

IMAGINE

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

– Ephesians 3:20-21

Manitoba Baptist Association

**Annual General Meeting
October 17-19, 2008**

**Oakbank Baptist Church
Oakbank, Manitoba**

Table of Contents

Call to Order and Seating of Delegates	3
Appointment of Special Committees	3
Summary of Minutes of 2007 AGM	4
Northern Plains Regional Minister	6
Moderator's Report	8
Treasurer's Report	9
<i>Year to Date 2008</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Statement of Income & Expenses – Year Ended 12/31/07</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Funds Retained for Continuation of Activities</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Balance Sheet on December 31, 2008</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Notes to Financial Statements</i>	<i>12</i>
Contributions to the Association by Church	14
2009 Proposed Budget	15
<i>Proposed Budget Notes</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Projected Church Contributions</i>	<i>16</i>
Nominating Committee	16
Recording Secretary's Report	17
<i>Church Membership Statistics 2007</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Local Church 2007 Financial Statistics</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Membership & Attendance 1991–2007</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Total Church Giving 1991–2007</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Giving to the MBA 1992–2007</i>	<i>19</i>
Men's Ministry	19
Women's Ministries	20
Manitoba Baptist Youth Ministries (MBYM)	21
Church Planting Ministries	23
Wellman Lake Bible Camp	24
Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp	25
Meadowood Manor Chaplaincy	26
Meadowood Manor Foundation Inc.	27
General Council Representative	28
Executive Director Report	30
North American Baptist Conference	32
Taylor University College & Seminary	33
Sioux Falls Seminary	38

Call to Order and Seating of Delegates

Church	Eligible Delegates	Eligible Pastors	Present
Elim, Beausejour	3	1	
First, Minitonas	8	1	
Moosehorn, Moosehorn	3	1	
Emmanuel, Morris	7	1	
Oakbank, Oakbank	6	2	
Grace, Ochre River	6	2	
Whiteshell, Seven Sisters	5	1	
Temple, Swan River	7	2	
Whitemouth, Whitemouth	3	1	
Abundant Life	5	1	
Central	3	2	
Fort Richmond	5	2	
McDermot Avenue	8	2	
Mission	6	1	
New Life Ministries	3	1	
Rowandale	8	2	
Whyte Ridge	8	3	
Meadowood Manor	1	1	
Meadowood Foundation	1	0	
Camp Nutimik	1	0	
Wellman Lake Camp	1	0	
Regional Minister	0	1	
Guests	0	0	
Executive	8	0	
TOTAL	106	27	

Appointment of Special Committees

Balloting Committee	Scrutineer's Committee	Resolution of Thanks

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

— Helen Keller

Summary of Minutes of 2007 AGM

October 13, 2007 at Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg — Mark Woods called the meeting to order with prayer.

Seating of Delegates – 94 delegates

Special Committees – Balloting Committee: Mark de Kluyver, Doug Friesen, Rick Pedde. Scrutineers: Howard Bredin, Norm Piel. Resolution of thanks: Tamara Friesen, Sonja Kilmartin.

◆ *MSC to appoint the committees.*

Minutes – Summary of minutes of 2006 AGM

◆ *MSC to accept last year's minutes as presented.*

Financial Report – Garry Harland highlighted the financial report for the MBA.

Expenses exceeded income in 2006 by over \$71,000 due to a shortfall in income. This included the transfer for property to New Life Ministries worth approximately \$40,000 as well as \$10,000 grants to both Moosehorn Baptist and Wellman Lake Bible Camp. Support to New Life Ministries and Whiteshell Baptist Church will cease the end of 2007.

◆ *MSC to accept the report as presented.*

Garry also reviewed the proposed MBA budget for 2008.

Compared to 2007 budget, 2008 budget spending is slightly less.

A new category under Church Growth titled “General Assistance” established to help meet needs of churches that arise from time to time during the course of the year.

Because of the difference in US and CDN dollars, funds needed for the Regional Minister are less than in 2007, even with a cost of living increase of 3% on the total package and an additional merit increase of 5% on the salary portion of the package.

Question: Abundant Life Baptist church delegate stated they would not be able to meet the 2.75% of total giving. What should they do about that?

Answer: Some churches are able to give above the 2.75% and some cannot meet that amount. This is what it means to be part of a body of churches – standing with each other.

Question: What about purchasing US dollars while the CDN dollar is higher?

Answer: Have not done, but could. The only US dollar expenses are for the Regional Minister.

◆ *MSC to approve the budget as presented.*

Camp Nutimik Report – A report was submitted separate from the Annual Report booklet distributed in advance of the AGM.

Dave Robinson, Camp Board President thanked the delegates for their encouragement and support, especially during these past few years of struggles. The Camp is undergoing evaluation both internally and externally. The MBA Executive has recruited an evaluation panel to report back to the Camp Society meeting in February 2008.

Highlighted various aspects of the summer program. 31 staff put together the summer program.

Financial concern: Camp Nutimik is in need of funds due in part to lower attendance at camp. This is a phenomena being experienced by all camps in Manitoba. The other reason for the concern is a decrease in donations. There is a concern for 2008. Right now there are funds to ensure the camp can operate through the end of 2007. Special fund raising is being undertaken to address the need.

Sunday, October 21 has been designated a Day of Prayer for the camp in our MBA Churches.

Several questions were asked regarding funding, and staffing for the future.

- Mark Woods commented on a letter received from Mission Baptist Church regarding negative comments about their pastor, Sig Sidel, while employed on staff at Camp Nutimik. Delegates were asked to exercise good Christian communication and put a stop to the negative comments.

Constitution and Beliefs & Practices Manual Discussion – Mark Woods walked the delegates through the changes being proposed to the MBA Constitution. In addition, Mark highlighted for the delegates the items to be added to the Beliefs and Practices Manual.

Amendments:

1. Constitution: Article 8(10), add to the phrase Member Church in all of its occurrences in point 10 the following phrase: “or Affiliated Organization.”

◆ *MSC to accept the amendment to the Constitution (Proposed 1.3).*

2. Constitution: Article 7, Resolutions, 3rd bullet, add to the phrase Member Church “or Affiliated Organization.”

◆ *MSC to accept the amendment to the Constitution (Proposed 1.3).*

3. Constitution: Article 5: Men’s Ministries, Women’s Ministries, and Manitoba Baptist Youth Ministries: Add the word Ministry in all its occurrences in each section the word “Leadership.”

◆ *MSC to accept the amendment to the Constitution (Proposed 1.3).*

Constitution Vote

◆ *MSC to accept the amendment to the Constitution (Proposed 1.3) as submitted, together with amendments made during discussion.*

Beliefs & Practices Manual Vote

◆ *MSC to accept the amendment to the Beliefs & Practices Manual (Proposed 1.3) as submitted.*

Reports – Several individuals elaborated on their written reports.

- Moderator – Mark Woods
- Meadowood Chaplaincy – David Holland
- Nominating Committee – Barry Thiessen
- Wellman Lake Bible Camp – Allan Unger
- Statistical Secretary – Dave Henkelman
- Regional Minister – Phyl Putz
- General Council – Harry Pohl
- Church Extension Investors Fund – Les Collins
- Sioux Falls Seminary – Randy Tschetter

- Women's Ministries – Daphne Keck
- New Life Ministries – Larry Gregan
- ◆ *MSC to accept the 2006 reports of all organizations and ministries.*

Elections

- Moderator – Mark Woods – 2007/8
- Vice Moderator – Barry Thiessen – 2008/9
- Treasurer – Garry Harland – 2007/8
- Recording Secretary – Dave Henkelman – 2008/9
- Church Planting Chair – Jeff Kilmartin – 2008/9
- General Council Rep – Harry Pohl – 2008/9
- General Council Rep – Mark Woods – 2006/7/8
- Men's Ministries – Herb Adam – 2008/9
- MBYA Representative – Mike Jakiwchuk – Appointed by MBYA
- Women's Coordinator – Daphne Keck – Elected by Women's Ministry
- ◆ *MSC to affirm the nominees as listed.*

Association Offerings

- Friday Evening: Harry Lehotsky Legacy Appeal – \$742.00.
- Men's Luncheon: Taylor University College Endowment Fund – \$980.00.
- Ladies' Luncheon: Women's Ministries budget – \$1,294.00.

Other Business – Mark Woods reminded the delegates that the next NAB Triennial Conference would be held in Winnipeg, July 10-14, 2009. Committee areas and the need for volunteers were highlighted. Oz Pedde from Rowandale Baptist Church is overseeing the advance planning for the Conference.

Resolution of thanks – Sonja Kilmartin & Tamara Friesen presented their motion of thanks.

MSC to accept the resolution of thanks.

Scrutineers Committee – Norm Piel & Howard Bredin affirmed the minutes accurately reflect the proceedings at this Annual General Session of the Association.

- ◆ *MSC to accept the Scrutineers report.*

Next meeting – We have an invitation from Oakbank Baptist Church for the 2008 Association meetings (October 17-19, 2008).

Closing Prayer

- Submitted by Dave Henkelman – MBA Recording Secretary

Northern Plains Regional Minister

This has been an eventful year for this ministry. I am grateful for your generous financial and prayer support, as well as for the encouragement and guidance of our Regional Leadership Team: Dave Henkelman (Morris), Barry Thiessen (Ft. Richmond), Mark Woods (Rowandale), James Schnabel (Venturia) and David Lake (Harvey). The Lord has been gracious to us, granting health,

traveling safety and allowing us to only greet and not injure our friendly nocturnal deer during frequent nighttime trips.

The year has been marked by good advances in several areas. When the year began, Whyte Ridge, Morris, Grand Forks, Bismarck Baptist, Dickinson and Plevna were without pastors. I am happy to report that all but Whyte Ridge have been supplied, with Whyte Ridge under the great leadership of interim pastor, Alf Bell. New pastors and wives are:

Ray & Diane Russell – Grand Forks
Dave & Heidi Henkelman – Morris
David & Angela Gallagher – Martin
Merle & Diane Hoots – Bismarck Baptist
Ron & Maryann Gold – Dickinson
Ernie & Connie Lambright - Plevna

In spite of great success, the saga of pastoral placement continues with the resignations of Bernd (Debbie) Rist in Moosehorn and Stephen (Becky) Wright in Isabel and the retirement of Allan (Leona) Gerber in Valley City. The impending retirement of Dr. Richard Mayforth from McIntosh and at least one other pastor seeking another ministry will keep me engaged with search committees in this coming year. Please pray for these churches, that God will guide so that pastors and churches can have long and productive relationships.

While placement is demanding, church enrichment has rightfully become my major focus. Seven churches are at some stage of the enrichment process, all having conducted the Natural Church Development survey and having entered the process to address areas of need. Just this past week, two church leaders independently said to me, “The Natural Church Development process is the best thing we’ve ever done.” Normally, a Church Health Team (CHT) is formed. I work extensively with the CHT leader in a coaching relationship, also staying in close touch with the pastor. Churches that follow the process in an orderly way consistently improve their ability to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. Working with CHT leaders has been a special encouragement to me.

Our two church/ministry planting task forces, namely Mission Manitoba and the North Central Association Church Planting Task Force, have continued to meet as a joint group as well as separately to study, pray, strategize and offer assistance to local churches. Jerry Marek (Swan River), Sig Seidel (Winnipeg), Jeff Kilmartin (Beausejour), Bernie Satrom (Jamestown) & Chris Hoke (Jamestown) have been contacting pastors and churches in our associations, speaking to boards and congregations and leading prayer walks/drives. Jeff’s sabbatical to Nigeria places a heavier load on the two remaining MBA task force members.

