

Equipping

September 10, 2004



This month's Equipping package has some very exciting reports from the work that we are doing together in MC Canada. As always, the Mission Action Profiles (MAPs) give a glimpse of our international mission work – this time in Hong Kong and Japan. And the story from Macau is also wonderful. I encourage you to check your World of Witness prayer directory for more information about these and other ministries.

On the Canadian front, I am always eager to read Samson Lo's Multi-cultural Ministry Newsletter that reports the powerful activity of God in the many non-traditional Mennonite churches across the country. This month's Newsletter includes several reports from people who were at the Assembly, and we are reminded of the blessings that we received there. What a privilege it is to belong to a church that includes such a wealth of diverse experiences and gifts, and such passionate followers of Christ. Please share this newsletter with your congregation.

In the enclosed announcement and prayer sheet, the announcement for October 24 speaks about the financial situation at this point in the year. Donations are down by \$113,000 from what we need at this time in order to reach our goals by year end. Some congregations have had to reduce their participation from previous years, and some individual donors have not been able to match previous year's support levels. On the other hand, some congregations and some individuals have increased their investment in the ministries we are doing. I am very grateful, and moved, by some of our rural congregations whose members have experienced many set-backs and challenges in the agricultural economy, but are continuing to contribute generously. Some are like the churches of Macedonia, of whom the Apostle Paul wrote that "for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part." (2 Cor. 8:2).

Your staff at MC Canada is committed to careful use of the contributions you send. We have adjusted our spending on ministry to accommodate the reduced donations.

I find myself dreaming and praying about possibilities.

- Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could maintain and increase our ministries even beyond the growth in the cost of living?
- Wouldn't it be exciting to help our international partners—including those in Hong Kong, Japan, Israel and Macau—to achieve even a few more of their goals and reach a few more people in their countries for Christ?
- Wouldn't it be gratifying if we could provide more resources in translation for our non-English-speaking sisters and brothers?
- Wouldn't it be great if we could make more resources available for our member churches to grow in our shared faith and life—whether through curriculum, pastoral development, or distribution of audio-visual, electronic and print resources?

If you want to see what an impact your contribution can make, consider signing up for the Cuba Learning Tour—or one of the other learning tours that we offer from time to time to visit our international ministry locations.

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I invite your congregation to think seriously about contributing more than you had planned for this year to support the building of the church. A special gift this year of an additional \$300 is enough to support one rural pastor in China for a whole year; \$900 is enough to help train 3 Cuban Pastors for ministry this year; \$1700 is enough to help support one professor at the Seminary in Colombia for one month; \$2500 is enough to help support the ministry of prayer encouraged through PrayerNet for 6 months.

Let's see together how much of an impact for Christ we can make on our churches and on our world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Nighswander', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Nighswander