

**MINUTES OF THE 62ND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES
MARCH 14 & 15, 2008
WEST PORTAL CHURCH ~ SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
FRIDAY MARCH 14TH**

1. WELCOME ~ MODERATOR RON DYCK

- 1.1. Called the Convention to order at 7:05 p.m.
- 1.2. Read from Hebrews 10:23-25, focusing the Convention delegates and guests on God's Word with a call to be faithful, spur each other on to acts of love & good works, and to not give up meeting together as the day of His return approaches.
- 1.3. Lead Pastor Dwayne Barkman welcomed delegates to the Convention and to West Portal Church. Introduced Andrew Klassen & Sandy Derksen who have led West Portal's side of Convention planning and preparation.
- 1.4. Andrew Klassen announced that billets are to meet at the Welcome/Info Centre at the conclusion of the evening program.

2. PRAISE & WORSHIP ~ WEST PORTAL WORSHIP TEAM

- 2.1. The West Portal worship team then led a time of worship.

3. CELEBRATING THE HARVEST ~ BOARD OF FAITH & LIFE CHAIR - TONY MARTENS

- 3.1. Tony read Mark 4: 26-29 – the parable of the growing seed; during his first four years in Borden, the combines didn't come out & it led to loss of expectation of a harvest. It's unnatural to have seeding without harvest. Today we will tell stories of "The Harvest."
- 3.2. Director of Church Ministries Ralph Gliege
 - 3.2.1. Ralph acknowledged that there is pain and hardship, even in the harvest; shared how there was hardship in Woodrow & Pierceland and that he and the Board of Faith and Life dealt with and are still somewhat dealing with it. Woodrow is though stepping forward and moving on.
 - 3.2.2. Ralph explained that he and his wife Grace spent some of their sabbatical in Pierceland; since that time, the church had a lay leader step down due to employment changes and the congregation is regrouping.
 - 3.2.3. Ralph, called Ken Sperling (Pierceland stand-in) and Dwayne Smith (Woodrow representative) to the front and then prayed for both congregations.
- 3.3. Project Reach YOUR World
 - 3.3.1. Prairie Winds Church > Willard Hasmatali – circulated 2,000 custom Prairie Winds Church Bibles called Good News for Moose Jaw; the cover was designed by a lady from the church and it is now their "brand"; twelve people came to a special service, five still attend, and others mention receiving the Bibles.
 - 3.3.2. Beechy > Kelly Wiens – four churches worked together under Kelly's leadership to do an H2O outreach with youth and the community on different nights; Mary Mielke read an article being published; Kelly's initial concept didn't come about, but what did happen ended up even better! Reconciliation between people
- 3.4. Partnership stories
 - 3.4.1. Henry Penner & two Board members Dennis Odell & Barry Stricker from Wynyard Gospel Church (EMMC) told the Wynyard story; Dennis gave a bit of history about the church, how Rod Dick made the connection and started the ball rolling & how much they appreciate Pastor Henry & Esther Penner; Barry – also voiced his appreciation of Rod; there are 9-10 denominations present with 30 people attending! Ralph invited Lanigan, Watrous & Foam Lake delegates to gather around the Wynyard group and then Stephen White prayed for them on everyone's behalf.

