

## **BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION REPORT**

For 2006

"Above all else, live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ ... Then I will know that you are working together and struggling side by side to get others to believe the good news." *Philippians 1:27 (CEV)*

Our role has been is to encourage, support and empower our churches to reach their communities for Christ. We believe that the most biblical and effective way to accomplish this goal is through a process of multiplication, whereby disciples make more disciples. You may have heard the old adage that *flocks only grow when the sheep are making more sheep*. The shepherd's role is to facilitate the process by providing the right resources and creating the best environment for reproduction to take place. That, in a sense, is our role as the Board of Church Extension.

We have wrestled with the challenge of discerning how to inspire our churches to be intentional and passionate in reaching their communities for Christ. As our BOCE joins together with the Harvest Saskatchewan Development Team this next year, we will work to support the Board of Faith and Life in a province wide prayer focus which will call our churches to pray for a renewed passion for outreach. The second part of this initial process is to conduct a province wide survey of our church leaders. We trust that this process will help us to better understand what is happening in our churches with regard to outreach and to gain more insight as to how we can encourage, support and inspire our churches in outreach.

Here is a brief overview of our involvement this past year:

**Project Reach Your World (PRYW)** 2006 was our best year ever for PRYW. We had more applications and gave out more grants than in the previous years. Why are we excited about more applications and giving out more money? Simply because it means that churches are making new efforts to reach out. It means that the nine churches that applied for assistance embarked on a specific outreach event/project. It is exciting to see the creative ways that churches are striving to reach their communities for Christ. Any time a church makes an intentional effort to reach people for Christ, it is reason to celebrate. We applaud these and other churches who are seeking to make an eternal impact in the lives of people. The following applications were processed in 2006:

~ Parliament Community Church	- <i>Alpha Program</i>	\$1000
~ Borden MB Church	- <i>Winter Clubs Program</i>	\$160
~ Kelstern Community Church	- <i>Men's Breakfast</i>	\$300
~ Dalmeny Community Church	- <i>Overcomers In Christ</i>	\$400
~ Herbert MB Church	- <i>BUG Tour</i>	\$600
~ Gateway Community Church	- <i>BUG Tour</i>	\$500
~ Parkland Community Church	- <i>DVBS</i>	\$500
~ Faith River Fellowship	- <i>Outreach Café</i>	\$550
~ Woodrow Gospel Church	- <i>Alpha Program</i>	\$872
~ Parliament Community Church	- <i>Grief Care</i>	\$450
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$5332</u></b>

If your church isn't on the list it's time to gather your leaders, be creative and plan an outreach event or project. As you can see, we only used a little over half of the \$10,000 that was budgeted for PRYW. So gather your leaders and start dreaming of what could be done in your community and fill out a PRYW application. We want to help make your outreach dreams a reality.

**Prairies Winds Church in Moose Jaw** has faced many challenges this past year but God has strengthened them through it all. They have completed their first year without Conference support and they are pressing on to accomplish what God has called them to do.

**Faith River Fellowship Church** is two years old. As of December 31, 2006 they are no longer on Conference support. We are excited to see this healthy, enthusiastic young church growing strong and reaching its community for Christ.

**Vision For Wynyard** In the fall of 2005 we were challenged to consider the possibility of initiating a church planting project in Wynyard. As we began to pray and dream about how we could meet this need we developed a vision plan to partner with three of the closest MB churches (Lanigan, Foam Lake and Watrous) to plant a church in Wynyard. These churches were enthusiastic and were encouraged to consider various ways in which they could help with the project. After further research we determined that it might be more feasible for us to come alongside the Wynyard Gospel Church in order to help them become more effective in reaching their community instead of planting a new church. As a result of our discussions with their church board and their Conference Minister we were encouraged to see both church and Conference relating in new ways with regard to its mission and ministry in Wynyard. We stepped back in order to allow the church and its Conference work together to revitalize the church and its work in Wynyard. During this time, their pastoral couple resigned. We have offered our assistance if needed and requested by them. The book isn't closed on Wynyard and the next pages of the Wynyard vision is yet to be written. We will continue to monitor the situation as we nurture our vision for that community.

I want to thank Ralph Gliege, Gary Sawatzky and Rod Dick for all the time, effort and energy they put into this project. They did a lot of important groundwork on this project. Special thanks to Rod who really has a burden for Wynyard and who, more than any of us has a passion to see a vibrant church reaching the community of Wynyard.

**Our Team** Our team at the beginning of the year consisted of Gary Sawatzky (chairman), Calvin Penner (vice-chairman), Scott Loewen, Marion Oatway (PRYW coordinator) and Bob Cappelle (secretary). We are grateful to Ralph Gliege who was able to attend most of our meetings and offered helpful guidance and support. Calvin resigned in August when he and his wife moved to Winkler, Manitoba. Gary had to resign in September due to health concerns. We ended the year with only 3 members and we took this as an indication that the time was right for us to amalgamate with the Harvest Saskatchewan Development Team.

This is the closing report for the Board of Church Extension. As of January 20th our board was dissolved and amalgamated into the Harvest Saskatchewan Development Team. We will function as a task force as we clarify the vision, goals and responsibilities of the new team. May God bless our churches as we seek to reach our communities for Christ.

Submitted by

*Bob Cappelle on behalf of BOCE*