

NORTHERN LIGHT

Digest
DEC 2017

Grace Communion International Canada / Communion Internationale dans la Grâce, Canada

Thank You!

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After over 40 years working in full time ministry for Grace Communion International Canada, the church that supports this publication, I wanted to share some thoughts with you before retiring next summer. I was privileged to serve in pastoral ministry in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Alberta for 23 years. Then in June of 1997, I moved to BC to be Canadian Coordinator and President. I count myself truly blessed to

have been given this opportunity in my life, and despite the challenges and difficulties am very grateful to God for it.

Many of you may know that our fellowship went through massive doctrinal changes and readjustments in the mid 1990's. During this period our church leadership initiated a comprehensive study of our doctrinal positions. This resulted in a fundamental correction of our theology, which has led in time to our adoption of Trinitarian Theology.

From Scripture, we have come to understand that God is triune in nature. The core of God's character is love, and that love has been expressed between Father, Son and Holy Spirit (the three persons in the Godhead) from eternity. God created human beings with the ultimate intention of sharing in this relationship as God's own adopted children—his sons and daughters.

Though our forbearers rejected this relationship with God (Genesis 1-3), God's love for human beings, made in his image and likeness, persisted. His plan included a stunning way to deal with the problem of human beings wishing to experiment with evil. God, the Son, would come to the earth, live a real human life, and then sacrifice that life on behalf of every human being.

In the past 10 years Mozambique

- Funded an annual pastoral and leadership conferences every Easter Weekend since 2010
- Sent food aid for members in 2013, 2015 and 2016 when the members were starving due to floods (2013 and 2016) or drought in 2015.
- Funded a women's conference in 2011
- Distribution of Bibles
- Completed their church/community building
- Digging of wells in Morrumbula and other communities



Headquarters Church Mozambique

In effect, Jesus Christ reconciled humanity back to God. He redeemed us from our enslavement to sin. In him, the good news (if we are willing to receive it) is we have a restored relationship with the Father. It is a gift of God.

Life is intended to be lived in union with God. The Bible describes this as real life. It is the life for which we were created and intended to live. We get to share in the union that has always existed between Father, Son and Spirit.

Unfortunately, not everyone who used to fellowship with us agreed with this new direction. So, over the last couple decades, we experienced major losses in membership and support.

Thankfully, the frequency of such departures have slowed right down, and Grace Communion International Canada is not only just stable, but is moving forward and growing in a number of areas. Our passion to share the truly good news of the gospel is increasingly stirring our hearts (Jesus' love compels us—2 Corinthians 5:14) to find ways to express the love of God to others in both word and deed.

Carrying on our long tradition of helping others, GCI Canada has helped with a variety of international mission efforts. In the last decade, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been sent abroad, under agency agreements with our GCI partners, to fund a variety of mission projects. These projects have been undertaken in East, West and Southern Africa. They have also operated in South America, Central America, Mexico, the Philippines and in Bangladesh. We've supported training conferences, Christian camps for youth, water well drilling, and provided food relief after droughts, floods and hurricanes. Our congregations and members have greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve and help in these ways, many thousands of miles from home.

However, a benefit we never really anticipated was that eventually, as more people emigrate to Canada, including refugees from war torn regions, we would begin to see some of our Canadian

In the past 10 years Bangladesh:

- We have distributed 4,000 Bibles
- Built a church in the village of Askor
- Refurbished and upgraded the Multi-cultural centre
- Funded computer literacy skills class
- Sent funds to **Bangeli Evangelical Association (BEA)** to purchase blankets for the needy [www.http://bengalimission.org/](http://bengalimission.org/)
- Restocked a fish pond to aid in sustainable development
- Purchased 17 goats for needy families
- Paid the medical bills for a key gospel worker who would have died without the necessary medical treatment
- Purchased umbrellas for children so they could walk to school during the monsoon season and not arrive at school totally drenched
- Given financial support to Gospel workers in Bangladesh
- Funded a program to rehabilitate exploited girls between the ages of 12–14
- Given funding towards young women being trained as nurses' assistants



congregations grow. Many of these people were from congregations that had been directly benefited from the generous help provided by our Canadian membership. One outstanding example is our Ottawa/Gatineau congregation which is now over 50% new Canadian. This has meant a doubling of our fellowship there in just a few years.

Just as each of us is an unique person—a unique creation of God—the way we each participate in Christ's work is going to be tailored by him to take into account our own gifts, abilities, limitations and strengths. Each congregation, as well, has its own capacities and resources. The key is that whoever we are, and whatever we have, be fully submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. We need to make ourselves available to be deployed in his service, as he gives us that insight.

