

**MINUTES OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCHES  
March 10 & 11, 2006  
Bridgeway Community Church ~ Swift Current, Saskatchewan  
Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**1. Welcome ~ Moderator Ron Dyck**

- 1.1. Called the Convention to order at 7:20 p.m. with a reading of and reflection on John 17:16-24... our purpose as Christians... to help build up the Kingdom of God, doing our part in bringing people to Christ. Ron then opened in prayer.
- 1.2. Introductions of guests: Carlin Weinbauer (MBMS International); Olivia Hardy (Kindred Productions); Jim Holm (Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary); Wayne & Janice Dick (Redberry Bible Camp); Gordon Banman (Christian Service Brigade); Rick Schellenberg & Dave Pauls (Bethany College); Doug Dueck (Mennonite Trust Ltd.); Dave Balzer (Family Life Network); Jerry Dennill (West Bank Bible Camp); Ross Hardy (Canadian Conference - Stewardship Ministries); Ewald Unruh (Canadian Conference - Evangelism Canada); Ed Buhler (Mennonite Disaster Service); Ralph Gliege (Director of Church Ministries – SK Conference); Ken Landis-Funk (Mennonite Central Committee – Saskatchewan); Len Sawatsky (Canadian Mennonite University); Dora Dueck (M.B. Herald)
- 1.3. Pastor Cliff Janzen brought greetings on behalf of the Host Church - Bridgeway Community Church.
- 1.4. Director of Church Ministries Ralph Gliege relayed a story about him emailing Bridgeway Moderator Lucille Wall a tongue in cheek request for an invitation to the Convention and her amusing email reply. He then read a humorous but complementary review of last year's Convention that included all sorts of acronyms for all the various positions and ministries that are part of the world-wide Mennonite Brethren Church.

**2. Praise & Worship ~ Bridgeway Worship Team**

**3. Ordination Recommendation and Testimony of Tony Martens ~  
Board of Faith and Life Chair – Stephen White**

- 3.1. Stephen gave a short history of Tony Martens' life and ministry, affirming that the Board of Faith and Life has absolutely no reservation in recommending Tony for ordination.
- 3.2. Tony shared of the privilege he had in growing up in the Bridgeway church family, being further nurtured as a Youth Pastor at the MB churches in Herbert and Dalmeny, and then stepping out in faith to pastor and be adopted by yet another church family at Borden. Attending West Bank Bible Camp (located in the middle of their family ranch) had a huge spiritual impact on him in his early years and even now as he grows further in his faith. This influence spills into his present involvement with Redberry Bible Camp. Tony credited Clarence Peters and Rick McCorkindale for their faithful mentorship. He remembered back in his high school days when he first became certain that he would become a preacher... it was confirmed in a stairwell encounter he had with God at Canadian Bible College when the Lord made it clear to Tony that he would die standing up for God. Tony spoke of his time of preparation and growth while at Herbert, culminating with being called to pastor Borden MB Church. He and Michelle are very thankful that God connected them with the best church possible! There is no question in his mind that preaching is his God-given calling and there is nothing else in the world that he would rather do. Tony shared about how he was pulled out of a spiritually empty point in his life by the 'opening eyes and ears' message found throughout the Book of Mark. It has

revolutionized how he prepares and shares the messages that the Lord puts on his heart. He has experienced spiritual transformation in the preparation and at times even during the delivery of a message. He and his church experienced God's conviction and encouragement when Tony preached from Mark 11... challenged to be fruitful, fully entering the Harvest, not just look like there's good things happening. Recognized the mentorship of many people including: his father, Clarence Peters, Terry Froese, Dwayne Barkman, Rick Schellenberg, and Dwayne Harms; the counsel of writers like: Philip Yancey, Augustine, Chesterton, Watchman Nee, John Stott, Tozer, Colson, Jonathan Edwards, and Bonnhoffer; plus the influence of music by: members of his family, Third Day, Casting Crowns, and New Song. Tony then recognized his wife and best friend Michelle for her partnership in ministry and life. But, the greatest influence of all for him has been the Bible, especially the Book of Mark. Read a letter that he wrote to Clarence Peters and his church in preparation for his ordination. It spoke of the transformation that occurred in him as he wrestled with God, recognized the Lord's formative work in his life, and then ultimately embraced his call to be Borden's pastor.

