



**Mennonite
Church**
Canada

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Witness

Mission Action Profile (MAP) in South Africa

The church in South Africa is the spiritual basis for the country's peaceful transition to democracy. **It is the church that leaders look to as South Africans cope with severe economic and social challenges.** The church provides the spiritual stamina to survive the ongoing disparities as they struggle for a just and prosperous society.

Mennonite Church Canada has formed partnerships with "African Indigenous Churches" (AIC) in the East Cape Province in order to build up local congregations which can address the challenges in culturally appropriate ways. Specifically Mennonite Church Canada Witness has partnered to help:

- Organize the **Transkei AIDS Support Organization** and train leaders and volunteers to reach out to the many in need.
- Conduct **Bible teaching** conferences in different locations in East Cape Province through the Bethany Bible Institute – bringing needed resources to the people.
- Identified opportunities for **short-term volunteers** to help in ministries like orphanages. While serving, volunteers learn about cross-cultural service and God's work in South Africa.
- **Encourage women** through participation in the Umtata Women's Theology Group, which has produced a series of Christian study booklets on issues facing women in South Africa (violence, abuse, divorce, marriage, AIDS)

MC Canada Witness supports **Lynell Bergen and Brian Dyck** and their sons, Samuel and Marcus, based in Umtata, the centre of the East Cape Province. [Brian and Lynell play a crucial role in these ministries.](#) They are involved in several teaching and support ministries including Christ the Redeemer Pastoral Centre, the Bethany Bible Institute and other projects developed jointly with AIC. [Together with AIC church leaders, they are building and supporting a church that reaches out to a people living in challenging times.](#)

MC Canada Witness invests \$60,000 annually in building up indigenous churches in South Africa. Your partnership in this ministry is essential for this ministry to continue.

You are invited to send your contributions to Mennonite Church Canada Witness, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Please note "South Africa" with your cheques to MC Canada Witness.