Our congregation in Winnipeg is another example where a great deal of ministry is taking place. As a result, they have some new immigrant members, as well as new folks from the existing community. The church has for a number of years supported the wonderful work of Hands of Hope, a charity that provides used furniture and household effects to any one in need. They have helped refugee or other new Canadian families who have just arrived in Canada. They have also assisted

New Website for the Montréal French Congregation

The Montréal French Congregation recently spent several months working on renewing their website: www.egliserealite.com The project was prompted by a desire to:



- Create a good first impression, to attract new visitors searching for a local church.
- Make information about the church easy to find that would also work on mobile devices.

This project also led the Montréal congregation to change its name to “Église Réalité” (Reality Church), and to rewrite their local Mission and Vision statements.

During the planning sessions, they considered the needs of the four main audiences of the website:

- People who are looking for information about the local Montréal congregation.
- Church members and regular attenders of other Francophone GCI congregations in Québec.
- GCI Francophone leaders and members from around the globe.

French speaking people who might be interested in GCI's Trinitarian Incarnational Theology.

The congregation has been translating most of GCI's doctrinal and theological essays and many of GCI's articles into French and posting them on their website (over 250 so far). It is their hope to make sound theological material available to other Francophones around the world, as well as, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

After the first five months operation, their new website has had 800 visitors from 47 different countries on 5 continents. An encouraging statistic is that 70% are returning visitors. 50% of their visitors are from the province of Quebec, another 15% are from 7 other provinces. 9% of their visitors are from France, while another 9 % are from the US.

The next important step will be to work on advertising their website and use different web tools to make it easier to find.

The Montréal French Congregation appreciates those who are raising awareness of their new website, and those who support this ministry outreach through their prayers and donations.

NORTHERN LIGHT *Digest*

Vol.6 No.4 Dec. 2017

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Northern Light Digest is published 4 times annually for members of Grace Communion International Canada. Editorial contributions and comments on any issue raised in Northern Light Digest are welcome although unsolicited materials may not be returned. Please address all correspondence to:

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The new online edition of Northern Light Digest is available at www.gcicanada.ca

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In the past 10 years Africa:

- Sent funding for food to feed the refugees in the refugee camps
- Funded pastoral and leadership training in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 (including the countries in the region – Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania)
- Funded the school fees of children in the refugee camps
- 2016 funded leadership/youth/women's conference in Nairobi
- 2016 funded a Ugandan Youth Camp
- 2016 Distribution of 500 Bibles
- Built a church building in the Kakuma Refugee camp
- Built a church building in Burundi

tions by their presence. Quebec City, Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary have welcomed such individuals.

Of course, this desire to reach out and share the good news of the gospel in word and deed has moved many other congregations and individual members to serve others in their own communities and neighbourhoods. For example, our church in Surrey BC sponsors a support group for people who have experienced grief and loss, which is open to anyone in the surrounding community.

An ongoing ministry that continues to bear good fruit, are our eastern and western summer youth camps. Pre-teen programs, the teen camp itself, and a young adult program at each camp are all well appreciated. We have very dedicated staff at both camps, which provide a solid Christian environment and teaching, in the context of a week of enjoyable activities and good clean fun.

What has been most inspiring and deeply satisfying, is witnessing the faithfulness of God to us. Though our fellowship went through a great deal of upset to make the needful changes we did, God is bringing us out into a good place—into a “green pasture” (Psalm 23).

I wish I could personally thank each one of you for the continued support and sacrifice you have made and continue to make in support of the work of the church. We are regularly made aware of the reality that we are weak, and the strength and power that accomplishes what is done is of God, and not of us. Yet, he shares with us all, the matchless opportunity to participate in what he is working to accomplish.

So, thank you for being a fellow co-worker in that effort—and to God be the glory for what has been, and will be done!

Gary Moore



Refugee Church Malawi

families who have suffered loss through house fires or a change of circumstances and the only thing they have are the clothes on their backs. The congregation is now in the process of starting a food bank to benefit the surrounding community and have been hosting English language classes.

In addition, a refugee couple who were sponsored by Winnipeg members to settle in Canada have begun, with the support of others, a new school in Liberia focused on teaching valuable computer skills.

New Canadians, many former residents of refugee camps in places such as Kenya and Malawi have settled in other GCI Canada congregations as well, providing an opportunity for practical service to our members and greatly enriching our congrega-
