

**MINUTES OF THE 59TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCHES
March 11 & 12, 2005
Bethany College ~ Hepburn, Saskatchewan
Friday March 11th**

1. Welcome ~ Moderator Rod Dick

- 1.1. President of Bethany College - Rick Schellenberg brought greetings from the students and staff of Bethany College.
- 1.2. Rod spoke on the theme for the Convention - *Partnership With Purpose*, starting by reading 1 Corinthians 3:1-11. Partnership is a very critical in the Christian life - we must work as a team (v8) with the same purpose in mind, and in partnership (v9); building on the foundation of Jesus Christ; we need everyone's input/partnership - now and in the future.
- 1.3. Rod then opened the Convention in prayer.

2. Convention Arrangements ~ Moderator Rod Dick

- 2.1. Balloting Committee will be the students from Bethany College.
- 2.2. Henry Braun will be our Parliamentarian.

3. Introduction of Guests ~ Moderator Rod Dick

- 3.1. Rod welcomed Dave Balzer & Lorie Barkman (Family Life Network), Len Sawatsky (Canadian Mennonite University), Dora Dueck (M.B. Herald), Doug Berg (Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary), Bruno Baerg (Mennonite Central Committee - Saskatchewan), Cory Regier & Doug Martin (Mennonite Trust Ltd.), David Wiebe (Executive Director - Canadian Conference), Len Bachiu (Canadian Bible Society), Ewald Unruh (Executive Director - Canadian Conference Evangelism Canada), Sharon Johnson (Adult Ministry Director - Canadian Conference), Keith & Karen Pankratz (ordination candidate) and Dave & Joanne Peters (Lead Pastor Couple) of Pleasant Hill Mennonite Church, Ken Bechtel (Conference Minister with the Mennonite Church of Canada), Gerald & Shirley Falk (missionaries from Peru), and Richard and Hazel Funk (missionaries from Austria).

4. Praise & Worship ~ Bethany Worship Team

**5. Ordination Recommendation and Testimony of Keith Pankratz ~
Board of Faith and Life Vice-Chair Tony Martens**

- 5.1. Besides Tony, those present for the ordination process were Board Members Neil Krahn & Clarence Peters, Director of Church Ministries Ralph Gliege, plus Senior Pastor Dave Peters, and two Board Members from Pleasant Hill Mennonite Church - Keith Pankratz's home church. Tony reviewed the ordination procedure and stated that based on the same criteria that our own pastors are ordained, they are recommending Keith for ordination by the SK Conference. Pleasant Hill is an Independent Mennonite church that came to the SK Conference for pastoral oversight a number of years ago. As a result of this, Ralph Gliege has been registering them under his ecclesiastic authority and they have naturally come to us for the ordination process.
- 5.2. *Keith Pankratz Ordination Testimony:* Keith has served at Pleasant Hill for nearly 10 years. When the church withdrew from their previous Conference it short-circuited his ordination. He felt the need to be ordained not just by their home church, but with a larger body/denomination. This not only provides greater accountability, but it also gives his ordination more credibility. He said that he personally places a high value on the ordination procedure and process.

Keith grew up north of Watrous; his family continues to go to church every Sunday and his grandparents were founding members of the church they attend - Bethany Mennonite. Sr. Pastor Dave Peters was Keith's Sr. Pastor in his youth. Keith's one main hero was his dad - learned a lot from him, trying to keep in step with his footsteps. At one point, his father went way deeper with God (heart, attitude, generous spirit) and it spurred Keith on to make a full commitment to Christ himself. Got baptized at Manitou Beach during his grade 10 year and then went on to Caronport High School - a great experience. He met his wife Karen in grade 12 and then decided to give just one year to God and this led to a lifetime of service. A speaker at spring conference challenged the students to commit to go out and spread the word throughout the world and here in Canada. He ended up staying for four years, married, moved to Saskatoon and joined Pleasant Hill Mennonite Church. Feeling the call to pastoral ministry, he went back to Bible School and later got a call from Pastor Dave to come back to be the half time youth pastor. Running out of excuses, they went to serve and against all logic it's worked! Pastor Dave mentored them, he is now in full time youth ministry, and they are thoroughly enjoying it! He and Karen have three kids and together are taking on the challenges and opportunities that God provides. His greatest desire is that all their children will commit to Christ and as a pastor, he has the same wish for his congregation. Keith enjoys using his gifts of preaching, teaching and administration. One of his favorite verses is Philippians 1:6. He has taken up the challenge of memorizing scripture again. God has given him a wonderful wife to challenge and encourage him in his walk with the Lord, and he has a mutual accountability relationship with another local pastor. Keith then thanked the SK Conference for all that they have done to encourage and work with him through the ordination process.