- 3.4.2. Pastor Gerry Epp (longest serving SK Conference pastor in one place) told Blaine Lake's story of how they put together a building project; they now have an L-shaped church with kitchen & washrooms on the same level, an office, expandable seating, a youth room in the basement, and a wheelchair ramp; Huge thank you went out to Waldheim for their help; the congregation promoted their cookbook, sold lunches at auction sales and their annual garage sale, and served gourmet suppers at \$60/person; the church building is also being used by the community... to God be the glory!
- 3.4.3. Faith River Christian Fellowship – Sharon Koop shared about their café nights last Easter and how a 60 year old lady found here calling as an actor; it was a BIG job but worth it! To pray, to invite and to volunteer was their catch-phrase and it carried the momentum of the church plant, with the involvement of their new people.
- 3.4.4. Intern pastors
 - 3.4.4.1. Hepburn: Ryan Smith with coach Gil Dueck – Ryan: from Manitoba; learning to preach & teach; thanked for to opportunity to "fail"; Gil: gave high marks for Ryan
 - 3.4.4.2. Forest Grove Community Church: Mike Morson with coach Kevin Wiens – Kevin: impact of having Mike in his office, gave Mike the room to fail but it's been working out very well; the church of the future is in good hands! Mike: learning what it means to work within the diverse body of Christ; the more you learn the more you realize how little you know; now he sees how much he needs to go to Seminary! Appreciated people affirming his gifts.
 - 3.4.4.3. Harvest Saskatchewan Board Chair Dwayne Barkman prayed over them.
- 4. Ralph introduced the missionaries present - Richard and Hazel Funk, and Trever Godard.
- 5. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER ~ TREVER GODARD**
 - 5.1. Matthew Training Centre in the works; investigating and being encouraged in pursuing a potential building; the first person he called when he started fundraising pledged \$100,000 over the next three years!
 - 5.2. Introduced Erica Rae who, if able to raise support will join them in Guadalajara at the Matthew Training Centre
 - 5.3. John 4:32-36 were verses that were given to him after he decided to leave Youth For Christ; don't give up, God will provide a harvest
 - 5.4. How can we be sure of where God is working so that we can join Him? Look for people of faith, a receptive attitude, and don't ignore the hard places.
 - 5.5. Matthew 8: 18-26 > deception happens #1 – avoid crowds of people #2 – promises of commitment #3 – come NOW, don't wait or do it at your convenience #4 – follow Jesus for the right reasons and in the right ways (not just popular)
 - 5.6. Mark 10 – rich young ruler; the easy way would be to just say follow me, but He went to the heart; Satan would love you to invest in people who will not become part of the harvest
 - 5.7. Seeing and harvesting to faith: Samaritan woman – woman, unclean, Samaritan, inconvenient timing; are we willing to be inconvenienced?
 - 5.8. Hard ground: parable of the sower and the seed; maybe we need to persevere and keep planting in hard ground!
 - 5.9. How do we do this? Need to live intriguing lives; joined a ball team and out of it led somebody to the Lord; God telling to him to sit on a park bench and ending up meeting Einer Zuluaga; Short Term missions team that got through to a drug dealer who came to a gathering and is now living for the Lord.
 - 5.10. Need to look in the right places. Look at the faith of the paralytic... wasn't afraid of difficulty or maybe even being "rude"; Jesus was always willing to be interrupted by people showing faith; dare to be different.

- 5.11. Don't quit. Turtles only make progress by sticking out their necks; the kingdom is open to all but guaranteed to no one; look for the rebellious kids;
- 5.12. John 12:20-26 Whoever serves me must follow me... where I am, there will my servant also be... we need to be where Jesus is; who did Jesus spend time with? We need to do the same!
- 5.13. Closed in prayer

6. CLOSING ~ RON DYCK

- 6.1. Encouraged delegates to take in the display booths.
- 6.2. Introduced the agencies by referring to the list included in the Convention packages; namely: Bethany College, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, Canadian Mennonite University, Christian Service Brigade, Family Life Network, Kindred Productions, MB Herald, Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Mennonite Central Committee – Saskatchewan, Mennonite Trust Ltd., Redberry Bible Camp and Canadian Conference – Stewardship Ministries.
- 6.3. Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

SATURDAY MARCH 15TH

7. OPENING ~ PASTOR TERRY FROESE

- 7.1. After the West Portal worship team led in a time of worship, Terry invited representatives of the churches to come forward and light their Harvest SK candles.