Swan River has established a team to address outreach in their community with reports of good progress. Bernie & Chris have given presentations on Sunday mornings at Venturia, New Leipzig and Jamestown. Material has been distributed to a larger group of pastors. Bruce Merrifield (former NAB Church Planting Director) and I conducted five separate meetings in Fargo, Bismarck, Dickinson, Swan River and Winnipeg, with over 180 people bringing information and energy to this effort. Prayer walks and prayer drives continue to be scheduled so that pastors and leaders may seek God’s direction and break down spiritual barriers in needy communities. If you have a desire to develop a new ministry to reach another sector of your community or to plant a church, please contact your task force members or me.

The Northern Plains Leadership Movement continues to grow in influence and impact. A pastors' online Emerging Leaders class, led by Matt Putz and Randy Jaspers, included three NCA pastors and one MBA pastor. Two more churches are planning to engage the process in their churches this fall. For more information about all of these things, access <http://npregion.org> or call my office, so that I can direct you to additional people and/or information.

Our pastors' clusters continue to operate much as they did last year. Some are functioning very well, while others meet less frequently, and two are not active. Cluster purposes include encouragement, resourcing and support for both pastor and church. Ideally, pastors will confer and then engage their churches in unified efforts that can be done better together.

My normal schedule includes meetings with each of the association executives, church planting task forces, Northern Plains Leadership Movement Advisory Team and approximately a dozen coaching calls. Most of these meetings are online, saving literally thousands of travel dollars for all who are involved.

The challenges and opportunities of our more rural ministries continue to be a major focus. I am in the middle of a Rural Ministry Revitalization study which should conclude with significant recommendations by the end of this year. As communities decline, ministry needs change, while the abilities of our stand-alone churches often decrease. Through interaction with our clusters, a survey of church leaders, interviews of rural ministry experts and personal study, I plan to have a set of proposals that can help churches make necessary transitions. Comfort is not the goal. The fulfillment of the Great Commission is the focus of this study. In most cases, as communities decline spiritual needs increase. We must pray that God will give both direction and workers for this important regional challenge.

It is typical to focus on our local church ministry, to make it as strong as possible. Yet, without a vision for multiplication, the local church will never thrive according to New Testament standards. The multiplication of Christ-followers, ministries and churches is essential to the health and future of our region. It is my prayer and intent to continue to help churches find ways to push back the darkness as far as is possible by the grace of God.

It is a deep privilege to serve as your Regional Minister. Please continue to pray that I will exercise godly wisdom as I work with pastors, leaders and congregations. Jo is a wonderful, supportive partner. Recently she said, "Phyl, I think you have a new life verse. It is 2 Cor. 11:28 - Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. I love you and desire that you stay in the center of God's will." Jo and I do pray for you often, trusting God will enable us to make a powerful mark for the cause of Christ.

• Submitted by Phyl Putz

Moderator's Report

As Moderator this past year, aside from conducting normal Association business, my attention was directed towards Camp Nutimik and Triennial preparations. In cooperation with the Camp, the Executive set up a Camp Evaluation Panel which assessed the overall operations and management structure of the Camp and produced a set of recommendations which were adopted at the Camp Society Meeting in February. Work is waiting to be done on the basis of these recommendations.

Our efforts for the Triennial have been to find people to sit on the various Local Arrangements Committees that work in concert with the NAB Conference planning team. These people will be implementing the plans to make the Triennial a reality next year. We still need volunteers to fill various spots on these committees.

Once again this year, our effort to supply speakers each Sunday at Camp Nutimik was well received. This is something that the Association Executive initiated, at Association expense; in the summer of 2007 and we hope will continue every year from now on. The purpose of this is to provide a regular church service at Camp Nutimik for anyone to attend, whether they are at the Camp or from the surrounding cottage community. We hope in this way to extend God's kingdom in the Whiteshell and possibly, sometime in the future, to have a church planted in the area.

Church planting remains the great, undone task of the Association. Past negative experiences tend to diminish enthusiasm for future projects. We need to overcome this. Also, the plateaued and declining status of many of our churches tends to focus our attention inward, not outward. Hopefully we can lay aside our trepidation in this area and move forward with planting projects in the days ahead. One thing we must recognize in this area is that the face of church planting has changed in the recent past. Church plants will take new, sometimes unrecognizable forms in the future and we must not be put off by that.

By God's grace I look forward to our churches growing individually, and our Association becoming a force for the expansion of God's kingdom here in Manitoba.

- Submitted by Mark Woods

Treasurer's Report

2007, from a financial standpoint, was a quiet year. Income exceeded expenses by an amount of \$6,864.00 after allowing for the transfer of interest earned on our CEIF investments (\$7,354.00) to the Church Planting Fund established in 2004. The original amount of this fund was \$140,000.00 and as at December 31st, 2007 the balance amounted to \$160,276.00.

Our budget for the year anticipated a small gain (\$3,984.00) and while we achieved the desired result the contributing factors were varied. Most noteworthy variances (budget versus actual) were as follows:

Income Category	Budget	Actual
<i>Contributions by Churches</i>	\$86,814.00	\$90,404.00
A schedule of contributions by Churches with comparative contributions for the previous year is reported for your consideration.		
<i>Interest</i>	\$6,500.00	\$8,012.00
Expense Category		
<i>Church Ministries</i> (Category discontinued – replaced by Men's Ministry)	\$2,000.00	\$814.00
<i>Program Committee</i>	\$1,500.00	\$230.00
<i>Regional Minister Compensation & Expenses</i>	\$49,673.00	\$46,002.00
Reduction attributable to strength of the Canadian dollar compared to the US dollar.		

<i>Church Growth</i>	\$12,616.00	\$17,126.00
Increase attributable in part to costs incurred arranging summer service support at Camp Nutimik and support Youth Ministry Outreach project initiated by a member Church.		
<i>Youth Ministries</i>	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00
<i>Executive and General Council meetings</i>	\$3,300.00	\$5,576.00
Increase primarily the result of increased travel costs		

Notes on Offerings for Designated Purposes

Strictly a cash transfer or flow through function. Money collected is dispersed in the case to Women's Ministries (\$4,322.00), Taylor University Endowment Fund (\$1,008.00), and Brad Jerzak Conference (\$1,460.00). No portion of this income was available to meet the operating expenses of the Association.

Year to Date 2008

In a word, "quiet" from a financial standpoint. No unusual or unexpected expenses incurred.

Church Planting Fund

Current value is \$164,798.31. Year to date interest earnings on this Fund as at December 31st, 2007 amount to \$4,522.54. Because this Fund is earmarked interest earnings are not available to meet Association general operating expenses.

Revenue and Expenses

As at August 31st, 2008 expenses exceed income by an amount of \$13,249.66 which includes taking interest earnings on CEIF investments into account. Traditionally income levels are low at this point in time. Contributions from supporting Churches year to date have amounted to \$33,932.50 (annual budget \$90,374.00) however as in prior years it is expected that we'll see significant contribution activity during the course of the next four months particularly in the final quarter. No unusual or unexpected expenses incurred. 70% of total costs incurred to date (excluded cash transfer to Church Planting Fund) are Regional Minister related.

Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp

In October 2005 an amount of \$39,000.00 was loaned to Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp for operating purposes. The outstanding balance of this loan as at August 31st, 2008 is \$22,200.00. The loan matures December 31st, 2010 and payments are being made as agreed.

Statement of Income & Expenses – Year Ended 12/31/07

	2007 Budget	2007 Actual	2006 Actual
INCOME			
Contributions by churches	86,814	90,404	95,218
Offerings for General Purposes	250	545	0
Interest & Miscellaneous	6,500	8,012	8,238
Special Projects (New Life Ministries)	0	0	25,947
Offerings for Designated Ministries			
Women's Ministries	0	4,322	3,760
Taylor University College Endowment Fund	0	1,008	1,455
Brad Jersak Conference	0	1,460	0
Designated Purpose Revenue	0	0	1,319
Other	0	237	0
Total Income	\$93,564	105,988	\$135,937
EXPENSES			
Regional Minister & Expenses	49,673	46,002	47,740
Church Ministries	2,000	814	956
Donations	500	675	62,201
Program Committee	1,500	230	1,339
Executive & Council Meetings	3,300	5,576	4,188
Office & General Expenses	5,075	5,448	5,526
Pastoral Support	1,500	1,438	0
Church Planting (operating)	2,500	2,234	0
Church Growth	12,616	17,126	39,546
NAB Triennial Conference Fund	1,700	1,700	1,700
Special Projects (New Life Ministries)	0	0	25,947
MBYA Ministries	3,000	3,500	3,550
Women's Ministries	600	0	0
CEIF Interest to Church Planting	5,616	7,354	6,816
Expended for Designated Ministries			
Women's Ministries	0	4,322	3,760
Taylor University College Endowment Fund	0	1,008	1,455
MBYA Triennial Subsidy	0	0	1,000
Brad Jersak Conference	0	1,460	0
Jeff Russell Medical expense	0	0	1,319
Other	0	237	0
Total Expenses	\$89,580	\$99,124	\$207,043
Net Income (Expenses)	\$3,984	\$6,864	(\$71,106)

Funds Retained for Continuation of Activities

	Restricted Net Assets	Unrestricted Assets	Invested Cap. Assets	2007 Total	2006 Total
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$12,225	\$214,868	\$51,945	\$279,038	\$343,328
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	\$7,354	\$6,864		\$14,218	(\$64,290)

Balance, End of Year	\$19,579	\$221,732	\$51,945	\$293,256	\$279,038
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Balance Sheet on December 31, 2008

Assets	2007	2006
Cash & Short Term Deposits	\$224,485	\$203,164
Accounts Receivable	\$1,705	\$1,569
Loan Receivable	\$28,200	\$35,400
Land & Buildings at Cost: New Life Ministries	\$51,945	\$51,945
Total Assets	\$306,335	\$292,078
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$10,079	\$10,040
MBYA Travel Subsidy	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total Liabilities	\$13,079	\$13,040
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets	\$51,945	\$51,945
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$221,732	\$214,868
Restricted Net Assets	\$19,579	\$12,225
Total Net Assets	\$293,256	\$279,038

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Incorporation and Registration – Manitoba Baptist Association, Inc. (“the Association”) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated without share capital under the Corporations Act Of Manitoba on May 24, 1972. The members of the Association are North American Baptist Conference Churches which are duly organized and situated in Manitoba. The Association is a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and include the following significant accounting policies:

Revenue Recognition: Manitoba Baptist Association, Inc. fund follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Capital Assets: The land and buildings are reflected in the accounts at cost. No amortization is recorded.

Accounting Estimates: These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The precise determination of many assets and liabilities is dependant on future events. As a result, the preparation of financial statements for a period involves the use of estimates and approximations which have been made using careful judgment. Actual results could differ from those estimates and approximations. The financial statements have, in management’s opinion, been properly prepared within reasonable limits of materiality and with the framework of the accounting policies.

Financial Instruments: The Association’s financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management’s opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these

financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

Donation Revenue: The Association records donation revenue when it is received by the organization.

