



Global REPORT

Winter 2009

MBMS International

From the Central Canada Regional Office

Jesus invites us to light up every dark corner of the earth with his light. He longs to see individuals and entire church families shine with this purpose and passion. Proverbs 4:18 says *"The ways of right-living people glow with light; the longer they live, the brighter they shine..."*

We are grateful for many of the new workers from your churches that are preparing for long-term mission and short-term international mission cycles with MBMSI. The Central Canada office of MBMS International operates to serve you as you fulfill God's call to make disciples locally and globally. We hope this report encourages you in your faith and continues to spur you on to *be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world...I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there...on a light stand—shine! Matthew 5:15-16*



The Winnipeg office of MBMS International resources the churches of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Regional mobilizers Lloyd & Carol Letkeman are joined in the office by Fern Janzen and Eileen Klassen.

TREK around the world

TREK is a six or ten month intense journey of cross-cultural mission. Paired with international church planters, TREK teams learn by example what it means to be servant missionaries. College age individuals from the prairies who are experiencing a year of mission on the TREK program are Rachel Adams –Saskatoon, SK, Rafael Duerksen – Winnipeg, MB and

Jaclyn Stein –Saskatoon, SK. Rachel Wiebe –Winnipeg, MB, Daniel Bergman – Winnipeg, MB, Steve & Joanne Harder – Winnipeg, MB, and Joel & Petra Martin – Lacombe, AB have joined the Winter TREK program which started in January.

ACTION



Central Canada hosted its second **summer ACTION** program in July and August 2008. Orientation took place in the town of Altona with 14 participants from M a n i t o b a ,

Saskatchewan, B.C. and the USA making up 3 teams that travelled to Japan, D.R. Congo and Lithuania where they had the opportunity to SHINE in another part of the globe. They worked alongside our missionaries and responded to God's call on their lives every day to proclaim the love, forgiveness and mercy of Jesus Christ to the least reached in our world.

New for this year was the addition of **ACTION: Generations**, a 4-week short term mission program created to provide service opportunities for the older generation and young families. This past January – February 2009, a team from Manitoba and the USA served alongside Jim & Marilou Nightingale in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Renovation projects at the newly purchased Barnabas Retreat Centre, encouraging and praying with pastors in the MB churches, and showing God's love to children in some of the poorest areas of Sao Paulo were just some of the opportunities that the team had to SHINE for Jesus in another culture. For more information please visit www.mbmsi.org/action

SOAR Heartland

SOAR Heartland is a 10-day discipleship training and mission program. Fifteen teams from across the prairies joined together at Fort Garry MB Church in Winnipeg last March to train, serve, eat, dorm and debrief together. Each team was paired up with a church or ministry within the city and served

alongside them during the Assignment phase.



The theme was **U R I M**: "You are the light of the world"; "I am who I am". In Matthew 5-7 Jesus shared profound yet simple truths to his disciples on a mountain

side. These scriptures have come to be known as the greatest sermon in recorded history. The message was simple... **U R** blessed when you come as **U R**, for **I M** the one who shines within you and **I M** the one who is your source of saltiness for a dark and dying world. For more information of how to participate, pray for and/or support this mission opportunity, visit www.mbmsi.org/soar/heartland

Saskatchewan's Global Impact

God continues to call workers from our Mennonite Brethren Churches to serve with MBMS International. **Reg & Jen Toews, together with their children Caleb, Zachary and Jonah**, are global servants teaching the children of our missionaries in southern Thailand.

Workers at missionary training in B.C. are **Trevor & Rebekah Friesen, Isaiah** (2) from Rosenort, Manitoba; **Matt & Ruth Braun**^(a), **Abby** (4), **Caleb** (1) from Saskatoon, SK; **Dave & Mel Berg**^(b), **Mikayla** (4), **Brooklyn** (2), **Josh** (1) from Saskatoon, SK; and **Luke Heidebrecht**^(c) from Hepburn, SK. **Doris Goertz** from Winnipeg, MB is training to return to Japan and **Erica Ray** from Crane Valley, SK is training for service with MBMSI.

This year, we are welcoming home **Robert & Erika Sukkau**, who are completing service with MBMS International in Trujillo, Peru and are currently in MINA (Ministry In North America) until April 2009. Let's celebrate their faithful service and the work of church planting in Peru.

Sandra Plett (Steinbach) and **Jen Schmidt** (Elm Creek), workers in Guadalajara, Mexico have completed their first three-year term and will be returning as career missionaries with the Matthew Team, working together with **Trever & Joan Godard** (Saskatoon SK). **Otto & Lidia Funk and son, Kevin** (Winnipeg, MB) continue to support the ministry of **Jose & Esperanza Prada** in Lima, Peru. **Blaine & Michelle Warner** (Saskatoon, SK) work with the language translation project for the Nanerige people in Burkina Faso. Since 2001, **Barbara Block's**^(d) (Saskatoon, SK) ministry involves teaching art at Kodaikanal International School, a Christian

multicultural school in South India which is linked to Bethania Association, a home for needy children. The **Nightingales (Jim & Marilou)** from Hepburn, SK are involved in a camping ministry in Sao Paulo, Brazil. **Dave & Louise Sinclair-Peters, with their children Kyla, Micah, Grace and Sierra**, are part of Team 2000, committed to evangelism and church planting in Thailand. The focus of **Richard & Hazel Funk's** ministry, (Saskatoon, SK) is Lay Leadership development, primarily in Salzburg and secondarily with the six other Mennonite Churches in Austria. **Liana Penner**^(e) (Saskatoon, SK) teaches at Colegio Cristiano "Elliot" and also serves in a developing MB church plant in Trujillo, Peru.

Celebrate Mission Night

Where has your life been shining lately? What happens when God shines his story through humble people in some of the remotest parts of the earth? This year's CMNs focused on Mongolia. Through video footage and current stories, Ray Harms-Wiebe invited us to consider counting the costs of mission. We held one CMN in Saskatchewan this year on November 16, 2008 in Saskatoon.

MBMS International Alumni Party

In November, we invited **mission committees, pastors and long term mission alumni to a dessert evening** in Saskatoon. Over coffee and dessert, we heard many stories of sacrifice and community renewal. We also hosted a **pizza supper** where we invited short term mission alumni and college and career groups to join in an interactive discussion about the future of mission and service globally.

