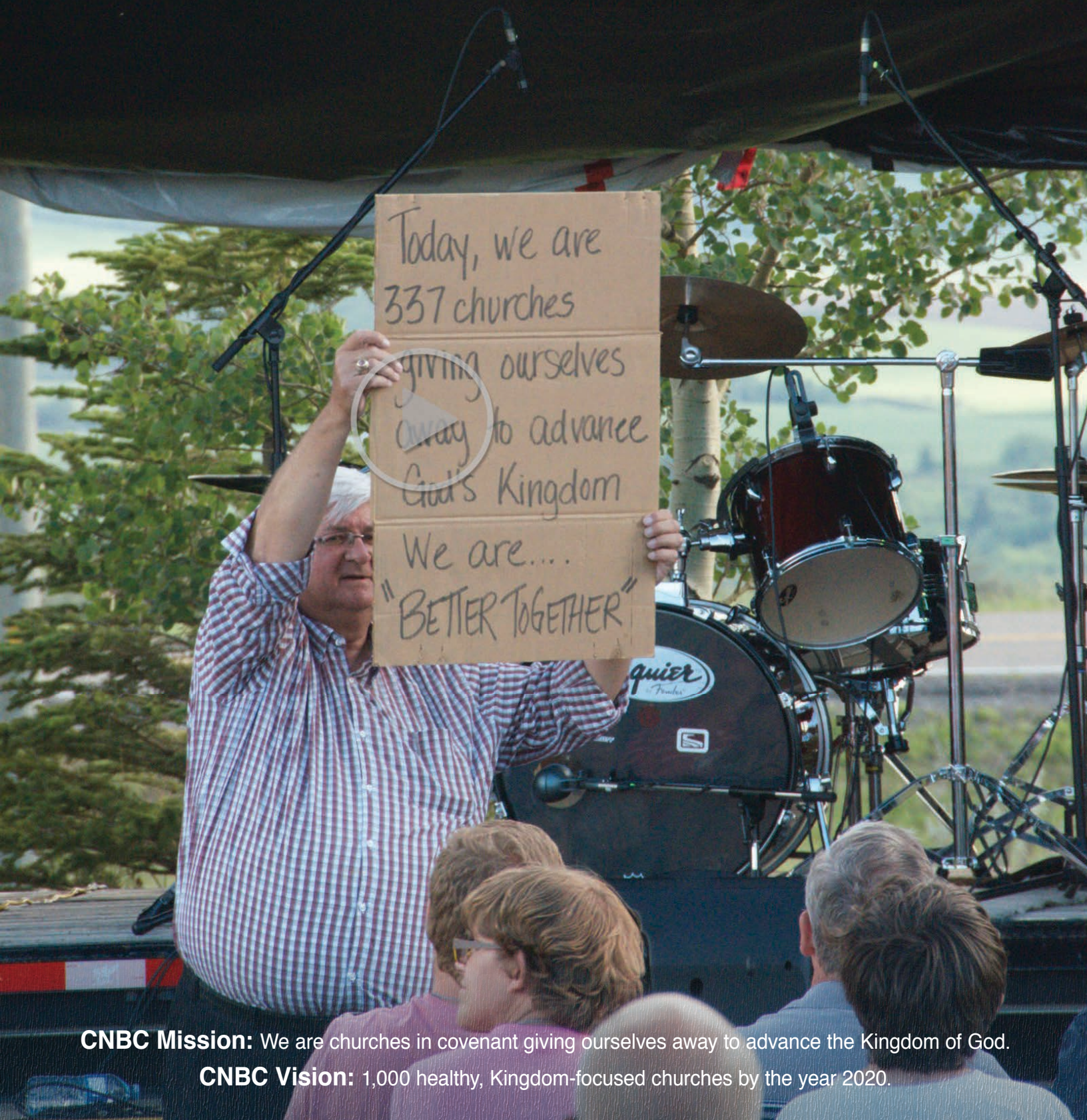


September 2015  
Volume 28, Number 4

# CNBC Horizon

stories that encourage, inspire and inform



**CNBC Mission:** We are churches in covenant giving ourselves away to advance the Kingdom of God.

**CNBC Vision:** 1,000 healthy, Kingdom-focused churches by the year 2020.



# Connecting

## Let's clear up the offering confusion

Gerry Taillon  
National Ministry Leader



There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding CNBC offerings; I hope this letter can help to clear this up. People ask me how many offerings we are supposed to give to and which offerings are the most important. Why are there so many offerings? I thought the Cooperative Giving Program took care of all these needs.

The answer: Churches have options. They can choose the option which best fits their context and church calendar. Below are some of those possibilities.

There are two ways churches typically give to CNBC ministries and missions. The first is giving regularly

through the Cooperative Giving Program and the other is to give to special offerings. There are [two ways to give to special offerings](#), either in one annual offering or in three seasonal offerings.

### I) Cooperative Giving Program (CGP)

Formerly referred to as the Cooperative Program, the Cooperative Giving Program (CGP) is the foundational offering of the CNBC. Without this offering the CNBC could not function. **Every CNBC ministry and mission**

**effort receives its main funding from this offering that is a percentage of the regular general offerings of our local churches across Canada.** CNBC churches give a percentage of their undesignated offerings ranging from 6 percent to over 10 percent through the Cooperative Giving Program. This finances evangelism, church planting, church strengthening ministries and missions across Canada and around the world.

**Funding that comes through the CGP supports all of our missionaries.** They are not required to solicit funds for their salaries or field expenses. This enables them to devote their entire time and energy to their missionary

endeavours while being assured of secure, regular, long-term funding from the CGP.

**Every meeting and every training event in the CNBC is provided for through the CGP.** The SBC Cooperative Program (Cooperative Giving Program in Canada) also funds our partnerships with SBC agencies like the International Mission Board (IMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB). The Cooperative Giving Program is the most important funding source for CNBC ministries and missions.

### II) Special Offerings

These offerings are very important as they provide additional funding for a number of ministries and missions in the CNBC. Churches typically choose to take special offerings in addition to their regular percentage giving to the Cooperative Giving Program (CGP), on either an annual (Plan 1) or a seasonal basis (Plan 2). These are the two plans churches typically use to give to CNBC special offerings:

#### Plan 1: Annual Emphasis Offering

While regularly giving through the CGP, a church will also hold an annual missions emphasis and take an offering called the CNBC **Global Mission Offering (GMO)**. This offering, taken only once a year, is divided between CNBC church strengthening ministries (30 percent), Canadian church planting (NAMB 35 percent) and CNBC international missions (IMB 35 percent). Churches use this opportunity to highlight, pray, and give to all three emphases.

#### Plan 2: Three Seasonal Designated Offerings

While regularly giving through the CGP, a church schedules one or all three seasonal offerings each year.

- A. The first is taken in the fall and is called the **Church Strengthening Offering (CSO)**. It is designated for strengthening churches (80 percent) and sending volunteers (20 percent). This offering was formerly referred to as the Canadians On Mission Offering.

more p 3

## 2Plans

to help your church  
partner with the CNBC



Click here  
for a video  
description  
of the two  
giving plans

GET TO KNOW THE CNBC



Cover: DK Hale  
holds cardboard  
testimony, "Better  
Together" at  
CNBC Convention.

Photo: Brenda  
Peacock

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# CNBC shifts spending priorities

By Frank Stirk

COCHRANE, AB—Messengers to this year's annual Convention in Cochrane, Alberta, gave speedy approval to a proposed 2016 operating budget of \$2,444,881.00, an increase of less than 1.4 percent over 2015. But behind the total amount budgeted are some significant changes to the way the money will be spent compared to past years.

"We have actually cut spending. We've reduced printing costs and mailing costs pretty dramatically. That will also help us to reduce equipment costs and lease costs. And so you're going to see more and more saving," says National Ministry Leader Gerry Taillon.

"Now that doesn't mean that budgets will go down, because as we have savings in those infrastructure costs, we're going to increase our ministry investments."

One cost-effective outcome was the decision to cancel the print editions of the CNBC Horizon, and instead produce an entirely digital version that's less expensive to produce and much more user-friendly. "With the digital Horizon," Taillon says, "now we're able to put in videos, links, e-books, all kinds of stuff that we couldn't do before. It's really been improved."

A new ministry made possible by going digital has been the "e-blasts" that Church Strengthening Team Leader Paul Johnson sends out each week. They offer online resources such as e-quip

**A new ministry ... "e-blasts" ... online resources such as e-quip videos on a wide range of topics such as small groups, disciple-making, worship, deacons and elders, handling church conflict, and so on.**

videos on a wide range of topics such as small groups, disciple-making, worship, deacons and elders, handling church conflict, and so on.

"This is much more effective," Johnson says. "It's one e-blast that goes to everyone who's on the database list, and they're there because they're interested in these areas. And for sure if we were to do it by printing it or mailing it, it would be impossibly expensive and logistically difficult."

■ In other Convention business, messengers also approved three more budgets: \$343,639.00 for International Missions (down 1.4 percent from 2015); \$1,951,635.00 for the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College in 2015–16 (up 3.2 percent from 2014/15); and \$31,500 for the CNBC Foundation (up 4.7 percent from 2015).

■ Messengers reelected John Evans, senior pastor of Community Baptist Church, in Charlottetown, PEI,

as CNBC president. Benje Bartley, pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Salmon Arm, BC, was reelected as first vice-president; and Jonathan Chisholm, pastor of Jasper Place Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, as second vice-president.

Next year's CNBC Convention will be held in July in Montreal, Quebec. The exact dates have yet to be announced.

**View Annual Convention Videos on Vimeo  
CLICK HERE**



**John Evans**  
President



**Benje Bartley**  
Vice-President



**Jonathan Chisholm**  
Second Vice-President

## Let's clear up the confusion regarding CNBC giving (cont.)

from p 2

- B. The second is taken before Christmas and is called the **International Mission Offering (IMO)**. It is used exclusively to fund international missionaries around the world.
- C. The third is taken before Easter and is called the **North American Mission Offering (NAMO)**. It is used to start churches across Canada.

Every church can be a part of this strategy to participate in CNBC ministries and missions and thus do their part to help fulfill the Great

Commission. From the biggest to the smallest, all of our churches can participate in one of the most effective ways to share the good news about our saviour, Jesus Christ.

For a more detailed description of the Church Strengthening Offering **follow this link.**





# Kingdom Seeds

## CNBC working among First Nations

Dan Morgan

New Churches Team Leader



One of the people groups in Canada that are often overlooked, but are important to the Kingdom, are our First Nations people. Each cluster of tribes and languages has its own distinct history and culture, so it would be inaccurate to speak of First Nations work as a monolithic effort.

Finding the momentum of God at work among one tribal group, doesn't carry over to other regions. One exciting phenomenon in light of this is that reports are coming in from every region that God is at work among the tribes in that area. This momentum is coming from indigenous leaders moved by God with compassion for their people.

One example is the First Nations work being fostered by Mosaic church in Lloydminster. The executive pastor Ta Tumu has led in partnering with pastors on four reserves to see churches planted and encouraged to boldly share the gospel while caring for their fellow tribesmen. These are:

**Onion Lake Reserve** – Mosaic helped Pastor Martin Naistus put on a family camp. As a result, seven people were baptized and added to the church.

**Sandy Lake Reserve** – Pastor Alex is working with youth and seeing good results, though opposed by the tribal council.

**Southend Reserve** – Evangelist Moses Bird and his wife, Alvina, pastor a small church and travel to many other small First Nations communities to preach the gospel.

### Montreal Lake Reserve (Saskatchewan) –

Clifford Bird is working here. He reports there is a very high suicide rate among youth.