3. Long-term Investments:

	2007	2006
Bonds, interest rates varying from 4.5% to 5.25% and maturity dates varying from 2008 to 2011	\$148,992	\$142,090

4. Loan Receivable – represents funds advanced to Lake Nutimik Camp in October 2005.

	2007	2006
5 year term – varying payments and 0% interest	\$28,200	\$35,400
Current portion	\$9,000	\$7,200
Balance	\$19,200	\$28,200

Principle repayments are as follows:

2008 –	\$9,000
2009 –	\$9,000
2010 –	\$10,200

5. Capital Assets – Capital assets have been acquired by the Association for use by New Life Ministries in carrying on its activities.

Properties	2007	2006
NLM – Church (514 Maryland Street)	51,945	51,945
Total Properties	\$51,945	\$92,357

Subsequent to purchase of the above property by the Association, the member church made significant improvements to the church building. The cost of the improvements was borne by the church. Accordingly, no part of the cost of the improvements is shown above.

The Association donated the parsonage located at 646 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba to the member church. The donation has been valued on the Statement of Operations at an amount equivalent to the cost of the parsonage to the Association, namely \$40,412.

6. Wellman Lake Bible Camp Contribution – Wellman Lake Bible Camp contribution represents funds designated for a construction project scheduled to start in 2007.

7. MBYA Travel Subsidy – The travel subsidy represents funds the Association designated to cover youth travel expense for a future Triennial Conference and will be funded when the costs have been incurred.

8. Contingencies – The Association has guaranteed a \$25,000 line of credit for New Life Ministries. As at December 31, 2007 none of the line of credit was used.

Contributions to the Association by Church

Church	Total 2007 Giving/Revenue	2009 Goal	Given by 8/31/08	2008 Goal	2007 Goal	2007 Actual	2006 Actual
Abundant Life	128,953	3,546	0	3,792	3,581	2,000	3,000
Beausejour	66,401	1,826	0	1,586	1,639	1,639	1,639
Central			0	2,824	2,839	0	0
Fort Richmond	203,916	5,608	2,200	5,164	5,319	4,400	2,400
McDermot Ave.	432,359	11,890	6,187	9,569	9,663	12,375	12,375
Minitonas	198,549	5,460	1,500	7,283	6,482	6,500	9,000
Mission	187,515	5,157	2,420	6,776	5,450	4,840	10,920
Moosehorn	88,818	2,442	800	3,298	1,769	1,600	1,300
Morris	251,698	6,922	4,000	7,259	7,813	8,000	8,684
New Life Min.	84,000	2,310	0	2,310	1,650	1,650	1,000
Oakbank	254,571	7,001	3,375	5,914	5,688	6,600	5,000
Ochre River	172,908	4,755	0	4,185	4,242	5,000	5,000
Rowandale	397,454	10,930	0	8,550	6,744	12,200	12,200
Swan River	223,633	6,150	3,300	4,115	4,587	6,600	6,600
Whitemouth	25,000	688	0	316	313	0	100
Whiteshell	208,430	5,732	3,150	4,246	3,950	3,000	3,500
Whyte Ridge	614,799	16,907	7,000	13,189	15,085	14,000	12,500
TOTAL	\$3,539,004	\$97,324	\$33,932	\$90,376	\$86,814	\$90,404	\$95,218

The requested contribution for each church is based on 2.75% of total church budget/giving in the previous year. This represents a change from the previous method of contributions based on membership.

The change was due in part to the changing nature of church membership. Membership no longer accurately reflects a church's ability to contribute whereas a church's total budget/giving more accurately reflects ability to contribute to the ministry of the Association.

If a church is able to contribute more than the recommended 2.75% of total budget/giving, it is encouraged to do so. If a church is currently giving below the recommended 2.75%, it is encouraged to increase giving to as closely reflect that level of support as is possible. Please consider making your contributions in quarterly installments.

2009 Proposed Budget

	2009 Budget	8/31/08 Ac-	2008 Budget	2007	2007
Church Contributions	97,323	33,932	90,374	86,814	90,404
General Fund Offerings	100	0	250	250	545
Designated Offerings	0	0	0	0	7,027
Interest & Miscellaneous	8,200	4,523	8,500	6,500	8,012
Transfer from Church Planting Fund	8,000	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	\$113,623	\$38,455	\$99,124	\$93,564	\$105,988

EXPENDITURES

Regional Minister	48,670	35,175	46,900	49,173	46,002
RM General Expenses	0	0	500	500	0
Church Ministries	N/A	N/A	0	2,000	814
Donations/Evangelical Fellowship	500	0	500	500	675
Program Committee	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	230
Executive/General Council	3,500	1,127	4,250	3,300	5,576
Office & General	5,525	4,991	6,310	5,075	5,448
NAB Triennial Fund	1,700	0	1,700	1,700	1,700
NAB Triennial Conf. Contingencies	1,000	0	0	0	0
Church Planting Operating	3,000	1,639	3,000	2,500	2,234
Church Planting Training	8,000	0	0	0	0
Church Growth					
General Assistance	5,000	2,000	5,000	0	4,510
New Life Ministries	N/A	N/A	0	10,000	10,000
Whiteshell	N/A	N/A	0	2,616	2,616
Designated Contributions	0	0	0	0	7,027
Pastoral Support	3,000	0	2,000	1,500	1,438
Women's Ministries	600	0	600	600	0
Men's Ministry Subsidy	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
MBA Youth Ministries	4,500	2,250	4,500	3,000	3,500
CEIF Interest to Church Planting	7,500	4,523	7,700	5,616	7,354
Total Expenditures	\$94,995	51,705	\$85,460	\$89,580	\$99,124
Net Income (Expense)	\$18,628	(\$13,250)	\$13,664	\$3,984	\$6,864

Proposed Budget Notes

The proposed budget for 2009 is submitted for your consideration and approval. Compared to the budget for this year (2008), anticipated spending will increase slightly for the most part the result of proposed Church Planting training activity the cost of which will be underwritten by the Church Plant Fund. Other considerations include:

Church Growth – No change. Fund (General Assistance) to be maintained to respond if warranted to situations deemed beneficial to the common interest and not necessarily anticipated.

Church Planting Operating – No change.

Youth Ministries – No change.

Executive/General Council – A reduction in General Council travel anticipated.

Office & General – It is expected that in 2009 accounting costs will decrease since the December 31st, 2008 year end financial statement will be prepared on a review engagement basis – not audited. Insurance and Accounting Services account for more than 70% of the projected costs for this category.

Regional Minister – The application of both a 3.25% increase on total budgeted expenses for 2008 and a 4% salary (merit) increase accounts for the increase of \$1,770.00 – 2009 compared to 2008. We have assumed that the value of the Canadian dollar and the U.S. dollar are equal which as at the end of August is not the case.

NAB Triennial Conference Contingencies – \$1,000.00. New Category 2009 only. Intended to absorb incidental costs or expenses associated with the Winnipeg Conference to be held in July 2009.

General – Because Designated Offerings involve cash transfers or a flow through of funds; any activity in this regard has been omitted from the budget.

Projected Church Contributions

Based on 2.75% of Total Giving/Revenue	2009	2008	2007
Total Giving/Revenue	\$3,539,004	\$3,286,337	\$3,156,874
Projected/potential Contributions *	\$97,323	\$90,374	\$86,814
Actual Contrib. (2008 figure as of 08/31/08)		\$33,932	\$90,404
Contributions Over (Short)			(\$3,590)

*For an explanation of projected contributions please see page 14.

"Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late - and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. To pray for revival while ignoring the plain precept laid down in Scripture is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble. Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience."

– A.W. Tozer

Nominating Committee

Moderator.....	2009/10
Vice Moderator.....	Barry Thiessen2008/9
Treasurer.....	Garry Harland2009/10

Recording Secretary.....	Dave Henkelman2008/9
Church Planting Chair.....	Jeff Kilmartin2008/9
General Council Rep.....	Harry Pohl 2008/10
Men’s Ministries Chair2009/10
MBYM Rep.....	Kelvin Kehler2009/10
Women’s Ministry Coordinator.....	Daphne Keck 2008/09

• Submitted by Barry Thiessen

Recording Secretary’s Report

Church Membership Statistics 2007

Church	Year Organized	Mem. Dec 06	Mem. Gained	Mem. Lost	Mem. Dec 07	Baptisms	07 Avg. Worship	06 Avg. Worship
Beausejour, Elim	1958	37	0	1	36	0	59	69
Minitonas, First	1928	212	3	1	214	1	123	123
Moosehorn, Moosehorn	1918	47	0	0	47	0	73	73
Morris, Emmanuel	1896	165	8	3	170	9	155	157
Oakbank, Oakbank	1895	101	17	2	116	17	154	142
Ochre River, Grace	1927	104	0	0	104	0	100	100
Seven Sisters, Whiteshell	1906	74	1	1	74	2	101	111
Swan River, Temple	1947	167	7	13	161	5	154	143
Whitemouth (2006 figures)	1960	10			10			

Winnipeg:								
Abundant Life	1994	91	1	1	91	1	96	123
Central (2006 figures)	1980	37			37		65	65
Forth Richmond (2006 fig.)	1972	86			86		125	125
McDermot Avenue	1889	234	0	9	225	9	156	167
Mission	1949	167	4	34	137	0	85	100
New Life Ministries	1993	26	5	0	31	9	75	75
Rowandale	1953	216	6	13	209	3	238	244
Whyte Ridge	1961	221	4	10	215	9	349	388
TOTALS		1995	56	88	1963	65	2108	2205

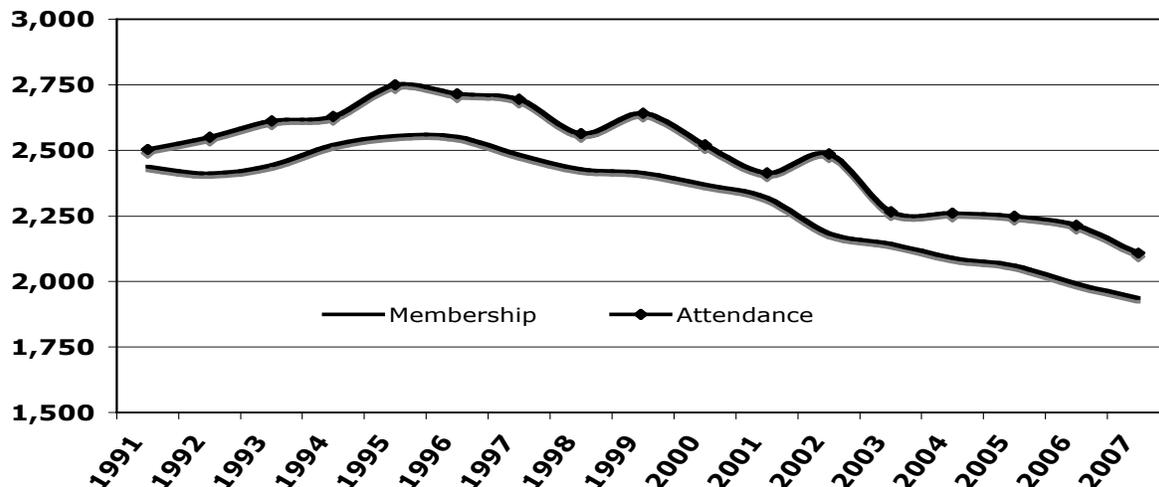
Local Church 2007 Financial Statistics

Church	Total 2007	Avg. Per Mem. 07	Avg. Per Att. 07	Total 2006	Avg. Per Mem. 06	Avg. Per Att. 06
Beausejour, Elim	66,401	1,844	1,125	57,659	1,558	836
Minitonas, First	198,549	928	1,614	264,820	1,249	2,153
Moosehorn, Moosehorn	88,818	1,890	1,217	119,945	2,552	1,643
Morris, Emmanuel	251,698	1,481	1,624	263,955	1,600	1,681
Oakbank, Oakbank	254,571	2,195	1,653	215,062	2,129	1,515
Ochre River, Grace	172,908	1,663	1,729	152,192	1,463	1,522
Seven Sisters, Whiteshell	208,430	2,819	2,064	154,386	2,086	1,391
Swan River, Temple	223,633	1,389	1,452	149,631	924	1,046
Whitemouth, Whitemouth	25,000	2,500				

