

Presidents Oral Report  
72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention, Kingston  
July 16, 2019

I have chosen *Vector* as my environmental term. A vector is an object used to transport genes into a host cell. A gene is placed in the vector; the vector then "infects" the bacterium.

As your provincial president the Holy Spirit has been my "vector". He placed the idea of having *Homelessness* as our provincial theme into my heart, the host cell. I then in turn "infected" all of you with the passion to go out and love your neighbours. All of you took that passion and infected others by performing many random acts of kindness.

I am overwhelmed, overjoyed and amazed by all the ingenious ways you have addressed our provincial theme of Homelessness. The collection of thousands of pounds of food, sleeping bags for youth shelters, blessing bags, coffee cards, gift cards, helping at soup kitchens, taking the time to smile at and introduce yourselves to people on the streets, developing prayer services, having guest speakers, are only a few of the unique ways you have made a difference in someone's life. I know that I will be forever changed as a result of these experiences and I am sure that many of you feel the same. Last year's convention was incredible with all the influential speakers and the over 15,000 dollars in \$5.00 gift cards that were collected for distribution to the needy across our province. The response to these gift cards was overwhelming. I am not sure if you are aware but three large boxes and two briefcases were filled to overflowing.

Since January, we have concentrated our efforts on the new national theme *Care for our Common Home*. We in Ontario have chosen to focus on "Water" and making our members aware of the value of this powerful resource. I have an artesian well on my property. It is water in its purest form. Everyone jokes about the fertility qualities of my well water; I know that we are blessed to have this abundant gift that nourishes my family and farm animals. Not everyone experiences this luxury though. There are many who do not have enough water let alone clean water for survival. We have a responsibility to use water wisely.

This is my final oral report as your president. It is bitter-sweet, I am both humbled and proud to have been chosen by you to be your leader these last two years. Your enthusiasm and willingness to engage in so many worthwhile projects and activities have made my job easy. However, I am not sad to be finished. It is time for a change in leadership and I am extremely proud of all we have accomplished together! From the bottom of my heart, thank you and God bless!

This concludes my report