TIDAL IMPACT REPORT 2017

Wow! What a great week we had this summer during Tidal Impact 2017. As I begin this report there are many thank you-s that need to be said. For 15 months our executive team of Renee Embree, Jacqueline Darrah, Matt Holland, Erin Jackman, Mat Wilton and myself planned and built teams in the South Shore and Halifax. Our Local Area Team deserves a great deal of thanks. Thanks to Cheryl Foley, Bev Armstrong, Sam Jess, Charlie Greer, Vicky Sovie, Evelyn Ernst, Alissa Getson, Patricia Swinamer, Justin Pickens, and then many others who aided these teams. Thanks also to our host!! Bridgewater Baptist provided the venue and helped to showcase what God is doing in the South Shore.

And then there were 27 churches and our camp at Long Lake who hosted and visited our region. It meant that there were around 250 participants during the week in rallies, outreach ministry, and local church ministry. From splitting and piling firewood, to painting projects, to local VBS ministries, to planting flowers in the local neighbourhood many communities were blessed by the enthusiasm that the week brought. Particular groups that were blessed were local food banks. In our local region over 7200lbs of food were collected and dispersed to families in need. Our own local mission, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission, in Bridgewater was also blessed with a team assisting them. Our youth showed that their neighbourhoods and neighbours in need are of importance to them. It reminded our churches to look for God in our neighbourhoods, as He is on the move there and we must join Him in His activity.

In the evening rallies and the dive deeper sessions our youth and leaders were impacted by the call to grow deeper into a relationship with God that seeks to embrace us. Beyond the Broadcast provided us with worship and Micah Knowles emceed our time together as we were challenged each evening. A highlight of the week was the Thursday evening communion. Many youth groups reported that that evening became a rich time for discussion, tears, prayer, and discipleship. Many raised hands that evening suggest that young people are looking for answers to life questions and identify those answers in Jesus.

Bryan Jones gave four challenging meditations on our identity and our call to embrace the world around us. He also left us with a challenge: What’s next? This has started to take shape in many of our churches as we being youth ministry this fall. An outflow of Tidal Impact was to seriously consider equipping leaders in our churches. This past week we saw 6 of our churches get together to be equipped by Renee’s leadership and to carry that enthusiasm forward. In addition Bridgewater Baptist intents to host a rally this fall to keep the momentum going. God has been and is still active in the lives of our youth and in our community and it is encouraging to see these events planned and executed in our region. I will echo Bryan Jones and ask our association churches: What’s next? This week has shown many of us that we can no longer bemoan that our churches don’t have youth, but to now engage the youth that do exist in our communities and impact their lives for Christ. Are we ready to continue what God has done and is doing? I hope your local church answers “yes” and we can begin to reshape our nighbourhoods into His Kingdom.

Respectfully and In Christ Alone,

Pastor Joe Green

Co-Chair Tidal Impact 2017 South Shore