



Do you enjoy taking pictures? Do you have an interest in faith?

I want to invite you to participate in a research project that highlights how young people perceive and experience their connection with God.

What is the Project?

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 the CBAC Youth & Family department, this project aims to amplify the voices of young individuals in expressing their unique experiences of spirituality. We want to share your insights with the broader Church.

Methodology: Participants in this project will be teenagers associated with CBAC churches, particularly within the age range of 14 to 18 (high school age). 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, students will be invited 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.

Who can take part?

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 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."



Why should you take part?

We think there are some great opportunities ahead for you if you choose to join this project.

Benefits of Participation:

1. **Students will be given a chance to express their Personal Beliefs:** You can express and share your personal beliefs and experiences related to spirituality in a creative and visual manner. This process allows you 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, you can engage in a process of self-reflection, and can voice your own thoughts and feelings. This can deepen their understanding of your 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.
4. **Opportunity to win a prize for your youth group:** 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.

Why shouldn't you take part?

We want to keep you well-informed, and recognize there may be some risks associated with participation.

Risks of Participation:

1. **Confidentiality Concerns:** Even with our efforts to maintain confidentiality, the visual nature means that participants may be identifiable, especially if personal or recognizable elements are included.
2. **Privacy Issues:** Participants may unintentionally include private information about themselves or others. If a work computer is used to submit photos, the employer may have access to electronic data sent from the computer. In addition to the researcher, some staff at the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada would have access to the project via the online submissions. They have signed a confidentiality agreement related to this project.
3. **Impact on Relationships and Community Judgment:** Submitted photos may be misunderstood by those who view them, and you may hear or see comments made



about a photo with which you do not agree. If your photo is identified, someone may disagree with your interpretation.

What do you need to do to take part?

1. Share this letter with your parents/guardians.
2. Give them the Informed Consent document.
3. Spend some time reflecting on the question “Where do you meet God?” and consider how a photo may capture your answer.
4. Take the photo!
5. Submit the photo and all necessary Informed Consent documents on our website.
6. Consider if you’ll take part in a follow-up focus group when you are invited.

Withdrawal from the Study:

Your participation in this research study is voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any time without facing any negative consequences. If, for any reason, you decide that you no longer wish to participate, you can withdraw without prejudice from the study by sending an email to the researcher at dan.pyke@baptist-atlantic.ca

You’ll just need to include your name in the email and indicate your desire to withdraw. Your decision to withdraw will be respected, and any data collected up to that point will be excluded from the study.

Questions?

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,

Dan

Rev. Dan Pyke
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada
506-635-1922
Dan.pyke@baptist-atlantic.ca