

District Superintendent's Report



Introduction

The intention of this report is to give you an overview of the health of our collective mission, the inputs/activities of your district leadership and the progress we have made vis-à-vis stated goals over this last two-year reporting period. In turn, my desire is that this report will catalyze fruitful discussion, feedback, pushback, questions and increased zeal from our whole leadership family.

A. The Issachar Project: Understanding the Times, Discerning our Future

How can we improve on our ministry effectiveness?

At District Conference 2017, I reported that the top priority of the incoming DEXCOM would be to conduct an effectiveness review of WCD's core means in ministry delivery. Of course, as leaders we are constantly surveying the landscape, listening and looking for ways to sustain and improve on mission effectiveness. However, we do not frequently employ a third party external and impartial voice in combination with constituent survey. The last time we conducted this type of thorough review of the WCD direction and operations was about 15 years ago.

The genesis of the Issachar Project stemmed from a DEXCOM motion. The mission was clear: "to serve WCD churches and leaders as a catalyst in pursuing Jesus for life, church and world transformation." DEXCOM wanted to take a deeper dive in order to know specifically in what ways they were fulfilling that mission and to gather recommendations for increased effectiveness. Importantly though, the defined purpose of the project did not stop with the question of 'how is the district office/staff doing on ministry delivery to the constituency?', but pressed on to a much deeper outcome of, "ensuring the effectiveness of the WCD in leading and serving its church leaders in ways that enable them to have the greatest Kingdom impact in a post-Christian environment." In the end, our WCD office is not effective if our churches are not experiencing fruitful engagement in the mission of multiplying disciples in Alberta/NWT. We are in this together.

It is important to note that at the time the Issachar Project was considered the WCD was considered to be at a place of health and strength; deemed by DEXCOM to be on mission and experiencing good to strong movement in its vision and chosen action plans.



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Project Process

Seeking the highest quality process and results, DEXCOM hired a Terry Mochar as our consultant to lead a process of research and evaluation. Terry Mochar is Founder and President of Mochar International Management, who is globally recognized for his ability to assist businesses and institutions in assessing their reality, see the future and better fulfil their mandate. Terry has worked with several corporate and not-for-profit organizations assisting senior leaders in establishing vision, strategy, structure and operating models to create sustainable and productive organizations. He has conducted similar projects with other Christian organizations such as SEND International, the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and International Students Ministries Canada. Importantly, he is a devoted follower of Jesus Christ with long-standing roots in the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), including the WCD.

The Issachar Project was guided by the DEXCOM-appointed Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprised of Scott Dixon (Chair), Carla Olsen Draper, Henry Tseung, Lorne Fredlund, Brent Trask and Terry Mochar. After the content of Issachar Report was affirmed, DEXCOM then appointed an Issachar Implementation Committee (IIC) comprised of Lorne Fredlund—Lead, Jason Fan, Karen Schenk, Cyndy Ingram, Wayne Regehr, Terry Mochar and Brent Trask to assist DEXCOM in deciding how to respond and act upon the report and recommendations therein.

The name “Issachar Project” was chosen because it spoke to the heart of what DEXCOM wanted to accomplish—understanding the times in which we live and discerning WCD’s future in multiplying disciples (see 1 Chronicles 12:32).

Project Scope

These questions defined the scope of the Issachar Project:

1. How effectively are we seeing movement in disciple making, spiritual renewal and reaching the least reached?
2. What yearnings and longings is the Spirit of God placing in our hearts for something more?



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3. How do we serve our churches and leaders to help them understand their place and role as part of a broader Christian movement around the world?
4. How do we serve our churches and leaders to have greater Kingdom impact in a post-Christian environment?
5. Are we clear enough on whom we are serving and how effectively we are meeting their needs?
6. Are our resources—staff and financial—allocated to what is most strategic and important?
7. Are we structured effectively to accomplish our strategies and goals?
8. Are we being effective in achieving our vision and mission through our defined strategies and activities?
9. Are the stated WCD mission and mandate right for us and those we serve?
10. Do we have the right systems and tools to track effectiveness? Do we have blind spots, and are we missing “low-hanging fruit”?
11. How do converging technologies and societal movements impact how churches should function going forward?
12. Are we in alignment and impactful partnership with the Lord’s calling upon the C&MA Canada?

