

# Harvest Saskatchewan Team

Report to the Saskatchewan Convention  
March 13 - 14, 2009

The Harvest Saskatchewan Team members and guests have been: Darren Holland, Jeff Peters, Marion Oatway, Steve White, Adam Lewis, Dwayne Barkman and Wayne Harms. Also contributing were Ralph Gliege, Ross Hardy (Management Team), and Ewald Unruh (Key City initiatives - Canadian Conference representative)

When Jesus called two of his first disciples he invited them with these words - "*Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people.*" Matthew 4:19. Built into this invitation is the DNA of the Missional Church. First we become disciples and then we learn how to lead others into the process of discipleship. As disciples grow and multiply, the church grows and spreads, leaders are raised up to inspire and empower a healthy church and a guide us into a missional direction.

Harvest Saskatchewan Team has engaged a number of adjustments this last year: Dwayne Barkman, who has been HST chairperson in the past, started as half time Director of Harvest Saskatchewan in November and also works half time for the REFOCUSING initiative of the Canadian Conference here in Saskatchewan. A new Harvest Saskatchewan chairperson will need to be found. This year has also been the transition year where we have been moving from hearing the direction to which we feel God is calling us, to engaging the plans and processes. Our approach is to work through the churches with a "YOU CAN DO IT WE CAN HELP" approach where progress is measured in a more incremental nature. Our overall intention is to try to help build SAFE relational contexts with churches out of which inspiration, empowering and support can emerge. Although we feel this will take time, it will result in stronger, healthier, longer term missional growth.

This past year the Harvest Saskatchewan Team (HST) has carried out a number of programs and ministries in the Conference that have been in place for several years. We believe they have been steadily helping to raise a harvest of missional churches in Saskatchewan.

## A. Existing ministries

### 1. Project Reach Your World

- Eight churches were approved with a total of \$5825.00

### 2. Internship grant program

- Matt Redstone interned at Philadelphia church
- Several other churches had interns as well without financial support from the conference

### 3. Bursaries

- We gave out one college bursary of \$500.00 to a Bethany Student
- One seminary student received a bursary valued at \$600.00 for three courses

### 4. Missional church extensions:

#### a) The dynamic of the Wynyard church continues to unfold.

- A triad of the three churches (Lanigan, Foam Lake and Watrous are partnering to see this church find renewal.
- Pastor Steve Wiebe has been installed as pastor

#### b) Pierceland church is in the process of closing and is exploring the feasibility of reopening as a church plant later this year.

- Meadow Lake Church is partnering with service support and encouragement
- Rob & Tricia Kroeker (Waldheim) are working as bi-vocation leaders in this exploratory phase.
- When a healthy task force emerges next steps will be possible

#### c) Several other churches are setting special time aside to listen to God and are taking steps to explore innovative ways and partnerships in trying to extend the kingdom in their communities.

B. The framework of the Harvest Saskatchewan ministry plan is to help Saskatchewan MB Churches: make missional disciples, raise missional leaders and shape and create missional churches and initiatives. The plan is to develop volunteer teams where members come together from Saskatchewan churches and agencies to help guide the plan around each of these three areas and inspire, empower & support churches in moving forward in them. The following is a bird's eye view of some proposed next steps as Teams emerge:

**Make missional discipleship:**

- a) PODS to understand how we need to adjust to be effective in evangelism today
- b) Encourage our churches to hear and act on how God is calling us to reach our world (Project Reach Your World)
- c) Regional prayer trips where listening prayer and outreach prayer training are central

**Raise missional leaders:**

- a) Continued internship placement in partnerships with colleges
- b) Continued bursary awards: One for a Bethany College student and others for seminary students (full time or in modules)
- c) Discern the direction to take with apprenticeships as they relate to church planters
- d) Discern relative leadership themes to engage LEADERSHIP PODS in regions

**Shape & create missional churches and initiatives:**

- a) Take key church leaders to the Exponential Church Planting Conference & Congress on Evangelism
- b) Encourage and lead several churches through the REFOCUSING process
- c) Begin to consider with regional churches what a church planting center might look like
- d) Begin to consider with regional churches what an apprenticeship program within such centers might look like.

Where you have an interest in finding out more about any of these next steps, serving on one of the teams, or involving a team from your church in any area, please be in contact for further dialogue.

- C. Although we are clearly stepping forward in the direction we feel God is calling us to move together as a Conference, I encourage that we:
1. Continue to believe that God is able and will work through our local churches to build his Kingdom
  2. Keep a humble request before him asking him to guide and show us the step by step processes
  3. Pray for discernment for teams and leaders in each area of ministry
  4. Trust God to supply resources for this journey together
  5. That by suspending judgment, displaying vulnerability, and by being authentic, provide a safe place for us to work together as individuals and churches in this incredible journey that God has called us to.
  6. Recognize the value of our relationship with the Canadian Conference and our network with other Provincial Conferences.

We thank every church for praying for us, and every leader who has and will speak into the process of this journey. As we move forward in this next year as Harvest Saskatchewan Team, we ask for your continued prayers, insights and ideas. We know God is leading us and we invite you to partner as we dare to dream what a harvest of missional churches across Saskatchewan could mean for the future of our churches and communities. We also thank the Canadian Conference for believing in us and partnering with us in this venture.

For the Harvest Saskatchewan Team  
Dwayne Barkman