Ta says, "The door is wide open to the gospel in Onion Lake and other small native communities. However, the Christians face hardship as they get ostracized by their family and band members when they become Christians. I believe there is huge potential here for the gospel to be presented and the need for Christians to be disciplined."

This kind of result is being reported across Canada. A pastor on a reserve in northern Washington State is preparing to take the gospel to two other reserves of the same tribe in British Columbia. John Hatch is working on the reserve at Morley, west of Calgary, to plant a church. Pat Armstrong in Northern Ontario has been working for the last couple of years to plant a church on a reserve in his area.

On the Lennox Island Reserve in Prince Edward Island, Chief Mathilda Ramjattan and her husband, Allan, have been attending church-planter training in order to turn their band Bible study into a church plant. They also started the Atlantic First Nations Believers Network (afnbn.ca). This is the kind of heart and leadership needed to impact other First Nations communities in the Atlantic region.

Ta has focused our attention on the crying need for labourers to rise up from the various First Nations communities to reach their people with the gospel. Pray for the people named here: for an open door to share, for God to turn the hearts of the band councils, and for the safety of the new believers.

Click for  
more  
baptism  
photos.



LEFT: Onion  
Lake Reserve:  
Seven were  
baptized on  
Sunday, Aug. 7.

RIGHT:  
Southend  
Reserve: Ta  
Tumu, a board  
member, Pastor  
Moses Bird,  
Alvina Bird  
and Richie





# A growing "wave" of new church starts is coming

By Frank Stirk

COCHRANE, AB—The new systems now coming on-stream for the training, coaching, and assessment of new CNBC church planters are beginning to create positive outcomes in terms of both more churches being planted and more church plants planting churches.

"I'm very encouraged by the way the systems are helping us get better results," says New Churches Team Leader Dan Morgan. "When our church planters come on the field, they come from day one knowing that part of being a mature church is the whole idea of multiplication."

Across the CNBC last year, there were 25 church starts. "We would like to see that higher," says National Ministry Leader Gerry Taillon. "For us that's almost a minimum." But he is also hopeful these numbers will soon improve. "We're beginning to develop a farm system for leaders and church planters," he says, "and that will create a wave somewhere along the way. So I expect to see that higher this year and next year."

"Our goal for 2015 is to exceed 30 church plants. If we can get to 40, it would be a hallelujah goal," Morgan says. "We still have room to improve. But as we do, we'll begin to see a kind of multiplication and acceleration towards that thousand-church mark."

As of July, 337 churches were affiliated with the CNBC.

Morgan says over the past five years, he has seen the performance levels of new church planters on the field rise significantly.

"Not in the sense that they're superior church planters versus the ones that have planted before," he says, "but we're slowly figuring out the

systems that help them be successful quicker, and to help them reproduce their church on a consistent basis. That really is a vision in most of our church planters' hearts."

And that shared vision, Morgan adds, in turn creates "common ground. Whether you're a church planter who's only been here three weeks or you've been here five years, you've got a lot to talk about. Your faces are all set in the same direction."

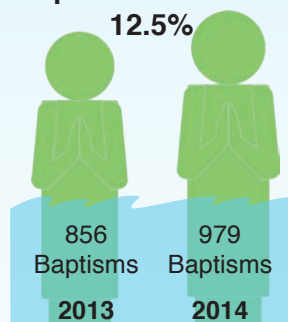
Jeff Christopherson, NAMB's regional vice-president for Canada, is also encouraged.

"We're seeing more church plants for sure, and they're solid church plants," he says. "It used to be we'd see one church plant break 200 people in five years. Now we're seeing multiple plants do that every year."

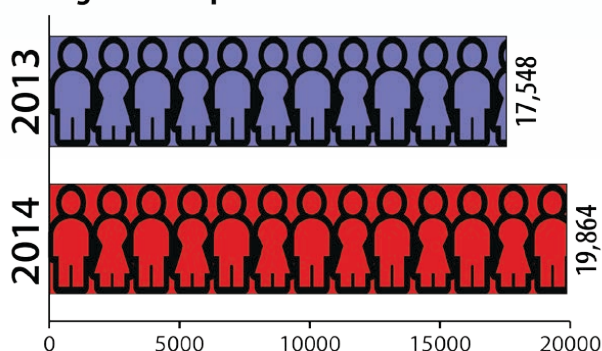
"We don't see the dichotomy between evangelism and church planting," Taillon says. "We have to win people to have new churches, and we have to plant new churches in order to win people. So our hope is that every church is an evangelistic church."

In fact, more of the established CNBC churches also appear to be catching the vision. According to the Annual Church Profile, 979 new believers were baptized last year, up from 856 in 2013 for an increase of 12.5 percent. Average worship attendance also rose 11.6 percent from 17,548 to 19,864. And total church membership rose 15.4 percent, from 17,249 to 20,401—a new record high.

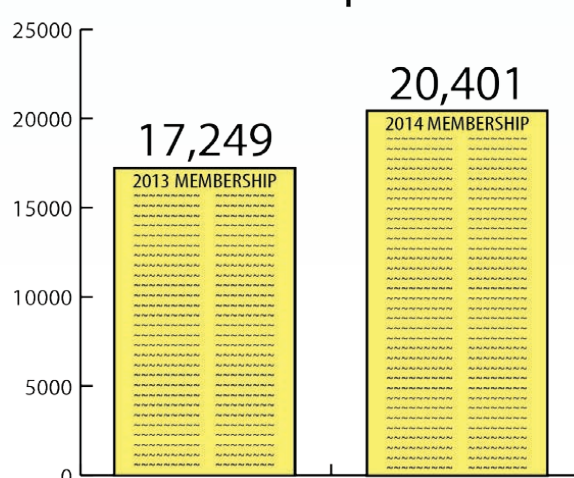
## Baptisms Increase:



## Average Worship Attendance Increase: 11.6 %



## Total Church Membership Increase: 15.4%





# New Quebec churches “on the giving end”

By Frank Stirk

COCHRANE, AB—A four-year-old church plant in Quebec says it's committed to helping support new churches in Edmonton.

“Hearing about the churches that wanted to partner with us, I really felt blessed,” says Joel St-Cyr, lead pastor of Le Contact in Repentigny just east of Montreal. “I did not know why they would want to partner with us. But I committed to God, ‘I will very soon be on the giving end.’”

St-Cyr made the announcement during the evening celebration and missions service that wrapped up this year's Convention in Cochrane, Alberta. He says he had felt burdened for Edmonton because it was the only Send City in Canada not to have a lead partner.

“I prayed for that. And I learned a few weeks ago that one of our lead partners—First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Virginia—is now willing to be a lead partner in Edmonton. For some reason I was excited about that and I just felt we had to go too.

“I want this to be a testimony that God is moving in Quebec, and that Quebec will now be on mission and helping out in other places.”

Only hours earlier, St-Cyr had contacted his staff to see if they were on board with him.

“Now they've come back saying, ‘Whatever God releases you to do, we'll do,’” he says.

The news came as a pleasant surprise to Bob Shelton, the Send City missionary for Calgary and Edmonton. “Having a Quebec church helping in Edmonton is amazing,” he says. “We've had Chinese churches helping churches



Joel St-Cyr, Montreal lead pastor of Le Contact in Repentigny, QC presents the Quebec report. Click the picture for the [full video report](#).

out in Quebec. That's really been a big deal. So for Quebec to give something back, that's really good.”

This desire to give something back is just the latest chapter in the emergence and rapid growth of new indigenous church plants across Quebec. Of the 57 CNBC-affiliated churches there, 45 are ethnic and 12 are reaching hundreds of young Quebecois.

“This past Easter Sunday we had over 100 baptisms in five churches,” says Jacques Avakian, the church planting catalyst for Quebec. “Now we're seeing all these churches saying, ‘We want to multiply.’ We're looking at eight to ten plants this year.

“God has also brought us another church that has already multiplied twice and they now want to work with us to multiply more churches.”

Planted in Montreal just two years ago, La Chapelle is launching a new church this fall in downtown Montreal. And it already has plans to start a second church. Le Contact itself is working toward planting in early 2017. Two churches in Quebec City and one in Sherbrooke are also looking to multiply.

St-Cyr says what drives everything they do is a passion for more churches for the unchurched. “We're building a legacy for the Kingdom and for our kids and the kids of our kids,” he says. “When you work with that mindset, you give it your all.”

“Something is happening in Quebec that I pray would spread to the rest of Canada,” says National Ministry Leader Gerry Taillon. “It's incredible, and it's just like God to do it in the place we had the least hope that He could do it.”

Jacques Avakian (centre) prays with Ntumba Jackson David Pothier, from Quebec, at the CNBC Canada Day celebration.

Photo: Victoria Elliott





# What is affiliation with the CNBC?

All CNBC church plants and churches are affiliated with the convention at one of three levels of affiliation. Each level has corresponding requirements and benefits.

The CNBC convention office has published an **Affiliation Booklet** which explain the benefits, as well as the requirements and steps to each level. The booklet is designed to provide a user-friendly guide to help each church understand the different levels of affiliation with the Canadian National Baptist Convention (CNBC).

Our hope is that all our churches would work towards becoming a Level 3 Voting Member Congregation each at its own pace, in order to maximize their participation in the CNBC.

The following paragraphs give a brief explanation of the levels of affiliation. Follow the links to the booklet and applications for more detailed steps.

**Level 1: Becoming a church plant** – A new church plant is a core group with a recognized leader who has been assessed and senses God's call to plant a reproducing congregation that transforms people and communities into Christ-likeness. A group desiring to become a CNBC church plant should contact the **regional church planter catalyst**.

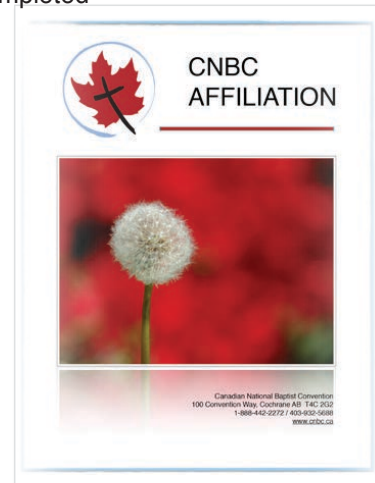
**Level 2: Becoming a self-governing congregation** – A CNBC church plant becomes a self-governing congregation when it determines that it is functioning as a New Testament congregation and is recognized by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a registered Canadian charity. When the steps to Level 2 are completed (see page 5 of the **Affiliation Booklet**) a **\*Notification of Self-governing Congregation form**, shown on page 10, must be sent to the CNBC office.

**Level 3: Becoming a voting member congregation** – In order to become a voting member congregation the church must have completed Level 2 and follow the steps on pages 6–7 of the **Affiliation Booklet**. The church will submit its constitution, by-laws and statement of faith along with the **\*Application for Voting Member Congregation**, shown on page 11 of the booklet.

Four CNBC churches were approved as voting member congregations at the 2015 Annual Convention (Those highlighted in green are linked to church websites or articles for more information): **Hopelink Community Church, Airdrie, AB; Église Communautaire Mosaïque, Quebec, QC; Bellevue Salem Baptist Church of Canada, Gatineau, QC; Journey Community Church, Enfield, NS.**

At any level of affiliation it is strongly encouraged that a CNBC church contribute a percentage (6–10 percent) of its general offerings through the Cooperative Giving Program (Cooperative Program). Each church sets the percentage it will contribute, just as each individual in the church tithes to the ministry of the congregation. When this practice is built into the DNA of each CNBC church a spirit of cooperation develops along with the growth of the church and the convention. We are “better together.”

The CNBC is a network of churches who give themselves away for the Kingdom of God. Our vision is to see 1,000 healthy churches by the year 2020.