5.3. *Tony Martens / Terry Froese ~ That the recommendation for the ordination of Keith Pankratz be accepted. Carried Unanimously*

5.4. Ralph Gliege and Pastor Dave Peters affirmed and prayed over Keith & Karen Pankratz. Reflecting on Keith's comments about his father and his relationship with Pastor Dave, Ralph read Philippians 2:22. Reflecting on the spirit and heart for God that the Board of Faith and Life exhibited during the ordination process, Pastor Dave Peters read 1 Corinthians 16:13 and encouraged the Conference to be thankful for such faithful servants and to hold them up in prayer. He then invited all to the ordination service set for 2:30 p.m. on April 10, 2004 at Pleasant Hill Mennonite Church. Pastor Dave Peters and Ralph Gliege closed in prayer for Keith and Karen.

6. **Challenge ~ Mennonite Brethren Missions Services International - General Director Randy Friesen**

6.1. Ralph Gliege spoke about the paradox of the joy of serving God and the satanic attacks that we can expect when we step out in faith and wholly dedicate ourselves to Christ's service. He related how God worked it out to have Randy Friesen be our Convention Speaker, introduced him (including a brief description of the ministries that he has been involved in) and then prayed for him.

6.2. Randy Friesen

6.2.1. As an example of how believers around the world are walking out their faith, Randy shared how a missionary from Indonesia had his throat slit, went up to heaven and Jesus sent him back with instructions to go back and tell people about what he saw in heaven. He was miraculously healed a week later, and now a year later, he is totally on fire to bring Indonesians to Christ.

6.2.2. Read from Revelation 21:9-12 & 21-27, describing heaven. We all want to be there. How do we get our name in the Lamb's Book of Life? Jesus said in John 10:9 - I am the way, and then in Matthew 7:13 - a narrow gate that few will find. We must come on God's terms, not ours. The surrender of our will to God

is core to going from being a spectator to being an active participant in God's plan for us and for the world.

- 6.2.3. Realized early in his Christian service that sharing Christ is worthy of giving your life to.
- 6.2.4. It is estimated that 40% of the world haven't heard about Jesus.
- 6.2.5. Psalm 24:1-6, we all have a purpose/destiny and it has to be done on His terms; 7-10, we have to open the gates ourselves & people need to be shown the way to open those gates. Gates are a defensive weapon and we can open them wide through the power and authority of Christ Jesus!
- 6.2.6. Revelation 1:17-18, Jesus empowers us to do it through Him
- 6.2.7. When an MBMSI team was in Amman Jordan an 18 year old Iraqi refugee woman saw a vision of herself sharing a clear gospel message with the President of Sudan. Randy shared how God miraculously worked it out for her to do it. She chose her moment and had 30 minutes of private time with the President. She laid out what God put on her heart to share and the President asked her to pray for him. This leap of faith emboldened the church that sent her to hold public evangelism services and then afterward book a soccer stadium for four days of Easter Services. During the first night of the Easter Services a well known handicapped man was miraculously healed, resulting in over 200,000 people hearing the Gospel!
- 6.2.8. God opens doors and gates for all of us. We have been given authority to step through in faith and allow God to use us to do miraculous things!
- 6.2.9. MBMSI will be planting churches in the Punjab in response to a fellow who was seeing hundreds come to Christ in tent meetings he was moved to start. A door was opened.
- 6.2.10. Jesus gave Joshua impossible instructions to take Jericho; inviting him to see what He sees.
- 6.2.11. Gave all the delegates a personal challenge to take God up on the invitation to step through the door that He is opening just for them... and truly live.
- 6.2.12. Randy read Revelation 3:7-8... CAN YOU SEE??
- 6.2.13. Closed in prayer.
- 6.2.14. A free standing door was placed in the room and delegates stepped through it in symbolic acceptance of God's call on their lives.

7. *Bethany Chorale*

8. *Time of Prayer ~ Director of Church Ministries - Ralph Gliege*

- 8.1. Ralph Gliege started a time of prayer around the tables and then after awhile brought it to a conclusion.

9. *Announcements*

- 9.1. Nominating Committee ~ Henry Braun: Nominating Committee will be handing out information sheets; need one more Board of Church Extension member; invited delegates to personally see a Nominating Committee member if the Lord has laid it on their hearts that a certain person would serve well in an elected position.
- 9.2. Convention arrangements ~ Jerry Letkeman: asked presenters who wished to use PowerPoint to please see Bethany's technical people; Saturday morning, pick up breakfast from the cafeteria and come directly into the Chapel.
- 9.3. Reminder and an invitation to go check out the display booths in the lobby; they are well worth seeing and will be available throughout the Convention.

10. *Adjournment*

- 10.1. Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday March 12th

11. Call to Order ~ Moderator - Rod Dick

11.1. Rod called the Convention to order at 8:00 a.m.

12. Mennonite Brethren Missions & Services International ~ General Director - Randy Friesen

12.1. Their motto "Making a Difference Together" is taken from Philippians 1:5 - it speaks of partnership in the gospel. Randy thanked the SK Conference for its partnership.

