

# MBCM Board Report

Harold Froese, MBCM Moderator

As a denomination, we have been working much more collaboratively with CCMBC as well as with our sister provinces.

## What caused these changes?

In the past, we as provinces and churches—as well as CCMBC—have often done our own thing. There was not much collaboration between provinces or CCMBC with the provinces/churches. This sometimes lead to program overlap and miscommunication. Frustration at all levels resulted in some very frank provincial/national meetings in late 2010.

Much of the criticism was valid, and everyone realized that the way we were doing “conference” was not sustainable on most fronts. This lead to a time of prayer, seeking God’s guidance for the future. There were many difficult conversations, considering that across Canada (and within our provincial boards/churches) we have an array of cultures and historical perspectives.

In early 2011, God began to transform us. We had an openness to change things and work collaboratively on many levels.

As CCMBC and provinces, we realize that our primary function needs to be resourcing churches and ministries on the ground. And so we began to move in this direction.

## How will this enhance ministry?

The National Office Review (Mochar report) in 2012 was an assessment of where we were as a denomination and national office. This report provided good ideas that we are currently using. The report also included ideas we felt may not work.

*Gathering 2012* really highlighted where we were at as a denomination. As leaders, we had not provided

adequate communication or transparency in areas such as in our reporting of financial information.

This lead to some very positive change. CCMBC and the provincial boards committed to undertake a full review of everything financial at CCMBC. The result was improved communication and transparency leading up to our AGM last October. This work is still ongoing.

Another positive change is the ministry focus at CCMBC to act as a resource to the churches via the provinces. Some of the key areas are Human Resources, Financial support, Leadership Development, and Church Planting. Increased collaboration is evident in all of these areas. For example, Leadership Development is using the *Leaders2Learners* program, which was initially developed in Manitoba.

Another example is C2C, which is adapting a successful church planting ministry in BC, and is using it in the other provinces.

We still have much to do, but the renewed spirit of collaboration is very encouraging. Future success will be dependent on increasing partnership between the various ministries. We must continue to pray for God’s guidance as churches and national/provincial boards.

## How will ministry in Manitoba be affected?

At MBCM we are attempting to work more collaboratively with CCMBC and our sister provinces in order to be more effective in resourcing ministries through the churches.

C2C is one such example. MBCM has empowered our committee of Delbert Enns, Philip Vallely, Gerald Dyck, Elton DaSilva, Gord Fleming together with Ewald Unruh as staff resource to lead this ministry.

At MBCM, we are also very pleased to work with Ron Toews in Leadership Development and Norbert Barga in Human Resources.

“It has been a privilege for us as a Leadership Board and staff to witness God ministering through our churches. We thank God for each one of you and welcome your questions and comments throughout the year.”

## Why would you purchase your office and then move to the CCMBC office on Taylor Avenue?

We were very happy at our Henderson Highway location. Due to practical legal and insurance issues, MBCI actually owns the entire property. The Christian Family Centre (CFC) has a separate agreement for their space and the offices that we and MB Mission Manitoba rented.

Early last year, CFC approached us about purchasing our half of the building. After prayerful due diligence, MBCM agreed to complete the purchase. This freed up ministry resources for CFC and also saved MBCM some rental/accommodation costs.

Some time later MBCM had some preliminary conversations with CCMBC, as it appeared they would have available office space on Taylor Avenue. MB Mission had already decided to move their offices to Taylor at the invitation of CCMBC. Even though we had just completed the Henderson purchase, we sensed God leading us to seriously consider CCMBC's offer to relocate.

There was welcoming spirit from Willy Reimer, Norbert Barga and their staff which allowed things

to progress smoothly. God helped us all to forgive and move beyond past hurts.

One of our biggest challenges was that two of our staff, Roger Friesen and Dorothea Schlam would not participate in a potential office relocation.

We were also able to find tenants for our Henderson Highway property, which will generate additional income for MBCM. In addition, the Henderson site will still be a host site for events, utilizing the multi-purpose room on the second floor. MBCM prayerfully weighed all these factors when making the decision to move to Taylor Avenue in December.

## Thank you!

It has been a privilege for us as a Leadership Board and staff to witness God ministering through our churches. We thank God for each one of you and welcome your questions and comments throughout the year. As a Leadership Board, we want to extend special thanks to Elton and his staff.

The above changes have caused occasional uncertainty for our staff, so we thank them for their prayerful support during the past year. I would also like to thank the members of the leadership board for their assistance. We feel truly blessed to be part of God's ministry.