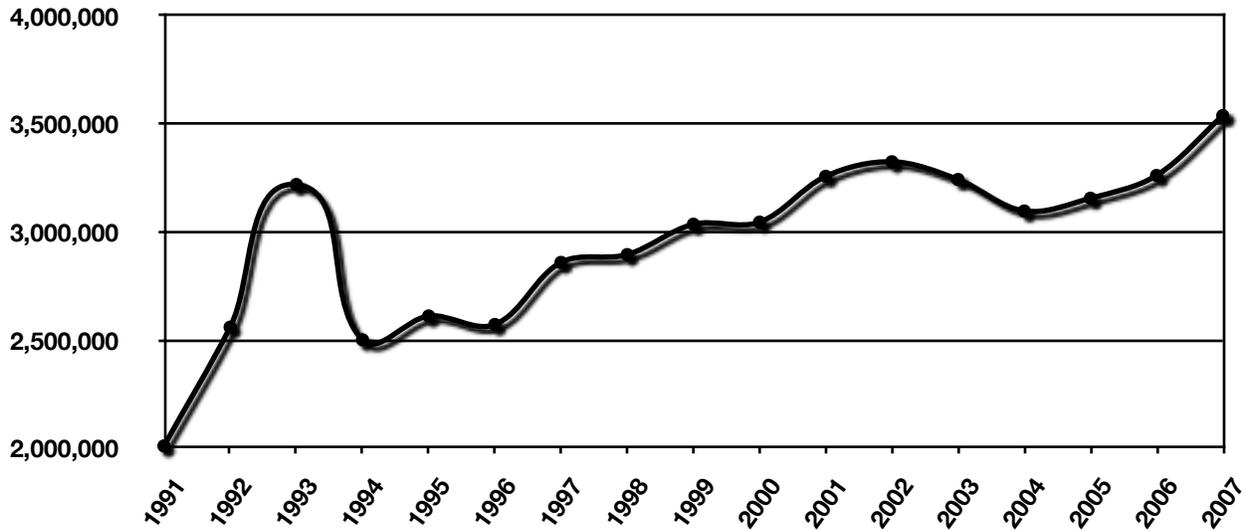
Winnipeg:						
Abundant Life	128,953	1,417	1,343	137,896	1,515	1,121
Central				102,677	2,775	1,580
Fort Richmond	203,916	2,371	1,631	187,785	2,184	1,502
McDermot Ave	432,359	1,922	2,772	347,950	1,487	2,084
Mission	187,515	1,369	2,206	246,394	1,475	2,464
New Life Min.	84,000	2,710	1,120	84,000	3,231	1,120
Rowandale	397,454	1,902	1,670	310,891	1,439	1,274
Whyte Ridge	614,799	2,860	1,762	479,596	2,170	1,236
TOTALS	3,539,004	2,084	1,665	3,274,839	1,865	1,511

Sources: NAB Conference Statistics, MBA Financial Records, Church Reports.

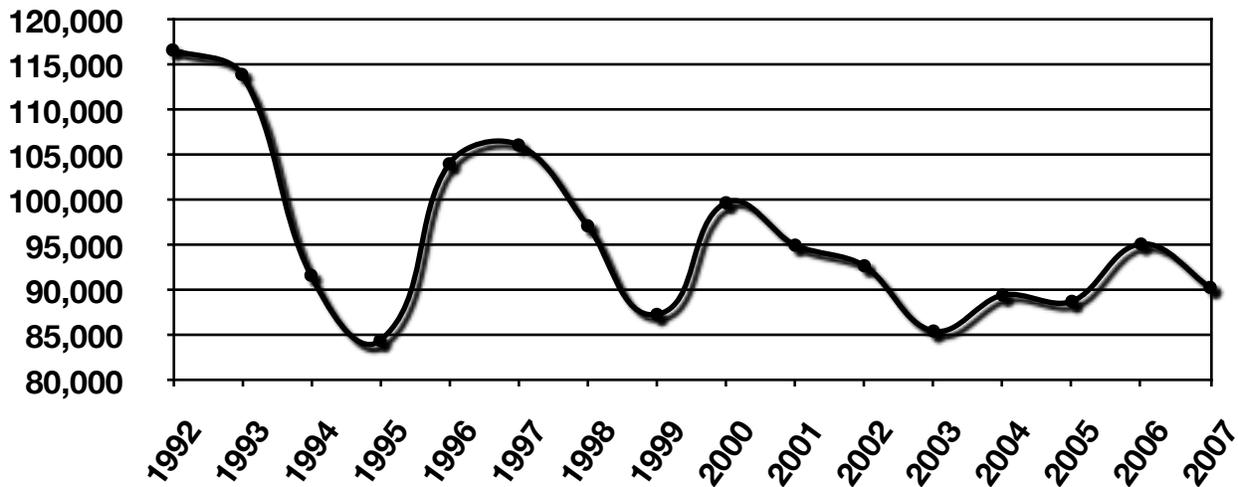
Membership & Attendance 1991–2007



Total Church Giving 1991–2007



Giving to the MBA 1992–2007



Men’s Ministry

The Men’s Ministry team met a number of times during the past year, but unfortunately did not get any formal activities off the ground. I will be passing the baton on this year, and let whomever God fills the position with walk forward as He leads them. It is important to leave the results of the meetings we had on the table so these can be considered for future direction.

The vision and/or need for Men’s small groups across the city became a consensus as we met. These groups would build on one’s that already existed, and develop new ones as opportunities presented themselves. Currently most, if not all churches are unable to provide the variety of meeting times that allow all men who are interested to attend. This is primarily because of the many varied and conflicting schedules, and geographic challenges that men face in finding something that fits them. Therefore leveraging the various churches would provide greater opportuni-

ties than each local church could provide. Someone with significant time and connections/relationships in the various churches would be required to move this forward.

While working through these things the group actually took on somewhat of the form that was being envisioned. There was an encouragement to grow in our life and relationship with God, this being a process rather than an event. We challenged and shared with each other how to spend special time with God, to take to time to listen, and build this as a lifestyle. We encouraged each other to do that in the uniqueness of the lives that God has given us.

Further things discussed were: watching the “Fix it Comments”, being who God wants us to be, being filled and flowing over with the Holy Spirit, living lives that look for assignments from God, with the intent of being a blessing. This would result in life vibrancy and relationship demonstrated in new ways. There was also the need to develop a process of accountability, so that we call each other when we deviate from the path, how continue on the path.

The result of this would be a movement of men with more concrete defined lifestyle actions. There would be an impact on family, church, and relationship. In essence the results would be deliverables for God. This would be something that would be wanted by all, rather something that one would have to push people in. It is something that would grow rather than be built. The foundation would need to be solid, but from there things would be dynamic, as each group would take on its own direction reflecting the different mix of men that God had placed in the group.

We need the men of Issachar who understand the times and know what to do. This may be the direction for this to be accomplished.

- Submitted by Herb Adam, Committee Chair

Women’s Ministries

This past year, in addition to our regular WM executive meetings via “talking communities” we held a combined meeting and Appreciation Brunch day at Whyte Ridge Baptist Church on Saturday, May 31, 2008. Our members from our northern churches assured us that it is “worth the trip” for them to come for a marathon day of meetings and activities. Our day started with an Appreciation Brunch for WM leaders in all of our churches. Carrie Lynn Harz gave an inspirational talk and led a discussion on issues our WM groups are dealing with. In the afternoon the MBA WM leadership team and Retreat committee held their respective meetings – a long but very productive day. We reviewed and evaluated events of the past year and planned events for the coming year.

Review of this past year’s events:

Ministry wives’ retreat at Nutimik Lake in fall.

Baptist Women’s Day of Prayer in November.

The Gathering hosted by the NAB Conference WM leadership team in Chicago. Tamara Friesen was the delegate at this from Manitoba WM executive.

Missions Brunch on March 8, 2008 hosted by McDermot Baptist Church. Speakers were April Zimmerman, missionary to Africa and Meredith Culbertson, from Urban Potential – a children’s ministry in Winnipeg.

Women's Retreat at Elkhorn Resort, April 25-27, 2008. Speaker was Candace Giesbrecht from Trinity Baptist in Kelowna. Praise and worship leader was Joan van der Linde from Morris. This retreat continues to bless our women with a mountain top experience as they are spiritually re-charged and refreshed.

Praise God we were able to again complete our commitment to financially support our budgeted projects this past year. Our proposed budget for the next year includes:

Brenda Arndt – Central Baptist	\$1,200.00
Florinda Serafin – Brazil	500.00
Camp Nutimik – Staff Scholarships	500.00
Wellman Lake Bible Camp	500.00
NAB Conference WM	600.00
Taylor University College - Bursaries	500.00
MBA WM Retreat Scholarships	200.00
TOTAL	\$4,000.00

Next year we face the challenge of assisting the NAB Conference WM leadership team in hosting a WM event at the Triennial in Winnipeg. It should be a great time!

Thank you to the women on the leadership team who so faithfully commit their time and talents to serving God through WM: Dorothy DeVries, (secretary), Evelyn Bredin, (treasurer) Beth Gust, (Spiritual Growth coordinator), Rhonda Keppler, (Missions Coordinator), Rose Winkler (White Cross), Members At Large: Grace Elke, Cynthia Amman, Tamara Friesen, Esther Klein, Rita Mueller.

Rita joined the WM leadership this past year as the representative from Oakbank Baptist Church WM. This enables us to collaborate on the preparations for hosting the AGM in Oakbank in 2008 and planning the women's luncheon. We have found this a very beneficial arrangement and recommend that the host church of the MBA AGM always have a representative on the WM leadership team for the year preceding the AGM.

Thank you also to all those involved in women's ministries in all of our churches. We encourage and pray for you as you reach out to your communities, demonstrating God's love in practical ways.

- Submitted by Daphne Keck, WM Coordinator

Manitoba Baptist Youth Ministries (MBYM)

The theme song to the hit TV show Cheers tells us about the value of friendship:

“Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name
And they're always glad you came
You want to be where you can see, troubles are all the same
You want to go where everybody knows your name...”

Sam, Rebecca, Woody, Carla, Frasier, Cliff and Norm – this group of characters gathered together in a Boston bar, and through their interactions with one another, formed a unique and special bond. They were an unlikely “band of brothers” who cared for each other and listened to one another's troubles and concerns.