- 3.3. Director of Church Ministries Ralph Gliege invited Michelle Martens to join him and Tony at the front for the ordination ceremony.
- 3.4. *Stephen White / Arnold Dyck ~ That Tony Martens be approved for ordination by the Mennonite Brethren Church. Carried*
- 3.5. While the delegates stood in affirmation of the resolution, the Board of Faith of Life was called to the front, and all joined in agreement as Clarence Peters prayed a prayer of blessing over Tony and Michelle.

#### 4. **Keynote Address ~ "Partnering to Develop Future Leaders" - Darren Holland and Dave Berg**

- 4.1. Ralph Gliege introduced the theme "Partnering to Develop Future Leaders."
- 4.2. Darren read 1 Timothy 4:11-16 and then Ralph gave the five point outline around which the Address would be structured; the five areas that leaders need to be an example of... models in progress.
- 4.3. Dave Berg - "Speech" - At West Portal, they develop leaders in two major areas: competency and character. The five areas that will be covered tonight deal primarily with character. Dave's earliest memory about speech was when, in grade 10, he had to share his testimony with 15 peers at Redberry Bible Camp. Thought that his testimony was boring compared to others, but his leader assured him that no testimony was boring; God's faithfulness manifests itself in many interesting ways. An attitude of encouragement is essential. Speech can erode our character or build it; James 3 speaks to this.
- 4.4. Darren Holland - "Example in Life" - Timothy is a good example. Everyone should consider themselves 'young,' having youthful energy for the gospel and humble hearts as we serve. Acts 16 is our first introduction to Timothy; his character was known because it was shown over the long haul. Darren shared how he grew into his present role, with the input and mentorship of others. Character is proved in community. We need consistency with constancy.
- 4.5. Dave Berg - "Love" - 1 John 3:18 = Love in action. John 14:6 = Love in truth. Need to look to how Jesus built into His disciples... His mentorship model. Jesus loved in action and in truth, believing in people and then showered everything in grace! (Peter's three denials)
- 4.6. Darren Holland - "Faith" - Have faith to delegate a job, even a very challenging/stretching job, and have the faith that it will get done. We also need to do the job in faith, sticking it out through tough times... we must remain faithful. This is especially evident when you look at the longevity of many of our Saskatchewan Conference pastors; there had to be some tough times.

- 4.7. Dave Berg – “Purity” – Matthew 5:8... ‘blessed are the pure.’ What are my motives to be pure? Are they external or internal? What are my morals? Can build or demolish character and ultimately one’s ministry. What works for Dave is being a part of a Life Transformation Group that mutually commit to reading scripture, to praying for people that they want to see come to Christ, and to openly and honestly answer ten accountability questions. Reviewed the ten.
- 4.8. Darren Holland – Closed with acknowledging the major mentorship relationships in his life: Ernie & Irene Bergen and LaVerne Jantz. They have modeled being an example... being a partner in his ministry.
5. **Announcements ~ Ron Dyck**
- 5.1. Paused for prayer.
- 5.2. Pointed out the Nominations Report in the Convention package and noted the nominations procedure.
- 5.3. Billeting arrangements announced.
6. **Adjournment**
- 6.1. Adjourned in prayer at 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