12.2. Randy Friesen presented Gerald & Shirley Falk a plaque recognizing their 20 years of faithful service. The Falks spoke about their ministry in Peru: responding to a disaster resulting in church planting; shared about the help that they've received from various people coming out of North America over the years; partnerships of time, money and self; they asked for continued prayer support as they are terminating in May and then will be serving with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in Saskatoon.

12.3. Richard & Hazel Funk - Three years ago they shared a prayer request about having God move mightily in the hearts of the men of the community to make a full commitment to Christ. The Funks reported that God had indeed honored those prayers as they shared just how the men responded... next time pray for men AND ladies! The Funks wanted to be able to reproduce themselves in others and it's happening. Prayer requests were listed. You can reach people in Austria in three ways... loving them, loving them, and loving them.

12.4. Joan & Trevor Godard - Their ministry has been discipling and training young adults in Columbia, then Bethany College, and now Mexico. Ephesians 4:11-13 is a focal scripture for them. The Godards are joining a team in Guadilihara to build up, train and disciple and will also be coordinating short-term missions in South America. They had an "open door" in 1995 when they met Girlesa and Einer Zuluaga who are now ministering to the indigenous leaders among the Embra and Wounan people. Trevor & Joan translated Girlesa's and Einer's words as they shared about the challenges and difficulties they face, how God has worked in their hearts, and how we can pray for them.

12.5. Michele and Blaine Warner & Phil and Carol Bergen are being sent to Burkina Faso.

13. Canadian Conference of MB Churches ~ Conference Minister - Dave Wiebe

13.1. Dave brought greetings from the Canadian Conference. The Conference now represents 250 churches and has 45 people on staff.

13.2. Cited Luke 4:18-19 - God is calling us to this ministry.

13.3. Introduced the other Canadian Conference staff who were present: Dora Dueck (MB Herald); Olivia Hardy (Kindred Productions); Ewald Unruh (Evangelism Canada); Sharon Johnson (Discipleship Ministries - Adult).

13.4. The Canadian Conference is looking to partner with the SK Conference to achieve God's plan by: working with the Provincial Conference Ministers, developing a leadership development culture, encouraging churches with high Natural Church Development scores to plant churches, partnering with MBMSI, and working on Confessional integrity.

13.5. The Board of Faith and Life will be meeting for a few days here at Bethany College to discuss the women in leadership ministry issue.

13.6. Thanked churches for their financial support of the Canadian Conference's work - especially for church planting.

13.7. The survey the Canadian Conference circulated had a good response rate and as such, there is a lot of information to process - there were about 5000 handwritten comments!

14. Praise & Worship – Led by Randy & Darlene Klassen

15. Challenge ~ Mennonite Brethren Missions Services International - General Director Randy Friesen

- 15.1. Leadership transition started last summer and it continues with a new lead team including:
- 15.1.1. Ray Harms-Wiebe: Team Leader - Training and Team Health
 - 15.1.2. Carlin Weinbauer: Team Leader - Mobilization and Media
 - 15.1.3. Viktor Hamm: Team Leader - Global Program
 - 15.1.4. Selwyn Uittenbosch: Team Leader - Finance and Administration
- 15.2. Randy reflected on the theological insights he received when he completed a four day open water scuba diving program... paramount of which were the realizations that we need to have a buddy system to survive in God's mission, and also that you need a weight belt (the Hebrew word for the presence of the glory of God translates into weight) to be able to function in that foreign environment. When was the last time you experienced the full presence, weight and glory of God? That's where it all must start.
- 15.3. Was once challenged to do a 'Daniel fast' – eat one meal a day & fast and pray for three hours in the evening, for three weeks! Found out what it was to really like to experience and savor the glory of the Lord!
- 15.4. John 17:22-23 for those who believe... I give them the glory... to be one as we are one... that you sent Me. Glory of God leads to unity which leads to mission! Mission is reflecting the glory of God to all around us.
- 15.5. Psalm 89:15-17 is Randy's prayer for himself and for the SK Conference.
- 15.6. Family Life Network's work with MBMSI: Reported about Emmanuel Yousef's cyber-church meeting with 1800 people where he talked about Psalm 2 and how futile it is to get angry and defiant against God. A cyber-hand came up and a man who was a Muslim leader shared how he was angry with God, ended up giving his life to Christ and then six more put their hands up, also giving their lives to Christ
- 15.7. Brother Andrew sat with an angry member of the Islamic Jihad, debated with him and later found out that he had a correspondence course at home about knowing Jesus! This fellow wanted to know if Jesus was for real!
- 15.8. Shared how he went to visit with a man dying of Lou Gehrig's disease (lose your physical being but your mind is still fully functional) and was abandoned by most of his family. Randy shared a simple version of the gospel, the man accepted Christ, and was later glad he had the disease because he found Jesus! You could actually see Christ in his eyes!
- 15.9. Challenged us to go deep with Jesus; to fully experience His presence and get to work with Him
- 15.10. Closed in prayer.