Terry Mochar viewed the research data through the lens of these guiding questions in order to formulate observations and recommendations to submit to DEXCOM. The Issachar Report contains more than 70 formal observations and recommendations. DEXCOM has carried the responsibility to prayerfully weigh what has been discovered in similar manner to the Berean Christians who “*received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so*” (Acts 17:11).

DEXCOM believes it is critical to clearly understand the WCD’s current reality in order to discern how to move forward in a focused manner to fulfill the mandate to advance the Gospel in an increasingly post-Christian culture. The heart of DEXCOM is to lead the WCD effectively under the Lordship of Christ using the observations and recommendations from the Issachar Project as both lighthouses and guideposts. Most, but not all, of the Issachar Report observations and recommendations have been affirmed.



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Timeline and Communication

The entire project was developed over several phases, including:

- Project Steering Committee recruitment and alignment in project purpose (Sept-Oct 2017)
- Research and analysis pertaining primarily to the WCD organization, strategy and structure (Nov-Dec 2017)
- Constituent leadership interviews (Jan-Jun 2018)
- Project report writing (Jul-Aug 2018)
- Presentation to and response of DEXCOM (Sept-Oct 2018)
- Recruitment and work of the Implementation Committee to serve DEXCOM in forming final recommendations (Nov 2018-Jun 2019)
- Issachar Reveal series of videos communicating the content of project discoveries (Mar-May 2019)
- Preparation for the Issachar Moment at District Conference 2019 at which key implementation decisions would be discussed and declared (May 24-Jun 3, 2019).

Throughout this time there were various updates and communications as the project has been unfolding. DEXCOM focused its initial communications on what to expect during the research process as data was collected and then evaluated over a time period which exceeded a year. Once data collection and evaluation were complete, DEXCOM focused on revealing the findings through written content and video communications that can be found at [WCDTV](#).

The Issachar Project Report (Abridged Version)

The attached comprehensive summary ([Appendix A](#)) is a synopsis of the original 170-page report delivered to DEXCOM. The observations and recommendations have been summarized to make the Issachar Report more accessible to our constituency. Nonetheless, this summary is comprehensive to the scope and import of the entire work and is provided nearly verbatim in Terry's voice. Additionally, most of the full report is comprised of data pages (100-plus pages) that support the observations and recommendations. These data



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pages are not included in this comprehensive summary but many of them will be profiled in presentations at District Conference. Additionally, data pages can be found on [WCDTV](#) on the Issachar Reveal channel.

Presentations on and grappling with the content and application of the Issachar Project findings will be the major focus of our District Conference. In preparation, please read the entire comprehensive summary report.

As you finish reading the Abridged Issachar Report, you might be wondering, “Where do we go from here? How will our District Leadership and our District Office respond to all that has been written here?”

Those are great questions! For this reason, we are calling the District Conference ~ ***The Issachar Moment*** ~ focusing on our call to action.

Next Steps

- DEXCOM, with the assistance of The Issachar Implementation Committee, was able to group the many observations and recommendations into Eight Initiative Areas and affirm the general direction we will take in each of these areas.
- Further detail on these plans and intentions are available in the Issachar Implementation Committee’s report to District Conference available in [Appendix B](#). There we describe accomplishments to date, activities currently in motion, and that which is to be undertaken over the next 12-36 months.
- The Eight Initiative Areas are:
 - Thought Leadership & Development;
 - Strategic Planning, Operational Framework and Tracking;
 - Digital Strategy, Platform and IT Infrastructure;
 - Communications Strategy;
 - Leadership Development;
 - Restructuring – Aligning Structure to Mission;
 - Asset Development & Management; and
 - Canadian Global Missions.



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- The District Conference will also contain a verbal report on the Issachar Project and response plan with presentations by both Terry Mochar and myself.
- There will be significant Q & A time on this project at the District Conference.

Overflow of Gratitude

On behalf of DEXCOM, I extend our heartfelt thanks to each person who participated in the Issachar Project. We appreciate your time, input and honesty. We want our leadership across the district to feel heard, understood and supported. We trust God to enable us to utilize the results of the project to move us forward in His plans as individuals, as churches, as a District Office and as a movement of churches on mission together.

