



Global REPORT

MBMS International

Winter 2004

Sharpening Our Vision

As part of our desire to help local MB churches be more active participants in both Long Term and Short Term mission, our Board has adopted a new Mission Statement: "In response to God's Great Commission, MBMS International works with Mennonite Brethren churches to make disciples and plant churches globally."

This role of being a catalyst for churches will include at least five elements:

- Helping congregations discern their unique role in global mission. (see following note)
- Encouraging relational mission that places churches and their missionaries in the center of global mission work.
- Helping more congregations call their own members into long term mission service.
- Helping congregations develop a direct financial support relationship with long term missionaries.
- Helping congregations send individuals and

teams into short term mission ministry that disciples the participants and fits with its long-term mission involvement.

As part of this move back to more relationship-based mission, MBMS International is also continuing a transition to a funding model that encourages closer relationships. Whether through designated giving or an adoption arrangement, churches are encouraged to focus on developing the relationships with the missionaries and projects they support. Churches will be invited to send 25 percent of their missions giving to the general budget of MBMS International and 75 percent towards specific MBMSI missionaries and projects. Details of the approach will be brought to the national conventions in July for ratification.

INCREASE YOUR MISSION IMPACT!

MBMS International would like to help your church better understand how to mobilize your resources for maximum global/local impact in mission. The Design Your Impact Workshop is an interactive and multi-media experience for the leadership team of your local church. By the end of the five-hour workshop, your team will have a vision for high-impact global mission involvement that is custom designed for your church's DNA. For more information or to schedule a workshop, contact your MBMS International Area Director, Gerry Hildebrand, at 1-888-866-6267.

Long-Term Ministries Update: Team 2000 Completes Their First Term

It has been three years since the families that make up Team 2000 (Sanchez', Sinclair-Peters, and Owens) set off for their Thailand assignment. Following are some of the themes they saw during their first term.

Language Study: In the past year the Team has been able to go without the use of interpreters and both Dave and Andy have given sermons in Thai.

Evangelism and Outreach – The Friendship Center and Beyond: In the past six months some exciting developments have been taking place within the team as they extend their reach in the community. Weekly "church" services, or a hybrid of bible studies they already have with various Thai contacts have begun to happen partnered with a once a month "Celebration Service" to reach more people. The

muban or community, especially those in poorer areas of the city has become quite important to members of the team, particularly Dave and Louise Sinclair-Peters. Through activities and reading Bible stories, members of Team 2000 have been able to reach these communities by teaching English to the Thai people.

The Faith Journey:

Two women Neet, being disciplined by Louise Sinclair-Peters and Noi, disciplined by Carmen Owen, have begun



TEAM 2000 IS: ANDY & CARMEN OWEN WITH CONNOR AND ISAAC; RICKY & KAREN SANCHEZ WITH SIERRA, TASSANEE, MCKENNA AND AREE; DAVE & LOUISE SINCLAIR-PETERS WITH KYLA, MICAH, GRACE AND SIERRA.

their journey of faith in Christ within the last year.

Short Term Teams: Short-term teams have played a major role in the ministry and lives of Team 2000 members. Over 40 short term team members have come, as well as many guests for a total of 152 visitors! This has provided many benefits including closer relationships with supporting North American churches.

Team: Being part of a team has meant a lot to the members of Team 2000. They have become a family, encouraging each other, celebrating, and worshipping together. With various gifts present in team members they have been able to reach out further and with more impact than they would have going alone.

Short Term Ministries 2003-04

SOAR Heartland

Youth Mission International's SOAR program launched "SOAR Heartland" in March of 2003. A total of 86 participants, all from Manitoba, ministered in urban and native areas of Winnipeg.

"I arrived quite naive. God opened my eyes to my own city. I saw God's heart break for the North End of Winnipeg," said one participant. Subsequent to the program, many of the YMI alumni returned to the heart of the city to volunteer with host ministries on a consistent basis. Many of those parents are involved in program leadership for the next Heartland. As well, two leaders from last year eagerly joined YMI's TREK program for 2003/2004.

Heartland's popularity caught the eye of many churches interested in pursuing mission. Church teams have already devoted themselves to providing meals and housekeeping for the 2004 program. North Kildonan MB Church, Portage Avenue MB Church and Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute have committed to bring teams. Lloyd Letkeman of Mennonite Collegiate Institute plans to send over 75 people, including leaders and just under half of the MCI student population.

YMI SOAR Director, Philip Serez, anticipates the day when churches in Winnipeg will be able to run the program on their own. "My heart is to see a new wave of short term missions where MB churches come together in unity and with passion to reach their own cities. We are experiencing this with SOAR Heartland, a model we plan to follow through with in other cities across Canada."

MB/ON/SK Participants

Global Action Partners (GAP) -	25
Pastors Overseas Program (POP) -	2
Youth Mission International (YMI) -	174
Disciple Making International (DMI) -	27
	228 total

Financial Update

We ended our last fiscal year on May 31, 2003 with a significant shortfall of just over \$510,000 CAD in our Core Fund operations. While we were able to cover that deficit with reserves from previous years, the Board took action to both reduce our budget for the current fiscal year and to strengthen our relationships with the constituency.

We are grateful for the strong support of the constituency in the current fiscal year. Income for the core program during the first five months was about \$120,000 CAD ahead of projections. As we continue to process a transition to a more relational model for funding our denominational mission efforts, we anticipate the growth of a strong and fruitful mission effort.

Social Ministries Update

Kingdom Touch is what MBMS International is calling its social ministry focus, a focus that includes work in community health and development, emergency intervention, and capacity building.

One area of social ministries MBMS International is very excited about involves improvements at the Mennonite Brethren Medical Center in Jadcherla, India. During a recent visit by Doug Cressman, MBMS International missionary to India, a report was given on the hospital, telling about the improvements, challenges, and needs that still exist. Cressman serves as the hospital's administrator.

The MB Medical Center, built in the early 1950s, seeks to treat those from all classes and faiths while at the same time witnessing the gospel to non-Christian patients. By the 1970s it was serving an average of 235 patients each day. Over time for various reasons these numbers slipped to less than 60 per day.

It is over these last three years, helped by prayer and financial support, that Cressman and the staff he works with have seen major positive changes. A full-time husband and wife chaplain team from the India MB church now serve the hospital's staff and patients. A strategic plan has been formed outlining a pathway for the hospital's development over the next 5 years. Over \$45,000CAD from MB churches and individuals has been used to buy needed equipment in the last year and the number of patients treated each day has risen to over 170.



DOUG CRESSMAN IS SERVING WITH MBMS INTERNATIONAL AT THE JADCHERLA MEDICAL CENTRE IN INDIA.

Cressman will soon have some new colleagues in missionaries Dale and Teresa Regier. Dale will serve as the hospital accountant and Teresa as a nurse practitioner.

Cressman and the rest of the hospital staff asks for continued prayer and financial support as well as short and long-term volunteers. "If you would like to be involved, contact Gerald Hildebrand, MBMS International Area Director in Winnipeg.

For more on social ministries at MBMS International visit our website at www.mbmsinternational.org and click on the *Stories* link.