16. Moderator's Report ~ Moderator - Rod Dick

- 16.1. We were challenged last year about financial accountability, and we took it seriously, but along came a church plant opportunity! What do we do?
- 16.2. The Conference has had many experiences with church planting over the years, some successful and not so successful.
- 16.3. Talked about how the Sustainable Funding Formula came together out of a need to be fiscally responsible but yet follow God as He plants churches and develops leaders.
- 16.4. Apologized to the Canadian Conference if he was too hard or negative over what he at the time felt was Saskatchewan being left out with the Key Cities Initiatives. We all need a clean slate and a new beginning.
- 16.5. Examples of successes give us much to think about if we want to partner and plant more churches:

- 16.5.1. Greg & Carolyn Bright coming to Canora - fully serving at a half time salary, building the church to where it is now.
- 16.5.2. Henry and Esther Penner going to Yorkton – revitalizing the church and not closing it as was thought would happen.
- 16.6. We need people who are willing to Partner With Purpose, and yes, probably be willing to sacrificially serve.

17. Board of Management Financial Vision ~ Chairperson - Maurice van Nes

- 17.1. Gave an analogy of many buckets of money that weren't serving us well, consolidated into four buckets that have a long-range plan for their use.
- 17.2. Operating budget spikes and dips were a difficulty and a frustration to both the SK Conference and the churches; hard to have long range plans that way.
- 17.3. Following the Convention handbook, Maurice described how the cash would flow into and out of the four new funds, and the expected life of the funds; namely:
 - 17.3.1. Emergency Reserve
 - 17.3.2. Student Bursary
 - 17.3.3. Leadership Development
 - 17.3.4. Church Planting
- 17.4. The parable of the talents was cited as our challenge here.

18. Ministry Leadership Development Team Report ~ Chairperson - Dwayne Barkman

- 18.1. Introduced the members of the MLDT.
- 18.2. Ephesians 4:11-12 is foundational to what the MLDT is all about – equipping the 'ministers' (everyone who has given their life to Christ).
- 18.3. The MLDT Purpose Statement is "Releasing... to Serve and Lead."
- 18.4. A major value for the MLDT is multiplying leaders and churches; having four generations of leaders or churches is truly multiplying!
- 18.5. Described four key areas of ministry:
 - 18.5.1. Information and Communication
 - 18.5.2. Training
 - 18.5.3. Financial
 - 18.5.4. Tracking Leaders
- 18.6. The MLDT's recommendations in the Conference Handbook go to the Executive
- 18.7. Student Internship Grant ~ Darren Holland
 - 18.7.1. Glenbush MB Church was cited as a prime example of what can happen when leadership development is intentional
 - 18.7.2. Link schools and interns with churches and coaches
 - 18.7.3. Foster an interest in and climate for leadership development
 - 18.7.4. Funding example presented
- 18.8. Bursaries ~ Darren Holland
 - 18.8.1. To also serve part time students while employed

19. Moderator's Report (continued)

- 19.1. Cited Luke 14:28-32: If we want to succeed, we need to both count the cost and partner with purpose.
- 19.2. Time of prayer around the tables.
- 19.3. *Rod Dick / Maurice van Nes ~ That the Moderator's Report be accepted as presented with the understanding that Ministry Leadership Development Team recommendations 2-5 and the proposed Funding Formula be approved in principle with a firm regard to moving on them. Carried Unanimously*
- 19.4. Question - Greg Bright: Asked for clarification that the funding formula for church planting isn't cast in stone but allows for variation. Answer – Ron: funding formula is

a structure and can be adjusted. Comment - Greg Bright: Commended the Board for developing the Formula proposal.

- 19.5. Question - Jim Nightingale: Is there room for the Camps to be involved in the leadership development portion of the funding proposal? Answer – Rod: MLDT are still working through that and the Camps will be included.
- 19.6. Menno Martins: Confusion about the qualifications of applicant; if a full time student goes into an apprenticeship, is he still qualified? If this happens in the middle of his course of study, how does it affect him? Answer - Dwayne: This is a draft; internship is understood to be a part of a college program; also looking at an apprenticeship program for people coming from the secular world.
- 19.7. Comment - Wayne Harms: Commended the financial plan and its foresight.
- 19.8. Question - Randy Klassen: Are we widening availability to students attending non-MB schools too? Answer - Dwayne: yes
- 19.9. Question - Lucille Wall: We are approving this in principle? Answer - Ron: Yes
- 19.10. Question - Joe Almeida: Does the proposal eliminate the Conference starting a church on their own? Answer – Ron: It’s another tool. Answer – Maurice van Nes: Not trying to direct planting in a certain direction, but to ensure that there is funding in place. Want to ensure that the pre-plant process is well thought out and support is there from all sides. The intention is to avoid budget spikes and allow the Board of Church Extension to plan on a long-term basis.