Messengers raise their ballots to vote at the Annual Convention business meeting.

*\*Download fill-and-print forms.*





# Christopherson takes charge of NAMB's Send North America's church planting network

By Frank Stirk

COCHRANE, AB—Jeff Christopherson has taken on a new and expanded role within the North American Mission Board. While he remains regional vice-president for Canada, a position he's held since 2011, NAMB President Kevin Ezell has now put Christopherson in charge of Send North America, its 32-city church planting network.

"My role in a nutshell," he says, "is to bring church planting into the twenty-first century within the North American Mission Board in terms of systems."

This new assignment is part of the rollout of what Ezell calls "NAMB Phase II." Launched in 2010, Phase I involved a refocusing of NAMB personnel and budgets on church planting in 32 North American cities with the largest populations and the least access to the gospel. The progress since then, Christopherson says, has been "staggering."

Phase II sharpens the focus further, by bringing greater intentionality to bear on church planting both now and in the future in all of the Send cities. "We are raising the bar in every area," Ezell says. "We will stop at nothing to have the very best assessment, training, and coaching for Southern Baptist church planters."

Overseeing these new initiatives is now Christopherson's responsibility.

"We're making a man-on-the-moon commitment here, that not only will these be the best church planting processes that Southern Baptists have ever seen, I really believe they're going to be the best church planting processes that we've ever

seen anywhere in North America. Period," he says. "I'm very excited about this."

Christopherson says given the postmodern environment in which most church planters will find themselves, it's critical that they be given all the tools and all the help they need.

"It's not the old days of gathering a congregation and then putting mailers out," he says. "It's evangelism from the very beginning. If a church planter is not equipped to do that, he is going to fail. There's no chance of success."

But the demands of this new role have required that Christopherson and his wife, Laura, move to Atlanta. "There's just no way I could quarterback that out of Toronto," he says.

"Every opportunity Jeff's taken, he's made the best of those opportunities and trusted the Lord," says National Ministry Leader Gerry Taillon. "So the Lord just keeps bringing him to a new level."

Taillon also believes that Christopherson's enhanced role will only strengthen the partnership between the CNBC and NAMB.

"I see it as exporting our influence," he says. "Jeff moving to Atlanta is for us an opportunity for our ideas, our heart, our vision, our mission really to percolate in the midst of the biggest church planting organization for sure in North America and, I'm convinced, the world."

Christopherson is urging his Canadian church family to pray for him as he moves into his new responsibilities, and specifically that the Lord would grant him favour.

"There's a lot riding on it," he says. "There's been a lot of sacrifice from a lot of people to get us to this point, and I don't want to take a swing and bunt."



Jeff Christopherson

Brett Porter, Bo Neal and Bob Shelton lead an E-quip session on maximizing partnerships in church planting.





# Church planters meet at pre-convention gathering

CANMORE, AB—Church planters from across Canada enjoyed a pre-convention gathering, June 30 to July 1, in Canmore, Alberta.

Lead partners in each of Canada's Send Cities sponsored the meeting to encourage and strengthen them and provide networking opportunities.

The lead partners who made the event possible are:

- **Calvary Baptist, Winston-Salem North Carolina** (Rob Peters, pastor), for Calgary



Karen Felder (front), Lito Gonzales and Veronica Gonzales listen to a speaker at the church planters' meeting.

- **First Baptist Norfolk, Norfolk Virginia** (Eric Thomas, pastor), for Montreal
- **Immanuel Baptist Church, Highland, California** (Rob Zinn, pastor), for Vancouver
- **Hickory Grove Baptist Church** (Clint Pressley, pastor), for Toronto

Scott Weatherford was the featured speaker. He has pastored in Florida, Texas and Calgary and currently serves at Vaughn Forest Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Chad Krahn, church planting pastor at Grace City, Red Deer, Alberta, expressed his thanks for the experience, saying: "From our end it was really worth it. I was neat that Heather got to be there, I even caught her using some of the stuff we learned over the time there as we talked about what's next for Grace City."



Scott Weatherford speaks to church planters and their wives.

## CNBC Church Plants: Numbers 10-19 in 2015

**10** **Heaven Sent Community Fellowship**  
Mississauga, ON  
*Pastor and wife: Renato & Yolanda Villavicencio*

**11** **Église Café Mosaïque**  
Joliette, QC  
*Pastor: Francois Verschelden*

**12** **Beraca International Church**  
Mississauga, ON  
*Pastor: Dr. Felipe Gonzalez*

**13** **Church in the Valley**  
Edmonton, AB  
*Pastor and wife: Nathan & Deen-Deen Vedoya*

**14** **West Edmonton Fellowship**  
Edmonton, AB  
*Pastor and wife: Brian & Tatiana Garcia*

**15** **Hamilton Baptist Church of Shalom**  
Hamilton, ON  
*Pastor and wife: Luan Huu Do & Le Thi Thanh Huong*

**16** **Community Bible Chapel**  
Timberlea, NS  
*Leader and wife: Peter & Lynn Ruittiman*

**17** **Cornerstone Church Richibucto**  
Richibucto, NB  
*Pastor and wife: Christopher & Paula Sippley*

**18** **Inverness Community Church**  
Margaree Valley, NS  
*Pastor and wife: Mark & Janet Palmer*

**19** **Salem Tabernacle de Gloire**  
Surrey, BC  
*Pastor: Rosland Dossous*





John 17:3

# That they may know You

## Sports Camps and a Skate Park

Kathy Morales

Transforming Communities  
Team Leader



**"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."  
1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)**

This summer many CNBC churches have been thinking "outside the church" and have hosted fun summer activities for kids and families. Parents in communities across our country have enrolled their children in VBS, drama, art, archery, music camps and more, hosted by our churches. Many partners sent teams on mission to help out.

Worsley Baptist Church, Worsley, Alberta, was once again blessed by the mission team of The Pathway Church, Calgary, this summer. This trip was made possible through Cooperative Giving as students received mission grants from CNBC missions.

The two churches worked together to put on a soccer and basketball camp for the community of Worsley.

Angela Rossworm shared, "Sports camps have been a wonderful outreach tool in the community of Worsley as many unchurched families, that don't normally participate in children's events at church, will enroll their kids for sports. We had four great days of sports camp. Each day the campers learned sports skills as well as biblical truths that they will apply to their lives.

"We ended the camps with a windup BBQ lunch where awards were presented and the children shared the memory verses from the week.

"At Worsley Baptist, we are so thankful for the partnership with The Pathway Church over the years as we reach the Kingdom for Christ. Many seeds have been planted in hearts through sport and we look forward to what God is going to do next!"

Melissa Kamphuis, also from Worsley, reported on the new skate park in town: "The community of Worsley had a dream of putting up two new playgrounds and a skate park. They've been working on fundraising for these projects for over five years, and finally this summer those dreams became a reality. The playgrounds were built this spring, and the skate park was scheduled to be built at some point this summer.

"A group from The Pathway Church was planning to return for a second year to Worsley to put on a sports camp for children in the area, and asked if there were any other projects they could help with.

"The organizers of the skate park project gladly agreed to accept the mission team's offer of assistance. They were willing to learn the skills required to help build, and proved the saying true, 'Many hands make light work.' With their help for five straight days, the park project had a major boost.

"The Worsley Baptist Church members worked alongside them, and were able to finish out the project the following week. Now the children and some fearless adults have been able to enjoy the ramps!"





# Outreach Events Across Canada

Several CNBC churches were helped with community outreach and sports outreach events with grants from the CNBC this year. Grants have also been provided for mission trips to individuals from CNBC churches. If your church is planning for

outreach events in 2016 and would like to apply for a grant [click here](#) for more information. For outreach ideas [click here](#).

For mission trip grants contact Vicki Elliott: [velliott@cnbc.ca](mailto:velliott@cnbc.ca).



**LEFT:** Men from Solid Rock Biker Church tend to a hog being roasted for the Bike Fest, sponsored by Solid Rock Biker Church, Surrey, BC. The Bike Fest also featured four bands, a bike rally and Show N Shine along with testimonies, and the gospel presentation.



**MIDDLE LEFT:** Participants aim for the targets at an archery camp, a new outreach event held this summer by Mapes Baptist Church in Vanderhoof, BC. The camp was attended by 150 kids and parents.



**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Life Renewal Chinese Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, enjoys fellowship at a summer block party. Leaders say this was a time to establish and deepen relationships with many Chinese friends.



**BOTTOM:** Garden Park Church, Winnipeg, MB, met new families, got the church's name out, and invited kids to a follow-up event, through their summer soccer camp.



# How to stay connected with the unchurched

By Kevin Harney  
Outreach Magazine

Here are some simple ways to battle the tendency to drift away from the very people who most need Christians in their life:

1. Try something new. I once joined a community soccer league just to build some new friendships with people outside of the church.
2. Evaluate your schedule. Once a week, look back and honestly assess how much time you spent with non-Christians. Adjust as needed.
3. Connect with old friends. Call people you have not connected with for months or even years. Seek to rekindle these friendships.
4. Serve in your community. Volunteer in a civic organization, a club, or some other community group. These hours could be more fruitful than time you serve at the church.
5. Enter their world. Ask a nonbelieving person you know if you can participate in something they enjoy. Hang out in their world.

6. Bridge relationships. Get to know a nonbeliever who is close with one of your Christian friends.
7. Bridge relationships among nonbelievers. Ask a friend who is not a Christian if you can meet and spend time with some of their friends.
8. Make your home a prayer hub. Let your neighbours know that you would be glad to pray for any joys or needs they have. You might be surprised how many non-Christians actually ask you to pray for them. This can lead to spiritual conversations and new friendships.

Ask yourself these two questions often:

How much time do I spend in a normal week with people who are not Christians?

How many friends do I have who are not Christians?

If you don't like your answers, do something about it!

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# West Edmonton Fellowship blessed with baptisms

By Brian Garcia,  
pastor of West Edmonton Fellowship

EDMONTON, AB—"God is sovereign over Edmonton!" was one of the many jubilant comments made after our small new church plant, West Edmonton Fellowship (WEF), baptized nine people in the North Saskatchewan River in June.

A year ago I was still settling into a new city in a new country. My wife, Tatiana, and I moved to Edmonton in early 2014 from Connecticut with our then one-year-old son, Nehemiah. While we had no intentions of planting a church in Edmonton, a city we knew very little about, we knew that God was calling us to this city for a mighty purpose.

Edmonton is a booming city with a stellar economy and a growing population; many young families are drawn to the lure of having stability and a safe economic future. When we arrived in Edmonton we settled in the West End, Callingwood community, in an area called West Edmonton Village. We quickly realized that many of our neighbours were new to Edmonton, if not new to Canada.

My wife and I prayed about how we could reach out to our new community by bringing them together and blessing them with the gospel. Last Christmas, with the help of the Alberta catalyst for the North American Mission Board, Stan Felder and his wife Karen, we felt led to throw a Christmas party for the families in our community and bless the children with small Christmas presents. One of the things we heard and learned from that outreach was that many of the people

that attended were unchurched and wanted to see a church get started in the community.

Louise Harder, a faithful servant of God who has lived in the West Edmonton Village for a number of years with her husband Bill, told us at that outreach, "We've been praying for two years that God would start a new church here in the Village. Will this be the beginning of an answered prayer?"

With those words and the interest of many in our community, my wife and I ask for God's favour and blessing to plant a church in West Edmonton.

Easter of this year we launched our first service of West Edmonton Fellowship in the boardwalk rec centre in the middle of the Village. Four individuals were saved in our first service! God quickly blessed us with a diverse group of people and just weeks into the life of the church two people were baptized by immersion.