8. CONCERT OF PRAYER ~ TERRY FROESE

- 8.1. Terry read from Canadian Conference Church Health representative Dave Jackson's handout (the day of the Lord...)
- 8.2. Saskatchewan's time is here... the time is ripe
- 8.3. John 4:35 – look at the harvest... one sows and one reaps...
- 8.4. Joined into groups of 3 & 4 for a time of open prayer

9. HARVEST SASKATCHEWAN TEAM – OUR FUTURE

- 9.1. Ron Dyck gave a history of the road the SK Conference has travelled to get to this point. Started with the Pastoral Leadership Development Team which transformed into the Ministry Leadership Development Team, ultimately becoming the Harvest Saskatchewan Team, then partnering with the Canadian Conference, and last year being challenged to come up with a ministry plan to be tabled at this Convention.
- 9.2. Dwayne introduced the Team: Larry Speiser – financial, Darren Holland, Jeff Peters - wordsmith, Bob Cappelle – church planting, Marion Oatway – PRYW. Other contributors included: Ralph Gliege, Secretary-Treasurer Pat Dergousoff, and Canadian Conference representative Ewald Unruh.
- 9.3. Matthew 4:19 – come and be my disciples & I will show you how to fish for people
- 9.4. Had six Project Reach YOUR World initiatives, 2 internships and 7 bursaries; they tabled the apprenticeship draft till later; working alongside Wynyard; most of their time has been spent getting this Ministry Plan together; trying to serve all purposes (Saskatchewan and Canadian Conferences, and the churches,)
- 9.5. Referring to Ministry Plan in the handbook, Dwayne explained thier DNA statement: **helping** (inspire, empower, support), **shape** (transition, mature, form), **missional churches** (we have all been sent to all kinds of peoples with a message, empowered by the Spirit), need to first BE disciples, we are all at different places in this walk, locally and globally; **the Harvest!** (different expressions of this)
- 9.6. Values: read though the seven points; emphasized a multiplying mindset for personal and corporate multiplication; there to assist, not do it for them; potential for churches to cooperate together
- 9.7. Key areas of focus outlined

- 9.8.** Strategy: inspire (spoke of how the Canadian Conference inspired West Portal, explained the "POD" concept, asked the mayor how 1000 church people could be mobilized to bless the city & there's a meeting next week!) – empower (question being asked what is the irreducible size of a church?)- support (example of the impact of MBMSI prayer trips)
- 9.9.** Explained structure diagram on page 27 of the handbook
- 9.10.** Discussion time led by Ron:
- 9.10.1.** Question: Is the framework presented what we will agree to call "missional?"
Answer: challenge the conventional church to focus on being **sent** into our communities and the world
- 9.10.2.** Comment: Need to hire somebody to come along side and train churches in how to be intentionally missional, multiplying ourselves
- 9.10.3.** Question: the HS Team relies a lot on Dwayne, transitions are in the works, how does this affect the work of the HST over the next year? Ron Dyck: the road ahead is uncertain, but we do know that God has been in this from the start and He will guide and provide in the future. Wayne Harms: working until the end of July, sabbatical after, late fall until decisions will be made. Dwayne: Firstly, they believe that the local church is the body that God works through to build His kingdom, going to a Refocusing Leaders weekend soon and they will seek God out at that time. Personally, they love Saskatchewan, their family would like to have them stay, they have no plans as of yet to leave. Tony Martens: There are number of people within the Conference with the same passion who are pumped and ready to go with this. Andrew Fehr: we need to be confident
- 9.10.4.** Question: How does this intersect with the theological training within the schools and the work of the Boards of Faith and Life? Answer: They recognize the interdependency, and have been and will continue to work together. This team had its birth with a question of why can't we provide seminary education in Saskatchewan?
- 9.10.5.** Comment: We need to learn how to break the cultural code and get through barriers that keep us apart and from evangelizing other cultures
- 9.10.6.** Ewald Unruh: the Canadian Conference is moving from the Conference planting churches to churches planting churches. Saskatchewan is ahead of the curve as far as the direction that the Canadian Conference is stepping. The concept that everyone is a missionary is not new, it's been around since the church first started and was a focus of the early Anabaptist movement.
- 9.10.7.** Ron Dyck: Harvest Saskatchewan is a focus and an integral part of the thinking and direction of the Provincial Conference, now part of our DNA. The vision remains strong. Our uncertainty over Dwayne's situation should not make us wary of proceeding ahead,
- 9.10.8.** Question/Concern: Cultural code issues... With the resource industries blossoming in Saskatchewan, how do we plant churches with people moving in that are very migrant? Where is the SK Conference - First Nations presence? How does this plan address this? Comment: We need to work with, get alongside, adapt to their culture and reach them for Christ. How about our churches helping ministries outside our constituency?
- 9.10.9.** There's way more strength with a church planting a church than a Conference doing it; it's a mother's/father's heart that's at work.
- 9.10.10.** God's work isn't labeled Mennonite Brethren, let's keep our hearts open.
- 9.10.11.** Len Bachiu related a story about eating at Earls and feeling uncomfortable and out of place; how do we make people who aren't part of the church culture feel comfortable?
- 9.10.12.** Love Saskatchewan: Challenged the Board to bring somebody, maybe even First Nations along side them
- 9.10.13.** Joe Almeida: How about sending our students out into the churches?