On behalf of DEXCOM, I also recognize and appreciate the efforts of each individual on the Project Steering Committee—Scott Dixon—Chair, Carla Olsen Draper, Henry Tseung, Lorne Fredlund, Terry Mochar and Brent Trask—and the *Issachar Implementation Committee* (Lorne Fredlund—Lead, Jason Fan, Karen Schenk, Cyndy Ingram, Wayne Regehr, Terry Mochar and Brent Trask). Your availability, your guidance, your responsiveness to hundreds of emails and your wisdom were integral to this project.

And finally, on behalf of DEXCOM, I particularly want to thank Terry Mochar for availing his expertise to us and giving himself to this project—heart, mind and soul. Terry, you have been God's gift to us in the WCD. You have served us with excellence and all with an attitude of giving all to the glory of God and expansion of His Kingdom. May God bless you richly for the blessing you are to our district family through this labour of love!

The Office and Committees of the Superintendent are called to serve our churches and leaders as a catalyst in pursuing Jesus for life, church and world transformation. Together with all members of the Western Canadian District, we are trusting God to enable us to understand the times, discern our future and move forward in confidence as He did for the Sons of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32.

Recommendation: Approval of the Issachar Implementation plan via the motion to adopt the DS Report.



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B. WCD Strategic Plan 2017-2019

District Conference (DC) 2017 approved an updated strategic plan to guide us for two years, through to DC 2019 ([Appendix C](#)).

This strategic plan is a continuation of a 6-year plan – first conceived in 2013, updated in 2015 and again in 2017. By making only minor modifications in 2017, DEXCOM was in essence saying to DC 2017 that the next two years, until DC 2019, will be about ‘sustaining and improving’ on current vision, direction and strategy. This will take the District Superintendent to the completion of his second term.

The results of the Issachar Project will provide the insight and recommendations upon which the WCD can envision a new 4-6-year plan. This has been the top priority of our current sitting DEXCOM and our most important deliverable to be presented for approval at District Conference 2019.

This current strategic plan has ten focus areas, all flowing from the National Vision Prayer. For the sake of greater clarity and ease of memory, we have boiled the ten focus areas down into what we are now calling, ‘**The BIG Three**’:



MAKE DISCIPLES

Increase our effectiveness in making disciples who make disciples.

SEEK RENEWAL

Advance our emphasis on renewal in the Person and work of the Holy Spirit.

REACH THE LEAST REACHED

Embrace focus on reaching the least reached, everywhere.

Our objective is that *The Big Three* not become siloes of independence. As such, the Field Team adopted an integrative statement that hold these three priorities together in a cohesive vision.

"We envision that every church would enjoy the reality of making disciples of Jesus, who make disciples, who experience the release from darkness and all that hinders, the enjoyment of Spirit-empowered freedom, and fruitful engagement in God's mission to our world."

Progress reports on ‘The Big Three’ are found in sections below.



C. 20 Year Statistical Review

As a means to consistently scan the 'dashboard gauges' of the district, it has been an annual practice of your DEXCOM to conduct a 20 Year Statistical Review at our Fall meeting. The latest data is available in a power point format in [Appendix D](#). The trend in our churches over the last 5 years is one of strong growth in donations and comparatively moderate to flat growth in worship attendance, membership, conversions and baptisms, number of churches and number of licensed workers.

D. **Make Disciples:** Increase Effectiveness of Making Disciples, Who Make Disciples

The first of our big three priorities aligns with our National Vision Prayer that concludes with the words, 'Making Disciples Everywhere'. The way our national vision unfolds is that our personal and corporate transformation into Christ Centered, Spirit Empowered, Mission Focused people, would result in the multiplication of disciples. We aim to make much of Jesus' last command in the WCD – and to **DO THIS WITH EXCELLENCE!** That is the journey we are on. And though we may feel things are moving too slow, or that the path forward in many our churches is unclear, or that we don't know how best to stimulate one another to love and good deeds in regard to disciple making – we will persevere in this. For this is exactly what Jesus intends to do in and through us.

Serving as Catalysts to Inspire Making Disciples

Tim Beadle continues to champion this district priority.

