



In 2018, MCC staff across the globe shared a prayer card with encouragement from Romans 12:14-18, including to “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” In ministries as in life, we often experience that rejoicing and weeping occur together. Often among the same folks, on the same day. To hold these apparently conflicting experiences together is truer to real life than to imagine that one must depart for the other to arrive. It is also truer to the lives of friends and partners touched by the activities of MCC. In every case these are people with whom we rejoice and weep. Together.

I am pleased to report highlights of MCC’s work in Manitoba in 2018:

- ▶ **MCC Thrift** – Across Manitoba, 1800+ volunteers in 16 shops are the hands, feet and face of MCC. These – volunteers and staff, donors and customers – are “the MCC” in so many ways. These fine folks provide top quality second hand goods while generating nearly \$3.0 million for local and international programs.
- ▶ **Indigenous Neighbours** – MCC pursue reconciliation in response to Canada’s Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. One Manitoba activity this year included signing on to Winnipeg’s Indigenous Accord where MCC pledged to join with Manitoban churches to learn ways to become better neighbours to Indigenous neighbours.
- ▶ **Sam’s Place, Winnipeg** – The café saw a major kitchen renovation. Thanks to donors who helped to more fully provide for a greater number of youth and young adult volunteers to learn food handling/ serving skills and certification as they overcome barriers to paid employment.
- ▶ **Material Resources** – Global crises in the last year resulted in high demand for relief kits. In Manitoba, corporate sponsors and donors packed kits at Spring-fest and various dedicated volunteer events. MCCM surpassed previous year’s total number of relief kits, for distribution in Bosnia, Lebanon, DR Congo, DPR Korea, and elsewhere.
- ▶ **Migration & Resettlement** – MCCs across Canada continued to show hospitality to displaced persons. MCC is grateful to church and community groups who provide hospitality and fellowship to the full quota of newcomer families via private sponsorship.
- ▶ **Peace & Advocacy** - A Cry for Home, is an education and advocacy campaign in response to the call of Palestinian Christians in the Middle East. MCCM hosted guests from the three Abrahamic faiths to tell the stories of life in pursuit of a just peace, rooted in non-violence, for everyone residing in Palestine/Israel.
- ▶ **Your gifts** – Once again Manitobans were generous with their resources. Your gifts are more than charity, more than answers to need. Your gifts help us all to identify with sisters and brothers in Manitoban communities and countries around the world. We become the world-wide family of God when we think of ourselves as connected to each other; connected to that which causes us all to rejoice and to weep. Together. Thank you!

MCC Manitoba seeks to grow closer to churches in meaningful ways. Each program listed above is staffed with skilled experts in their field. These MCCM staffers are eager to visit your church with education, presentations, sermons, etc. a range of topics that matter to your community. We want to join you to help meet the opportunities and challenges that are important to you. Please call 204-261-6381 or email [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca) to talk more about how we can partner in mission.

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