20. Board of Faith and Life Report ~ Chairperson - Steve White

- 20.1. Commended the membership of the Board for their depth of understanding and faith and thanked Tony Martens for stepping in when asked to do so.
- 20.2. 2 Timothy 6:20 speaks to guarding your life and doctrine and this is what the Board of Faith and Life strives to do.
- 20.3. Highlights:
- 20.3.1. Women in Leadership Ministry Study Session with 37 attending.
 - 20.3.2. Same sex marriage issue; we will wait on a mass withdrawal from licensing for the performance of weddings; letter was written to Justice.
 - 20.3.3. Accepted Brian Wiens’ ordination that he received through the Alliance Church of Canada and are processing Keith Pankratz’s ordination at this Convention.
- 20.4. Comment - Randy Klassen: Response to Women in Leadership Ministry item in the Convention Handbook regarding “stand firm in regards to our current position.” What is our current position and are we living up to it? Also, the point “Whatever decision is made, it would not soon affect Saskatchewan” But they do. Let’s think about these carefully.
- 20.5. *Steve White / Mike Housek ~ That the Board of Faith and Life’s report be accepted as presented. Carried*

21. Board of Church Extension Report ~ Chairperson - Greg Bright

- 21.1. Partnership with each other and with Christ... exciting stuff!
- 21.2. With Greg away on leave/sabbatical in India for half the year, Andrew Fehr and Greg shared the Chair - each serving six months.
- 21.3. What does church planting look like in the future? It will be exciting to see where the Lord leads.
- 21.4. Prairie Winds Church ~ Pastor Joe Almeida: When planting a church, there are good times and some not so good times. Joe and his wife Shantelle were burdened for awhile when they realized that people were coming to church because of them and not anybody else from the church; it’s better now, a new season. Their constitution is in place. They also divided the church into groups, each looked after by an elder, challenging! The Board came to a conclusion – they didn’t want their church to be a Sunday social club that doesn’t change you; people have to see God at work in you. Joe then shared how the Holy Spirit was made fresh and new at last Tuesday’s

Board meeting and they pray that this will become contagious throughout the church.

21.5. Project Reach Your World ~ Board Member - Marion Oatway

21.5.1. Carrot River - Dave Grimes: Weekend Healing Meetings were held. There was physical and spiritual healing. The first set of meetings had two people come to Christ after hearing testimonies from church members. Dave encouraged delegates to do the same.

21.5.2. Blaine Lake - Wayne King: The movie Passion of the Christ was being shown in Saskatoon so the church bought tickets and brochures for people attending and later held a discussion night with questions around parts of the movie. Follow-up was done and they will be viewing the movie again this Palm Sunday.

21.6. Faith River Christian Fellowship ~ Pastor Andrew Fehr

21.6.1. Andrew was a reluctant church planter at one time, but he's fired up now!

21.6.2. Promised at the last Convention that they'd be announcing a new church plant; didn't think that it would be him!

21.6.3. Helen & he have been married for 22 years and have four kids. He's served three years as Pastor of Evangelism at West Portal and pastored in Carrot River before that. Dave Grimes was his first baptism. Didn't think that he was a church planter, but God did! He felt quite comfortable as West Portal's Pastor of Evangelism, but God changed that.

21.6.4. Goal was to take 10% of the West Portal congregation with them; the people that chose to go were very valuable, but West Portal will grow because of it.

21.6.5. Meeting regularly; monthly since October and weekly since February. Had 67 people at their first service with growth every week.

21.6.6. Meeting location has not been set yet.

21.6.7. But... the whole idea is to bring people to Jesus!

21.6.8. A PowerPoint presentation was shown

21.6.9. Faith River attenders were invited up on stage and Ralph Gliege led in prayer for the Fehrs and the congregation.

21.6.10. Greg thanked all the Board members and Ralph for their work.

21.6.11. A task force will be set up to look into partnership options with the Canadian Conference and bring a proposal to the next Convention.

21.6.12. *Greg Bright / Scott Loewen ~ That the Board of Church Extension report be accepted as presented. Carried*

22. Canadian Conference Evangelism Canada ~ Executive Director - Ewald Unruh

22.1. Ewald gratefully accepted Moderator Rod Dick's earlier apology.

22.2. Let's humble ourselves before God and move ahead in a spirit of unity.

22.3. Tough times have birthed great works; Bethany College was born in the 1930's!

22.4. Let's work together and see what God has in store for us.

23. Honoring Moderator ~ Director of Church Ministries - Ralph Gliege

23.1. Ralph honored Rod & Holly Dick for 15 years of faithful service. Rod started by serving on the Board of Management, took a year off, and then accepted the role of Moderator part way through the year and has served since. Rod was presented a commemorative plaque with the four Conference slogans used during his time of service, plus a bouquet of flowers to Holly - recognizing her and her family's sacrifices and support. A special 110-piece puzzle with a picture of Rod, Phil Gunther and Henry Braun was made, will be put together over the dinner hour, and then given to Rod & Holly's children as a thank-you for sharing their father with us. Two special decorated cakes will be cut and served at the end of the Convention. Ralph read 2 Samuel 23:3b-4 as a tribute to his friend Rod. That is what the Executive and the Dicks have been to Ralph and the Conference as a whole.

