



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Witness

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Dear Pastor(s)

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 1:1)

I am writing you on behalf of Mennonite Men and the *JoinHands Church Building Program* to both inform you of what we are about and to enlist support for this ministry.

Mennonite Men has a history of some 60 years, initially with the General Conference Mennonite Church. Since the merger of Mennonite Church and General Conference Mennonite Church it has become the men's ministry organization for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. In the course of the past several years Mennonite Men has published a number of men's study booklets and is now in the process of publishing a devotional book for men, expected to be published in time for Assembly in 2007.

The service project of Mennonite Men is the *JoinHands Church Building Program*. Since 1985 Mennonite Men has offered grants of some \$1.2 million dollars to 45 churches in the USA, Canada and overseas. Canadian churches have benefited greatly from this program with approximately \$320,000 having been given to 11 growing young churches.

Mennonite Men is committed to a continuing partnership with Mennonite Church Canada in providing spiritual resources to men and in helping young congregations to acquire their first house of worship. In order to do this we need your congregation's help. Here is how you can become a partner in this ministry:

- We need more donors to meet a growing need for church building grants North America wide. Would you consider us in your annual budget formation or special gifts?
- In Canada we need to invite more applications for funding. Perhaps you know of a young congregation that could use such assistance. Prospective congregations are reminded that the waiting list for grants can be 3 -5 years long so we would encourage planning in advance.
- Last but not least, Mennonite Men needs a clearer profile of men's ministry taking place in congregations, and of the needs that are there. We would like to hear from congregations that have an active men's group and from those who don't but would like to. This will help us in shaping the ongoing ministry of Mennonite Men in the church.

Would you hold us in your prayers and seek the Lord's leading in how we together can best respond to His call?

We have a number of people across Canada who are willing to answer your questions about Mennonite Men or the *JoinHands Church Building Program*. I encourage you to be in touch with them: in Ontario - Rev Noe Gonzalia (519)744-6574; in Manitoba - Abe Wiebe (204) 326-9322; in Vancouver BC - Rev Samson Lo (604)254-2772 and in Alberta - myself, Marv Baergen (403)256-2894. I have also attached some brochures to assist you in becoming a partner in this exciting ministry.

Co-workers in Christ,

Marvin Baergen

Enc. Mennonite Men brochure
JoinHands brochure

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11