- 9.10.14. Rod Dick: Wynyard has been a four year process and all that has really happened has been the structure, and the same can be said about the Harvest Saskatchewan Ministry Plan. We just need people to take it on and do it.
- 9.10.15. Phil Siebert: Questioned if we in our churches are being disciples and discipling? What's the purpose of the church coming together? Gathering to inspire and send out the workers.
- 9.10.16. Tracy Lazaroff: Cultural difference... youth don't read much. They are plugged in. They do though love to gather for lively worship events.
- 9.10.17. Question: Strongly affirmed the POD concept; asked if there any ideas for training that can happen via this vehicle? Need to listen to what the needs are out there. Areas of discipleship, leadership, and coaching are surfacing.
- 9.10.18. Comment: need to disciple, train and encourage youth to reach their worlds for Christ.
- 9.10.19. Love, respect and being there for people is a language that any culture understands.
- 9.10.20. Bible Camp comments: Camps appreciate partnership to disciple and build into future leaders; need the youth to get through to the youth; challenged to disciple; camps are generation gap busters, they are a great opportunity to make a difference in lives.

10. PRAYER TIME LED BY TERRY FROESE

- 10.1. We are rediscovering our God-given missional directive. Chinese symbol for crisis is made up the symbols for danger and opportunity... prayer time. Suggested prayer items: leadership, the Harvest Saskatchewan Team, discipleship, reaching across cultural divides.

11. EXECUTIVE REPORT ~ RON DYCK

- 11.1. Thanked the Conference for the opportunity and the support to serve.
- 11.2. Report is in the Handbook.

12. DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MINISTRIES REPORT ~ RALPH GLIEGE

- 12.1. Ralph thanked the Conference for their sabbatical; developed a candidating tool; received his Masters Degree.
- 12.2. Great to be back and on the potluck circuit!
- 12.3. Appreciate the support after Grace's sister & nephew's deaths
- 12.4. Invited to check out the display
- 12.5. Referring to the handbook, he started with telling about the time he asked the trapper across the lake from his son's camp to put a lantern in his window and described the feeling he felt upon seeing it. This led into a summary review of his report in the delegate handbook.
- 12.6. Ralph set up five stations of Harvest Saskatchewan candles representing our SK Conference churches with the sanctuary representing the province; the light needs to be brought to every area of the province, and invited to take their useless unlit candle, light them with from a candle from their geographical area, symbolically spreading God's light.
- 12.7. Many people in our province won't be attracted to a candle, but would be to our churches.
- 12.8. Lights give light, warmth and fragrance; let's do likewise.

13. BOARD OF FAITH AND LIFE ~ CHAIR - TONY MARTENS

- 13.1. This Board tends to be reactionary, that's OK and serves a purpose; they do want to be more proactive to try and keep things from getting off track and worsening.
- 13.2. Growing in being comfortable with not knowing what is coming but having the faith to be obedient to God's call on our lives; Hebrews 11:8-31

- 13.3. Ralph and Grace's ministry was honoured at the Pastor's Retreat; this time Ralph was surprised, not the other way around.
- 13.4. Pastors Dwayne Barkman & Clarence Peters have done much and will be missed much.
- 13.5. Thanked the Board, for their partnership in the work of the Board and the Lord.
- 13.6. Referring to the accident involving his basketball team, he shared how he was impacted and blessed by the response from fellow Council of Boards members and the Conference as a whole.
- 13.7. Ron invited Clarence Peters to come up and pray for Tony and Michelle Martens.

14. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ~ CHAIR - TODD HARDY

- 14.1. Highlighted: Board restructuring; Doug Rempel is our new auditor; thanked the churches for the financial support; Warman building sale is in the works; appreciated being granted the opportunity to get his feet wet on the Board and prepare him for the future.
- 14.2. *That the Auditor's Report be accepted. Todd Hardy / Ross Hardy / Carried*
- 14.3. *That the 2007 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Todd Hardy / Albert Klassen / Carried*
- 14.4. *That the Board Reports are acknowledged as received. Kevin Lyman / Larry Speiser / Carried*

15. Menno Martens promoted the Harold Janz book *Rooting the Faith*.

16. Kindred Productions ~ Mario Buscio

- 16.1. Kindred Spirits Award Program described – 10% comes back in resources either to the church, MB constituency ministry or Kindred Productions.
- 16.2. Promoted Dr. Pierre Gilbert's book *Demons, Lies & Shadows* and the book *Double Take* by Tim Gedert.

Lunch Break 12:10 – 1:10 p.m.

17. MINUTES APPROVAL

- 17.1. *That the minutes of the 61st Convention of the SK Conference of MB Churches be approved as presented. Ron Dyck/ Menno Martens/ Carried*

18. WEST BANK BIBLE CAMP ~ DIRECTOR JERRY DENNILL

- 18.1. Thanked the constituency for its support.
- 18.2. Their theme is summer was Stand Up and Stand Out! (Esther & Acts 2:42-47)
- 18.3. The delegates and guests got to know West Bank a little better via a slide show & Jerry's commentary

19. REDBERRY BIBLE CAMP ~ DIRECTOR WENDELL ANDRES

- 19.1. Water went WAY up at the lake; a reminder of God's unexpected goodness
- 19.2. Noted that he was wearing a yellow shirt instead of red to signify the Harvest
- 19.3. Story of two young boys who came to Teen Camp, one committed his life to Christ and the other recommitted his life. They were later both killed in the vehicle accident that members of Tony Martens' basketball team were involved in.
- 19.4. Jeff Siemens is the new Associate Director
- 19.5. Looking forward to partnering with West Bank, Bethany and the churches of the SK Conference.
- 19.6. Recast the challenge to make and be disciples
- 19.7. Invited all to come & fill your boots at Redberry
- 19.8. They seek to be geared to the times but anchored to the Rock.

20. MENNONITE BROTHERS BIBLICAL SEMINARY ~ DAVE TIEGROB

- 20.1. Ministry Quest is being expanded into the college level
- 20.2. Reintroduced the January intersession program
- 20.3. Change in leadership in Langley; Ron Toews new principal
- 20.4. Winnipeg will now have a full two-year Masters degree in pastoral ministry
- 20.5. Will have six on-line courses available
- 20.6. Intentionally seeking to partner with conferences and churches

21. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 21.1. *That the Executive recommends that the Harvest Saskatchewan Team be formally recognized and incorporated into the Council of Boards structure of the Saskatchewan Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.*
Ron Dyck / Wayne Harms / Carried
- 21.2. *The Executive recommends that the Nomination process be accepted as proposed and presented Ron Dyck / Ross Hardy / Carried*
 - 21.2.1. Greg: Concern that the structure proposed may not allow the Conference to be able to say no to somebody put up for nomination. Should be able to have a ballot vote on an individual's election, even if it looks like they would be elected by acclamation.
 - 21.2.2. Could be added as a Policy & Procedures item
 - 21.2.3. Howie Wall: If we are 'discerning' people to serve, then that would be the call of the Nominations Committee
 - 21.2.4. Wayne Harms: would like to see us proceed as per the plan; it's how it's been happening for a number of years
 - 21.2.5. Terry Froese: biblical perspective of leadership raising up and recommending leaders is sound and is a good change in direction
 - 21.2.6. Ron Dyck explained the reasoning behind Constitution Article 1.4.2
 - 21.2.7. Randy Klassen: Cautioned to not raise one method over the other, based on biblical reasoning
 - 21.2.8. Structure and process and procedures should not drive the process, but enable it.
- 21.3. *The Executive recommends the acceptance of the constitutional revisions reflecting the above recommendations, as well as revisions reflecting the identified housekeeping items. Ron Dyck/ Jake Froese / Carried*

