



Witness

September 2003, *Equipping*

TO: Pastors, leaders & members of Mission Committees  
*And for your church bulletin board*  
FROM: Kathy Fast, Coordinator for Congregational Partnerships  
DATE: August, 2003

## RE: Congregational Partnership Opportunities

Congregational partnerships harness the potential of the church for ministry, connecting missional congregations to local, national and international partners. Called to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace and agents of God's healing and hope in the world, we are continually being called into partnership with others. When we partner, we work together in fulfilling God's vision of a world that is brimming with his love for each other and for our Lord.

Many churches are developing closer partnerships with mission workers or with churches in other locations. These broaden our understanding of God's world. If you do not already have a partnership, we invite you to consider connecting with a mission worker, a ministry, or a congregation.

### Types of partnerships include...

#### Congregation to Congregation

- Colombia Mennonite Church is inviting Mennonite congregations from around the world to consider becoming a sister church to one of their congregations.
- Native Ministry is inviting churches to partner with Native congregations, especially in light of the recent program reductions made in Native Ministry. Please contact Walter Franz or Donovan Jacobs at Mennonite Church Canada Witness for more information.
- Inquire about other options, both locally and internationally.

#### Congregation with Mission Worker

- Develop a connection to and commitment for the work of one of the Witness workers "from across the street to around the world".
- Possibilities abound and ideas can be found in the World of Witness Prayer Directory. We have workers in 40 countries, including Canada and the US. Many would appreciate developing a partnership with you. New WITNESS workers such as Glyn Jones & Susan Allison Jones (going to Botswana) and Cari Friesen (going to China) need the kind of support congregations can offer.
- Note that if you are already partnering with one or more of the following workers, call your area conference partnership facilitator (*see list at right*) to get an update on changes and suggestions on how the future could be shaped.
  - *Jake & Dorothy Unrau - Ukraine*
  - *Gerald & Rie Neufeld - Japan*
  - *James & Henrietta Schellenberg - Germany*
  - *Rudy & Sharon Dirks - Botswana*
  - *Rudy & Elsie Frose - Brazil*

#### Congregation with Ministry

- Develop a connection with and commitment to the work of one of the Witness Ministries such as:
- Native Ministry
- Multi-Cultural Ministry
- International Ministries
- A connection could also be made with a ministry of another congregation in another part of the world. Examples such as:
- Korean Anabaptist Centre
- Seminary in Colombia
- "5 & 2 Multiplying for All" in Chile
- AIDs ministry in southern Africa
- In some places we support ministry with funds, but not workers.

**We invite you** to consider the options, and challenge your congregation to find ways to connect with workers, ministries or other congregations. Different levels of engagement are open to us.

#### For further information and conversation, please contact:

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