In our three-month-old church, nine people were baptized in June, including a family of four from South Africa, mother and daughter from Congo, a man from the Philippines, a teen from Uganda and a young Canadian man.

Zach Hunn, a missionary from Tennessee and the leader of the Gen Send Team, preached his first sermon at our baptismal service with his team leading the worship. Zach said later, "I have only spent a limited time with WEF but that was enough time for me to see their commitment to the Word of God and to the commission of Jesus Christ to make disciples."

We've been blessed to be a part of the beginning of a new Christ-honouring and disciple-making church. God is indeed sovereign over Edmonton!

Click for  
baptism  
photos.



West Edmonton  
Fellowship  
gathers for a  
baptism.



# Invitation to Leaders: Upcoming Cuba Vision Tour

By Mel Cruikshank

CNBC church leaders are invited to participate in a vision mission trip to Eastern Cuba.

Cuba has seen an explosion of Christian faith in the past two decades. A true church planting movement is taking place there.

CNBC churches have established a formal partnership with both the Baptist Convention of Eastern Cuba and the Baptist Convention of Western Canada.

Part of the partnership involves using vision tours to Cuba to introduce CNBC leaders to projects and opportunities there.

connect with leaders of the Western Baptist Convention.

One or two leaders of any CNBC churches are invited to participate in this vision tour. Because of transportation and housing limitations there is a limit to how many people can attend this trip. Therefore it is important to respond quickly to this invitation.

Applications for religious visas must be made at least three months before the trip, so Monday, November 9, 2015 is the deadline for signing up for the February vision trip.

Costs of these vision tours are kept as low as possible (\*All are stated in Canadian dollars):

- **Application for religious visas:** \$175
- **Housing, food and transportation in Cuba:** \$550
- **Interpreter:** \$50
- **Emergency health and evacuation insurance:** \$35
- **Flights:** Dependent on where you fly from. Flights leave from Toronto. Typically between \$700 and \$1,000 return. Participants will be responsible for their own flights. Flights will be to Holguin, Cuba.

For those who choose to attend the western leg of this vision tour, to Havana, there will be a flight within Cuba that costs about \$200.

Hotel costs for four nights in Old Havana will be approximately \$250. Lunch and supper will be at Havana restaurants and will cost about \$20 per day.

Total costs will be about \$1,500 to \$1,800.

\*These are estimates and costs may change.

Add about \$550 extra to include the Havana experience to this trip.

Members of CNBC churches may apply for **Church Strengthening Offering grants** and if funds are available they may receive some financial help for attending this vision trip.

**Click here** for information about the Church Strengthening Offering and grants.

If you are interested in this vision trip please contact Mel Cruikshank by email (**click to email**) or phone (**780-487-8577**) as soon as possible. He will be able to answer questions you may have.



Click to watch the Cuban Connection interview from the 2015 Annual Convention.



**Cuban Connection**  
*Connexion cubaine*

Gerry Taillon, CNBC national ministry leader (left), watches as Lester Carlos Acosta Fonseca signs a partnership agreement between the CNBC and the Baptist conventions in Cuba. Amilcar Hernandez (right) served as translator for Lester during the Convention.

**Click here** for information about the CNBC/Cuban partnership.

A vision tour of Eastern Cuba is being planned; the dates are tentatively February 19–28, 2016 with an option to extend the mission trip to include participation in the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba's annual meeting, March 1–4 in Havana.

Those attending this vision tour will be introduced to leaders of the Eastern Baptist Convention of Cuba. They will be shown numerous ways their churches can partner in Cuba. They will also experience the explosion of faith happening there and will have the opportunity to visit in homes of church planters, pastors and church leaders.

There is also the option to fly across Cuba to attend the annual meeting of the Western Baptists, at Calvary Baptist Church, the largest Baptist church in Cuba, in Old Havana (February 29–March 4). There the group will be able to





Men, women and children give to a special love offering for a new church plant in Eastern Cuba.  
Photos: Debbie Shelton

For information about helping Cuban churches, please contact Mel Cruikshank by email ([click to email](#)) or phone (780-487-8577).

## CNBC welcomes Cuban partnership visitors

By Marsha Miller

COCHRANE, AB—The convention was glad to welcome Lester Carlos Acosta Fonseca, his wife Raquel Ramírez Asla, and their daughter, Evelyn Fonseca Asla, to Canada this summer. Lester and Raquel are our primary liaisons at the Baptist Convention of Eastern Cuba. They brought with them words of deep gratitude from those whose lives have been touched both by visiting mission teams and financial assistance sent through the CNBC.

When you meet Lester and Raquel, you can't help but become engaged with them and their ministry. Many people in Canada donated materials, medicines, and practical items that the couple took back to Cuba with them. In total, they travelled back with over 500 pounds of luggage.

In addition, there was an outpouring of generosity as people gave to a special offering at the Convention this year. These funds were sent to the Baptist Convention of Eastern Cuba to help a new church plant in Bayamo district of Cuba. Thank you for giving in so many different ways!

Although over 30 CNBC churches have focused mission efforts on Cuba, there is still much need. Dozens of new churches are being planted every month in Eastern Cuba. Ministries to women, children, and teens are blossoming. Pastors and teachers are hungry for training and materials that will equip them for ministry. We invite you to be a part of this exciting ministry.



BOTTOM LEFT: Lester presents a wall hanging of Cuba to Mel Cruikshank as a gift for the CNBC.  
BOTTOM RIGHT: Lester, Evelyn and Raquel (back left) finish packing 12 suitcases of gifts for friends in Cuba. Barb Fisher and Marsha Miller (front) helped organize the gift collection and packing. Judy Senior and her sister Jenny Carr (back right) served as translators for Lester, Raquel and Evelyn.





2015

# CNBC ANNUAL CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY







Photos by: Brenda Peacock,  
Victoria Elliot and Debbie Shelton





# Seminary ponders a name change

By Frank Stirk

COCHRANE, AB—Expect a new name for the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary and College to be presented at next year's Convention, says President Rob Blackaby.

At issue is the confusion that having "Southern Baptist" in the name creates for some people as to what the seminary is all about. "We're not embarrassed by it," he says. "We're just wanting to make sure we communicate up front the Canadian identity of our school."

It's the same concern that resulted in the 2008 Convention voting to drop the name Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists in favour of the Canadian National Baptist Convention. The challenge now as then is in finding a name that strikes the right balance.

"While we want to honour our heritage ties and enjoy a tight partnership with our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters, we also recognize that for some of our Canadian constituents it is important to reflect our national distinctiveness," Blackaby says.

"There's a misunderstanding often that we're an American school that's been transplanted into Canada, rather than a Canadian school that has been supported and encouraged by Southern Baptists to train Canadian leaders for Canadian ministry on Canadian soil."

The seminary's Board of Trustees began work on the issue more than two years ago when they struck a subcommittee tasked with deciding whether the name needed to be changed. When

they agreed that a new name was in order, the subcommittee was further tasked to prayerfully consider what that name should be.

"We started out knowing that we were going to be patient. It has taken a while, but we're not in a hurry," Blackaby says. "It is a priority but we don't want to be rushed just to get a new name. We want to make sure it's the right name."

Once the trustees and the CNBC National Leadership Board have approved the new name, it will be presented in the form of a motion to messengers attending next year's Convention in Montreal. If it passes, CNBC bylaws require that it be voted on a second time at the 2017 Convention in Vancouver before it can be formally adopted.

At the same time, every effort will be made to explain the proposal to the churches.

"Just like with our convention's name," Blackaby says, "we'd try to use every media resource available to communicate what we're doing and why—rationales, core values, mission, vision, and how all that is reflected in whatever name is chosen."



President Rob Blackaby speaks to seminary alumni. Photo: Brenda Peacock

MORE SEMINARY COMMENTS

see page 32

**"We also recognize that for some of our Canadian constituents it is important to reflect our national distinctiveness"**  
—President Rob Blackaby

Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary & College. Photo: Rachel Bennett

**SEW**  
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# LEAF Canada shows God's love to Brampton

By Robin Wasti

Pastor of **LEAF Canada**

BRAMPTON, ON—Brampton, north of Toronto, is a growing city and has one of the largest concentrations of South Asians in the country. The city has followers of Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism, the largest population among these being Sikhs.

We at **LEAF Canada (Life Eternal Asian Fellowship)** are focused on reaching South Asians in the Brampton area and it is our desire to see them come to Christ. This summer, we invested time getting to know the communities around our church and we called our program "Love Brampton."

To do this, we asked four teams from the US to come help us do outreach activities in connecting with the Asian community. During the month of July, these teams each spent about a week with us—visiting places of worship for the various religions practiced here, going door-to-door distributing Bibles, Scripture portions, and JESUS film DVDs, and inviting the kids in the community to come to Kids Clubs.

When one of the teams went door-to-door, they came to the home of a Hindu family and talked with the wife. She said that she and her husband shared a large house, but they spoke very little to each other and there was much unrest in the family. The team prayed with her and asked God to restore their marriage relationship. The lady said the team was like an angel of God visiting her that day, bringing exactly what she needed.

Many people in the area were given the opportunity to hear about Christ right on the doorstep. During the month, over 2,000 JESUS film DVDs were distributed, each DVD containing the film in 16 local languages. DVDs of Christian testimonies were also distributed.

The highlights of each week were the Kids Clubs that the volunteer teams ran in various local parks over a period of 12 nights. An average of 100 children attended each Kids Club event, with numbers running as high as 198 kids registered at one of the parks.

Many people in the community wanted to take part in helping the volunteers run the events. One young lady came a few times and offered to help the kids and to translate. In another park, one of the men from the community brought food

and drinks for everyone at the Kids Club (more than 350 children and adults), as a way to show thanks for the volunteers who were taking time to show love to the children. The men and women of that same community were so grateful that they invited us to come to their Mela (celebration) event that weekend.



During the clubs, the volunteers played games with the children, did crafts with them, and told them several Bible stories. We involved the men and women in games as well, and they enjoyed taking part in these fun events; then we shared the gospel with them. While the children were doing activities, people from the church walked around the park and talked to the parents to build relationships. We had great conversations and were able to share the gospel with many.

At the end of the Love Brampton events, local Christians went around to various homes to do follow-up with those who seemed interested in knowing more about Christ, and to pray with them in their homes. It is a joy to serve Christ as we continue to reach Brampton with His love and His story.

God blessed us immensely through the teams from the following churches: Stonegate Fellowship, Midland Texas; Hands on Missions, North Carolina; Henderson's First Baptist Church, Henderson, Kentucky; and First Baptist Church of Oceanway, Jacksonville, Florida. Some local Christians who helped were Richard from OM, Jeremy and his family, Joe and Susan, Mrs. Mussart Anwar, Mrs. Arzoo Shaw and her two daughters as well as many other local believers.

Robin shares the gospel during LEAF Canada's outreach program.

Click for more photos.



# Community Bible Chapel conducts first baptisms

Click for  
more  
photos.



Lakeside  
baptisms for  
Community  
Bible Chapel.

*Submitted by Derek Jones*

It was a glorious, Christ-filled day of celebration in Timberlea, Nova Scotia, on the west side of Halifax, as Community Bible Chapel conducted their first baptism on Sunday, July 26, 2015.

One gentleman, Bill, had accepted the Lord on Easter Sunday morning, and was visibly excited to take this step of obedience. Some ladies, who live their lives on mission, had connected with a lady named Rachael a number of months before. Baptism was a big step for her.

The three others were siblings who had just returned from a week at Malagash Bible Camp. A BBQ fellowship followed the lakeside baptism. Four Current students from South Carolina and partners from Taylors First

Baptist (Taylors, SC) were on hand to share in the celebration.