While we all adhere to the urgency of the Great Commission of Jesus to go into the world and make disciples of all nations, common practice finds many churches struggle to 'make disciples who make disciples.' The common experience within our district churches is to engage in 'discipleship programming' (which serves to bring people to maturity in Christ). However, we are failing to carry on this transformative experience to the point that finds our leaders and people embracing an understanding that being a follower/disciple of Jesus carries with it the call, command and Spirit anointed ability to multiply disciples through 'spiritual reproduction.'



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Practically, this means disciples of Jesus engage in a 'life on life' relationship with another person and that person understands the ultimate outcome of the discipling relationship is to grow in Christ to the point they are able to go and replicate the disciple making experience with another.

From research conducted, approximately ten percent of our lead pastors are currently in a disciple making relationship where the person they are in relationship with understands at some point they will replicate this experience with another person. The challenge before us is that if you don't "live it, you can't lead it" when it comes to disciple making. To date, the vast majority of our pastors and lay leaders are not 'examples' of disciple making.

The bottom line is that a refocusing on a biblical 'worldview' needs to occur so that our district family will understand and embrace disciple making as normal and expected behavior in our personal lives and church ministries. It appears at the present time we are entrenched in the belief that church programs and/or church pastors produce disciples, without a biblical understanding that every believer is to be equipped and empowered to become a disciple maker (Matthew 4:19).

While our churches have been focusing on developing discipleship pathways over the past six years, very few have been identified as designing their programs specifically around a 'disciple making' objective and those who have are early on in this initiative. A reasonable expectation is that it takes 5-7 years to change church culture in this regard. We are in this for the long haul.



To assist in stimulating cultural change, a series of 5-minute videos have been created as conversation starters to challenge the status quo in our people's lives and church experience. A new *Tim Talks Disciple Making* video has been released every two weeks over this winter/spring gaining over 1000 views.



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Topics include:

- The difference between discipleship and disciple making.
- How disciple making is a matter of obedience to Jesus command in the Great Commission.
- Church programming, without personal intentionality, does not produce disciple makers.
- How believers need to accept the personal invitation of Jesus to follow him in this regard – understanding it is his intention to transform us (by the Holy Spirit) into disciple makers, that if you aren't reproducing spiritually, you haven't fully matured as a believer.
- To watch some of these videos, follow this link: [TIM TALKS DISCIPLEMAKING](#)

At the end of each video, coaching questions for personal use and group study are provided. In total, 13 videos have been produced. The videos will remain tethered to our website resources as a point of reference for introducing a culture of disciple making across our district.

Disciple Making Wisdom Board

A Disciple Making Wisdom Board, comprised of lead practicing pastors, was formed in the Fall of 2017 to assist and guide the WCDO in catalyzing a movement of disciple making across our region. This group meets semi-annually. They have been a great strength and repeatedly have asked our office to focus on creating a new culture and atmosphere of disciple making versus simply requiring churches to make 'discipleship pathway plans' for their churches. As we experiment, we are learning together and from one another. To fan into flame what is happening at the grassroots, we need to hear more of the stories and testimonies of what our pastors and lay persons are doing and discovering about disciple making and sharing on social networks in the coming days.



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There is concern that at the present time the entire topic of 'disciple making' isn't part of our Core Training (Ordination) curriculum and experience in the development of our future leaders. Internally, our WCD Field Leadership Team is processing a recommendation that all participants in the Core Training program be exposed to foundational teaching on disciple making, and that all participants in the program need to develop at least one disciple making relationship before they are deemed to have successfully completed the program.

Four disciple making protocols are under consideration as we look for models and mentors that will fit best and be most suited to the needs of WCD churches in the Alberta context.

- a. The Bonhoeffer Project (Bill Hull)
- b. Relational Discipleship (Jim Putman)
- c. 3DM/Missional Communities (Mike Breem)
- d. Navigators 2:7 Discipleship Program

Disciple Making Weekends

Training and teaching weekends are being piloted in the WCD. The first event was held at Central Edmonton Alliance Church (formerly First Filipino) on Feb 9-10, 2019. On the first day, Saturday, 40 leaders learned the basics of disciple making. On the second day, Sunday, a related biblical message was preached with a challenge and commitment time. Over 150 in attendance responded to enter into the adventure of disciple making in the coming days.