7. **Call to Order ~ Assistant Moderator – Wayne Harms**
- 7.1. Wayne called the Convention to order at 8:20 a.m.
8. **Praise & Worship ~ Bridgeway Worship Team**
9. **Director of Church Ministries ~ Ralph Gliedge**
- 9.1. Ralph analogized over the use of an aerosol can of air freshener that he brought with him... it can either draw you closer, or if it is overused, it can drive you out; and it’s useless unless the button is pressed. Church can be like that - useless unless the right button is pressed but not overdone.
- 9.2. Five button-pushers:
- 9.2.1. *Pastors* are great button-pushers; introduced new pastors recently commissioned – Dave & Maryanne Grimes (Carrot River); Clint & Nikki Hartog (Herbert); Adam & Erin Lewis (Foam Lake); Ben & Jen Kramer (Bridgeway Community Church); mentioned pastors candidating this weekend - Randy & Evelyn Hamel (Living Hope Church); Don & Una Froese (Forest Grove Community Church)
- 9.2.2. *Problems* can tear down or build up: Bridgeway Community Church’s situation a couple of years ago; Lucky Lake & Pierceland looking for pastors; some churches are having recurring issues that need to be resolved.
- 9.2.3. *Possibilities*: Arelee’s involvement in joint youth ministry; Pastor Harv Janzen in Yorkton as the Chaplain of the Yorkton Terriers hockey team; Dalmeny’s Alpha Program; Dalmeny churches have come to pray together and drug houses closed; Hafford’s Alcoholics Victorious; Jerry & Eleanor Epp’s 22 years of ministry in Blaine Lake; Beechy looking for a youth pastor; Tony Martens’ and Dave Berg’s stories of being mentored by others; the Ministry Leadership Development Team’s groundbreaking work

- 9.2.4. *Partnerships*: Carrot River faithfully giving to the SK Conference even when they need funds to build and God honored that faithfulness... Hepburn partnering with them, giving a sizable donation toward their building fund; Forest Grove Community Church and Meadow Lake partnering with Pierceland; Parliament Community Church and Healing Hearts Ministry; West Portal and Living Hope and Faith River relationships; Mennonite churches looking to us as a potential denomination to align with.
- 9.2.5. *Prayer*: churches looking for pastors; Living Hope Church and the tragic passing of Dwayne Harms; cancer also striking Shantelle (Joe) Almeida at Prairie Winds Church; after a heartfelt message about healing, Terry Froese led in a time of prayer for the Almeidas; Bruce Enns then led in prayer for wisdom and direction for the Conference, and for the Almeidas.
- 9.2.6. Five sweet peas!
- 9.2.7. Invited all churches to come to the SK Conference trade show booth to pick up an aerosol air freshener and package of sweet peas as symbols of encouragement for them, and a reminder that we need to do our part to spread the sweet fragrance of Jesus.

## **10. Executive Report ~ Moderator – Ron Dyck**

- 10.1. Referenced pages 3 & 4 of the Delegate Handbook.
- 10.2. Thanked the churches who have come along side Living Hope Church and the Harms family, and those who are supporting Prairie Winds Church and the Almeidas.
- 10.3. Held a very good Council of Boards Retreat in June at Redberry Bible Camp
- 10.4. Succession was an agenda item. Ron invited people interested in serving on the Council of Boards to come and sit in on meetings and see what it's about. Highlighted the Assistant Moderator opening.
- 10.5. Individually thanked the Board Chairs and Dwayne Barkman for their hard work and visionary leadership.
- 10.6. Introduced the Break-Out session procedures.
- 10.7. Balloting Committee will be Bridgeway Community Church's ushers; Rod Dick will serve as Parliamentarian.

## **11. Carmel House PowerPoint Presentation**

- 11.1. Established in 1969 as an initiative of MCC SK and now operates as a separate corporation with Board Members being appointed/elected from the churches affiliated with MCC SK.
- 11.2. Six Board Members, Director, Assistant Director, and five staff.
- 11.3. Purpose: to provide a continuum of care to adolescent boys (as placed by SK Department of Community Resources and Employment) who are experiencing difficulties functioning in their own home and/or in society; may also be wards of the justice system.
- 11.4. Goals: to provide appropriate individualized therapeutic care of boys; to seek the reunification of their families whenever possible or appropriate; and to develop skills toward independent living.
- 11.5. Program: aimed at creating change by encouraging the boys' growth and responsibility in a positive supportive environment, with emphasis on simulating a Christian family-like atmosphere; recognizes that becoming an adult is a balance between privileges and responsibilities, and a balance between the needs of the individual and of the community or group.

**12. Board of Faith and Life ~ Stephen White**

12.1. Thanked Board members for their work.

12.2. Items of business:

12.2.1. Review Ministry questionnaires for pastoral candidates

12.2.2. Processing ordination applications.

12.2.3. The Board was not able to come to a consensus on the Women in Leadership Ministry issue, so it was decided to refer it back to the churches to discern on their own.

12.2.4. Same sex legislation issues continue; government forms are a problem; Ralph was directed to see how we can work together with other denominational leaders to gain some ground on the problems with the present regulations.

12.2.5. Looking at how the Board can help our churches promote healthy sexuality.

**13. Board of Church Extension ~ Bob Cappelle**

13.1. Multiplication is their emphasis - i.e. how to challenge churches to plant/daughter churches and expand the kingdom.

13.2. Introduced the Board members present, Rod Dyck in his advisory role, and Ralph Gliege in his role as Conference Minister.

13.3. Marion Oatway – has the fun job of coordinating Project Reach YOUR World – there are now five projects on the go; Archie Jantzen shared how Arelee is using PRYW funds to cooperatively (with the Pentecostal, Anglican and United Churches) form Partners in Christian Service which provides Bible Clubs for youth.

13.4. Rod Dick – The first seeds about possibilities for Wynyard were planted in 2004, and with starts and stops, they are now at the point that their direction will be to partner with and support the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church already there. The dialogue initiated with the EMMC Conference leadership also resulted in the church reconnecting with their denomination. Requested prayer for the church.

13.5. Marion Oatway – challenged by Gary Sawatzky to read and have a study based on the book *Cultivating a Life With God* by Neil Coles; shared what a blessing it has been! Gary invited each church to pick up a copy at the SK Conference display.

13.6. Resolutions – Calvin Penner

13.6.1. *That Faith River Christian Fellowship Church be accepted into the SK Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.*

13.6.2. *That Prairie Winds Church be accepted into the SK Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.*

**14. Board of Management ~ Maurice van Nes**

14.1. Thanked his fellow Board Members for their service.

14.2. We have a \$17,000 surplus in 2005!

14.3. As a Conference, we are able to do collectively what we could never do individually.

14.4. 2005 was a year of acquisitions – Living Hope Church; Faith River Christian Fellowship Church; Redberry Bible Camp land

14.5. Safe Place Policy is a significant challenge and will be a major emphasis for 2006.

14.6. Discussion around the use of norms to raise denominational support.

14.7. Funding the Ministry Leadership Development Team's proposed initiatives will be a challenge.

**15. Ministry Leadership Development Team ~ Dwayne Barkman**

15.1. Introduced the Team and others who are involved in various capacities.

15.2. MLDT operates under the direction of the Executive Board.

15.3. Highlighted their report in the Delegate Handbook:

15.3.1. bursary & internship financial involvement (total of \$4600)

15.3.2. four areas of emphasis: Information (Darren Holland), Training (Rob Neufeld & Dwayne Barkman), Finances (Larry Speiser), Tracking (Jeff Peters)

- 15.4. Want to encourage the development of multiplying leaders, working toward multiplying churches.
- 15.5. Jeff Peters – two scholarship/internship grants awarded (West Portal and Hepburn); he and his church are seeing the benefits of intentionally training people for ministry, not just asking them to do it without much input along the way.
- 15.6. Kelsie-Lynn Harms – shared how she has been growing and learning through the internship process she is involved in at Hepburn

**16. Welcoming Faith River Christian Fellowship & Prairie Winds Church**

- 16.1. Wayne Harms spoke of the process that West Portal and the SK Conference went through to ultimately come to point of starting Faith River Christian Fellowship Church.
- 16.2. Ran a PowerPoint presentation featuring Faith River.
- 16.3. Andrew Fehr, Vern Funk and Leon Stein: God has been good; started just over a year ago and are now at 120 people; 6 baptisms; January 1<sup>st</sup> was their possession date for the church; thanked everyone for their prayer and support.
- 16.4. Greg Bright: Joe Almeida walked into Greg's office on Monday, December 17 2001 and it all started; Joe & Shantelle are passionate for Christ, passionate for Moose Jaw, and reaching that community for Christ; the "Winds" are blowing and the Spirit has moved.
- 16.5. All sorts of seconders for the recommendations to welcome Prairie Winds Church and Faith River Christian Fellowship Church. Delegates raised their hands in support Faith River and stood in support of Prairie Winds Church. *Resolutions Carried*
- 16.6. Ralph lead the delegates in a responsive reading welcoming both churches into the SK Conference of MB Churches.
- 16.7. Dwayne Barkman led in prayer for Faith River and then Calvin Penner led in prayer for Prairie Winds.
- 16.8. Ralph invited anybody interested to attend Prairie Winds Church's Chartering Service being held tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

**17. Breakout Sessions convened**

- 17.1. Board of Faith and Life
- 17.2. Board of Church Extension
- 17.3. Ministry Leadership Development Team
- 17.4. Board of Management

**18. Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan PowerPoint presentation**

- 18.1. In the name of Christ, MCC seeks to bring hope to the poor and suffering in the world, and change their lives.
- 18.2. MCC began in the USA in 1920 in response to the needs of the hungry in the former Soviet Union; Canadian Mennonites joined in 1963; many Mennonites now emigrated to Canada were helped by MCC.
- 18.3. MCC worldwide: pursues peace; feeds the hungry; cultivates relationships; encourages justice for all; enables people to help themselves; shares the gospel in both word and deed.
- 18.4. MCC SK: nurtures and restores relationships; embraces diversity; offers economic care and justice; tends the earth; and transforms conflicts into peacemaking opportunities

## **19. Executive Recommendations:**

**19.1.** Ron Dyck / Wayne Harms ~ *That Carmel House, MCC Saskatchewan, Menno Homes of Saskatchewan Inc., and Mennonite Trust Ltd. assume primary responsibility for providing SKMB nominees for their respective boards to the Executive. Upon review and discernment, the Executive will present these nominees to the Conference for election. All terms of positions for any affiliate agency shall be in accordance with the affiliate agency's governing bylaws, constitution, or other such legal documents. Carried*

**19.1.1.** Comment of support by Archie Jantzen of the Nominating Committee.

**19.2.** Dwayne Barkman / Maurice van Nes ~ *That within the context of our present objective of "healthy growing churches and ministries reaching their worlds for Christ" we as a Saskatchewan Conference pursue the direction of developing leaders and multiplying churches along two tracks:*

*Track #1 - Provide ongoing resources for leadership development in conventional programs and for leaders in non church planting contexts.*

*Track #2 - Leadership development and church planting within the context of a Multiplying Church Model where churches plant churches.*

**19.3.** Dwayne Barkman / Greg Bright ~ *That the Saskatchewan Conference Executive establish a task force accountable to the Executive, which will develop a 'Key Communities' proposal for Saskatchewan. This task force will include some members of the MLDT and the Board of Church Extension. Carried*

**19.4.** Dwayne Barkman / Bob Cappelle ~ *That we invite the Canadian Conference to partner with us in the Key Communities Initiative in order to help us to accomplish Track #2.*

*1. In this invitation we invite them to partner with us in focusing three priorities:*

*a. Initiate a vision for a multiplying church culture among our churches.*

*b. Initiate leadership recruitment and training with a multiplying church direction*

*c. Initiate practices and processes that will increase our capacity to multiply churches through churches in Saskatchewan*

*2. Move the initiative forward in three phases*

*Phase I Present an invitation to the Canadian Conference January - March 06*

*a. State the broad priorities of the initiative*

*b. Gain support from our boards and convention*

*c. Form a team to direct the initiative*

*Phase II Create the details of proposal together with the Canadian Conference*

*March 06 - March 07*

*Phase III Implement the proposal*

*2007 - 2011*

*Carried*

**19.5.** Questions about the appointment of the Task Force and the funds to support it.

**19.6.** A detailed plan is not in place, but what we are seeking at this point is approval for the general direction so that we can plan for a year and then possibly get in stride with the Canadian Conference time frame.

**19.7.** Ewald Unruh spoke on what the Canadian Conference is doing to partner with the Provincial Conferences. This would be the fifth in a ten year campaign, and they are very open to a partnering proposal.

**19.8.** Invited suggestions for what an appropriate name would be for a Saskatchewan campaign.

## **20. Minutes Approval**

**20.1.** Menno Martens / Rod Dick ~ *That the minutes of the 2005 Convention of the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches be approved as presented. Carried*

**21. Nominations Committee update** ~ no changes from what was circulated last evening.

*Broke for lunch @ 12:05 and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.*

**22. Board of Management ~ Chairperson - Maurice van Nes**

**22.1.** Maurice highlighted a number of points of interest within the Board reports and proposals.

**22.2.** *Maurice van Nes / Bob Beesley ~ That the 2005 Auditor's Report be approved as presented. Carried*

**22.3.** *Maurice van Nes / Ross Hardy ~ That the 2005 Financial Statements be approved as presented. Carried*

**22.4.** *Maurice van Nes / Arnold Dyck ~ That the 2006 Budget be approved as presented. Carried*

**22.5.** *Maurice van Nes / Mike Housek ~ That a 2006 norm of \$55/member be approved. Carried*

**23. Board & Committee Elections ~ Ron Dyck**

**23.1.** Agreed by a show of hands to deal with all nominations as a group.

**23.2.** Three calls for further nominations, none came forward, Ron declared that nominations cease, all rose in support of the slate as presented.

**23.3.** Nominations slate:

**Executive Board**

Wayne Harms - Asst. Mod. 2007

**Board of Management**

Todd Hardy 2008

Bob Beesley 2008

Albert Klassen 2008

**Board of Faith and Life**

Terry Froese 2008

Menno Martens – Secretary & Canadian Conference Representative  
2010

Tony Martens 2008

Gil Dueck 2008

**Board of Church Extension**

Scott Loewen 2008

**Nominating Committee**

Archie Jantzen 2008

**Carmel House**

Bob Climenhaga

Julie Wall

**Mennonite Trust**

Wayne Harms

Gerald Willems

**Menno Home**

Ted Dyck

Gwen Loewen

**MCC Saskatchewan**

Scott Siemens

John Unrau

**24. West Bank Bible Camp ~ Jerry Dennill**

- 24.1. The goal is the same as it always been... bringing kids to Christ.
- 24.2. They are "Geared to the times but anchored to the Rock."
- 24.3. Campers: 20% MB; 50% other denominations; 30% unsaved.
- 24.4. Partnership with a purpose: continue to build youth in service and leadership.
- 24.5. Went over the typical day at camp... the only place that youth can get such a sustained, focused effort to make them more like Christ.
- 24.6. What do they need from the SK Conference? Need youth, leaders & promotion.
- 24.7. Highlighted Herbert Church's sacrificial service to Camp.

**25. Redberry Bible Camp ~ Wayne Dick**

- 25.1. They've been asked why they don't go independent... the answer is that they've got so much to gain if they stay!
- 25.2. Receiving the sale proceeds of Warman Church property really helped.
- 25.3. Thirteen member churches each have a Board member.
- 25.4. 25% of the campers are MB and 30% are unsaved.
- 25.5. The Camp partners with the churches and Bethany College handing our youth off to each other, continuing to build into them.
- 25.6. Kids are the best evangelists... they bring their friends... churches need to follow up in this; Dave Berg who spoke last night is a fine example of this.
- 25.7. There is no question that the best use for the land Redberry just bought is to use it as a Bible Camp... for Kingdom work; farming it would be a waste.
- 25.8. Ralph presented Wayne and Janice Dick with the 228<sup>th</sup> and 229<sup>th</sup> pastor toques knit by Erna Jantzen.

**26. Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary ~ Jim Holm**

- 26.1. In a way, he's speaking on behalf of all the schools; MB and otherwise.
- 26.2. Seminary alumni asked to stand.
- 26.3. Dave Tiegrob (Public Relations & Donor Development for SK) & Phil Gunther (ACTS representative for the SK Conference) were introduced.
- 26.4. Three kinds of people and churches:
  - 26.4.1. Survivors – OK for a time, but not the best way to live long-term
  - 26.4.2. Successful – accomplishing something, but doesn't always last
  - 26.4.3. Significance – this 'lasts'; it carries on to the next generation; leaves a legacy
- 26.5. Being 'Significant'
  - 26.5.1. Read Matthew 9:35-38.
  - 26.5.2. Jesus was always looking for leadership potential.
  - 26.5.3. Partnering to equip and build leaders, even with a motley crew like the disciples there was transformation (loose lips to leader; sons of thunder to disciple of love; Thomas was a skeptic but Jesus saw his potential; Philip was a bit dull but later got wisdom and discernment...)
  - 26.5.4. Promoted Ministry Quest for high school aged students.
  - 26.5.5. How do we do this like Jesus did? Start with prayer, partner with others, and be open to the Spirit's lead.
  - 26.5.6. Jesus saw people's potential (discernment), had an equipping and training plan (discipleship), affirmed them and sent them out (deployed).
  - 26.5.7. Invited all to lead a life of significance, use Jesus' method and leave a legacy.

**27. Bethany College ~ Rick Schellenberg**

- 27.1. Bethany is here in a different capacity this year; this time their Board appointments are made here and they are reporting here in an accountability relationship.

**27.2. Partnerships and staff changes:**

- 27.2.1.** Trevor and Joan Goddard went to Mexico with the attitude of 'how can we still work together?' It's been a joy and a blessing... Katherine Henshaw has stepped in and proficiently filled the gap.
  - 27.2.2.** Phil Siebert left but first arranged for a transition to Paul Woodburn and Paul is blossoming!
  - 27.2.3.** Partnering in Missions: senior class missions trips with MBMSI... last year to Portugal and this year to Thailand; second year students went to three reserves in the LaRonge area; first year students ministered in teams in the inner cities of Saskatoon, Calgary and Kelowna.
  - 27.2.4.** Partnering with other Bible Colleges and Schools: the Christian community in Canada is too small to bicker and maintain divisions; they are meeting at least monthly to see how they can work together better.
  - 27.2.5.** Partnering with SK MB Churches: giving is up; pastors come to teach; volunteers to coach.
  - 27.2.6.** Partnering with the Canadian Conference Board of Faith and Life: Doug Heidebecht's work with the 'Women in Leadership Ministry' issue; can we agree to get into the word together to find God's heart and direction?
  - 27.2.7.** Evangelical Bible College in Montreal is asking for partnership of some type; only half of one percent of the people in Quebec declare themselves to be under the Lordship of Jesus Christ!
- 27.3.** Director of Advancement Dave Pauls: thanked everyone for their support in many ways and for the opportunity to be at this Convention; there's a gift for all the pastors at Bethany's trade show display booth.

**28. *Menno Homes Ltd. PowerPoint Presentation***

- 28.1.** Their mission is to provide and promote services and activities that enhance the physical, emotional and mental health, social competence, and spiritual well-being of individuals with disabilities.
- 28.2.** They value:
  - 28.2.1.** being a faith based organization that conducts its affairs in a manner that is reflective of Christian values and is respectful of individuals who do not share these values and who are members of other faiths.
  - 28.2.2.** conducting their affairs in an open manner.
- 28.3.** They believe:
  - 28.3.1.** that all persons have a right to self-determination to the extent of their ability and within a caring and supportive environment
  - 28.3.2.** that all persons are created equal regardless of mental or physical abilities
  - 28.3.3.** that it is essential to encourage and support everyone to reach their full potential with regard to participating in all aspects of community life
  - 28.3.4.** that they are accountable to those they serve, their families and guardians, and to the agencies that provide funding.
- 28.4.** Residential services at Pineridge Manor, Garden Place, Placsko Lodge, Lenberg Manor, Satellite Home, Men's Supportive Apartment Living Program, Ladies Supportive Apartment Living Program, Poplar Supportive Apartment Living Program
- 28.5.** Vocational services: Menno Industries, Learning Centre, Craft Centre

## **29. MBMSI ~ Carlin Weinhour & Lloyd Letkeman**

### **29.1. Lloyd**

**29.1.1.** He and his wife Carolyn work together at home and at MBMSI!

**29.1.2.** Read Jesus' words in Luke 4 as He quoted Isaiah 61.

**29.1.3.** There's growing interest in Short Term Missions, with many families taking the challenge; Thailand instead of Disneyland?