The day was punctuated with a moment of sadness as NAMB trustee, BJ Batemen and her

husband, Larry, who had served for a two-month summer mission in Timberlea/Halifax, said a tearful farewell to the church. Both the Batemans and the church were profoundly impacted by their time together. As BJ said, she was “going back to South Carolina a changed woman because of these people.”

Please pray for this new CNBC congregation as they continue to live on mission in their community.



## Oasis is possible because you give

If an oasis in the midst of a busy life of ministry sounds like a dream, it's not; it is a possibility for CNBC church ministry couples. Each year the CNBC provides Oasis retreat weekends for ministers and their spouses to get away for a much-needed rest, to be renewed physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Oasis is a time to renew friendships; to encourage and be encouraged by others who know the challenges of church leadership. Ministry couples can take time to refresh their own relationships and have some quiet time together with the Lord. These things all happen during Oasis, whether over a meal or a cup of coffee in a local cafe, while taking a walk in the beautiful outdoor surroundings or by visiting while relaxing in the evenings.

Breakout sessions are another aspect of Oasis. These provide a time of practical equipping for ministry and offer a chance to hear from leaders who have many years of experience to draw from, and who have a good “30,000 foot view” of ministry.

The convention currently offers this fall retreat for ministry couples annually, in eastern and western Canada locations.

Oasis 2015 will be held in Nova Scotia, October 23–25 and in Canmore, Alberta, November 20–22, with the theme of “Uncluttered Soul.” Gerry and Connie (Cavanaugh) Taillon will be the guest speakers. Participants will be encouraged as they listen to the Taillons’ stories and hear from God’s word. They will laugh, cry and pray with fellow ministry couples as they start the journey to an uncluttered soul.

WestCoast Baptist Association, in partnership with the CNBC, also offers an annual retreat for ministry couples. The next BC Oasis Retreat is scheduled for April 24–26 at Barnabas Retreat Centre on Keats Island, British Columbia. Hamish Buntain, who organizes the BC Oasis, expressed thanks, “I am so grateful for this help because we would not be able to do it on our own. The partnership the WBA has with the CNBC enables us to bless these ministry couples in ways we could not do otherwise.”

Thank you to the churches who give generously to the Church Strengthening Offering and the Cooperative Giving Program so that Oasis and all that happens through this event can become reality for CNBC ministry couples. The churches are strengthened through this weekend of ministry to frontline leadership.

CLICK HERE  
FOR MORE  
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THE UPCOMING  
OASIS  
RETREATS

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OASIS WEST



# A Beautiful Day in the Barrhaven Neighbourhood



*By Aaron Richert\**

OTTAWA—Sequoia Community Church's spring sermon series "Impact: Your Life is Your Mission" inspired the church to begin to pursue the mission of God together. In light of that, Aaron Richert, associate pastor, highlights the missional shift the church is making with their small groups (Impact Communities) by sharing a story of a summer day in his neighbourhood.

Last summer my neighbours and I began dreaming together about putting on a movie in the park, in the field right across the street from our houses. They don't come to Sequoia, but they know about our movies and appreciate our heart to serve the community. And since we are friends, they were happy to partner with Sequoia.

Our park isn't the biggest or most popular one in Barrhaven. It doesn't have a washroom or dedicated power. But it is our park. It's where our kids play, and where we regularly see people who live within a few minutes of us. We wanted to do something together to serve our friends and neighbours, even if only a handful of families showed up.

We picked the date, decided on roles, and then each of us took some flyers to hand out. In the weeks leading up to it, whenever one of us was out in our park, we made sure everyone knew about the movie. One neighbour even called the city and arranged to get one of the roads closed down for the evening; another brought out a BBQ on the street and served hot dogs to kids who came early. Several neighbours came out to help

set up the equipment and the [Fun Cruiser](#).

Then, our neighbours began to show up, about 250 of them!

But the highlight wasn't the movie itself—it was everything that happened before the movie began. For about two hours I made my way around and connected with as many people as I could. I also did a lot of "watching" as families were served treats from one of my neighbours, who was wearing a Sequoia T-shirt, in the [Fun Cruiser](#) with other people from my Impact Community.

I watched neighbours getting introduced to each other, re-connecting, and building community. I watched my kids run under the parachute with their new friends as a couple of our young adults from Sequoia led games. There was such a great energy to the evening and everyone had an amazing time.

My goal for the evening was not to put on a movie. Rather, it was two-fold: to be a blessing to the people in *my* neighbourhood, and to do it *with* people from my neighbourhood. And because those things happened, I'm thrilled—and my neighbours are too!

As summer winds down and we go into fall I hope we all remember that Jesus sent us to our neighbourhoods to be a blessing to our neighbours. Our lives are our mission and it is so exciting to partner with others to pursue God's heart! May His Kingdom come and His will be done in each neighbourhood across Canada.

 sequoiachurch

Aaron Richert,  
associate pastor  
of Sequoia  
Community  
Church, and his  
neighbours host a  
movie night in their  
local park

*\*Article adapted  
from Sequoia's  
email newsletter*





# Families on Mission

## Tips to help families be on mission

*By Paige Turner*

SOUTHEAST ASIA (BP)—International Mission Board missionaries serve all over the world. They help tell people about Jesus in jungles, huge cities and rural villages. They're serving among people from various cultures and religious backgrounds. But missions isn't just for the international missionary. Believers can be involved in global missions right where they live.

And, missions isn't just for adults. By helping children participate in missions, parents can prepare them for a lifestyle that's focused on serving God and others.

Here are a few ideas to help a family learn about missions, give to missions and pray for missions around the world.

### **Eat!**

Yes, a family can learn about missions while they eat. Have some fun cooking a meal or a dish from another country. Try some of these **recipes** from Asia: fried rice, sweet lassi and teacakes. Be sure to let the kids help.

Or, enjoy a meal at a local ethnic restaurant and order food from the menu that you normally wouldn't eat. Whether cooking at home or venturing out, parents should talk to their kids about the country they choose and its unique culture. They can also discuss how God loves this particular people group and pray they will know Jesus.

A family can also hang a world map in their kitchen or somewhere that they all will see it every day. In the morning, before rushing out to school and work, parents can pick a country and as a family pray for the people of that country who don't know Jesus, and for missionaries in that country. Use a book such as "Operation World" to choose one unique fact about the country. In the evening, perhaps before dinner, pray again for that country. See who can remember the country's unique fact. Set a goal to pray for every country in the world in one year!

### **Road trip explorers**

Families can also redeem the time on those long, painful car trips (or airplane rides) when travelling on vacation by listening to music from different

countries, or watching a movie that's set somewhere overseas. Or, read books about people living in other cultures. As a result, a car or airplane ride could become grounds for not only great conversations about culture, but also prayers for people around the world.

### **Think like a tourist**

Turn a town into a giant cultural **scavenger** hunt. Parents can take their kids to museums and cultural events. A family can stop by ethnic grocery stores or shops. If there are mosques or temples nearby, a family can go visit and learn about a different religion. Families can pray for people who follow this religion and pray those who do not know Jesus will hear the gospel.

To get started, download this scavenger hunt for students.

Check out these children's web **resources** that provide information about different cultures and religions: Caravan Friends in Asia; Africa Tales.

### **Give it up**

Parents can help their children learn to be cheerful givers and participate in missions by encouraging them to give to missions. For example, do they have a favourite cereal? Or favourite soda? For one month, a family can try taking a break from buying that item when they're in the grocery store. Give the money saved from buying that item to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

When they're in the store, parents should remind their children why they aren't buying the item and how it's important to give so that missionaries can tell people about Jesus.

Parents can set the example by also giving up a favourite treat!

### **Impact a lost world ... pray!**

Parents can get creative and help their kids find other ways to make praying for missions a daily part of life. Together families can decorate a flowerpot, or any container, and make their own prayer pail. They can use craft sticks, index cards or construction paper to write prayer requests to put in the pail. They can pull out one request every day or every week and pray.

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*Reprinted from  
**Baptist Press**  
news service of the  
Southern Baptist  
Convention.*



# Alberta Summer Youth Celebration



By Katie Derkach

ALBERTA BEACH, AB—Summer Youth Celebration (SYC) is held each July for CNBC churches across Alberta. The camp goal is to help youth find, develop and grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ through a balance of Bible study, hot topics, recreation and worship.

This year Ephesians 2:10 helped shape the theme of “Blueprint,” allowing youth to study how they are created in Christ Jesus for good works. With a focus on lesser-known Bible characters, students were able to see how God can take their lives and transform them into something they never imagined if they just trust and follow Him.

During senior high week, students were blessed to have Jeremiah Pierson, pastor of Evansburg Baptist Church, as their camp pastor. He did an amazing job of teaching students and leaders that we are all God’s masterpieces. The worship band, Captive and Free, had the students worshipping through fun dance moves, clapping, and singing praises to the Lord.

During junior high week, students were treated to the preaching of Brian Pearce, minister to students at Kingwood First Baptist Church,

Kingwood, Texas. He was able to captivate the students’ attention, sharing how God can use an ordinary person for extraordinary things. Captive and Free returned for another week of worship with the junior high students.

Brian also brought his team of students to help during junior week. Twenty-six Texans invaded camp ready to help in any way possible! We have been blessed to have this team partner with SYC to lend a hand with kitchen, recreation, workshops, Bible studies and any other place they were needed.

During the two weeks of SYC, more than 230 students and adults came to experience God. Some people were challenged, some left with the answers they had been seeking, while others left with a new sense of purpose and direction. God clearly worked in the lives of the students with twenty rededicating their lives, five accepting Christ, two wanting to get baptized, and five feeling called to ministry. Many other decisions were made during those two weeks and we are excited to see how God will continue to work in the lives of the students throughout this year.

Click to  
watch the  
SYC AB  
video!

FOR WE  
ARE HIS  
WORKMANSHIP,  
CREATED IN  
CHRIST JESUS  
FOR GOOD  
WORKS, WHICH  
GOD PREPARED  
BEFOREHAND,  
THAT WE  
SHOULD WALK  
IN THEM  
EPH 2:10