As well, pre-seminars took place with the church pastor prior to the weekend.

Adult Spiritual Development Study

A project has been launched to educate those who want to enter disciple-making relationships. This study is to be completed by August 2019 and will identify the marks of maturity in those growing as disciples of Jesus with the intention of adding applicable resource suggestions for those who would like to know how to engage another person in the disciple making journey.



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Field Leadership Team

Over the last two years, our Field Team have altered their lifestyle in order to participate in Jesus' great commission. This has not been easy, but it has been rewarding, and it is the right thing to do! Some are experimenting with a Scripture Reading App that allows for daily interaction between participants as each records or journals, 'How is Jesus speaking to me through this passage?'. This seems to be very low hanging fruit in teaching others how to have a meaningful devotional life and to keep in constant contact with those you are discipling. We need to learn more about how to utilize the digital world to multiply disciple making.

Where are you on this journey friend? I welcome and challenge all licensed workers to join in shifting your lifestyle to make room for personal disciple making with a focus on multiplication.

Leader Development

New Culture and Operating System

The WCD Field Team, under the direction of Doug Balzer, has developed a new "operating system" pertaining to our culture of identifying and developing leaders. The aim is to create a culture within our churches that is continually focused upon discipling people into greater areas of Kingdom responsibility and capacity. Utilizing resources such as, *The Leadership Pipeline* (Charan, Drotter & Noel, 2011) – [An Introduction to the Leadership Pipeline](#), we are clarifying what sorts of skills, values and perspectives are needed at each level of leadership in our churches.

Development phases are tethered to job complexity; leading self → leading others → leading leaders → functional/division leader → multi-function/divisions leader → senior organizational leader. Each stage builds upon the former, and each hairpin corner turning to the next stage has some defined competencies to propel to successfully navigating the next level of job complexity.



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We believe this new operating system will enable us to better assess how and where the WCD should make Leader Development investments as well as identify developmental gaps in our offerings. En-culturing this philosophic grid across our district will give us common language in understanding lifelong leadership development and assisting individuals to see the targets/bull's-eye ahead of them as they aim to grow and steward their lives. We also consider this initiative to be a keystone piece in assisting our pastors, boards and district office in assessing staff placement, employee/personal evaluation and development.

An overview presentation of the WCD leadership pipeline, as a work in progress, is available in [Appendix E](#).

National Symmetry with Licensing and Ordination

Districts, National Office and Global Ministries are working hard to bring into greater alignment their practices pertaining to licensing and ordination. Additionally, efforts are being made to better reflect our core values of being Christ-Centered, Spirit-Empowered and Mission-Focused into these developmental benchmarks; academically and experientially. Our **Core Training/Ordination** program currently has about 85 people registered in the three-year development cycle. We have about 25-30 new trainees enter per year at our annual New Worker's Orientation.

Young Leader Mentoring

We have two vehicles we have been using to assist in the development of our younger licensed workers. The first is an annual three-day event that brings a couple of district field team members together with 6-8 leaders in their 20's. This mentorship gathering is not a course, but rather a highly relational focus on mentorship, peer learning, relationship building and soul care.



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We have also just started in 2018, under the leadership of Jamie and Matt Boda, a new offering called **Lead Well**. This is a rolling three-year cohort experience, by invitation only. The target group here are those excelling in ministry, under age 33 and ordained, and those under age 33 with non-portable license and have completed Foundations for Ministry. We have about 15 people enrolled. New additions to the cohort will be made annually.

Leadership Matters Course (LMC)

In December 2018, we sponsored and hosted the *Leadership Matters Course* at Camp Nakamun. This two-week intensive training course for leaders has been found to be effective in the Global Ministries context. Link: [We Train Leaders](#). We are particularly excited about this development vehicle as Canada is increasingly a global village and our WCD leaders are availed to learn shoulder to shoulder with leaders from around the world. We had 8 of our own WCD pastors participating alongside a total of 31 students and 11 trainers from 9 different ministry organizations serving in 13 countries. This is a post ordination development track experiment for us (our candidate criteria = Sr. Pastor, age 33-45, 7+ years ministry experience already obtained). This course and is attractive to us because of the increasingly cross and inter-cultural context here in Alberta.

