

## Canadian Missions Committee

### Synod of Alberta and The Territories

The Canadian Missions Committee was saddened by the passing of our chair, Don Hall, earlier this year. His “home-going” to be with our Lord reminds us all of the urgency of our task to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Don was passionate about this and we hope to carry forward that passion.

We also are pleased to be working with our new Assistant to the Bishop, Larry Kochendorfer, who was with us for the first time at our meeting in November, 2010.

The current membership of the committee is: Jim Bredeson (Northern Conference), Gail Kaiser (West Central), and Rob Taylor (Southwest). We are in need of representation from the East Central and Southern Conferences. We also wish to thank Barrett Scheske, formerly representing the Southern Conference, who resigned from the committee as he joined another denomination.

The committee’s work has focused on new church development, assisting congregations to reach their mission potential, and encouraging pastors and leaders to be in mission for others.

Among the highlights of the year in the area of church development would be the work being done at Abundant Life in Calgary under the leadership of Peter Chau. Their creative efforts especially in the area of adult education has encouraged real enthusiasm and growth. This congregation will officially organize on September 25. We also rejoice with St. Peter’s—Slave Lake and Glory—Sherwood Park in the completion of their new facilities. We are thankful to God that St. Peter’s was spared in the disastrous fires which struck Slave Lake this year. We continue to pray for them as they minister in a devastated community.

We are also encouraging area parishes especially in rural areas. These include parishes such as Wainwright/Irma/Sedgewick/Lougheed and a new arrangement involving Edberg/New Norway/Bashaw. There are also regional efforts such as the Parkland Area Lutheran Network which has been engaged in cooperative efforts in the Stony Plain/Spruce Grove/Alberta Beach/Calahoo areas.

The committee also sponsors attendance at conferences designed to encourage mission awareness and creativity. Events included the national mission consultation in Winnipeg attended by Larry Kochendorfer, Phil Hink, and Jim Bredeson. The highlight of this event was a presentation by Cam Harder on ministry in rural and small town settings. Another event was [re]Church Take Another Look. This event encouraged creativity in reaching out and being community whether in a new mission development or a long established congregation.

On behalf of the Canadian Missions committee, we are pleased to serve the synod in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted

Jim Bredeson, Secretary