# \*CNBC COOPERATIVE GIVING REPORT 2015

	JULY	YTD 2015	JULY 2014
<b>BRITISH COLUMBIA</b>			
<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Bethel Romanian Church, Abbotsford	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
Bethesda Karen Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blessed Baptist Church of Vancouver, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$210.00	\$0.00
Bridge Baptist Church, Kamloops	\$0.00	\$774.54	\$2,861.30
Chinese Christian Gospel Church, Burnaby	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cityview Baptist Church, Vancouver	\$1,166.66	\$7,147.81	\$1,965.96
COTR Global Ministries, Pitt Meadows	\$1,462.83	\$1,462.83	\$1,391.29
Comox Valley Korean Baptist Church, Comox	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Coquitlam Chinese Baptist Church, Port Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$600.00
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Kamloops	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church, Grand Forks	\$398.22	\$1,328.94	\$1,569.31
Gateway Myanmar Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Great Commission Baptist, Aldergrove	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Immanuel Christian Fellowship, Vancouver	\$50.00	\$975.00	\$300.00
Korean Baptist Church of Vancouver, Vancouver	\$100.00	\$700.00	\$600.00
Korean Bethel Baptist Church, Delta	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Laotian Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$580.00	\$1,400.00
Living Word Chinese Baptist Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Logos Baptist Church, Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mapes Baptist Church, Vanderhoof	\$0.00	\$945.00	\$1,257.00
Mien Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$245.00	\$240.00
Mountain View Baptist Church, Salmon Arm	\$420.08	\$5,158.72	\$5,267.42
Okanagan Chinese Baptist Church, Kelowna	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,771.83
Open Door Community Ministries, Richmond	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Peace Korean Baptist Church, Langley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Redeemed Baptist Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Re:Generation, Langley	\$115.00	\$375.60	\$284.00
Richmond Chinese Baptist, Richmond	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Richmond Chinese Christian Gospel, Richmond	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Richmond Gospel Baptist, Richmond	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Royal Heights Baptist, Delta	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,110.00
Salmo Baptist, Salmo	\$0.00	\$714.00	\$917.00
Solid Rock Biker Church, Surrey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65.25
Surrey Chinese Baptist, Surrey	\$450.00	\$3,150.00	\$3,150.00
Tent of David Fellowship, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$463.78
The Church of Loving People, Langley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Point, Burnaby	\$334.00	\$1,221.94	\$620.29
The Potter's House Community, Westbank	\$334.87	\$1,864.91	\$2,500.31
Towers Baptist, Richmond	\$0.00	\$3,212.50	\$2,100.00
Uplands Baptist, Terrace	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Urban Village Church, Vancouver	\$311.13	\$1,117.56	\$275.99
Vancouver Chinese Baptist, Vancouver	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
Vancouver Joyful Fellowship Church, Coquitlam	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Victoria Korean Baptist, Victoria	\$150.00	\$450.00	\$300.00
Vietnamese Baptist Linh-An Church, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WestCoast Japanese, Vancouver	\$0.00	\$440.97	\$687.24
Westlynn Baptist, North Vancouver	\$276.26	\$2,850.06	\$1,822.73
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Canvas Church, Victoria	\$696.57	\$2,214.15	\$506.60
Ekklesia, North Saanich	\$695.18	\$1,942.26	\$2,025.22
New Hope Church, Port Coquitlam	\$612.70	\$1,801.22	\$753.43
Gateway Filipino Baptist Church, Surrey	\$287.10	\$287.10	\$0.00
Origin, Vancouver	\$899.30	\$2,652.98	\$1,711.70
The Common Place, Coquitlam	\$29.48	\$73.48	\$101.43
The Crossings, Vancouver	\$745.50	\$2,009.50	\$944.83
Zendeh (Living) Church, New Westminster	\$68.35	\$579.29	\$213.50
Zona Cero Baptist Ministries, Vancouver	\$300.00	\$900.00	\$600.00
<b>OTHER PLANTS</b>			
His Will Church, Burnaby	\$32.10	\$152.55	\$0.00
<b>BC TOTALS</b>	<b>\$14,435.33</b>	<b>\$58,087.91</b>	<b>\$53,177.41</b>

	JULY	YTD 2015	JULY 2014
<b>ALBERTA</b>			
<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Abundant Life Chinese Baptist, Calgary	\$0.00	\$1,680.00	\$1,300.00
Alpine Christian Church, Canmore	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Big Rock Baptist, Okotoks	\$653.28	\$6,462.74	\$5,642.79
Bow Valley Baptist, Cochrane	\$3,285.25	\$23,382.31	\$33,100.97
Bridge International, Calgary	\$0.00	\$1,360.00	\$1,210.00
Calgary Bangla Baptist Church, Calgary	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Calgary Chinese Baptist, Calgary	\$1,774.85	\$6,024.61	\$6,114.38
Calgary Korean Global Mission, Calgary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Calgary Woori, Calgary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Cambrian Heights Baptist, Calgary	\$1,500.76	\$12,300.19	\$10,146.20
Christ International Assembly	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Connection Church, Fort McMurray	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Coram Deo, Grand Prairie	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cowboy Trail, Cochrane	\$525.02	\$4,107.23	\$3,761.55
Dovercourt Baptist, Edmonton	\$811.00	\$6,302.20	\$7,110.44
Edmonton Chinese Baptist, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Église Baptiste de la Rédemption, Calgary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evangel Baptist, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Evansburg Baptist, Evansburg	\$620.18	\$5,143.49	\$7,173.00
Fairview Cornerstone Baptist, Fairview	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	
Filipino International Baptist, Edmonton	\$4,790.36	\$9,483.32	\$4,863.35
Grace Family, St Albert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,813.89
Jasper Place Baptist, Edmonton	\$883.72	\$7,257.98	\$6,377.81
Life-Touch Center Ministries, Calgary	\$0.00	\$2,944.00	\$3,639.14
Newway Baptist, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
Red Deer Korean Community, Red Deer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Richmond Hill Baptist, Calgary	\$4,118.91	\$31,049.93	\$32,485.06
Southwinds, Calgary	\$0.00	\$6,907.93	\$5,135.00
Tapestry, Tuscany, Calgary	\$0.00	\$2,927.62	\$7,955.65
The Church of Generation for Christ, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$60.00	
The Pathway Church, Calgary	\$4,246.96	\$9,956.47	\$3,765.99
Trinity Baptist, Calgary	\$2,904.91	\$6,323.63	\$10,904.93
Truth Baptist, Calgary	\$3,719.00	\$13,439.72	\$9,808.92
Vertical Church, Cochrane	\$0.00	\$234.33	\$0.00
Vietnamese Community, Calgary	\$514.90	\$979.90	\$2,491.50
Westwood Baptist, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,666.71
Worsley Baptist, Worsley	\$1,143.83	\$8,846.75	\$6,455.59
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Central Community Church, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$464.56	\$0.00
Genesis Church, Airdrie	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Life Renewal Chinese Baptist, Edmonton	\$189.30	\$927.30	\$873.24
Missional Life Church, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Mosaic Church, Lloydminster	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$800.00
Noel, Cochrane	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Springbank Chinese Baptist Church, Calgary	\$382.00	\$3,108.80	\$0.00
The Open Door Community Church, Sherwood Park	\$0.00	\$2,273.88	\$702.00
<b>OTHER PLANTS</b>			
Church in the Valley, Edmonton	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
True Love Arabic Church, Calgary	\$0.00	\$75.63	\$0.00
<b>AB TOTALS</b>	<b>\$32,064.23</b>	<b>\$198,024.52</b>	<b>\$181,848.11</b>
<b>SASKATCHEWAN</b>			
<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Allan Baptist, Allan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$165.75
Bethal Christian Fellowship, Prince Albert	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$600.00
Calvary Baptist, Moose Jaw	\$0.00	\$684.94	\$1,093.31
Community Baptist, North Battleford	\$0.00	\$1,083.67	\$2,725.89
Discovery Baptist, Regina	\$1,431.84	\$3,925.59	\$4,792.29
Emmanuel Baptist, Melfort	\$833.33	\$5,987.14	\$4,957.75
Faith Baptist, Saskatoon	\$533.73	\$3,927.70	\$3,952.31
Hi-Way Harvest Fellowship, Smeaton	\$0.00	\$185.80	\$152.80

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	JULY	YTD 2015	JULY 2014
Muskoday Baptist, Muskoday	\$30.00	\$165.00	\$105.00
Scarborough Baptist, Prince Albert	\$300.00	\$2,350.00	\$3,850.00
Watrous Baptist, Watrous	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
Woori Baptist, Regina	\$0.00	\$1,132.35	\$974.20
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Battleford's Cowboy Church, Prince Albert	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$220.00
Gronlid, Gronlid	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Gathering, Prince Albert	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
<b>SK TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,728.90</b>	<b>\$22,342.19</b>	<b>\$24,589.30</b>

## MANITOBA

<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Garden Park, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$5,752.07	\$5,328.71
New Life Sanctuary, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
SALT Community of Believers, Anola	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
St. Adolphe Bible Fellowship, St. Adolphe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Tabor Baptist Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$1,603.00	\$750.00
Vision Korean Baptist Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Family Life Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Renaissance Church, Winnipeg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
<b>MB TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,855.07</b>	<b>\$9,378.71</b>

## ONTARIO

<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
All Nations Church, Sudbury	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	\$0.00
Bantry Gospel Seed, Richmond Hill	\$120.00	\$860.00	\$400.00
Baptist International Worship Centre, Brampton	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$405.00
Beacon Baptist Church, Victoria Harbour	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethel Romanian Baptist Church, Kitchener	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Bible Centered Fellowship of Toronto, Toronto	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Celebration!, Gloucester	\$0.00	\$2,116.28	\$1,893.57
Dixie Baptist Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Eglise Baptiste de la Saintete, Scarborough	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Eglise Baptiste Haitienne Salem, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$926.98	\$1,096.19
Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Eben Ezer, Ottawa	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Etobicoke	\$600.00	\$2,000.00	\$700.00
Good News Baptist Church, North York	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greek Gospel Church of Toronto, East York	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Iglesia Bautista Betel, Scarborough	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mississauga Southern Chinese Baptist Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Oakville Christian Fellowship, Oakville	\$0.00	\$737.62	\$599.80
Polish Christian Church, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sequoia Community Church, Nepean	\$0.00	\$24,800.00	\$27,200.00
The Sanctuary, Kerr Village	\$369.00	\$2,235.00	\$2,587.25
The Sanctuary, Oakville	\$4,463.00	\$16,684.00	\$15,823.00
The Sanctuary, Milton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Sanctuary, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$1,637.02	\$1,069.76
The Vine Church, Mississauga	\$87.90	\$402.72	\$505.20
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
All Nations Southern Baptist Church of Toronto, North York	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ekklesia, Toronto	\$0.00	\$145.20	\$255.25
Fellowship Church, Mississauga	\$404.00	\$3,422.65	\$4,172.54
Fellowship Pickering, Pickering	\$0.00	\$2,253.70	\$0.00
Grassy Narrows First Nations, Grassy Narrows	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Hamilton Ark Church, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Hamilton Bikers Church, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$81.00	\$304.65
Hamilton Fellowships, Hamilton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Life Eternal Asian Fellowship Canada, Brampton	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$545.00
Mosaic Toronto, Toronto	\$0.00	\$824.66	\$1,515.24
Ohr L'Goyim Messianic Congregation, Maple	\$73.60	\$660.12	\$964.52
Ottawa Good News Community Church, Ottawa	\$0.00	\$1,444.81	\$3,389.54
Pathway Church Kanata, Richmond	\$0.00	\$2,567.68	\$3,223.28
Refuel Church, East York	\$0.00	\$190.00	\$1,000.00

	JULY	YTD 2015	JULY 2014
Rendezvous - Midtown, Toronto	\$30.00	\$135.80	\$17.10
SouthShore Bible Church, Barrie	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Starting Point Church, Oakville	\$0.00	\$467.00	\$2,266.00
The Gathering-Windsor, Windsor **	\$200.00	\$800.00	\$0.00
Trinity Life, Toronto	\$1,490.00	\$5,457.70	\$2,739.45
Vietnamese Baptist Church Mississauga, Mississauga	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Wabaseemoong Gospel Church, Kenora	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>OTHER PLANTS</b>			
First Baptist Church - Orillia, Orillia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
The Extra Mile, North York	\$79.50	\$239.10	\$36.00
Toronto Hope Church, Toronto	\$651.00	\$651.00	\$0.00
<b>ON TOTALS</b>	<b>\$8,818.00</b>	<b>\$77,990.04</b>	<b>\$78,078.34</b>