We are currently conducting a post mortem on this course and reviewing its effectiveness. This has been a pilot project as we continue to build the scope and sequence of WCD input to the development of our licensed workers. We anticipate recommendations going forward.

Pastors Networks

One of the core means through which we achieve our mission is in producing and facilitating the development of healthy networks for our pastors. We believe that these peer relationship 'pods' produce great fruit, both at the network gatherings themselves, but also in between the gatherings in increased mindfulness and cooperative relationship with one another. These highways of collaboration and mutual servanthood, together with our office's focus on culture setting around The BIG Three, together with defined equipping pertaining to the homogeneous grouping of that network, all work



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together to deliver transforming impact. We are investing heavily in the quality and health of several such pastor networks; youth pastors, worship, children, large church, rural, chaplains, discipleship, young leaders, missions. Many of these networks have annual retreats and/or regular gatherings. Feedback from these gatherings, the inspiration and equipping value of iron sharpening iron, and the quality of relationship building, has been strong.

Advance Canada

In the summer of 2018, we were able to forge a partnership with the *Luis Palau Evangelistic Association* and *C2C Canada* (now known as *Multiply*) in order to form *Advance Canada*. Lord willing, this will become a national network of young Canadian evangelists. The vision of Advance Canada is to fuel the proclamation of the Gospel by restoring the role of the evangelist to its rightful place in the Body of Christ. Our mission is to identify, encourage, equip, inspire and network Evangelists under the age of 40 in Canada. Advance Canada will be hosting a first ever gathering of its kind, An Evangelists' Summit, in Calgary in November 2019 (exact dates yet TBD).

Continuing Education Policy Revisions

The WCD is committed to encouraging and assisting its official workers (domestic and international) to experience lifelong personal & professional health and development for effective ministry. Ongoing fruitfulness involves engagement of the body, mind, soul and spirit. The majority of the activities needed to engage as a life-long learner are within the reach of the worker, the organization in which they serve (i.e., church or CMA Global Ministries) pertaining to time and financial budget. The WCD's 'Continuing Formal Education Funding' guidelines are designed to assist churches and official workers who mutually agree upon a strategy for formal education and development that is significantly beyond their sole ability to support.



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DEXCOM recently approved a revised Policy for Continuing Formal Education in order to address; a) inclusion of WCD International Workers into our WCD policy and b) clarify ramifications for when workers leave their staff position prior to education program completion. There are no changes to the financial parameters or budgetary commitments ([Appendix F](#)).

The Health Project

Stan Wiens left his position as Executive Pastor at Southview Alliance (Calgary) in the fall of 2018 to develop his passion for health and wellness as followers of Jesus. He has completed training in nutrition and has now developed his passion into presentation and preaching formats. He posts articles on Instagram daily, with education and encouragement to seek a lifestyle that honors God through healthy choices.

What started over a year and a half ago at Prayer Retreat in 2017, has continued to grow over time. Currently, Stan is writing articles and developing a suite of services that will be exclusive to the WCD through Great West Life. He is almost ready to launch 2 of the 4 services. Great West Life will reimburse plan members, up to an annual maximum of \$500, for costs incurred to access these services through *The Health Project*. Stan is now available to serve the WCD through one-on-one coaching as well as providing health workshops in our churches.



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making disciples of Jesus, who make disciples
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E. Seek Renewal Sustain Emphasis on Renewal in the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We are convinced that the “Big 3” emphasis in our district must be pursued in an integrated and holistic way. Specific to seeking renewal, that such initiative would be framed in the context of making disciples with a primary outcome of more fruitful mission to the least reached, here, there and everywhere.

Breadth of Renewal Engagement

The WCD dreams to experience a renewal in our district through the manifest presence of Jesus and encountering the power of the Holy Spirit. The goal we stated a few years ago is being realized: ‘By the end of 2018 every pastor in our District, and half of all our C&MA lay leaders, will experience afresh the fullness of Christ through the presence and power of the indwelling Spirit and will be equipped to lead others into a deeper Spirit filled/fuelled life.’ We do not have exact ways to measure this, but we do have some statistics to verify significant movement towards and fulfillment of this dream.