Broke for lunch @ 11:55 a.m. and reconvened @ 12:45 p.m.

24. West Bank Bible Camp ~ Director - Jerry Dennill

- 24.1. New things: Camp is getting back into entering local parades; started partnering with community groups in Swift Current; a two story building was brought in and is being renovated.
- 24.2. The people: requested prayer that both Camps make wise choices for ministry staff; they are taking extra steps to ensure that all staff (not just counselors) are deep in the Lord and are prepared to share Christ.
- 24.3. Read Revelation 22:7 - and behold I am coming quickly... the task at hand is urgent and we need to take advantage of every opportunity that God gives us.

25. Redberry Bible Camp Report ~ Director - Jim Nightingale

- 25.1. We must open doors of opportunity as God presents them to us, doors to the hearts of the unsaved. 300 unchurched children came to Camp last year through a door opened by years of dedicated unselfish service to the Lord. Hundreds of kids from mainline churches attend Camp... what an opportunity that is!
- 25.2. Seeing people outside the doors of salvation should break our hearts and mobilize us to action; do we see them?
- 25.3. Redberry turns away 300-500 children each year; it's just not right... we need to take up the challenge!
- 25.4. Camps need churches and people to partner with - a buddy system like Randy Freisen described.
- 25.5. Since 2000, they have been looking seriously at buying land adjacent to them to use for expanded ministry opportunities. This is the year that they pray it all comes together. Opportunities exist for horsemanship, sports and water activity camps. Jim invited everyone to come out to Redberry on May 28th and see for themselves the 'open door' that they believe God has provided them. The owner of the land is leaving 10 feet around the perimeter of the property for people to walk, ride, or whatever so that they can check it out. They need to raise enough money by December to set the project on motion.
- 25.6. He has a dream that in visible and tangible ways, the SK Conference will partner with Camp with the purposes of reaching more kids for Christ, helping them grow spiritually, and developing young leaders to go back into the churches and minister there. He has a dream that Camp Ministry will be valued as a place to evangelize, to build believers and to develop people for ministry.
- 25.7. Camps can feel that they are at the bottom of the financial contribution list; Jim challenged the Conference to come back next year with all sorts of visible and tangible evidence of the Conference's active involvement with the Camps.

26. Praise & Worship – Led by Randy & Darlene Klassen

27. Director of Church Ministries ~ Ralph Gliedge (continued)

- 27.1. Churches and people are still responding to Ralph's challenge to find creative ways to finance the operations of the SK Conference. Kelstern Church just donated \$54.66 that they raised by saving the money that they'd have spent on going out for a coffee or Coke.
- 27.2. Invited the delegates to check out the Conference display booth.
- 27.3. Ralph then highlighted and spoke around a number points from his report in the delegate handbook; namely:
 - 27.3.1. Leadership - besides the successful Leadership Forum that was held last November, Ralph has been in touch with leaders via his regular leadership letters, meetings with SK Conference, Canadian Conference and church leadership teams, plus many informal meetings over a meal or coffee.

- 27.3.2. **N**ew pastors - Once again had a successful Canadian Conference New Pastors Orientation, and statistics show that the retention rate for SK pastors who attend the NPO is very good.
- 27.3.3. **O**utstanding pastors - Pastoral service milestones were highlighted
- 27.3.4. **T**ransitions - except for one, the many pastoral transitions were all internal! Missed mentioning Pastor Andrew and Helen Fehr in his transitions list. Tomorrow morning, the Moderator of Carrot River Church - Dave Grimes will be candidating for the position of pastor for the church; a church where he came to know the Lord and spiritually grew up in!
- 27.3.5. **Z**ion - this heavenly city is our goal, but in the mean time, we must continue with the ministry that God has called us to.
- 27.3.6. **V**olunteers - We need to make more of a point of thanking them... Ralph recognized the Council of Boards and Committee members who have served five years or longer: 5 years - Greg Bright, 6 years - Elaine Wiens, 6 years - Archie Janzen; 8 years - Ross Hardy & Carl Redekopp.
- 27.4. Ralph thanked the Conference for the continued opportunity to serve.
- 27.5. Rod Dick - Reported that there was a job performance evaluation of Ralph and the result was very encouraging.
- 27.6. *Ralph Gliege / Kevin Koop ~ That the Director of Church Ministries report be accepted as presented. Carried*
- 27.7. The delegates rose in affirmation of both the resolution and Ralph and Grace's continued ministry. At Rod Dick's request, Terry Froese then prayed a prayer of blessing and thankfulness for Ralph and Grace.