**29.1.4.** There are a wide variety of missions opportunities... something for nearly everyone; we are all called to some sort of mission, we just need to hear the call and follow.

### **29.2. Carlin**

**29.2.1.** The Delhi Project:

**29.2.1.1.** gave a statistics and demographics summary for India... the 'why.'

**29.2.1.2.** goals are to establish and encourage Christian churches in Dehli; to reach out to middle and upper class families and youth; to affirm and train North Indian leaders; and to be a part of a strategic movement among the cities and peoples of the north.

**29.2.1.3.** Team members are: Darren & Shahna Duerksen, Mark & Amy Klassen, and Saji & Bindu Oommen

**29.2.1.4.** Vision Statement: We are a multi-cultural team, called and captivated by God, molded and motivated by the Gospel, seeking to establish a presence of God's kingdom in neighborhoods throughout Dehli and then into North India.

**29.2.2.** Thailand work:

**29.2.2.1.** Team 2000 is still going strong and more people are joining them.

**29.2.2.2.** Video presented.

## **30. Canadian Conference Evangelism Canada ~ Executive Director - Ewald Unruh**

**30.1.** It has been said that North America is now the Christian backwater of the world; there's a LOT more happening elsewhere in the world.

**30.2.** Ewald has pastored at Borden and West Portal and also attended Parliament Community Church.

**30.3.** Read Mark 4:26-28... that is a picture of doing our part in building the Kingdom of God. This goes hand in hand with 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

**30.4.** Blending Godly character with multiplication.

**30.5.** Ross Hardy of Stewardship Ministries – They're transitioning out of will preparation February 1<sup>st</sup> and will now be focusing more on and expanding their service level in financial counseling and investment advice.

**30.6.** Explained how the Canadian Conference is putting hands and feet to their Vision; coming down to 6 service areas:

**30.6.1.** learning to together discern what the Bible says

**30.6.2.** fostering community

**30.6.3.** mobilizing finances

**30.6.4.** helping churches to be healthy

**30.6.5.** developing/multiplying leaders – John Neufeld, formerly of Ministry Quest, will, starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, be the Canadian Conference's new Coach for Emerging Leaders. ETEM – the only evangelical college in Quebec that's fully affiliated with a mainstream university is looking at ways to cooperate with other denominations.

**30.6.6.** reaching out

**30.7.** BUT we need to take on the spiritual battle and pray our way through it. Nothing can be accomplished in the 'seen' realm unless it is first fought out in the 'unseen' realm.

**30.8.** Related the story of an attender at the church plant in Edmonton who died in a motorcycle accident, resulting in a mini-revival among his friends and relatives.

- 30.9. Salvation Army and the MB's are jointly planting a church in a high-rise development in Toronto called St. Jamestown. This small section of the city is home to 27,000 people, 50+ languages and 100+ cultures.
- 30.10. An Alliance Pastor is coordinating a pastoral team ministering to three new churches, each with a different denominational affiliation.
- 30.11. Shared a story about a woman whose husband committed suicide and also killed their two children. She couldn't deal with it, but after attending a small group for awhile, she has discovered that there is a God and He does love her. She is now slowly experiencing healing and realizes that God is the only One Who can restore her life.
- 30.12. Encouraged attendance at the Canadian Conference Convention - Gathering 2006 with its theme "Thy Kingdom Come."

**31. Closing ~ Moderator - Ron Dyck**

- 31.1. Wayne Harms is willing to step in for one year as a mentor to anybody who would like to step in and try the Assistant Moderator position Ron asked for and was given agreement for this via a show of hands.
- 31.2. Thanked all those who helped make the Convention the success that it was.
- 31.3. Ron read Romans 1:8 as his closing remark.
- 31.4. Ralph thanked the Executive for being such a wonderful group to work with and closed in prayer.

**32. Adjourned at 3:35 p.m.**

Attendance:

~ 117 total

~ 92 delegates & 25 guests