## QUEBEC

<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Arabic Baptist Church of Christ of Montréal, Montréal	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Assemblée Chrétienne de la Grâce, Granby	\$0.00	\$1,799.90	\$0.00
Assemblée Évangélique bon Samaritain, St. George	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Connexion Montréal, Ahuntsic	\$0.00	\$213.00	\$85.00
Église Baptiste Communautaire Béthanie, Montréal	\$143.13	\$933.67	\$240.00
Église Baptiste Évangélique de Maniwaki, Maniwaki	\$0.00	\$1,774.90	\$5,167.90
Église Baptiste Galilée, Saint Hubert	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
Église Baptiste Haitienne Siloe, Montréal	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,900.00
Église Baptiste Nouvelle Jérusalem, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Église Baptiste Shéba, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Église de L'Amour du Seigneur	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église de Rocher Vivant Communauté Chrétienne, Saint Félix	\$75.00	\$649.00	\$876.00
Église Évangélique Baptiste de Manahaim, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Évangélique de Pointe Saint-Charles, Montréal	\$82.81	\$494.80	\$482.49
Église Renaissance de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Église Renaissance du Long Sault, Grenville	\$0.00	\$780.00	\$1,672.50
First Romanian Baptist Church, Laval	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greek Canadian Gospel Church, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
International Christian Community of Montréal, Montréal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
On Noori Korean Baptist Church of Montréal, Cote St Luc	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$350.00
Renaissance Bible Church, Rawdon	\$286.30	\$1,849.16	\$2,313.82
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Antioch Baptist Church, Sherbrooke	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$20.00
Assemblée évangélique de Lévis, Saint-Jean-Chrysostome	\$237.00	\$237.00	\$0.00
Centre Connexion, Eglise Chretienne la Rencontre, Montréal	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$196.00
Church of the Lord of Lords, Saint-Laurent	\$0.00	\$1,041.19	\$0.00
Communauté Évangélique de Beraca, Laval	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Disciples Christian Fellowship of Montréal, Montreal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eglise le Contact, Repentigny	\$0.00	\$1,550.00	\$250.00
Eglise le Refuge, Pincout	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Eglise Urbaine 180, Quebec	\$0.00	\$2,020.00	\$0.00
Eglise Urbaine Axe21 (Magog), Magog	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Encounter, Sherbrooke	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$50.00
Initiative 22, Montréal	\$0.00	\$425.00	\$1,340.00
La Chapelle, Montreal	\$0.00	\$22,852.82	\$9,073.70
Passion Church, Beloeil	\$0.00	\$1,474.74	\$0.00
Source de Vie, Sherbrooke	\$770.82	\$1,275.29	\$0.00
The Village Church, Brigham	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>OTHER PLANTS</b>			
Eglise Urbaine Axe21 - Sherbrooke	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>QC TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,595.06</b>	<b>\$42,125.47</b>	<b>\$26,967.41</b>

## NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR

<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
<b>NL TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>NEW BRUNSWICK</b>			
<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Hillside Church, Blackville	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$500.00





# First year NAMB-funded church plant already giving back

By Meredith Yackel

WINDSOR, ONTARIO—After more than 30 years in ministry, Pastor Garth Leno stepped down from his role at his church of 10 years, not knowing what his next steps would be. A few months later, The Gathering was formed.

“We started out as a small group,” said Leno. “We met at my house on Saturday nights for Bible study and within just a few months we completely outgrew the living room.”

It was only four and a half months after their first meeting when Leno announced to the group that they would be taking the next steps towards becoming a church.

“Everyone cheered when we made the announcement,” said Leno. “So we started outlining who we wanted to be as a church, and who we wanted to affiliate with.”

Leno was clear that they didn’t want to find a network or denomination and then merely conform to them. They wanted to form their own DNA and then find an affiliate who matched up with them.

“I started looking at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) because of guys like David Platt and Al Mohler,” explains Leno. “I do not come from an SBC background, and neither does anyone in my congregation, so we had no idea that there was a Canadian affiliate. We searched

out a number of other groups, but the SBC was most aligned with our values.”

The Gathering continued on Sunday evenings in a small boardroom at a local golf and country club. However, they outgrew that room quickly so they started renting another room in the facility—keeping the old room for childcare. Again, a few short months later, they outgrew their newest room so they began renting the largest room in the facility—keeping both old rooms for the growing number of children attending.

“Our time together is very simple,” stated Leno. “We made three taglines to be a descriptor of our weekly gathering: simple worship, passionate prayer and strong teaching. That is what we are known for.”

The Gathering continued to grow, and soon began outgrowing the golf and country club. It was time for a new location.

Through the process of joining the SBC, Leno was introduced to and became great friends with Wayne Parker, pastor of Merriman Baptist Church, and a Send City missionary in Detroit. Parker assisted Leno in the process of becoming a NAMB church planter.

“We knew we had to find a new location,” said Leno. “After looking at over 60 different options, we found an empty warehouse. Pastor Wayne came with me to look at it and pray over it.”

After speaking with the owner and almost walking away due to cost, the owner had a change of heart and asked them how much they could afford. When they told him, he cut the asking amount in half to meet their price point.

“We continue to see the hand of God every time we turn around,” explained Leno. “NAMB’s grant was generous. We didn’t know it at the time, but it came from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) [In Canada: North American Mission Offering (NAMO)]. We really didn’t know what this was or who Annie Armstrong was either, but were thankful because, through it, the gospel is being better spread throughout our city.”

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Members and visitors at The Gathering in Windsor, Ontario, interact following worship services. Launched in 2014, the church plant already has 200 people in worship, with a high attendance of 351, and has seen a dozen baptisms since last fall.

Photos courtesy  
Garth Leno





## Church plant already giving back (cont.)

from p 26

Within less than a year of meeting on Sundays, The Gathering was now able to afford a new location that fit them perfectly. With the grant from NAMB, generous donations from partnering SBC churches and their weekly offerings, they were able to secure the space and remain debt free.

The congregation met for their first Sunday in their newly renovated warehouse on January 11, 2015. Their first Sunday meeting was in May 2014.

"There were grateful tears at church that first Sunday," said Leno. "When I told our congregation that we now had a chance to give back to the organization that helped get us started, they were excited to get behind it."

Despite the short time since their launch, The Gathering was able to raise over \$9,300 for their first ever AAEO contribution.

Although Leno has more than 30 years in ministry experience, this is his first time planting a church—a church much needed in their community where statistics show only 7 percent are evangelical Christians. The Gathering is the first church in over five years to be planted in Windsor, a mirror city to Detroit, Mich.

"We are Motor City Canada," explains Leno on the context of Windsor. "The city is largely blue

collar and proud of it. People migrated here in the 50s and 60s to work in the factories, so it is tremendously ethnically diverse. Our congregation is filled with South Asians, Chinese, Filipinos, Romanians, Caucasians, Eastern Europeans and people from the Caribbean. We are a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural church family."

"We know we have a lot of work to do in our city," said Leno.

Since moving into their new location, The Gathering has grown from an average attendance of 140 to 210 people. Last September they baptized six people, and just baptized six more this May. At their one-year anniversary for Sunday morning services on May 3, they reached a new attendance record of 351.

"We are experiencing the radical grace of God," said Leno. "We couldn't be happier than to be right in the centre of God's will."

Learn more about church planting in Canada at [namb.net/Canada](http://namb.net/Canada). In order to receive Canadian tax receipts, gifts to the North American Mission Offering must go through the CNBC office. Contact Vicki Elliott: [vellott@cnbc.ca](mailto:vellott@cnbc.ca) or 1-888-442-2272 ext. 101.



Garth Leno



@NAMB\_SBC

Meredith Yackel writes for the *North American Mission Board*.



## \*CNBC COOPERATIVE GIVING REPORT 2015

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	JULY	YTD 2015	JULY 2014
<b>NEW BRUNSWICK (cont.)</b>			
Hope Community Church, Fredericton	\$862.80	\$2,976.00	\$2,726.00
Miramichi Valley Church, Doaktown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,225.00
Providence Christian Church, Riverview	\$0.00	\$447.76	\$0.00
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Eastside Church, Miramichi	\$79.00	\$1,040.50	\$422.00
Eglise Cite de la Grace, Dieppe	\$92.70	\$341.94	\$0.00
Refuge Church, Riverview	\$0.00	\$205.00	\$520.00
<b>NB TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,034.50</b>	<b>\$5,311.20</b>	<b>\$5,393.00</b>
<b>NOVA SCOTIA</b>			
<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Baddeck Church Baptist Church, Margaree Valley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Journey Community Church, Enfield	\$350.43	\$350.43	\$0.00
Living Hope Community Church, Halifax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Margaree Valley Baptist Church, Margaree Valley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$325.00
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Christian Community Church - Cheticamp, South West Margaree	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

	JULY	YTD 2015	JULY 2014
<b>OTHER PLANTS</b>			
Community Bible Chapel, Timberlea	\$355.20	\$2,027.31	\$261.60
<b>NS TOTALS</b>	<b>\$705.63</b>	<b>\$2,377.74</b>	<b>\$586.60</b>
<b>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND</b>			
<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Community Baptist Church, Charlottetown	\$1,049.49	\$9,123.13	\$12,606.23
<b>NEW CHURCH PLANTS</b>			
Center Point Church, Montague	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$800.00
Center Point Church - Charlottetown, Montague	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
Providence Evangelical International Church, Charlottetown	\$0.00	\$1,985.72	\$1,164.50
<b>PE TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,049.49</b>	<b>\$15,108.85</b>	<b>\$17,570.73</b>
<b>YUKON/NORTHWEST TERRITORIES</b>			
<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>			
Tli-Cho Baptist Church, Behchoko	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
<b>YK/NT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>OTHER GIFTS</b>	<b>\$126.80</b>	<b>\$263.08</b>	<b>\$265.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$63,557.94</b>	<b>\$429,686.07</b>	<b>\$397,854.61</b>





## Bi-vocational church planter hopes to catalyze movement in Edmonton

By Tobin Perry

EDMONTON, AB—Long days have become the standard for Nathan Vedoya. As a bi-vocational church planter, there's no such thing as typical, but this may be as close as it gets. He wakes up early, shares the breakfast-making responsibilities with his wife, and drops the kids off at school before heading to his full-time job as the shelter manager for Hope Mission in Edmonton, Alberta. His wife, Deen-Deen, also heads out to a full day of work at around the same time.

Vedoya spends every weekday—between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.—working at Hope Mission. Then,

as the family reconvenes at 5 p.m. for dinner, he spends much-needed time discipling and enjoying his family.

But on nights and weekends Vedoya's focus shifts to planting a church in one of the toughest-to-reach cities in North America. Despite the busyness, this often-hecktic lifestyle is not something the father of three regrets.

"I'm working 50 hours a week and planting a church. My wife is working, too," said Vedoya, a Canadian Baptist

church planter who is supported through the North American Mission Board. "Why? Because we'll do whatever it takes to see a movement get started in this city."

After more than a year of preparation, Vedoya launched Church in the Valley on Easter Sunday with 140 people in attendance. Vedoya's work in Edmonton represents what Canadian Baptists hope to see blossom throughout the city—a reproducible movement of new churches planted.

Vedoya's commitment to planting bi-vocationally is grounded in the spiritual needs of the city. With one Canadian National Baptist Convention (CNBC) church for every 76,549 people and evangelicals decidedly in the minority, Edmonton doesn't just need a few new churches; the city needs a movement.

Bob Shelton, the North American Mission Board's Send North America: Edmonton city missionary, says the city's churches are relatively small—about 1,200 people make up the 17 CNBC churches in the city.

"We came under the conviction that for a movement to come to this city, we needed to be bi-vocational, so we began hunting for full-time jobs," said Vedoya, who grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. "We want to develop a team of like-minded people—bi-vocational leaders who would also come alongside us."

Economically, the City of Champions—so coined because of its historic National Hockey League team—has been flourishing in recent years. An oil boom in the Alberta province has brought people and resources into the city. Edmonton is one of 32 Send North America cities.

Like other North American cities, financial affluence has tended to quiet spiritual searching among residents. More people have affiliated themselves with "no religion" than any other religion over the last decade in the city, according to the 2011 Statistics Canada National Household Survey.

"Many people here don't see the need [for Jesus]," Shelton said. "They have social problems—like family breakups and trouble with young people—but many Albertans feel like they basically have life under control because things are going pretty well financially."