22. 2008 BUDGET ~ TODD HARDY

- 22.1. *That the 2008 budget along with a per member norm of \$60 be accepted.*
Todd Hardy / Bob Beesley / Carried
- 22.2. Phil Gunther: Commended the Board on a visionary budget but also challenged the Board to engage with those churches that do not meet the norm.

23. BETHANY COLLEGE REPORT ~ RICK MCCORKINDALE

- 23.1. Introduced Instructor in Theology Gil Dueck & Director of Administration and Personnel Kelly Dvorak
- 23.2. Their Mission is to nurture disciples and train leaders to serve.
- 23.3. The world needs servants is their call
- 23.4. Thanked the Lord for strong leadership; Rick Schellenberg and Dave Pauls are at the Alberta Conference convention.
- 23.5. Doug & Sherry Heidebrecht just resigned and Doug will be the new Director of MB Studies; Sherry will see where the Lord will engage her in ministry
- 23.6. College searching for Director of Finance & Facilities; a Dean of Students; and a Director of Maintenance. Rob Neufeld is now the Director of Donor Relations
- 23.7. Kelly Dvorak: Presented a financial update; detailed Financial Statements were made available; managers are very financially diligent; budgeting process takes a

faith-based approach; noted that a new method of calculating support is to subsidize the \$3,800 it costs above tuition

- 23.8.** *That the Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2007 be accepted as presented. Kelly Dvorak / Howie Wall / Carried*
- 23.9.** *That Heagy Altrogge Matchett & Partners LLP be approved as Bethany's auditors for the upcoming fiscal year. Kelly Dvorak / Al Braun / Carried*
- 23.10.** Gil Dueck: explained why he enjoys and considers it to be a privilege teaching at Bethany; received a list of questions that a quiet student asked and shared them; encouraged by the questions and how they showed their engagement and heart
- 23.11.** Rick: internship is a vital part of the four year program and they appreciate the churches partnership; Bethany is a great place to work because they can speak into the lives of growing young Christians; thanked for the privilege to serve
- 23.12.** Gord McCaslin: thanked Bethany for making the effort and taking the time to invest in young disciples
- 23.13.** *That the Bethany College Report be accepted as presented. Howie Wall/ Dan Siebert / Carried*

24. ELECTIONS REPORT ~ LUCILLE WALL

24.1. Assistant Moderator Election ~ Wayne Harms

24.1.1. Supported Todd Hardy's nomination by a show of hands

24.2. Election of other Council of Boards positions

24.2.1. Introduced nominees

24.2.2. *Lucille Wall/ Rod Dick ~ That the following slate of nominations be accepted.*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Board</u>	<u>Term Expiry</u>
Todd Hardy	Assistant Moderator	2010
Ross Hardy	Board of Management	2010
Mike Zwarich	Board of Management	2010
Bob Beesley	Board of Management	2010
Greg Bright	Board of Faith & Life	2010
Brian Wiens	Board of Faith & Life	2010
Terry Froese	Board of Faith & Life	2010
Tony Martens	Board of Faith & Life	2009
Ben Kramer	Board of Faith & Life	2009
Dwayne Barkman	Harvest Saskatchewan Team	
Jeff Peters	Harvest Saskatchewan Team	
Darren Holland	Harvest Saskatchewan Team	
Marion Oatway	Harvest Saskatchewan Team	
Steve White	Harvest Saskatchewan Team	
Dave Berg	Harvest Saskatchewan Team	
Adam Lewis	Harvest Saskatchewan Team	
Gerald Willms	Mennonite Trust	2010
Marjorie Klassen	Bethany College	2011
Lorraine Mau	Bethany College	2011
Don Wiens	Bethany College	2011

