



Courageous Collaboration

There's an old Herman cartoon of a caveman looking thoughtfully at a cart with square wheels. The caption is along the lines of "Did you ever have the feeling you're on the verge of an incredible breakthrough?"

Over the last two years, I have had that sense from people at all levels of our conference. We have so many wonderful churches, godly leaders, and incredible partners, but something felt like it was missing. At the same time, we wanted greater unity and a stronger, more collaborative MB conference in Canada.

In the spring of 2017, that collaboration grew in earnest with the courageous humility of leaders across the MB family. They came with towel and basin – willing to give up whatever was necessary to make it happen – recognizing that true collaboration involves creativity and sacrifice, not just words. This was, and is, not a journey of MB family leaders, or a few provinces or partners, but a beginning of unprecedented collaboration for all of us.

Collaboration has taken many forms:

- We merged MB Mission and C2C into Multiply to foster the understanding that mission work and church work are the same thing.
- CCMBC's Executive Board offered to release its decision-making authority to the provinces.
- Provincial conferences and partner agencies made unprecedented commitments to share resources and systems.
- Collectively, at our annual meeting last year, we passed a motion to develop the collaborative model.
- When many questions arose about one stream funding for the collaborative model, we delayed the decision for a year to gather additional information

and work out more details together.

- Now we are developing a common strategy map for our MB family to navigate together.

We continue to work with representatives from the provincial and national conferences and our agencies to determine how the new collaborative model will work. Elton DaSilva, who started as CCMBC national director in July 2018, is skillfully guiding us through this time of listening, cooperating, and collaborating. It has been my honour to work together with Elton during these past few months – he is a gift to the conference during this time of transformation.

Collaboration between many decisive leaders takes effort, but it is the Kingdom way to strengthen our conference. I'm grateful for the posture of humility among our leaders. We will continue to need that courageous humility as we walk through challenging issues in the days and months ahead.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul says that some plant, some water, but only God makes the seed grow. We all do our part, building on the foundation of Jesus. Then Paul declares this truth about the power of the Spirit in community: "Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16 NLT). God's Spirit is at work – be encouraged!

Thank you for praying, listening to the Spirit, and humbly participating with us as we step into this incredible breakthrough of collaboration together.

Bruce Enns
CCMBC moderator