One of the things I have valued the most and come to appreciate as a leader and youth pastor is the MBYM. Although we meet regularly to plan youth events for the MBA churches, work with a budget and delegate responsibilities, it is so much more. The MBYM is a special group of people – caring men and women who not only have a heart for God and our youth, but a heart for each other. The MBYM is a personal resource of mutual encouragement and support. It is much like Cheers – where each of us feels known. It is a place where we come together to laugh, to cry, to share and to pray for one another as youth pastors. In fact, I believe the very heart of the MBYM is friendship.

The friendships we have with each other as well as the friendships amongst our youth were strengthened through the many events over the past year. Despite some wet weather, we were amazed to have about 120 youth at our first event of the school year (Corn Maze in early October). The annual Jr. High Retreat was held at Circle Square Ranch near Austin, MB. The speaker left a lasting impression on our youth as he shared that extreme living is what being a Christian is all about. The youth pastors (along with a few spouses – Becki & Tamara) travelled to Lansing, Iowa for the NAB Youth Leaders Summit in November. It was a wonderful and refreshing time to reconnect with one another as well as make new friends with other youth pastors from the NAB conference.

In the New Year, the Sr. High students headed to Mt. Asessippi for their Ski Retreat. Unfortunately, one of the girls had a bad accident while skiing and broke her femur. She was air-ambulanced to Children's Hospital in Winnipeg where she awaited surgery. Through it all, God answered our prayers and she has recovered very well...she even told me that she can't wait to go again! Our youth had the opportunity to bless many people with God's love during the Random Acts of Kindness event in February. It was great to hear the stories of how God touched both the people we encountered as well as us. It was so contagious that many youth expressed a desire to reach out to those living in our own communities. Several leaders and youth were challenged at the Student Leadership Conference at Willow Creek in April and our Northern churches had another successful retreat during the long weekend in May at Wellman Lake Bible Camp.

One of the highlights of this past year was the NAB Youth Gathering in Nashville, TN. Four youth groups set out on an adventurous (and memorable) bus ride along with a few youth groups from Saskatchewan to meet up with 600 other youth from across Canada and the United States to be "The Hands and Feet of Jesus". Many new friendships were formed as our youth served side-by-side at Nashville Rescue Mission, an elementary school and city beautification (AKA garbage picking).

Once again, I would like to thank the MBA family for their continued support and prayers. It has been a privilege for me to be a part of the MBYM for the last eight years. As God moves my family and me in a new direction, I will truly miss the many friendships that I have been blessed with. To my fellow youth pastors in the trenches – Doug Friesen, Danita Fandrich, Kelvin Kehler, Jonathan Kroeker, Keith Friesen, Rob Ter Horst and Kevin Lariviere – the Lord bless you as you continue to draw our youth closer to each other and most importantly, to Jesus Christ himself. You have made my job a real delight and it is a joy to call you friends – Cheers!

•Submitted by Michael Jakiwchuk – MBYM Chair

Church Planting Ministries

Bruce Merrifield, NAB leader of church planting for NAB, has suggested that all is not well in NAB as far as church planting goes and that we need to be concerned that growth of new believers is not as abundant as Jesus expects it to be. This is not good news. What to do! Bruce, in cooperation with the NAB Church Planting Advisory Team, turned to The Praxis Center for Church Development for assistance. They have initiated what should become a movement in our Conference. On January of 2007 this movement was kick-started through a three-day seminar called The Quest given by Tom Johnston and Mike Chong Perkinson. Pastors, missionaries and lay leaders from across our Conference were invited to attend.

As a consequence of this initiative, a Multiplication Task Force was organized for the Northern Plains Region [NPR] under the leadership of Phyl Putz, the Area Minister. This Task Force was divided into two groups, one for each of the Associations in the Region. One is called Mission Manitoba and the other is called Mission North Central. The vision of the Task Force is that an awakening to the call to multiply disciples that Jesus Christ gave his church will start and grow in member churches of the NPR. The purpose of the Task Force is to stimulate, challenge, encourage, and resource local churches so that many outside the church will commit to following Jesus Christ. The Task Force members have met monthly by phone and have studied many materials related to the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Six members comprise the Task Force: Mission North Central - Bernie Satrom, Chris Hoke and our Regional Minister Phyl Putz and three as part of Mission Manitoba, Jerry Marek in Swan River, Sig Seidel in Winnipeg and Jeff Kilmartin in Beausejour. Jeff was chairperson of this committee until he and his family left for Nigeria this summer and Sig has taken the chair on an interim basis.

Our committee has had three key areas of development focus this year:

1. Developing a strategy paper defining principles of organic church development.

In his introduction to the paper Jerry Marek writes: "As members of NAB and as Evangelicals we have held the assumption to be true that Jesus has sent his followers into the world as he himself was sent by God, the Father, to bring people to faith in himself. An important aspect of this assumption is that Jesus expects multiplication of followers, not simple addition. This assumption is the reason for the existence of any fellowship of followers of Jesus. If we still embrace this assumption, then we do have reason for concern because many church leaders and students of religious trends have clearly established that Christianity in the USA and Canada is in troubling decline. This includes Evangelicals. We need to ask ourselves a key question. Do we really believe that Jesus expects multiplication or is the status quos okay?"

The final draft of this paper will be available in September 2008.

2. Workshop with Bruce Merrifield

Bruce was asked to work with the task force in presenting the NAB vision for church planting in our region. Meetings were held Sunday April 20th in Fargo, Monday 21st in Bismarck/Jamestown, Tuesday 22nd in Dickinson, Wednesday 23rd in Swan River/Minitonas and Thursday 24th in Winnipeg.

Although attendance was disappointing in Winnipeg, the material Bruce presented was well received and has generated interest and good discussion. The task force is building on these meetings realizing that we need to continue to disseminate this information and keep it at the forefront of pastors and churches minds.

3. Providing Training for a larger group of visionary church planters.

The Church Planting Task Force of the MBA is inviting individuals interested in Church Planting to attend The Gathering in Florida, November 12 – 14. The purpose of this training is to develop a core group of visionary church planters using the organic planting principals encouraged by the task force.

In conclusion Bernie Satrom gives this illustration: Several years ago my father in law gave me some cuttings from a fig tree. For several years I put much effort into its care including bringing it into the garage during the winter. This year it has exploded with fruit. In addition, this year our garden produced many apples, grapes and for the first time in 10 years I have a crop of carrots. I am reminded that our job is to plant the seed, perhaps tend and that God will provide the increase.

Please pray for new members for this task force and also for the team that will be attending The Gathering in November. Pray that together we will see God's kingdom built here in Manitoba and in North Dakota.

• Sig Seidel, Interim Committee Chair

Wellman Lake Bible Camp

We thank God for a good camping season. Thank you to all who worked hard to make this camping season a success. Thank you to the Camp Board and their Committees, to our four participating churches: Cornerstone Baptist, Minitonas; First Baptist, Minitonas; Grace Baptist, Ochre River; and Temple Baptist, Swan River. Thanks also to our Camp Speakers, to our Counselors, Kitchen Staff, Maintenance Workers, and to our Camp Director, Tracy Schroeder.

Our Camp Registrations were as follows:

Squirt Camp – 30
 Primary Camp – 61
 Junior Camp – 44
 Junior High Camp – 21
 Youth Camp – 16
 College & Career Camp – 15
 Wake/Ski Camp – 7
 Total – 194

This year we saw 25 young people make first-time decisions for Christ. We are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference for Jesus Christ in the Swan Valley and beyond.

Two other highlights in our camping season were inspired by water. With the generous offerings from our Camp Kick-off Service in the spring, we were able to provide a system for having clean drinking water on-site without having to haul it in jugs from the Wellman Lake Campground. This made food preparation and clean-up much simpler and more efficient. We called this project "Fresh Water".

Our other highlight was entitled “Living Water”. After our 2007 camping season, our Camp Director pointed out that many campers who came to our camp did not have a Bible and the Bibles that we made available at the camp were in poor condition. The Camp Board decided to purchase some Bibles that were both durable and attractive to give to those campers who wanted one at a nominal price of \$5.00. The response to the Bibles was fantastic and many parents who had not opted to purchase a Bible when pre-registering their children purchased one immediately when they saw them at camp.

To God be the glory, great things He has done.

•Submitted by Herb Radke – Camp President

Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp

This past spring, the Camp Board of Directors began reviewing the recommendations from the Evaluation Panel that were presented at our Annual Society meeting. As we begin this important visioning and restructuring process, I want you to know that the Board is committed to ensuring that Camp Nutimik continues to be an extension of our local churches in its role of outreach.

This year we have seen an increase in our rentals and outdoor educational camps. For the past several years, schools have been asking for us to provide instructional leadership in skilled areas and now we are seeing the results. It is so encouraging to hear our guests commenting on our facilities and staff. A big thank you goes out to all who have helped this year with hosting, house-keeping, maintenance and food service.

Financially, we have been about to maintain the operations of the camp and to tackle a number of projects (eg: re-roofing the House-on-the Rock and all the cab ins, replacing the back concrete pad at Lakeside Hall, and installing a new fire staircase at House-on-the Rock, just to name a few), but when it comes to our campership banquet donations, they are down compared to last year.

The summer of 2008 was a rebuilding year for the program and staff at Camp Nutimik. With no senior staff members returning we had a lot of work to do to make this summer successful. The staff did an excellent job however, rising to meet the challenge and making camp fun for all the campers. The staff was young having an average age of 17, but that didn't stop them from making sure that every camper felt loved and wanting to come back. We had 305 campers in classic Nutimik this year, 33 going on the out trips, and 28 in our CIT/PLT programs. Of the 305 regular campers we had this summer 237 were already Christians before they came to camp. Throughout the summer we had 14 kids come to know the Lord personally and 59 kids that showed a desire to grow in their faith.

The theme for the summer was “Branch Out”, taken from John 15:5 where Jesus says that ‘I am the vine and you are the branches’. We used this as an encouragement for the campers and staff, to not only keep the love of God inside but to show it to others, to Branch Out and bear much fruit. The campers learnt this in their chapel, devotion, and fireside times through their counselors and camp speakers. The theme was put into practical use by one of our counsellors named Lynele. She had been praying for one for her co-workers for years and this year her co-worker decided to send her daughter Christina to camp. When Christina came and heard the gospel for the first time she accepted Jesus as her saviour and she was encouraged to go home and branch

out telling her friends and family about God's saving grace. We still pray for her that she would tell her mom about God and share the joy that coming to Him can bring.

With your help, we can make the Nutimik experience one that will endure throughout the lifetime of our young people, with the promise of eternal benefits. May you be blessed and inspired through your support of Camp Nutimik.

- Submitted by Dave Robinson – Camp President
Dan Paschke – 2008 Summer Program Director

Meadowood Manor Chaplaincy

“I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known. Your faithfulness to all generations.” (Psalm 89:1)

This year Meadowood Manor is celebrating its 30th year of ministry. Meadowood is a result of the vision and dedication of the MBA. Let me briefly quote from the 30th Anniversary program that was printed for the Anniversary Dinner on June 19, 2008:

HOW IT ALL BEGAN – Meadowood Manor was a mere dream in the early 1970's of a dedicated group of Baptist Church members in Winnipeg. Their vision was to build a residential facility that would care for the elderly family members from our MBA conference, ministering to their physical, spiritual and social needs. In 1978 this dream became a reality, supported by NAB member churches, when Meadowood emerged as a place for our aging loved ones.