Shelton says that's why new missionaries to the city have to take time to build relationships to help the people of Edmonton see the gospel lived out before them. New missionaries to the city must come with a commitment to weather the extreme physical and spiritual climate over an extended period of time if they plan on seeing a new church take root.

more p 29

Click for  
more  
about Send  
North America in  
Edmonton.



Vedoya family, Edmonton, AB



# Thank you, Ellen, for your ministry in Canada

By Elaine Phillips

COCHRANE, AB—After 14 years in Canada, Ellen Cone has left her position at the CNBC to return to the States. In her role at the convention office, she was responsible for administration within the missions division; special mission offering promotions and education; and as liaison for international missionaries and CNBC churches.

“I worked closely with our missionaries, especially when they were home in Canada,” says Ellen, “assisting churches in how to promote missions and connecting them with our missionaries. I loved it when someone would contact us about wanting to serve across Canada and I would help to make that possible. I also loved getting the applications for mission trip funding from students, ministers and teams, and being able to send special offering funds to help with trips. I always love hearing the stories of our churches being on mission.”

It was a special joy seeing missionary families “get to the field” as they followed God’s leading to reach unreached peoples.

As liaison for international missionaries and the CNBC churches, Ellen served alongside team leader, Salt Jones; Mel Cruikshank, university ministries and Cuban Connection; and Peter Blackaby, mobilization. While she considers herself more of an “out on the field” person, God had her in an office for a reason, doing what needed to be done to assist the missions division. With over 300 churches in such a vast country, it was a challenge to be able to reach more churches in promoting and giving to missions.

Now that she is back in the States, she misses the daily interaction with the CNBC staff family.

“Most of us were together almost 40 hours a week, so we kept up with each other’s lives pretty regularly. I miss knowing what’s going on locally and across Canada in our churches. I miss interacting with missionaries and leaders on the level I used to. I miss my Canadian family!” says Ellen.

Currently she is spending time with family in Mississippi and Tennessee, reconnecting with friends, resting and reading. “I have been able to attend a few missions conferences, so that’s been refreshing. But it is quite a transition moving back after being away for almost 14 years and leaving the people and place that had become home.”

Ellen is seeking to trust God for what’s next as He continues to say, “Be still...”

This month she will be sharing about Canada at a women’s missions meeting.

Salt Jones, Ellen’s supervisor, sums up how other co-workers and friends viewed her ministry years with the CNBC:

“In life, God gives each of us different seasons. I am so thankful that one of Ellen’s ‘seasons of life’ was here in Canada, especially her time with the CNBC missions team. She led many of our missions responsibilities with absolute integrity and competence. Whether helping someone from our local churches or one of our missionaries serving across the world, Ellen always represented the CNBC and our Father well as she would happily go the second mile to help in any way she could. She will be greatly missed. Because of her impact in my life, I am a better Christian and missionary.”

Ellen Cone enjoys her farewell party at the CNBC as she prepares to return to the States after 14 years in Canada. Photo: Victoria Elliott

## Bi-vocational church planter in Edmonton (cont.)

from p 28

Vedoya says new partnerships are critical for his work and the work of other church planters in the city. He points particularly to the value of the encouragement that church partners bring.

“Just to know other people are praying for you means so much,” said Vedoya, whose parents were CNBC church planters. Deen-Deen’s parents also serve as Southern Baptist church planters near Tacoma, Washington. “When you

get letters or cards from partners, it is such an encouragement. You just never know what it could mean to a church planter when God impresses on your heart to reach out to His family. It’s very refreshing,” said Vedoya.

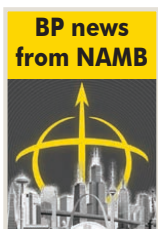
For more information about getting involved in Send North America: Edmonton, visit [namb.net/Edmonton](http://namb.net/Edmonton).

Tobin Perry writes for the *North American Mission Board*.



@NAMB\_SBC





NAMB President Kevin Ezell (left) and IMB President David Platt pray to open the 2015 Send North America Conference where more than 13,000 participants gathered to discover mission opportunities. Photo by John Swain/NAMB

## SNA Conference draws church members and leaders from 50 states and four provinces

### Send Conference attendees share missions focus

NASHVILLE (BP)—Less than 24 hours before the start of the sold-out 2015 Send North America Conference, Esther Fasolino had one word for why she was attending, “Missions!”

“We’ve come to learn,” said Fasolino, a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toronto. “The breakout topics are fantastic.” Fellow Toronto resident Ivonne Anlar said their group of 12 would spread out among the diverse breakout session offerings to maximize their coverage.

“We want to share the experience with as many people as we can,” Anlar said.

[more ...](#)

### Everyday missionaries urged to proclaim Jesus

NASHVILLE (BP)—“We are going to send until the whole world hears,” said Kevin Ezell, concluding the final session of the 2015 Send North America Conference. “This is not about a conference. This is about a movement. We are going to send and motivate people to send.” ...

“When was the last time you wept over people in need?” Platt asked, noting it’s dangerous to become cold and calloused when overwhelmed by a world in need. He said the world’s needs are not only physical, but eternal, spiritual needs: people are going to hell without ever hearing the good news of how they can be saved.

“This cannot be tolerable to us,” Platt said. “God help us to weep for them.”

[more ...](#)

### WRAP-UP: Send Conf. moves to next steps

NASHVILLE (BP)—As thousands of 2015 Send North America Conference attendees returned to their everyday lives, leaders of the event said the real long-term impact will be measured in the next steps participants take to live out their faith daily.

“This is not about a conference,” North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell told attendees at the close of the gathering Tuesday (Aug. 4). “It’s about God starting a movement. This is something we are committed to for the rest of our lives.”

[more ...](#)



[More Baptist Press articles from SNA Conference ...](#)



### IMB leaders announce plan to balance budget, prepare for future

RICHMOND, VA.—International Mission Board leaders have outlined a plan to address IMB’s revenue shortfalls and complete a reset of the organization in order to move forward into the future with innovative vision, wise stewardship and high accountability.

The plan was presented by senior IMB leadership, including President David Platt, during an Aug. 27 town hall meeting including missionaries and staff, who collectively attended either in person or through digital communication.

[more ...](#)

### IMB announces voluntary retirement incentive details

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—In the first phase of the International Mission Board’s plan to address revenue shortfalls, leadership announced details of a voluntary retirement incentive during town hall meetings with personnel Thursday (Sept. 10).

The goal of the plan, IMB leaders shared, is to offer as generous a voluntary retirement incentive as possible, while honoring the years of service of those eligible and providing smooth transitions for personnel from their current roles.

[more ...](#)

[FAQs related to IMB organizational reset ...](#)





**Brian and Tatiana Garcia** announce the birth of their daughter, **Sophia Leeann Garcia**, born June 23, 2015 in Edmonton, AB. Brian is church planting pastor of West Edmonton Fellowship.



**Matt and Arrica Hess** announce the birth of their daughter **Kadence Belle Hess**, born July 18, 2015 at Lakeridge Hospital in Oshawa, ON. Matt serves as lead pastor of Fellowship Pickering, Pickering, ON.



Congratulations to **Peter Blackaby and Rosemarie Ramsingh** who were

married July 18, 2015 in Gatineau, QC. They are living in the Greater Toronto Area where Peter leads Mobilization for NAMB Canada and Rosemarie is a practicing physician.



Rosemarie's parents are Monica Winsborrow and Ruel Ramsingh. Peter's parents are Will and Margaret Blackaby.

## NEW MISSIONS CONTACT

Do you need information about CNBC missions?

- Cooperative Giving
- Canadian Missions
- International Missions
- Missions Education
- Global Missions Offering
- North American Missions
- Guest missionary speakers and prayer cards



Email: Vicki Elliott, [velliott@cnbc.ca](mailto:velliott@cnbc.ca)  
Phone: 1-888-442-2272 ext 101

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## IN THE NEWS

Clay Hilton, pastor of **Connection Church**, Fort McMurray, AB was recently in the news.

**Edmonton Journal: Drawn to northern Alberta, former Texas pastor offers guidance to fetal alcohol victims**

"Being a man of faith I read about how important it is to make a difference in people's lives. And Captain's Place has given me that opportunity," Hilton says.



**Church Strengthening offering**

**CLICK FOR INFO**

## NOTICE:

To publish birth and wedding announcements of CNBC pastors or staff please email [Debbie Shelton](mailto:Debbie.Shelton@cnbc.ca).



# “Quotes from CNBC Leaders”

**“We’ve now birthed 250 graduates**

That’s reason for praise. Our mandate has been from the very beginning to train Canadians on Canadian soil for ministry in Canada. God’s allowed us to expand our reach, because with 337 churches, we’re not only able to train leaders that you send us but God has also moved in the hearts of other denominations to say, ‘If we

give you our leaders, would you train them for us too?’ Did you realize that almost half our graduates are involved in church planting either in North America or with the International Mission Board? That’s a striking statistic, in my opinion, that in the last six years 46 per cent of our graduates have said, ‘We sense God moving us into church planting.’”

—**Rob Blackaby, Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary & College President**



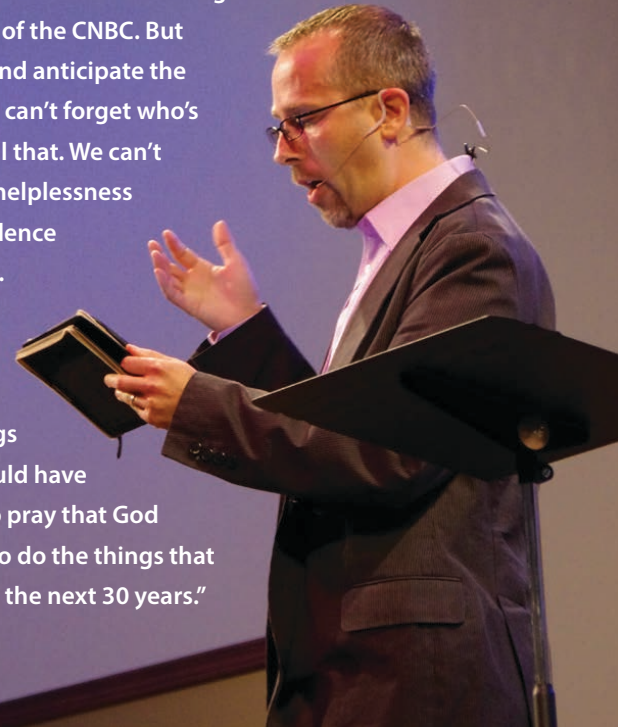
**“For the lives that have been changed,**

for the many that have been added to God’s family, for those who were obedient to God’s call and are serving as overseas missionaries, for the new churches and the transformed communities, we rejoice.

God has indeed done incredible things in the past 30 years of the CNBC. But as we celebrate and anticipate the next 30 years, we can’t forget who’s responsible for all that. We can’t lose sight of our helplessness and utter dependence on Almighty God.

The things that have taken place in the last 30 years are things that only God could have done. We need to pray that God would continue to do the things that only He can do in the next 30 years.”

—**John Evans, CNBC President**



## Celebrating 30 years as a national convention of Baptist churches

“I want to celebrate that we are better together. That’s what this whole thing is all about. ... In fact, if I could celebrate anything, it would



be you. ... I see the joy in your hearts. And I know that’s

not because you’ve come from places where it’s easy; in many, many places, maybe the majority, it’s tough, it’s difficult. You go through tough times. I know you do. But God has blessed you with a joy in the Lord, and God is blessing your churches. ... The church belongs to God. He’s the head of the church; it’s the body of Christ, and you serve it faithfully. You let Him bring the increase.”

—**Gerry Taillon, CNBC National Ministry Leader**