Since 2014, when The Western Canadian District began catalyzing renewal, 4743 people have participated in a Holy Spirit Encounter and over 1183 people have participated in a Soul Care Equipping Conference event. This means a total number of 5926 have participated in a district lead renewal event since 2014. Most of this has taken place within the WCD context, with a minority of events taking place in other locations in Canada and internationally.



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Shift in Focus

In the past 12 months we have witnessed a grassroots shift from Holy Spirit Encounter (HSE) being our primary vehicle for the district office in catalyzing renewal to Soul Care Equipping Conferences (SC).

The intention of these conferences is to help churches and leaders develop their own disciple-making pathways with a focus on personal freedom / healing as well as empowerment towards mission. In 2016 and 2017 WCD staff ran 1 SC conference each year, with the assistance of Rob Reimer and Martin Sanders. Since March of 2018, WCD staff have led 7 Soul Care's providing primary leadership at each. Additionally, 5 more are currently scheduled for the remainder of 2019.

It should be noted that leadership to a Soul Care event is a significantly more demanding investment than a Holy Spirit Encounter event, in both time and energy spent, for district ministry and administrative support staff.

Holy Spirit Encounter Toolkit

In spring of 2018, we launched a resource entitled *Holy Spirit Encounter Toolkit*. This resource assists lay and licensed leaders to conduct these events on their own assisted by helpful guidelines, professionally filmed session DVD's, teaching outlines, power point presentations and transcripts, etc.

Link: <https://transformcma.ca/ministries/renewal/holy-spirit-encounter-toolkit-2/>



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Local Church Development

We celebrate that there is a growing number of churches who are hosting their own Holy Spirit Encounters (HSE's) (or similar offerings) outside of involvement of District Staff (for instance, Beaverlodge, Hinton, South Edmonton, Sherwood Park, Heartland, Airdrie, Stettler, RockPointe, The Exchange, Capstone, Stony Plain and others; and many more yet of those using the Alpha Holy Spirit weekend model). Together, these events would represent a few thousand more people being more fully equipped and engaged in the deeper life. We celebrate this as representative of our original aims to see such intentional discipling of C&MA people in their local church settings. Some of these churches are utilizing the "Holy Spirit Encounter Toolkit" that the WDC office developed and made available online. In more recent HSE's we have provided specific instruction and practical experience related to divine healing and are seeing tremendous results as churches learn how to better incorporate this ministry.

Additionally, several of our churches have formed regular ministry that spring from their training and experience at Southland Church in Steinbach, Manitoba. This past year, as in the previous few years as well, the WCD's church effectiveness coaches brought several leaders to the Church Renewal weekend event held there (<https://churchrenewal.com>). I highly endorse this equipping opportunity to our WCD pastors and elders. Southland is not only pneuma-rich in their ministry posture, but also is an excellent example of clear, deliberate and disciplined disciple making pathways across all age groups in the church. If you have not been and are interested in going with other pastors and elders, please talk to your church coach.



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WCD Led Renewal Events in 2018

#	2018	Event	Location	Attendance
1	January 19-21	HSE	Beulah Alliance, Edmonton	161
2	March 9-10	HSE	Stony Plain / Spruce Grove	174
3	March 22-24	Soul Care	The Exchange / Capstone / Horizon	154
4	April 20-22	HSE	Sherwood Park	179
5	June 10-13	Soul Care	Airdrie Alliance	201
6	August 22-25	Soul Care	Stony Plain Alliance	157
7	October 26-28	HSE	Southridge - Lloydminster	50
8	November 16-18	HSE	St. Albert	108
	Total Attendance			1184

WCD Led and Planned Renewal Events in 2019

#	2019	Event	Location	Attendance
1	January 17-19	Soul Care	River of Life, Calgary	83
2	January 25-28	HSE	Beulah Alliance, Edmonton	148
3	February 21-25	Soul Care	Silk & Sand, Greece	110
4	March 21-23	Soul Care	Stettler	95
5	April 10-13	Soul Care	Grande Prairie	101
6	June 19-22	Soul Care	Capstone / The Exchange	
7	August 21-24	Soul Care	Gateway, Edmonton	
8	September 6-8	HSE	North Edmonton Alliance	
9	September 18-21	Soul Care	Sylvan Lake	
10	October 3-5	Soul Care	Foothills Alliance, Calgary (tentative)	
11	October 16-19	Soul Care	Moncton (ECD / C2C)	
12	November 15-17	HSE	Southridge (Lloydminster)	
	Total Attendance			537