...Over the past 30 years Meadowood Manor has come a long way, and none of this would be possible without the generous support and contributions from the Manitoba North American Baptist Churches and the many volunteers who have given of their time and tithes.

I want to thank you as a group of Churches for the privilege you have given me to serve as Chaplain at Meadowood Manor. I am so thankful to the supporting Churches and individuals for their faithfulness and commitment over these many years. Thanks also to those who support the ministry of Meadowood as they serve on various boards and committees. I wanted to give a special thanks to the Meadowood Manor foundation for their service in overseeing and providing the financial needs necessary to see the Chaplaincy ministry progress. Thanks also to the Chaplaincy Support Committee for their encouragement and a BIG thank you to Werner Frers, Chairman of the Chaplaincy Support Committee for his concern, help and faithful involvement in the Sunday Services at Meadowood. I am also reminded of the Chaplains who have served here over the past 30 years and want to say thanks to them and their families (Walter Stein, Ed Hughes, Helmut Poschwatta and Ed Hamm).

We have seen changes – But God has continued to bless and use Meadowood to touch the lives of many. Some of the changes we saw this past year were in the Leadership at Meadowood; a new Director of Care, Kathleen Farmer (she has fit in very well) and now the search for a new C.E.O. I appreciated Greg Kilbrai's commitment to the Chaplaincy Ministry here and I'll miss his support and the prayer times we had together.

Let me share a few highlights of the Chaplaincy ministry:

The Sunday Morning Service continues to be the center of our Spiritual ministry at Meadowood. We are seeing the Chapel & Fellowship Hall filled almost every Sunday. A Big thanks to all the

special music, piano players and volunteers who serve to make Sunday Morning enjoyable for all who attend.

The Daily Morning Song with the residents is a high light each weekday, as I'm able to greet and visit with each one of the residents. Some residents need a word of encouragement, a smile, a hug and/or a short prayer for concerns they have.

I have been given the privilege of being in several of our NAB Winnipeg Churches to preach and share a little about Meadowood. I enjoy these opportunities and I'm always open to an invitation to come share. I've also been in a few other Churches in Winnipeg to share.

I am now serving on a special "Spiritual Care Committee" organized by the Interfaith Health Care Association of Manitoba; to help assess and hopefully make recommendations and changes to the Spiritual care services being provided in our health care system. We had our first meeting in August and by the time of this report we will have met a couple of more times.

We have various Bible Studies, fellowship times and other activities going on in both the Towers and Care Side. We are seeing new people come and getting involved.

So "THANK YOU" for volunteering, giving and encouraging the ministry here at Meadowood. You are making an impact for eternity. As I shared last year – Meadowood Manor is part of the "Mission Field" that you as NAB churches are very much involved in.

Please pray for this important ministry and for me as I reach out to all the residents, tenants, staff and volunteers.

- Submitted by David Holland, Chaplain

Meadowood Manor Foundation Inc.

In this 30th anniversary year of Meadowood Manor, we at the Foundation are reminded of the legacy left to us by the early pioneers of this facility. We have much to celebrate and be thankful for. Simultaneously, we are challenged to sustain this ministry left to us by those early pioneers.

With challenges before us, and an admirable legacy behind us, we entered this year knowing that we needed to pause, and look at what brought us to where we are today. It is all too easy to become so embroiled in everyday matters that we forget the sacrifice and faith demonstrated by our early pioneers.

In truth, we are but stewards of a ministry here that God himself has chosen to bless. We are encouraged and motivated by those who have gone before us in this ministry and at the same time we are challenged to sustain a facility that faces increased operating costs at every turn. At the Foundation, it is our desire to assist current Meadowood management to sustain the services in place, rather than face cutbacks.

Meadowood Manor Foundation supports this ministry through a variety of fund-raising events. We underwrite the costs of the Chaplaincy program, the Meadowood web site that has become increasingly relevant in this 21st century, and the Quarterly Meadowood Newsletter that goes out to all the supporting churches. Communication lies at the heart of all we do. We also realize, that no matter how noble the cause, without a well planned and focused communications strategy we remain dead in the water.

Clearly, dead in the water is not where we want Meadowood to be! The Foundation has been blessed with unique Christian individuals with specific, well-developed skill sets, who are committed to ministry at Meadowood.

When I look back, I see the Foundation blessed with a variety of people with different skill sets at each stage of our development, and while I don't want to single out individuals, all our early pioneers fall into that category. Today, we want to take time to thank those members who have served well before us, and welcome those who are coming in new to this ministry and joining us. Let me assure you, you will be enriched and grow personally beyond anything you can possibly imagine.

Meadowood Manor Foundation generated \$28,370.06 in the 2007/2008 for Meadowood ministry. The August 2007 Golf Tournament raised \$4,630.467. The Chaplaincy Support Concert last October generated a net profit of \$6,366.14. This calendar year, our February Family Hymn Sing raised only \$620.00 on what must have been one of the coldest days on record. We were mildly disappointed but not surprised. Our Spring Concert with the Pilgrim Baptist Choir raised \$1,678.46. Additionally, the Foundation received \$2,930.00 in memorial donations in 2007/2008. As you can tell from these figures, some events are considerably more profitable and others although less so. The variety of events we stage are designed to expand our outreach to previously untapped resources, and build support in a younger demographic.

As the Foundation looks to the future, we on the Foundation Board this year decided to focus on increasing our Capital Fund. This is the Fund where the principal remains in tact in perpetuity, and only the interest is used to support Meadowood projects. We were able to raise that Capital Fund from \$51,000.00 to \$76,000.00 this year, and plan on continuing to add to this Fund as Home Society re-payments to the Foundation come in. Also, we would suggest to those of you considering memorial donations, that you designate your donations to the Capital Fund and in that way help us help Meadowood with increased funding for the future. We believe that our early pioneers trust us to continue to practice responsible stewardship of all the resources at our command, not only financial, but human as well. To that end, we value your continued support.

- Submitted by John Giesbrecht, Chairperson

General Council Representative

The 2008 General Council meeting was held May 29-31 at the Marlborough Hotel in Winnipeg. This was the first meeting with our new Executive Director Rob McClelland.

In his opening address on Thursday night he reviewed the hand of God and God's direct calling on his own life in bringing him to NAB. He said, "The view of the denomination has been to survive. Our goal at NAB needs to be to thrive. Rob brought to light NAB is still in the deep end of the pool, and one of the first things he did when he came on board was to try and accurately define reality, taking into account staff implications, budget implications, giving from the NAB churches, etc. The question he posed was "how is NAB as a conference going to continue to minister to its pastors, churches and congregants?" Rob challenged, "we must see ourselves as God see us. This Council is the current iteration of leaders to fulfill God's purposes through the NAB. In order to be faithful in our leadership from here on out, it is most important to see what God has done in the past, to find out, 'what are the God moments in the history of our conference?' We need to take the God moments and use them to step out and do a good work. God was lead-

ing them (the saints who have gone before us) God was strengthening their hearts by faith and they were obedient to Him. We have the privilege of following their footsteps, to receiving the baton in our generation and making good decisions, ones that are wise and good and build on what God has done in the past and then capturing what He has for our future. Our predecessors were trusting God to strengthen their hearts to reach out, and we are a direct result of those efforts.”

He went on to say the NAB predecessors were willing to make difficult decisions and changes were made as a result. NAB gets to experience the blessing from the driving forces behind those individuals, and as a result of their dreams NAB has reaped a harvest around the world. With that in mind he asked to change the structure at the International office to better reflect this fact.

As this report is written, some of the changes have already been implemented.

World Wide Outreach:

Russia: 24 students graduated from the Russia Bible School the spring of 2007. A place has been identified for a permanent site for the school and we raised over \$30,000 toward the purchase of the facility.

Philippines: A new facility has been built to house the director and guest lecturers. Several new satellite schools have been started.

Brazil: The Rio Grande Du Sul state convention has 81 churches and an aggressive goal of planting a church for every 40,000 people in the state over the next 20 years. We have made a major impact in the lives of hundreds of children through Chain of Love.

Cameroon: The Cameroon Baptist Convention has a goal of planting 50 new churches in the northern part of the country. They have already sent out two church planters. Chosen Children is helping 3,000 HIV/AIDS orphans. 2,000 people are getting help through HIV support groups.

Japan: Ron and Joan Stoller are seeing growth in the Chita Nozomi church plant and Paul and Melissa Ewing and Shan Reed are gearing up for another new church plant later this year. Becky Lengefeld was appointed to serve as a career missionary to Japan after her graduation from TUCS in 2009.

Mexico: Christ Lives Bible Church is now moving ahead without missionary leadership. The camp facility has received a lot of attention and is nearer to being available year round for use as a retreat center and camping ministry. The Mitchells and the Ruizes are preparing to plant another church together using the cell church model.

Nigeria: Fantastic progress is being made on the new hospital sight. Enrolment in the Mambilla Baptist Theological Seminary is up. Seminary students planted three churches recently as a result of a seminar the students took in.

Church Planting: 8 new church plants have been recognized by the conference. The Conference would like to start 50 new churches.

Budget: A budget of \$7,214,539 was approved. Two key areas were affected in building the 2008 and 2009 budget:

1) Staff realignment within the International Office: Two full-time staff positions have been eliminated. These are in the area of Church Planting and Leadership Development. This was due to inadequate funding in these areas.

2) Reduction in field operating budgets for NAB mission fields: This is due to a declining number of full-time missionaries. Fewer missionaries led to fewer dollars coming in to cover the mission field operating budgets.

Four out of five dollars are designated. We need to send more undesignated funds to the conference. One third of NAB churches do not give any money to the conference.

A conflict of interest policy was adopted and signed by all council members.

Policy Governance was approved in principle, pending some constitutional amendments.

2009 Triennial Update: Triennial will be held in Winnipeg, at the Winnipeg Convention Center July 15-19, 2009. The theme is “Moving Forward Together” with the tag line “Celebrating God’s Faithfulness...Preparing for our Future”.

Ron Allen has been confirmed as the main speaker. Jerry Proppe from Brentview Baptist Church in Calgary, AB will lead worship. He will be assembling a worship band from various NAB churches and possibly a conference choir from within our NAB churches. A mission’s emphasis evening will be on the Saturday night. During one of the evenings, there will be a special concert. The Triennial Committee is looking to provide a number of options such as service projects throughout Winnipeg, etc. A budget has been established based on having 1,500 registrants. The committee is targeting to have a early bird registration fee of around \$165. The Triennial, as a self-funded event, has its own budget and therefore is not found in the 2008-2009 budget for NAB

• Submitted by Harry Pohl

Executive Director Report

Over 150 years ago, God began to move in the hearts and minds of German Baptists on the eastern seaboard. It was their ardent belief that they could do more together than they could as individual churches or individual believers. As they fellowshiped then committed themselves to one another, God was pleased to bring a sense of joy and purpose. The blessing of God was evident and the small group began to plant additional churches.

What began as the “Conference of Ministers and Helpers of German Churches of Baptized Christians, usually called Baptists” has now become the North American Baptist Conference. Today we are a solid community of believers who deeply desire to glorify God. As in the beginning, we want to fulfill His purposes for our conference.

The challenge before me is to help us discover, clarify, and prepare to fulfill those purposes. I fully understand that my call to serve is only building on the foundation of godly and courageous leaders who have gone before me. Today is a great time to serve God in the NAB. I believe with all of my heart that in the North American Baptist Conference:

Our challenges are exceeded by our opportunities, and our opportunities are exceeded by the greatness of our God.