28. Donations for Christina Peters ~ Assistant Moderator - Ron Dyck

- 28.1. A love offering will be collected by Bethany College to be used by Christina Peters and/or her family to alleviate some of the hardships that they have had to endure.

29. Bethany College Report ~ President - Rick Schellenberg

- 29.1. Bethany's Mission is to nurture disciples and train leaders for ministry.
- 29.2. Bethany's Vision is to create a community in which people can experience Jesus as the one foundation of their faith.
- 29.3. Story about quiet but incredibly tenacious Nancy determining to get a weed vine off a tree and taking three hours to do it... this same spirit shows up in her Christian life also.
- 29.4. Board members were listed and those present stood to be recognized.
- 29.5. "Community" sets Bethany apart from other colleges.
- 29.6. Stepping through the yearly missions trips is a life-changing experience that is foundational and highly effective in growing disciples of Christ.
- 29.7. Knowing God instead of just knowing about God leads to life transformation.
- 29.8. Programs available were listed and described.
- 29.9. Internships are an integral part of the process.
- 29.10. Staff news: Trevor and Joan Godard are off to Guadalajara so they need a Missions Director, an Associate Dean of Women as Jackie Falk and her husband are moving on to other things; Publicity Coordinator Connie Jones is moving on and Maintenance Head Harry Unger is retiring after 37 years of faithful service.
- 29.11. Kevin Koop: spoke on what drew him to Bethany - 'community' atmosphere; he's looking forward to growing in faith, being equipped to minister, and learning from the quality faculty and staff.
- 29.12. Bethany had an amazing financial year and are looking forward to this next coming year!
- 29.13. Looking at partnerships, strengthening the relevance of programs; connecting with churches and camps; striving to have affordable tuition; growing in enrollment,

maintaining the critical mass needed to provide a balanced learning and growing experience.

29.14. Ratio of potential student earnings vs. tuition is getting out of reach. It just keeps costing more and more to operate. Church contributions have remained static, which means that instead of funding a third of the cost, they now fund a fifth. How much debt can a student come out of Bible College with and still afford to go into ministry?

29.15. Thanked the constituency for their prayer support, encouragement, care packages, student referrals and financial support.

30. Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary ~ Associate Dean - Doug Berg

30.1. Introduced Dave Teigrob with MBBS Donor Development in Canada.

30.2. Referred to President Jim Holm's report in the Convention Handbook.

30.3. MBBS's Mission is to inspire and equip men and women to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and to serve and to lead in the church and in the world.

30.4. Seminary is in three locations: Fresno, Langley and Winnipeg - all under the same direction and control.

30.5. Gave a short history of the Seminary up to its present involvement in the ACTS consortium, listing the overall governing staff and the faculty and staff serving in Canada.

30.6. Outlined the makeup and duties of the Advisory Council to ACTS; Phil Gunther is Saskatchewan's representative on the Council.

30.7. The leadership development program was developed by and is now given oversight by Ron Toews.

30.8. Two Baptist Conferences and the Evangelical Free Church were the founding seminaries with the Alliance, Mennonite Brethren and the Canadian Pentecostal Seminary joining afterward.

30.9. All partners must agree to any new initiatives.

30.10. The Mennonite Brethren have the most students in ACTS.

30.11. The Masters of Linguistics and Exegesis degree brings in a varied world view to the seminary.

31. 2004 Convention Minutes ~ Assistant Moderator - Ron Dyck

31.1. *Rod Dick / Phil Gunther ~ That the minutes of the 58th Convention of the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches be approved as presented. Carried*

32. Board & Committee Elections ~ Committee Member - Henry Braun

32.1. Acknowledged the other Nominating Committee Members: Archie Janzen and Lucille Wall

32.2. Reviewed the revised nomination report and the procedures that must be followed.

32.3. *Henry Braun / Archie Janzen ~ That the Nominating Committee Report is acknowledged as presented. Carried*

32.4. Rod Dick called for further nominations from the floor, and receiving none, called for a separate show of hands in favour of each Executive position and then the remainder of the nominations as a whole. The following were elected as a result:

Moderator	2007	Ron Dyck
Assistant Moderator	2007	Wayne Harms
Executive Secretary	2007	Phil Gunther
Board of Church Extension	2007	Gary Sawatsky
	2007	Don Peck
Board of Management	2007	Derek Oatway
	2007	Shawn Schellenberg
	2007	Maurice van Nes

Board of Faith and Life	2007	Clarence Peters
	2007	Bob Cappelle
	2007	Ray Ulrikson
Carmel House	2007	Julie Wall
Mennonite Trust	2007	Gerald Willems
Menno Home	2007	Ted Dyck
		One position vacant
MCC Board		One position vacant

