as well as things that we lived as the young generation of our District.

- **SOAR MONTRÉAL** - SOAR Montreal continues to be one of the most strategic opportunities that we have to offer to the youth of our churches. I help to lead this program with Philip Serez (MB Mission) and my wife Lorilee Jespersen. In July 2016, we had the privilege to welcome almost 250 youth and volunteers from across Canada, the US, and France, including about 30 from our family of churches in Quebec. The combination of teaching, training, evangelism, worship, prayer, service, and community produced one of the most significant moments of discipleship that I have ever seen. Many youth made important decisions in their relationship with God, for example, to completely surrender to God, to be baptized, to take risks for God in evangelism, to follow God to the ends of the earth as missionaries, and much more. Many also experienced the Father's love for the first time and received inner healing. Since last July, we have been planning for SOAR Montreal 2017 that will happen from July 7-18.
- **YOUTH NETWORK** - I have the honour of working with an extraordinary group of people who form the District Youth Network:
  - **Myleen Bravo** (*Iglesia Bethel Acm*)
  - **Shannon Breault** (*Église ACM de Noyan*)
  - **Gionatan Catalano** (*Fairview Alliance Church*)
  - **Joseph Cherng** (*Montreal Chinese Alliance Grace Church*)
  - **Esdras Félix** (*Église évangélique haïtienne de Montréal*)
  - **James-Yvelt Jean-Denis** (*Église évangélique haïtienne de Rivière des prairies*)
  - **Ryan Lee** (*Montreal Chinese Alliance Church*)
  - **Mateo Mortelliti** (*180 Church*)
  - **David Pearson** (*Église ACM de Rimouski*)
  - **Samuel Quach** (*Montreal Chinese Alliance Grace Church*)

Together, we organise district activities (ONE, the emerging leaders (youth) retreat OXYGEN, etc.), and think about how to develop youth ministry in our family of churches. Most recently, at our retreat OXYGEN, together with other young

leaders, we carved out a moment to talk about the national vision of the C&MA in Canada and how to contextualize it in our local ministries.

- **ONE YOUTH CONFERENCE** - The weekend of October 14-15, 2016, 230+ youth came together at the Montreal Evangelical Haitian Alliance Church, for a weekend of teaching, worship, prayer, service, and of course, a lot of fun! This year's theme was GROUND ZERO. God put on my heart to invite the youth to fully engage in what He wants to do in Quebec—to invite the youth to get rid of everything that was preventing them from living the abundant Christian life, to understand who they are in Christ, and to realize the authority they have in Christ in order to be His witnesses in this world. I was the main speaker, but we also had messages from Jean-François Moquin (I Am Second), and Aurélie Michou (MB Mission). Other than the teaching, there were moments of intimate worship, a time when the youth went out into the streets of Montreal in order to show God's love to others, and lots of time building relationships with one another. We have been working hard on putting together the 2017 conference that will happen the weekend of October 13-14 at the 180 Church in Laval.
- **EMERGING (YOUTH) LEADER RETREAT: OXYGEN** - The weekend of January 20-22, 50 young leaders came together for our annual emerging leaders retreat **OXYGEN**. This year we welcomed Kathy Klassen as our speaker, who led us in a weekend of spiritual freedom. These leaders enjoyed a time of transformation, where many experienced God in a new way, experienced inner healing and spiritual freedom, and they left with the tools necessary to continue to live in freedom, and to help others find their freedom as well. Since this moment, I have seen a significant change in lives of leaders with whom I work.
- **PARADOX CONFERENCE** - I continue to work with the PAOC church family of Quebec to plan and realize the **PARADOX CONFERENCE**—the biggest Christian youth gathering in Quebec. My role on the team includes inter-church representative and graphic designer. This conference offers the youth of our churches a weekend of spiritual transformation. At this yearly conference, many C&MA youth have given or recommitted their lives to Christ, have experienced God's presence in a tangible way, and have even received their "call" into the ministry. My presence on the team allows the C&MA in Quebec to help shape the event to ensure that it reflects our values. We are also the only other family of churches in Quebec with their logo on the official poster. The latest conference happened last weekend at Evangel Church, where more than 500 youth met God in a powerful way.
- **ENVISION** - From May 8-12, I had the privilege of taking Jade Bédard (*Église ACM de Lévis*), Myleen Bravo (*Iglesia Bethel Acm*), Jason Covone (*180 Church*) and Esdras Félix (*Église évangélique haïtienne de Montréal*) to New York to take part in the SUMMIT organized by ENVISION US, in collaboration with ENVISION Canada. At the SUMMIT we received teaching on soul care, racial reconciliation, the new sexual revolution (LGBTQ movement) and more. We also had many occasions to talk about these subjects with other emerging leaders from across North America. It was a transformational moment for everyone.
- **NATIONAL YOUTH TEAM** - I am a part of the National Youth Team of the C&MA in Canada, who meet about 2 times a year. We met at General Assembly last May in Calgary—where we held a round table discussion with a group of youth pastors regarding the reality of youth across Canada, as well as hosting them for a presentation of the ministry of ENVISION Canada. Then, we met on February 22-24 in Toronto in order to discuss with David Freeman (NMC) and Ryan Graham (ENVISION) about how to contextualize the C&MA's National vision in our District Youth Ministries. I was extremely encouraged to be a part of a discussion that had the goal of aligning the National and District visions.
- **REGULAR CONTACT** - Throughout the year I walk with youth leaders from our churches (going for coffee, visiting local churches, communicating via social media, etc.). I take advantage of these moments to encourage and resource these amazing leaders. I am so blessed to walk with these leaders and am extremely encouraged for the future.