My heart's cry and fervent prayer is that God will grant us His grace, wisdom, and direction as we continually seek His direction. I'm very thankful for the manner in which our regional leaders have reached out to me. In these first months of working with the regional ministers, I have assured them that as we serve the churches of our conference, I am counting on them to provide leadership to our entire conference as well as the districts they serve. The regional minister must be the owner of the vision if we are to accomplish all God has for us. This is a change in the way we "do leadership" at the highest level. As you can imagine, there are many of us that are experiencing leadership transition. I addressed this hope/expectation in an article that I prepared for one of our publications:

Leadership transitions always bring questions.

People want to know the direction we are planning to proceed and, as much as possible, what lies ahead. As followers of Christ we have a strong desire to identify with God's vision and purpose for our lives, both individually and corporately. How do we know what God's will is for our conference? How do we know when we have fulfilled His purposes?

That discovery process is a significant part of our joyful journey. We have been and will continue to clarify who we are, who we are not, and what changes we need to make to most effectively fulfill God's purposes.

My calling as your new executive director is to seek God's face with other NAB leaders and to allow His Holy Spirit to give us the clarity of vision to see where He is leading. At the international office, I am meeting with our senior leaders every morning for prayer. We will find Him when we seek Him with all of our hearts. Ultimately, our only reason to exist is to serve the churches of our conference.

I've spent time in our North American Baptist Conference archives in Sioux Falls. What a wonderful opportunity to discover how God has blessed and directed our conference of churches over the years. He has confirmed and affirmed our participation in both church planting and world missions. These areas have been on God's heart throughout our existence. When we participate in these areas, we are not simply performing good works and asking God to bless them. We are joining God in something that He is already doing. We are being obedient to our call.

Leader, author, and outstanding Christian businessman Max Dupree was correct when he noted, "The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality." In my first year and a half, I have maintained laser-like focus in that area. Some of the discoveries were surprising to me. For example, in the international office over the past 10 years we have gone from 45 full time employees to 22 full time employees. And we still needed to cut more than \$300,000 from the budget. The reality was not always pretty, but getting an accurate picture of where we are allows us to prepare for future with a realistic strategy.

Other discoveries have been rewarding. I love the people of the NAB. I believe that our regional ministers will rise to the challenge to be our KEY leaders, much more strategic than those of us who serve in Chicago. I will continue to invest the time needed to build optimal relationships with these conference leaders.

Apart from those at our office in Chicago, I'm learning how to serve our affiliated organizations. My first board meetings at our respective schools (Taylor and Sioux Falls) revealed that we have many strong leaders who are serving on the boards of our affiliated institutions. Taylor is at a fi-

nancial and recruitment crossroads—strong leadership is needed and the board is stepping up to face the challenge. Sioux Falls is moving into a new building with the concomitant excitement and expectation. CEIF has several years of healthy growth and the Foundation appears to be off to a solid start. I'm constantly asking, "How can I serve these entities with optimum results?"

Overall I am cautiously optimistic. We have made some very difficult decisions that were necessary to have a balanced budget. I have met with close to 200 pastors. They too appear hopeful. There is a consensus that we can do more together (as a conference of churches) than we can do on our own.

Organizationally, at the International Office, bold, caring, strategic, and immediate action has been necessary. I view this as an opportunity. We have the challenge of reshaping our conference office to prepare for longer-term health and stability. God has called us and raised us up for such a time as this. Building on the solid foundation of those who have served over the decades, now it is our turn. I am actively researching, praying, and working to build the flexible and streamlined organizational structure needed for our future. We must develop an action orientation and a culture that does not shy away from making hard decisions.

In fact, I already have the joy of announcing steps made in this process. This fall, we will be welcoming several new leaders to our team. Tom Berekoff will join the NAB international office staff as VP of Advancement, Tony Dunaway will become chief financial officer and VP of Ministry Support, Ron Norman will serve as chief operating officer and Norm Poehlke will serve as VP of Ministry Outreach.

From the Okanagan Valley to the prairies of Manitoba, to the urban sprawl of Toronto and Philadelphia, then all the way to the borderlands of northern Nigeria, our efforts in working together can and will make a difference. While there are many challenges in this age of contextualized ministry, we must not attempt to be all things to all people. Our job is to serve the unchanging One by praying, resourcing, equipping, and empowering. Standing firm on the Word of God, we serve Jesus Christ by serving His Church. Ultimately, that is the only reason that we exist.

I am here as your servant, to listen and interact, to be a brother in Christ and colleague. I count it a privilege to serve God in the NAB. I am trusting that God will sharpen our focus, reveal His direction, and allow us to grasp His vision. We must love Him and serve with all of our hearts and soul and mind and strength.

P.S. To learn more about our newest leadership team and other current NAB happenings, visit us on the web at www.nabconference.org.

• Submitted by Dr. Rob McClelland – NAB Executive Director

North American Baptist Conference

Top Leaders Announced

At the 2008 General Council meeting, Executive Director and CEO Dr. Rob McClelland requested and was granted permission to change the leadership structure of the international office to support an action-oriented management approach. Dr. McClelland and the senior leaders of NAB had been discussing this transition for a number of months. The move will reduce the

number of top managers required to make decisions, freeing individuals with expertise to implement those decisions.

The following changes are set to happen this fall:

Tom Berekoff, currently vice president of Development at NAB's Taylor University College & Seminary, Edmonton, Alberta, will also join the NAB international office staff as vice president of Advancement, maintaining a dual role between the two.

Ron Norman, currently senior pastor of Trinity Baptist, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, will join the NAB international office staff as chief operating officer. Ron previously served the NAB international office as director of church growth and as special projects staff.

Tony Dunaway will move from his role as chief operating officer at the NAB international office to become chief financial officer and vice president of Ministry Support.

Norm Poehlke, currently senior pastor of McKenzie Towne Church, Calgary, Alberta, will join the NAB international office staff as vice president of Ministry Outreach.

2008 Challenge Grant

Thank you for making the 2008 Challenge Grant a success!

Together with faithful supporters like you, we have exceeded our \$60,000 Challenge goal, supporting the Ministry Resource Fund and making life changing NAB ministries possible.

To learn more, visit www.nabconference.org/Challenge2008Progress.

Fall Discipleship Offering

Despite Pastor Jeff Russell's loss of three family members and battle with late-stage cancer, his church, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, actually GREW! The support of faithful NABers like you helped make that growth possible. Through training, mentoring, coaching, and even NAB leaders and local pastors offering to lead services and organize events, the NAB family helped see Jeff and his church through this challenging time.

Every fall, we take a Conference-wide offering to fund NAB Discipleship Ministries like these, ministries that help strengthen churches like Jeff's and yours to make disciples who go on to make disciples.

Join us as we Ignite the Passion for discipleship—schedule your church's offering today! Learn more about this offering at www.nabconference.org/IgnitethePassion.

Taylor University College & Seminary

New President For Taylor

The Trustees of Taylor University College and Seminary are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. David Williams as the seventh President of the institution. Dr. Williams had been serving as President on an interim basis, and this two-year appointment ensures that Taylor will benefit from the stability of his exemplary leadership.

"I am delighted that the board has seen fit to make Dr. Williams' appointment permanent," says Barry Kossowan, Board of Trustees Chair. "Taylor is in the midst of a significant time of transi-

tion, and David's wisdom and leadership have been invaluable through this process of change. The Board's decision reflects the confidence the institution has in him as well as our desire to have him continue leading us into the future."

Dr. Williams is a scholar and theologian, as well as a gifted administrator. He has worked tirelessly to help the school refine and carry out its mission to help students grow academically and spiritually, developing "Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world."

"I am deeply honoured to be given the opportunity to lead Taylor at this point in its history," says Dr. Williams. "For over 68 years, this school has done an outstanding job of preparing students for a life of service, and I look forward to building on that heritage, especially through this season of change and opportunity."

Dr. Williams plans to focus on three main priorities: a) completing a strategic visioning process and Campus Master Plan that will set Taylor's course for the years ahead; b) developing new ways to meet the educational needs of the Christian community; and c) building stronger relationships, internally and externally. These priorities reflect Dr. Williams' strong commitment to providing an outstanding learning environment for students.

Dr. Williams earned his doctorate in Theological and Religious Studies with a concentration in Theological Ethics from Drew University, and moved to Edmonton from Colorado in 2004 to become the Academic Vice-President at Taylor University College. He has been serving as the Interim President since January 1, 2008 following the resignation of Dr. Marvin Dewey, who is returning to the United States after almost 11 years at Taylor. Dr. Williams is actively involved in the Mustard Seed Street Church in downtown Edmonton, where he and his wife serve on the church's leadership team. David is also on the board of directors for the Mustard Seed Edmonton.

'E.P. Wahl Centre' Announced

With an incredible sense of gratitude for the visionary leadership upon which Taylor was founded, along with a humble excitement over what lies ahead, the Taylor Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the establishment of the E.P. Wahl Centre. The opportunities and the challenges implicit with bringing this 'long-anticipated' centre into reality will be answered by E.P. Wahl's foundational agenda of 'Christian leader development' and will be measured by Taylor's on-going commitment to become increasingly responsive to the educational needs of the church.

Seminary Steps Forward

So as to remain Christ-centered and relevant in a rapidly changing world, Taylor Seminary is embarking on a rigorous review of its existing ministry training program while examining a variety of collaborative opportunities for important and exciting ministry training partnerships. For example, the Seminary is in on-going dialogue with the Urban Sanctuary about locating its Centre for Evangelical Spiritual Formation on the Taylor Campus. The Urban Sanctuary and Taylor are beginning, what is hoped will be, a long term relationship in order to provide rich and unique opportunities in spiritual formation for seminary and university college students, as well as for those in constituent churches who might want to participate. A variety of possibilities would be available to Taylor students, including an option for an emphasis in spiritual formation within the Seminary M.Div. degree. The director of the Urban Sanctuary, Len Thompson, is already teaching classes in the Seminary this fall. We are excited about this new relationship and the contribu-

tion it can make to the lives of Taylor students and beyond. Please pray with us that this new partnership will lead to a deeper and richer life of the Spirit for everyone who is involved.

University College Embraces Opportunity

The University College is also entering into formal conversations regarding a strategic partnership with the University of Alberta. Late in 2007, Taylor approached the University of Alberta regarding a possible affiliation whereby the U. of A. could offer select degrees through Taylor. Without specifying how this might work, Taylor explored whether the U. of A. might find value in offering degrees from a school that offers a distinctively evangelical Christian perspective within a context that emphasizes intentional Christian spiritual formation. Early this past summer, Taylor was notified that the U. of A. is interested in talking formally about what such an affiliation might look like and how it might be brought into reality. To that end an initial meeting with U. of A. officials occurred on September 22, 2008. As a result, Taylor has called its community (including, of course, all of its constituent churches) to a season of prayer for God's wisdom, direction, and provision. Please pray that God will lead in these discussions and that we will all know God's pleasure for Taylor, for the NAB churches, and ultimately for God's kingdom.