32.5. At the request of Rod Dick, Henry Braun prayed for the Executive and the Board and Committee Members.

33. Mennonite Central Committee – Saskatchewan ~ Executive Director - Bruno Baerg

- 33.1. MCC reflects the partnership of the church in many ways... it is a practical expression of the church.
- 33.2. Introduced MCC people present: Board Members Scott Siemens, John Unruh and Archie Jantzen; Peace and Justice Coordinator Eileen Klassen-Hamm; Ken Landis-Funk with Restorative Justice; and Dana Brandt with Youth and Young Adult Initiatives
- 33.3. MCC is an inter-Mennonite service agency founded by the Anabaptist churches of North America in the 1920's.
- 33.4. Showed a slide presentation that highlighted their mission, personnel deployment, food distribution, and material resources.
- 33.5. They are building a resource base through fundraising, prayer support, and material gathering.
- 33.6. Work in the area of peace and justice... a ministry of reconciliation ~ Eileen Klassen-Hamm shared the following:
 - 33.6.1. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 - we are new in Christ and called to a ministry of reconciliation; this naturally assumes brokenness and a lack of reconciliation.
 - 33.6.2. Where is the connection with reconciliation in Saskatchewan? First Nations relationships; refugees of war; criminal (especially sexual) offenders
- 33.7. Dana Brandt: she is a Bethany graduate and has been working with MCC since September 2004. Micah 6:8 sums up her motive for action. Youth are looking for ways to demonstrate their faith in tangible ways. The Appleby Drive Neighbourhood programming initiative serves the predominantly new-Canadian population in the area. They now have an apartment to hold regular Kid's Clubs and have local youth groups and Bethany students helping out. A lot of material aid is handled at their offices & youth are brought in to help with this (invited the delegates to come to pack AND bless).
- 33.8. Tsunami Relief: 12 million dollars of relief is in process; 5 million homeless; responded in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India; some problems are related to the situation that was there before the tsunami; must be careful to not help perpetuate a problem.

34. Board of Management ~ Chairperson - Maurice van Nes

- 34.1. Board issues
 - 34.1.1. Targeted income was not met but expected expenditures did not materialize so we ended the year with a surplus! All the Boards helped make this happen.
 - 34.1.2. Recognized the work of Ross Hardy and Carl Redekop on the Board, especially thanking Ross for the quiet wisdom he brought to the table.
 - 34.1.3. Warman MB Church decided to end operations in mid-December; Faith River Christian Fellowship and Redberry Bible Camp received material goods from the church; the building is rented out and the renters are interested in buying;

we'll wait for awhile before any final decision is made regarding the disposition of the property.

34.1.4. Group bulk insurance policy is slow in coming, but steps are being taken; looking at all issues that impact insurance coverage; a Safe Church Policy is coming together that any and all churches can hopefully take part in.

34.1.5. Conference norm recommendation is lower than last year, but it is at a more realistic, non-inflated level.

34.2. 2004 Auditor's Report & Financial Statement ~ Secretary-Treasurer Pat Dergousoff

34.2.1. Pat presented the 2005 Auditor's Report and explained the 2004 Financial Statement

34.3. 2005 Budget ~ Maurice

34.3.1. Maurice explained the 2005 Operating Budget Proposal

34.3.2. Greg Bright: clarified that Faith River Christian Fellowship's costs are accounted for within the Church Planting Support Fund; Answer: yes

34.3.3. Wayne Harms: asked why Prairie Wind Church's funding wasn't also taken out of the Church Planting Support Fund; Answer: this is a transition year and the Board wanted to stay with the original funding plan.

34.3.4. Randy Chase: thanked the Board of Management for taking the comments made by Woodrow Gospel Chapel at last year's Convention to heart and presenting a commendable budget this year.

34.3.5. Dwayne Barkman: thanked and affirmed the Conference for their vision and forward thinking proposals.

34.3.6. Pointed out that page 15 of the Handbook has an addition error in the 2003 column for the Board of Management; will check into it to be certain that the current figures are correct.

34.3.7. *Maurice van Nes / Greg Bright ~ That following be accepted:*

- 2004 Auditor's Report*
- 2004 Financial Statements*
- 2005 Operating Budget*
- 2005 norm of \$55 per member* *Carried*

35. Closing ~ Assistant Moderator - Ron Dyck

35.1. Thanked all the support people from Bethany College, the Worship Team, the Chorale and especially the kitchen staff.

35.2. Thanked everyone for their attendance and especially thanked Rod Dick for his friendship and brotherhood.

35.3. Rod thanked the Conference for the chance to serve and grow in his faith through the process and gave God the glory for gifting him when he felt so unworthy of the position and the task.

35.4. At Ron's request, Rod Dick closed in prayer.

35.5. Wayne Harms commended both Ron and Rod for their faithful service.

36. Adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Attendance:

~ 123 delegates

~ 26 agency/ministry representatives