



# Global REPORT

Winter 2008

## MBMS International

### From the Central Canada Regional Office

*"You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world...be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:14, 16 the Message

What's your gps? How has God positioned you to display His light in the world? These are a few questions we ask church teams to ask one another as they serve. Considering where God has positioned us encourages openness to others, whenever and wherever we encounter those who are in need of the life-transforming love of Jesus Christ. This season has been a bright one in the kingdom of God. Church planters are reporting growth in numbers of new disciples and also depth of maturity within their congregations. Church teams have seen first hand the transforming work of holistic church planting among the least reached. Short term participants have grown in faith and commitment to serve the international church, and dedicating their lives and vocation to join God in mission. We hope this report encourages you in your faith and continues to spur you on to join us by going, praying and giving to God's life-transforming mission.



*The Winnipeg office of MBMS International resources the churches of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Lloyd and Carol Letkeman, regional mobilizers and short-term ministry coordinators are joined in the office by Fern Janzen and Eileen Klassen.*

### TREK around the world



Several college age individuals from the prairies are experiencing a year of mission on the TREK program. Nikki Penner (Elm Creek), Laura Achtymichuk (Regina), Chris Schindel (Saskatoon), and Diana Price (Okotoks) are on assignment in Thailand, Germany, Mexico or Panama. Simone Hildebrand and Amber Lee Hamm from Winnipeg have joined the Winter TREK program which started in January.

### Summer ACTION

Central Canada hosted its first summer ACTION training camp in July. Twenty-one individuals from across Canada formed three teams of servants ready to put their faith into action around the globe. The Mennonite Brethren conferences of Japan, D.R. Congo and Guadalajara, Mexico were encouraged by the summer visit as the teams served whole-heartedly in their summer ministry schedules. This summer we hope to have teams return to the same locations and also see additional teams formed to serve in Asia. For more information please visit [www.mbmsi.org/action](http://www.mbmsi.org/action).

### ORIENTATION to Mission with Bethany

Lloyd & Carol Letkeman joined the Bethany Mission committee in providing a two day orientation retreat for the Bethany mission teams that were preparing to serve in Kelowna, Calgary, Saskatoon, Northern Saskatchewan and India. Topics such as 'leading a short term ministry team,' 'debriefing your team,' 'five functions of a team,' 'Listening to the voice of God' and 'suspending judgment' were presented to the teams along with opportunity for discussion, debate and for action plans to be developed.

## Saskatchewan's Global Impact

God continues to call workers from our Mennonite Brethren Churches to serve with MBMS International. **Erica Ray<sup>(a)</sup>** from Crane Valley, Saskatchewan is in training to serve with the Matthew Training Centre in Guadalajara, Mexico. **Sean Amstutz** from Calgary, Alberta is teaching English in Toyota, Japan. In addition, **Martin & Esther Jones** from Calgary are preparing to serve in Osaka, Japan in fall 2008. **Jason & Traci Johnston with children Riley (6) and Krina (4)** from Darlingford, Manitoba are teaching the children of our missionaries in South Thailand for 6 months. **Reg and Jen Toews** from Gretna, Manitoba will be serving in a similar position in Thailand from September to May. **Luke Heidebrecht** from Hepburn, Saskatchewan has joined the New Delhi team for a 6 month internship. Luke is exploring the viability of bee-keeping as a sustainable capacity building project among new church plants.

We also welcomed home several missionaries from our region. **Doris Goertz** has returned from a term of ESL teaching with the Neyagawa MB church in Osaka, Japan. She is anticipating returning to Japan with MBMSI this fall. **Karis Peters** has completed her term of ESL teaching in Japan and upon her return has joined the staff of Urban Youth Adventures in Winnipeg as Program Manager. **Kevin and Lena Hamm** and their children, who have been serving in camping ministry in St. Petersburg, Russia, returned to Manitoba last summer. They have found employment in Portage. **Dave & Alexandra Rempel** resigned their position with MBMSI but returned to Germany mid-June with other employment. **David Reimer** has returned after a two-year term of being an ESL teacher in Japan. **Jessica Richards** returned from Thailand in the fall. Trans-cultural re-entry is a difficult transition for our international missionaries. Please pray for Doris, Karis, David, the Hamm and Rempel families, and Jessica as they will be faced with many adjustments.

As well, **Richard & Hazel Funk<sup>(b)</sup>**, missionaries to Austria, have been in Canada on MINA (ministry in North America) this winter. Continuing to serve overseas are: **Barbara Block** at the Kodaikanal International School in India; **Trever & Joan Godard<sup>(c)</sup>**, leading the Matthew Team in Guadalajara, Mexico; **Jim & Marilou Nightingale<sup>(d)</sup>** in Sao Paulo, Brazil; **Liana Penner** in Trujillo, Peru; **Ron & Betty Russell**, providing member care to missionaries in their ministry locations; **Russ & Marj Speiser** partner with Proclaim International in France; and **Blaine & Michelle Warner<sup>(e)</sup>**, studying French in France for future ministry in Burkina Faso.

## Celebration Mission Night

This winter's Celebration Mission Night focused on the persecuted church in East Asia. Through video footage and current stories, Randy Friesen invited us to consider counting the costs of mission. We held one CMN in Saskatchewan on Saturday, Sept. 29th, 2007 at Forest Grove Community Church in Saskatoon.

## MBMS International Luncheon

Last November, we hosted an **MBMS International luncheon** at the West Portal Church in Saskatoon for pastors and mission committees. It was an encouraging time of spurring each other on in mission from our various perspectives and experiences. Our discussion centered around three questions: How would you like to see your church call out potential missionaries? What relationship between your church and MBMSI would best serve your congregation's mission strategy? What questions would you like to ask other congregations or mission committees? A few action plans were generated from our discussion. For example, we want to extend an invitation to pastoral staff to join participants from their congregation for MBMSI orientation retreats. We believe a stronger missional culture can be developed among all of our congregations as we share missional training principles and provide a context to address the concerns of the sending church.

