



Every year at this time I come to the same conclusion: summer is way too short! So, with fall coming, here are a few things I'd like to communicate with you.

God is still leading the way!

Sometimes we can get all wrapped up in world events and think that it's all coming to an abrupt end. However, I'm grateful that God is still in charge. I desire to be more diligent and persistent in my prayer life, recognizing that sometimes the real work of God is not what happens *around* me, but what happens *within* me. Don't stop praying! (1 Thess 5:17)

National MB Gathering

We had a great time in Toronto this July as delegates worked through a number of key questions and issues.

1. There was a final approval of our "**mission-vision**" statement (sometimes referred to as the "sandbox"). Our ABMB mission and vision is the same as our national mission-vision and then lived out in our provincial context.
2. **MB Mission and C2C** (church planting) are continuing on the pathway of closer collaboration. These two organizations are carefully discerning if they can work better together as one entity, or if there are other better ways to equip church planters and missionaries on both sides of the USA-Canada border.
3. **Budget 2017** discussions focused on what it means for us to live out our mission in the context of diminishing revenues from churches and smaller surplus earnings from our Stewardship (Legacy Inc.) Fund. The budget for 2017 was passed and a commitment made to replenish contingency funds.

Churches are being asked to move more intentionally toward a full tithe of 10% of their budget to ABMB/CCMBC (if they are not there yet).

4. The national **Board of Faith and Life** (BFL) was challenged to step forward in helping our churches with many of the ongoing questions they are facing - cultural diversity, human sexuality, and theological or church practice.

Office Move

Our Alberta MB Ministry Centre is moving office locations on September 1. Our current lease was up and God has answered beyond our expectations! We are moving into a space that has more room (for training and equipping pastors and church leaders) for less money! Praise the Lord! It's only 2 blocks from our current location. Phone numbers and emails will remain the same but the new address will be:

Alberta MB Ministry Centre
209 - 240 Midpark Way SE
Calgary, AB
T2X 1N4

Pastors Retreat

Each year our pastors and spouses gather together in Canmore (October 2-4) for a time of relationship building, spiritual growth, and personal refreshment. Pastors - get your registration in ASAP so we can reserve the room for you! [Click here for more info.](#)

Focus areas for 2016-17:

1. Disciple-making: Our national Study Conference (EQUIP 2017), "Transforming Discipleship" is a great backdrop to the focus of our Alberta churches. One way we are doing this is to offer monthly training during the afternoons of our pastoral clusters. Some of our pastors will also be heading down to Postfalls, ID in January for "Disciple-Shift" training. Let us know if you are interested in coming along!
2. Ethnic Churches: Increasingly God is bringing to our province people from all over the world. Many come here as Christians and even as missionaries

interested in leading or planting churches within ethnic language contexts. We are praying and inviting people to participate in expanding our capacity in this area. Cool story: Our Eritrean congregation (Bethel Eritrean Evangelical Church) in Edmonton recently was able to buy their own building (formerly a dance studio) through the CCMBC Stewardship Fund. The church is making renovations and has plans to move in sometime this fall. This is a huge step for them.

3. NEXT GEN: Do you get the sense that our youth and young adults ("millennials") are having a challenge engaging in the life of the church? We are inviting youth leaders/pastors and interested folks to come to a "round table" discussion to help us move forward in reaching and discipling the next generation. Save the date: October 20th (more details to come)
4. Board Support: Many of our church boards/council/leadership teams have been asking for training and support, especially around governance. I am planning an "executive dinner" for board leaders for the purpose of hearing what their concerns and challenges are in their context. Calgary - October 11, Lethbridge - October 12, Edmonton - October 13. (more details to come)

Pray for:

1. Spiritual protection for our pastors and church leaders, especially for marriages and their families.
2. Financial support for the commitments that churches have made to the MB Conference.
3. Disciple-making enthusiasm in our churches, that people will come to know Jesus and then become spiritually mature so they can be part of the process in the lives of others!

Following the Master, being His disciples together,

Paul J Loewen

Regional Director/Provincial Conference Minister