



Global REPORT

Winter 2006
volume II

MBMS International

From the General Director

On a winter visit to New Delhi, the sheer immensity of that crowded city overwhelmed me during the day, but its shroud of darkness and desperation enveloped me at night. Over two billion people have never heard the gospel one time. Many of them live in North India.



Approximately 97% percent of North American church resources are focused on local programs while 3% percent is invested in the least reached. We need to do more to reach those living in places like New Delhi. Like in a medical setting, we need to “triage” in global mission through strategic use of resources.

If we are going to plant new MB churches in places like SE Asia, North India, Peru, and the Ukraine, we need to be strategic as local congregations. Is God calling your congregation to discern and send out a church planting team of two to three families supported by several short-term teams every year?

We serve a God who sees through the fog of New Delhi and Nineveh and other great cities. (Jonah 4:11) How about us?

Randy Friesen

email: randyf@mbmsi.org

Camping in Brazil

Jim & Marilou Nightingale from Hepburn, SK are preparing to return to Sao Paulo, Brazil. Their assignment in Brazil will include starting a camping



ministry for the MB Churches that will minister to children, youth and families. In addition, they will be facilitators for leadership training, mentoring and discipleship, areas of tremendous need among our brothers and sisters to the South.

Off to Burkina Faso

Blaine and Michelle Warner have recently joined Phil and Carol Bergen in Burkina Faso. They praise God for their prayer and financial support teams who make it possible for them to reach out to the Nanerige people. Pray for them as they begin language studies in Bobo Dioulasso and continue learning Jula. They will be staying with a Jula speaking host family while they are taking classes.



Serving with TREK in Panama

Ryan Epp from Forest Grove Church in Saskatoon has joined MBMS International missionaries Einer & Girlesa Zuluaga in Chepo, Panama. Ryan describes his five-day trip in the Darien Jungle. “Puerto Limon is in the jungle. Not far along, I spotted a big snake. Girlesa and I had an amazing time with the kids. Girlesa and I played games with the kids in the morning and then did a puppet show in the afternoon. Work with the Wounaan is always slow but God was at each of the studies, opening the minds of the Wounaan and Embera people to the scripture.”



MBMS International
holistic church planting that transforms communities

1310 Taylor Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3M 3Z6
p: 204.478.2690 f: 204.654.1865 e: winnipeg@mbmsi.org
1.888.866.6267 (regional) 1.866.964.7627 (Abbotsford)

Urban Mission Saskatoon

Our first urban mission program in Saskatoon was this past November 10-13, 2005. Participant Daniel Horne, an admissions counselor at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, shares this testimony:

"I joined 20 others for a weekend Urban Mission sponsored by MBMSI and MCC. In that short time we prayed, worshipped and participated in some unbelievable ministry opportunities, such as serving hot meals to low-income people. The highlight for me was the kid's carnival. We also joined a weekly prayer walk through some of the most needful parts of that city. This was probably the most informative part of the weekend—it was amazing to see how a simple thing like walking and praying can bring a city to life.



When the brief experience was over, I was again reminded that you don't always need to make a huge commitment of time or money for God to dramatically alter your life, or use you to impact others in significant ways."

We are planning for this urban mission to become an annual event that your church can participate in as you explore your role in local and international mission.

One year after the Tsunami

Shortly after the deadly tsunami killed nearly 300,000 people in Asia and turned millions of lives upside down December 26, 2004, MBMSI began the Operation Rebuilding Lives (ORL) relief effort in Thailand. A year later, MBMSI workers find themselves riding a new wave in Thailand—one of hope and spiritual openness.

The two phases of the formal response effort ran from Jan. 16 - Aug. 13, 2005. Nine teams, some 205 people, worked to build a total of 25 homes. A year after the tsunami, 25 new churches have been established. MBMSI missionary, Ricky Sanchez, counts 31 new believers directly impacted by ORL. MBMSI's vision for a church plant is taking shape. MBMSI has agreed to send a missionary team, like Team 2000, to the island to partner with a Thai pastor, Preecha, and Thai believers to provide a long-term presence in the area.



Train the Nations

"Making disciples of all nations" inspired Trever and Joan Godard to be team leaders for a missionary training base in Guadalajara, Mexico. They left for Mexico in December 2005 to develop a discipleship centre that will train Latin Americans to fulfill the Great Commission. They will be joined by Jen Schmidt (Elm Creek, MB) and Sandra Plett (Steinbach, MB) in February 2006. The centre will strengthen the work of MBMS International church planters as well as facilitate in training and sending out new ones.



back row: Lloyd & Carol Letkeman
front row: Trever Godard, Eileen Klassen, Joan Godard

Central Canada Regional Office

The Winnipeg office of MBMS International resources the churches of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Lloyd (and Carol) Letkeman, new regional mobilizer and short-term ministry coordinator, are joined in the office by Eileen Klassen at the new MB Ministry Centre on Taylor Avenue. Carol and Lloyd continue to live in Gretna, Manitoba with their pre-teen sons, Brandon and Benjamin.



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