

Board of Church Extension Report

SKMB Conference – Reporting on Ministry in 2004

A while ago as I was reading, I was encouraged by Jesus' words in John 9:4,

“As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent Me.”

Yes, Jesus has called us to be partners with Him in doing the will of the Father – our Father. I am often amazed that He is willing to have me as His partner in ministry. At the same time, I am honoured to serve my Lord and Saviour each day that He gives me breath. We, all of us believers, have been invited to serve with Christ in each of our churches, in each of our communities and in this world where we have been placed by the will of our loving Father. In John 9:4, Jesus was talking to His disciples, and showing them through His actions what He was calling them to do. He was calling them – and us – to prayerful, godly, effective action with Him. Yes, the sun is shining – it is still day! Let's work for Him as He directs, for His glory – while He gives us strength!

This past year has been an interesting year for our Board. For the first 6 months, Andrew Fehr was the acting chair of BOCE and he did a fine job – and in June, Greg Bright returned from 10 months of service in India. Throughout the year we have continued to do as we have been commissioned – to **support and promote** two areas of ministry: **evangelism** and **church planting** within our province. And, by God's grace, we have seen growth and action in both of these areas. The initiative has come from our SKMB churches, and BOCE has been a support and a resource for you, as we have been able.

Here is a summary of what we have been doing this past year:

† We have been encouraging **evangelism** through:

Project: Reach YOUR World – a funding program for new Saskatchewan based outreach events and programs in our areas. We have promoted this project at Conference last year and at Pastors' Retreat in the Fall. Here are the 7 applications that we approved in 2004:

- **Living Hope Church** – Seder (Passover) performance – March
- **Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel** – “Passion of Christ” outreach -- March
- **Carrot River Gospel Mission** – Healing services -- April
- **Forest Grove Community Church** – “Supper @ Our House” – April
-- “Alpha for Kids” – September
- **Hafford Gospel Fellowship** – “Alpha” materials – September
- **Lanigan Christian Fellowship** – Christmas outreach – December

At Conference you will hear some stories of what has happened in these churches and communities through these resources! Why not apply now and share your story next year?!

† We have been encouraging **church planting** in our province.

† With the help of Jake Balzer as a coach, BOCE has been overseeing the planting and development of **Prairie Winds Church in Moose Jaw**. **Pastor Joe Almeida** has been working with his leadership in creating a place of love and acceptance. What is emerging is a multicultural congregation where people are growing together in their knowledge of Christ. The church had its “Launch Service” in October and they are in the process of getting their constitution approved. This year they are handling their own church accounts (no longer through the Conference books). We praise the Lord that PWC was able to meet their expenses this past year -- with a small surplus! Pastor Joe is developing the leadership as well as the leadership structure and they have a great

place to meet – Cornerstone Christian School. Week by week they are becoming more established as a church. The Lord is blessing and building His church in this city. Continue to pray for our sister church in Moose Jaw during this final year of Conference subsidy.

- † **Faith River Christian Fellowship, Saskatoon**, has begun! **Pastor Andrew Fehr** was NOT going to be a church planter – but God had other plans! As Pastor of Evangelism at West Portal and as acting chair of BOCE, the Lord was preparing Andrew for a new venture. Since our last Conference, this congregation sprang from the fertile soil of West Portal Church. With Pastor Dwayne Barkman as coach, Faith River Christian Fellowship has steadily grown and they are already over 75 strong! FRCF is now meeting on Sunday evenings as a separate group in West Portal Church and they plan to be in their own location this April! The Lord is drawing people to Himself and establishing local congregations committed to reaching their worlds for Christ!
- † As a Board, we are continuing to **explore options for the future**. We are exploring different models for church planting including: daughter churches, satellite congregations, house churches and new churches in new places – all of these are possible models for the expansion of God’s kingdom. Our strong preference is for churches planting churches – or even a couple of churches working together. That’s the healthiest model. As our funding for Prairie Winds Church nears its end and as we anticipate the growth of Faith River Christian Fellowship, we are looking ahead to new possibilities – perhaps in YOUR community or one nearby! What dreams has God laid on your heart? Why not ask Him? Let’s seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance in how we might build His church for His glory.
- † **We are in discussion with the Canadian MB Conference, Evangelism Canada:**
 - † Andrew Fehr has been serving as our Canadian Board of Evangelism representative. As this board has ceased, we are looking for new ways to partner with the Canadian Conference in church planting. This January we met with **Ewald Unruh (Executive Director, Evangelism Canada)** to explore a “made in Saskatchewan” church planting initiative for Fall of 2006, following the Canadian Conference “Key Cities Initiative”. We are initiating a Task Force to bring a proposal to our Conference, in March of 2006. Pray that the Lord will lead in developing a plan that suits our time and our setting, a plan that will be effective in expanding His church for His glory!

In closing, I remind you that we are also open to new evangelism and church planting initiatives in the coming year. Please contact us if you need funding (PRYW) or if you are considering planting a church – or a satellite congregation or other options that may come up!

Thank you to all the members of the Board of Church Extension who have served this year – Andrew Fehr (acting chair), Calvin Penner (vice chair), Scott Loewen (secretary), Elaine Wiens, Marion Oatway, Mark Trew and Ralph Gliedge. May the Lord bless and multiply our efforts for His glory and the building of His kingdom.

Joyfully submitted by
Greg Bright on behalf of BOCE