



Dear Youth Pastors and Leaders,

Do your students enjoy taking pictures?

I am writing to invite your students to participate in a new research project focused on exploring different ways young people perceive and experience their connection with God. You have an important role to play in this process, as you know your students. I hope you can encourage your teenagers to actively participate in this research.

Project Overview: The goal of this project is to utilize the powerful method of Photovoice, encouraging students aged 14-18 to capture and submit a photograph in response to the question, "Where do you meet God?" We recognize that teenagers often find spiritual meaning outside traditional religious institutions, in various settings such as nature, homes, pets, and friendships. As part of a research initiative within CBAC Youth & Family department, the project aims to amplify the voices of young individuals in expressing their unique experiences of spirituality.

Within the project, there are no expected conflicts of interest, nor will the results be commercialized. The primary goal is to assist our churches in learning more about our students, and your understandings of spirituality and expressions of faith.

Methodology: Participants in this project will be teenagers associated with CBAC churches, particularly within the age range of 14 to 18. The campaign will be promoted through local church youth pastors and leaders, and students will be invited to submit their photos through the online portal accessible via [website link].

Photovoice is strengthened by engaging in reflective dialogue with the studied population. To facilitate this, selected students will have the opportunity to take part in focus groups. These sessions will provide a platform for discussing the submitted photos and sharing observations. The insights gathered will be crafted into themes that will be presented to local churches and related organizations.

Participant Information: Students interested in participating will need to submit their names or contact information along with their photos. Additionally, basic demographic information such as age, gender, province, and locale (rural, suburban, or urban) will be collected. Students may choose to further engage in reflection groups, requiring additional parental consent.

This project promises to offer valuable insights into the spiritual lives of young individuals, fostering a deeper understanding of where and how they connect with the divine. Your

www.cbacyf.ca/photovoice



support in encouraging participation will contribute significantly to the success of this endeavor. Parents would need to complete the form: “Consent to Participate in the Research Project.”

Benefits of Participation:

Why should your students take part?

1. ***Students will be given a chance to express their Personal Beliefs:*** Students can express and share their personal beliefs and experiences related to spirituality in a creative and visual manner. This process allows them to reflect on their own values and perspectives.
2. ***Students will take part in Enhanced Self-Reflection:*** Through the act of selecting and capturing a photograph that represents their connection with spirituality, students engage in a process of self-reflection, and can voice their own thoughts and feelings. This can deepen their understanding of their own beliefs and values.
3. ***Students can experience Skill Development:*** Involvement in a Photovoice study can enhance various skills, including photography skills, and the ability to communicate personal experiences. Participation in focus groups also provides an opportunity to develop effective communication skills.

Why should you encourage your students to take part?

1. We believe that to understand the future of our churches, we need to listen to the voices of our students. By inviting your students to take part, you’re helping your denomination listen to the voices of your students and consider their perspectives.
2. For every student that participates, we will also enter your youth group into a draw for a \$100 gift card from CBAC Youth & Family that you can use to buy snacks for your student ministry.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact me at 506-635-1922 or dan.pyke@baptist-atlantic.ca.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

grace & peace,

Rev. Dan Pyke
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada