



United
CHRISTIAN
ASHRAMS

TRANSFORMING LIVES

2015: A Year
of Anniversaries!

NOVEMBER 2015

1940 **75** TH Anniversary 2015

New Brunswick Christian Ashram Celebrates North America's 75th Anniversary!

The fourth and final celebration event of North America's 75th Anniversary was held in New Brunswick, Canada!



Reflections from Cheryl Jacobs, Director

Words used to describe the teaching from our evangelist, James Swanson, included "awesome," "excellent," "dynamic," "inspirational" and "a blessing." He encouraged us to risk moving into deeper waters, where we get away from the familiar and safe, but where abundance lies.



Bishop James Swanson

Equally appreciated was our Bible teacher Matt Henson. He reminded us of E. Stanley Jones' key message of self-surrender. He spoke about the need for pruning to increase our fruitfulness, and thus give glory to the Gardener. As we continue to abide in Jesus and to surrender ourselves, we gain a deep-seated love for the world.

It was an enormous blessing to have with us Anne Matthews-Younes, President of the E. Stanley Jones Foundation and Paul Gohil, Resident Acharya of the Sat Tal Ashram in India. Hearing about E. Stanley Jones and the history of Christian Ashrams helped us better understand the movement as a whole.

Tom Albin led our morning devotionals and shared helpful insights on prayer methods. Local Bishop David Edwards shared his inspiring testimony and we all enjoyed worshipping in song with our music team.

Brother James reminded us that the original meaning for the name Comforter was someone who gives you courage and boldness. The Holy Spirit does not have a personal purpose to console each of us but to give us courage so that we can bring the Good News to those around us.

Reflections from Tom Dearduff, Intern

I was filled with resounding joy and newfound spiritual contentment at the New Brunswick Christian Ashram.

Matt Henson closed our first Bible Hour with a reflection on the difference between doing and being. He discussed what it means for God to love and for God to be love. As John says: "Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." If God is love and we are made in the image of God, should not we live as we were created to be? Take this along with Jesus' command to love one another "just as I have loved you," and we see that our faith is to be lived creatively in love.



The booming voice of James Swanson and the call of shofars shook the foundations of the Tabernacle, the Holy Spirit descended, and knees were bent and bodies were

healed. As a small-town Mid-Westerner, I had been taught that church was for the prim and proper; that maybe if you really felt the Holy Spirit you might raise a hand towards the ceiling. But now I have learned that God is larger than our collective understanding and more glorious than all the praises of the world. The contemplative is as much a Christian as the charismatic and vice versa. And diversity must be responded to with love, respect, and appreciation.

The New Brunswick Christian Ashram served as the perfect resolution of a summer well-spent in two ways:

1. "And they lived happily ever after..." I have come to know what UCA is about. It's about making real our faith in an intentional community that continually praises God. It solidified my belief in an ineffable God through a ministry that lives and breathes that Jesus is Lord! It allowed me to process my place in God's greater story.
2. "...But it doesn't end there." What I have learned through the United Christian Ashrams is not supposed to end with the summer. I will continue to humble myself before the Lord in the service of those around me. I will continue to invite God to soften my heart, open my eyes, and heal the wounds of my spirit.

I am thankful that Jesus turned water to wine; I am thankful that Jesus took what was going to be such a regular summer and turned it into one of the most memorable and spiritually eye-opening three months of my life.



for more information: (318) 232-0004 www.christianashram.org



Testimonies from the New Brunswick Ashram



- “The teaching and preaching was inspirational. The leaders challenged me to fish deeper waters and provided the inspiration and direction to do so.”
- “The devotional leader was thought-provoking. I now have a guide to improve my prayer life.”
- “A magnificent Spirit-filled and Spirit-led weekend.”
- “This year’s Ashram richly blessed me and was God’s affirmation that the Christian Ashram is a very-fitting and now-I-know-for-sure God-appointed niche for me.”
- “This is the most powerful spiritual experience I have ever had. Brother Stanley would be delighted.”
- “The special presentations were all significant. I can’t wait to see them on the UCA website.”
- “The healing service was so spiritual, powerful, and beyond anything I have ever experienced in my life. I felt the presence of God.”

You’re Invited to a Life Changing Experience!

United Christian Ashrams have many locations across the United States and Canada, all of which worship the omnipresent God in their own way. Façades are left at the door and the sanctuary of each Christian Ashram is filled with integrity and indelible grace. So there definitely is a Christian Ashram for you! Whether you’re black or white, liturgical or charismatic, skeptical or certain, conservative or liberal, left or right, up or down, so on and so forth, the UCA will welcome you with open arms. They did for me four times this summer, and they will for you, too. I believe that Christian Ashramites are vessels of love through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to love and be loved, attend a Christian Ashram.

– Tom Dearduff,
UCA Intern, 2015



More Than All We Can Ask or Imagine

I write this column with humility and amazement! God has answered our prayers in ways that are “abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.” (Ephesians 3: 20). The presence and power of God in the final 75th Anniversary Celebration event in New Brunswick was apparent from the Open Heart through the Overflowing Heart.



Matt Henson, Tom Albin, James Swanson, Paul Gohil

The preaching of James Swanson was anointed, the teaching of Matt Henson was anointed, the singing and worship leadership of Becca deHaan and the band was anointed, the leadership of Cheryl Jacobs was anointed. This final 75th Celebration event was blessed and used by God. The prayers we have prayed, the time we invested to prepare, and the financial investments we made to provide scholarships, honoraria, and internships — it was all worth it because God blessed it! —“abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine!”

Now we have the chance to turn these powerful experiences into renewed commitment to our ministry and mission. Our good work must become great action. Please send a gift today, to let us know that you want the work of God to continue to be available to more people, younger people and more diverse people all around the world.

Together, in prayer and in action, 2016 will be, by God’s grace, “more than all we can ask or imagine.”

How to Give

Donate online at:
www.christianashram.org

Send a check to:
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Tom Albin
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