Carried

25. MENNONITE BRETHREN MISSIONS SERVICE INTERNATIONAL ~ LLOYD LETKEMAN

- 25.1.** Thanks extended for supporting all the missionaries coming out of Saskatchewan
- 25.2.** What is your Global Position for Service or... your God Provided ... Go, Pray, Support
- 25.3.** PowerPoint presentation viewed.
- 25.4.** Outlined the challenge to plant churches in Mongolia, a nomadic herding culture
- 25.5.** Promoted their Mission Opportunities book

25.6. Erica Rae: Currently in BC training with MBMSI; encouraged to see people of God getting in action; God started tapping her on the heart as a freshman in Bethany; didn't accept her disclaimer letter; when she was going through her 12 year old journal she discovered an entry where she and asked God to make her a missionary; related how farmers sow, look for signs of growth and then HARVEST with the whole family; the Harvest is her and it's in Guadalajara!

26. CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF MB CHURCHES ~ DAVE WIEBE

- 26.1.** Pointed out Ross Hardy with Stewardship Ministries, Mario Buscio with Kindred Productions, Andrew Siebert with the MB Herald and Ewald Unruh with Evangelism Canada.
- 26.2.** Regenerate 2101... living in the 21st century but trying to recapture the 1st century; Church Health, Leadership Development, Reaching Out
- 26.3.** The Canadian and Saskatchewan Conferences are really dovetailing with each other
- 26.4.** They want to have all 250 churches through Refocusing in the next five years; will be rolling it out at Gathering 2008
- 26.5.** Through Love Toronto, church in a very densely populated area had to take their info off the Conference web site because of persecution that started
- 26.6.** Invited extended to Gathering 2008; asking each church to give a 3 minute clip on a story of encouragement
- 26.7.** Promotional clip viewed

27. MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE – SASKATCHEWAN ~ BRUNO BAERG

- 27.1.** We talk of bringing in the Harvest, but do WE think of ourselves as the fruit of the harvest?
- 27.2.** Invited to check out the report in the delegate handbook
- 27.3.** Scott Siemens & Cliff Janzen recognized; Scott's term is coming to an end, so they need somebody to step in
- 27.4.** The huge operation that MCC has blossomed into is a testament to the support that the constituency has given over the years.
- 27.5.** How do we grow? People in developing countries tell us to just open ourselves
- 27.6.** Luke 12: do not be afraid...
- 27.7.** Victims of Crime seminar coming up in April at Forest Grove Community Church
- 27.8.** How do we engage in effective ministry among First Nations people?
- 27.9.** Uganda story: a group of women working towards reconciliation, Mary was taken to hospital to heal from being attacked and while she was there, her family was killed, she went crazy; led by God, Katherine asked Mary to share her story and felt led to ask Mary to be her mother (since she didn't have a mother); they later accepted each other and had a huge impact in the community.
- 27.10.** Let's go to where Jesus is!
- 27.11.** God called Bruno to Saskatchewan and he found God there (end of Matthew)
- 27.12.** Ken Landis Funk is going to Pennsylvania & Bruno is off to South Africa
- 27.13.** Scott Siemens recognized Bruno for his gifting, heart for ministry, and effective leadership. Cliff Janzen then prayed for Bruno.

28. WRAP-UP ~ RON DYCK

- 28.1.** Reminded the Boards to meet immediately at the close of the Convention to gather contact information and organize for the coming year.
- 28.2.** Lunch is being prepared.
- 28.3.** Leave nametags at the back.
- 28.4.** Thanked West Portal for: hosting the Convention; leading worship; and providing the audio/visual technicians.
- 28.5.** Thanked the Boards for all their work over the year
- 28.6.** Thanked the churches for their input and support
- 28.7.** We have been given fresh momentum, let us carry it, share it

- 28.8.** Thank you for your prayers.
- 28.9.** Thanked his wife Marilyn for her support.
- 28.10.** Ralph closed with a benediction.

Adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Attendance:

~ 140 total

~ 115 delegates & 25 guests