Strategic Stewardship Collaboration with NAB Conference and NAB Foundation

With the Christ-inspired vision regarding the imperative for unity in the church and in a (welcomed) day of creative Kingdom collaboration, it becomes humbly apparent that we can (and must) do so much more together than what we try to do alone. To bring this close to home, Taylor and the NAB International Office have moved into new day of ministry partnership whereby Taylor office of Development will function collaboratively with the NAB office of Stewardship & Communications. To facilitate this arrangement and to coordinate the breadth of development responsibilities throughout the various NAB constituencies, Tom Berekoff is amalgamating his role as V.P. for Development at Taylor into a wider, strategically Kingdom role as V.P. Advancement for the NAB Conference. This initiative adds to the efforts of the NAB Conference (Stewardship & Communications) department to integrate under the NAB Foundation by September 2010, at which time, Tom will also become its President. Please pray for Tom and for this important step towards strengthening what we do in obeying our Lord; in serving the church; in building the Kingdom...together.

Interim Appointments

The Taylor Board of Trustees is very pleased to announce two key interim appointments.

- Dr. Eric Ohlmann took up the role of Academic Vice President of the Seminary, effective July 1, 2008. Born and raised in the Leduc area, Dr. Ohlmann has had a distinguished ministry career as a Seminary professor and administrator in the United States.
- Dr. David Hall assumed the responsibilities of interim Academic Vice President of the University College, effective August 1, 2008. Dr. Hall, a retired faculty member (in history) from the U of A., is a former Taylor board member (chair for 2 ½ years) who brings mature knowledge of the educational task of Taylor, along with the rich history which exists between Taylor and the U of A.

Other New Appointments

- Terry Opperman has taken up a pivotal leadership role at Taylor, as Director of Student Development, as early summer. Terry's training and experience, along with the strength of her bright and energetic vision, makes her a key player on the Taylor team.
- Doug Siewert has been appointed to the position of Campus Ministries Coordinator. Doug comes with pastoral and academic credentials and with a good understanding of what needs to happen at Taylor. He is a mature person who will give significant leadership to our spiritual formation initiatives.
- Dr. Jessica Stevens has been added to the staff of student development, as part-time Athletic Director. She will also teach several physical education courses in the Education program at Taylor. As added good news, Dr. Stevens gave birth to her first child this summer.
- Dr. Kelly Arbeau has accepted an appointment in psychology to augment Taylor's growing and popular psychology department.
- Dr. Jeff McPherson has become the new faculty appointment in theology, filling an essential seat at the faculty table.
- Prof. Darren Schmidt has joined the faculty in the history department. Darren is submitting his dissertation to the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, in the early fall.
- Dr. Joost Pickert has rejoined the Seminary faculty to resume his position in intercultural studies. He has also begun exploring a conversation with Vanguard about joining with them in offering a TESOL program here at Taylor.
- Shannon Dimanis became a key staff player as the Executive Assistant for the President. Shannon comes with great professional experience, having served as an EA for the executive team at Whirlpool Canada as well as serving as an office manager for a local Edmonton parachurch ministry.

Facility Makeover

A tremendous effort has been put forward by the entire Taylor team to bring renewal to Taylor's physical space. Over the past few months a significant amount of time and energy, as well as much creative financial resourcing, has been invested to improve amenities such as the student lounges, a new fitness studio, the renovated Benke office complex, a refurbished chapel, clear and attractive interior and exterior signage, as well as up-grades in technology. Even though handled on a tight budget, these long-overdue improvements, have significantly improved the campus atmosphere.

Entrance Scholarships

Did you know that Taylor University College has three levels of entrance scholarships for new students that can significantly reduce the cost of their education? These scholarships range from \$4,000 to \$12,000 over four years. For more information, go to the web site at: www.tayloru.ca.

Your nomination can benefit students with a \$1,000 award

Alumni, NAB pastors and staff, and para-church staff members may now nominate student prospects for a \$1,000 award, should they enrol at Taylor University College or Taylor Seminary. Others can suggest names through these nominator groups. If nominated and accepted into full-time studies (minimum of 12 credits per semester) for the upcoming academic year, the nominated student will receive a guaranteed \$1000 tuition reduction at Taylor University College or Taylor Seminary. Nominators can nominate an unlimited number of students.

2008 Alumni and Faculty Homecoming, A Great Success

The Taylor Alumni Association invited all alumni, faculty and staff of CTI, NABC, NABDS, EBS, & Taylor University College and Seminary to come together to Edmonton (from July 3-6, 2008) for the first annual Alumni Association Homecoming and Reunion. Following a rich day of faculty/staff celebrations, over 350 alumni joined nearly 70 former and current faculty/staff to launch this historic event. Reminiscing and renewing of relationships was the constant story of the weekend. From the opening BBQ and worship gathering on Friday evening to the 'Celebrate Jesus' NAB church service at West Meadows Baptist Church (with over 1300 people attending), it was moving to discover, anew, how our Lord has worked mightily through those who have journeyed in and through and beyond Taylor. The weekend also featured a key-note presentation by Dr. Rob McClelland (Executive Director & CEO of the NAB Conference) as well as an evening of 'side-splitting' laughter with Mark Lowry (internationally renowned Christian comedian). The Taylor Board of Trustees capped off the weekend with a celebration of service for Dr. Marvin Dewey, who resigned as Taylor's President, effective June 30, 2008.

Plans are already underway for a great Taylor Alumni event at the (greatly anticipated) NAB Triennial in Winnipeg, Manitoba (July 15-19, 2009). To add your name to the Taylor Alumni information list, please call Taylor at 1.800.567.4988 or send an e-mail to alumni@taylor-edu.ca.

Taylor Alumni Opportunity

During the wonder-filled Homecoming and Reunion, the alumni were 'treated' to the great news (from the Taylor Board of Trustees) that all alumni (from CTI, NABC, NABDS, EBS, TAYLOR) are encouraged to audit one Taylor course/year at no cost or to engage one Taylor course/year for credit at 50% discount. What a deal!! Alumni can find out more details by getting in touch with Dr. Terry Fossen at terry.fossen@taylor-edu.ca or by calling (780) 431-4431.

Taylor Fund Update

Donor support has never been more important at Taylor University College and Seminary. The annual fund was renamed: The Taylor Fund, which enables donors to make outright gifts or legacy contributions knowing that your support is used for the most important of needs. Donor support may be directed to special projects and areas of interest, or they are most frequently used to provide financial assistance to students, the library, athletics, facilities and technology, the new E.P Wahl Centre, faculty support, or the 2009 Taylor Missions Project. The goal for The Taylor Fund for 2008-09 is \$1.2 million. Please consider how you and/or your church can partner with Taylor through The Taylor Fund. For more information, please call 1.780.431.4432 or e-mail development@taylor-edu.ca

Pray For Taylor/Talk With Taylor

Please be in on-going prayer regarding Taylor, and feel free to ask the questions or to share your heart regarding what our Lord may have in store for Taylor. You are encouraged to let your heart be open to the Lord and to let your voice be heard by any of Taylor's administrative leadership, through the Taylor website www.tayloru.ca or by phone at 1.800.567.4988.

Sioux Falls Seminary

Why We Exist

We exist to meet the needs of the church.

We find ourselves in a wonderful position—equipping leaders called to serve the church and its greater community. Whether called to the pulpit, the practice of Christian counseling, the mission field, or other parachurch ministries, those called to a life of service in ministry will be prepared while studying at North American Baptist Seminary.

There is a great need for servant leaders throughout the world. Seeing the struggles of the church—whether in a rural setting or a metropolitan area—we, at North American Baptist Seminary, are striving to meet those seeking a theological education in the ministry contexts where they serve.

Since we are physically located in Sioux Falls, people often wonder how we are able to bring a quality education to our students who are serving in a ministry context. Whether serving in Sioux Falls or many miles away, students find our philosophy of contextual learning makes quality “distance” education possible.

We thank you for your partnership in helping us identify, equip, and place servant leaders to carry out the ministries of Christ in the church and in the world.

G. Michael Hagan, President

Sioux Falls Seminary is Going Green

On March 28, 2008, Sioux Falls Seminary broke ground on its new campus, and construction is now underway. By building green, the seminary hopes to make a statement about using all of God’s resources wisely to its students, constituents, and community. The new Sioux Falls Seminary campus, to be completed in Summer 2009, will be one of only a few green (environmentally friendly) facilities in Sioux Falls.

The decision to build green was an easy one. “It seemed the only choice we could make since we believe the Lord gave us responsibility for his creation,” said President Mike Hagan. “As good stewards, we want to model care for our environment.”

The seminary will seek LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for its new building. A few of the ways the seminary hopes to score LEED credits include: recycling and relocating of homes located on future campus property; using durable hard surfaced floors and tile carpeting (made from recycled material and 100% recyclable); installing a highly efficient heating/cooling system; providing insulation by using reflective roof materials and roof gardens; featuring only automated sinks and hand dryers in restrooms; and much more.

Excited to set an example to its community, Sioux Falls Seminary has already started thinking green in its daily routine by recycling paper, cardboard boxes, and pop cans; conserving energy by turning off lights when possible; purchasing more efficient lighting ballasts; and sending more e-mail based communications.

Construction Photos Online

Despite all the recent rain, construction of Sioux Falls Seminary’s new 45,000 square foot campus is underway. Updated photos will be added to our website weekly. Visit either

www.flickr.com/sfseminary or www.sfseminary.edu and look for the New Campus Construction Update story.

New Faculty

Joining the faculty on a full-time basis are the Rev. Dr. Gary Strickland as Professor of Pastoral Care and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and Dr. Vladimir Kharlamov as Assistant Professor of Spiritual Theology, Dr. Larry Porter as Assistant Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Rhoda Carpenter joins the faculty part time as Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible and Dr. Susan Reese will be teaching part time as Assistant Professor of Spiritual Formation and Vocation.

“Rarely in the seminary’s history have we had the opportunity to welcome such an array of talented, dedicated, well-credentialed new faculty,” said Ron Sisk, Academic Vice President and Dean. “With impeccable scholarship, engaging personal testimony, and rich career experience, these five bring to Sioux Falls Seminary precisely the strength we need to carry us forward in our mission to equip servant leaders for the region and the world.”

Campus Visits

Has God captured your attention or the attention of someone you know? Campus Visit Days at SFS offer time to interact with faculty, attend classes, meet students, and share with those who are also discerning the call.

We invite you to start a conversation and begin a relationship with us on a personal level. To learn more, contact the admissions office at 800.440.6227 or admissions@sfseminary.edu.

Alumni—Staying in Touch Newsletter

- Created in May 2005 for the purpose of staying in touch with SFS’ alumni
- To subscribe, e-mail your name and e-mail address to alumni@sfseminary.edu or sign up by entering your e-mail address into the “SFS eNews” button on the bottom left-hand side of www.sfseminary.edu.

Church Visits

Rev. Randy Tschetter, Director of Church Relations and Alumni for SFS spends a lot of his time on the road. Randy is available to visit with you and your congregation, to preach, or to bring greetings and news on behalf of SFS. Now any Sunday can be a Seminary Sunday!

If you would like to speak with Randy or arrange a time for him or any seminary faculty member to visit your church, please call him toll free at 800.440.6227 or e-mail rtschetter@sfseminary.edu.

News and Events

Get the latest seminary news and event information such as events for the 150th Year of Celebration and news on the seminary’s plans for urban ministry in Sioux Falls. Visit www.sfseminary.edu.

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The bar graph to the right compares the balance of endowments at Sioux Falls Seminary over the past five years.