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Renewal Podcast



The monthly *rekindle Renewal* Podcast, focused on Spirit-Empowered Leadership, was launched in January 2019. This is part of our aim to provide ongoing equipping to our constituency, but also to broaden our voice of catalytic influence beyond our current base (which predominates in WCD renewal event alumni). Since our launch in early 2019, we have now produced five episodes with a listenership of approximately 300. We encourage our constituency to listen in. You can access the podcast here: <https://transformcma.ca/rekindle/>

Doug Balzer's Doctor of Ministry Studies

Doug has completed and successfully defended his dissertation in December 2018. As such, his formal doctoral studies are now complete with the graduation / commencement having taken place in May. His focus of study was: "The Effect of Deliverance on the Well-Being of Christian Leaders." The final project can be accessed online: [D Balzer](#).

Doug wishes to express to DEXCOM his deep gratitude for the investment made through the WCD Education Policy/program into his development and the eventual outcomes of this research project. He has already begun the early stages of writing two books under the larger theme of renewal in the local church. One book is a direct outcome of leading Holy Spirit Encounters for the past 5 years and the other an outcome of his doctoral dissertation.

Beyond Our Own Borders

We are pleased to see the expansion of 'deeper life' emphasis, training, and events in other Canadian districts and even internationally. Most other districts have now also been offering deeper in the Spirit type gatherings, assisting people to take in Southland's Church Renewal weekend, and are starting to provide Soul Care conferences. The Mid-West District has facilitated 26 HSE's in 20 locations since 2014. The Mid-West, Pacific, St. Lawrence, Eastern and Central Districts have all been using their pastors prayer retreats as occasions



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to further edify our leaders and have also all crafted unique equipping events; 'One to One Retreat', 'Hands on Training', 'Deeper Life Workshop' and 'Deeper Life Summit'.

Additionally, we occasionally have the opportunity to serve our IW's, other Alliance World Fellowship churches and beyond the Alliance. For instance, in February 2019, Doug and Teri Balzer gave primary leadership to a Soul Care training event, held in Greece, for 100 International Workers from the Silk and Sand regions of our global CMA mission. The Eastern Canadian CMA district and C2C Network (now called Multiply) are organizing a co-sponsored Soul Care Conference, led by the Balzers in October of 2019 in Moncton, New Brunswick. The Trask's have been assisting the Netherlands Alliance Church and will be leading an HSE in Nov/2019. And, it is normal across the province that multiple churches, from multiple denominations, are attending our Soul Care and Encounter gatherings.

We praise God for the way the branches of the vine have 'run over the wall' so to speak. (Genesis 49:22, "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall."). To date very little in the form of a national strategy or conversation pertaining to renewal has been created. We look forward to stimulating such initiative in the coming term, believing this would be both welcome and helpful for the WCD and all our partner regions.

Renewal Wisdom Board

Our Renewal Wisdom Board, consisting of lay and staff deeper life leaders, has met 1-2X/year over the last three years. The group consists of Al Andrus, Doug Balzer, Greg Clark, Melanie Driedger, Ric Gilbertson, Maureen Guardacosta, Kyle Harnett, Sandy Isfeld, and Brent Trask.

We continue to value their collective voice as we consider our strategies regarding renewal strategy, focus of Prayer Retreat, identifying 'ditches' to avoid, engaging emerging generations, theological hinge-points, etc. We have discovered that there is much going on in the WCD, related to seeking deeper life in Jesus through the quiet but forceful ministry of the Spirit.

However, we recognize that we must do a better job of sharing with one another, communicating with the district at large of the numerous compelling stories to be told.



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The WCD Prayer Shield

Mobilizing our intercessors is an important foundation to all our local churches and associated ministries across the district.

In 2016, the DS initiated, in partnership with the leadership of Gail Rodgers, the idea of mobilizing intercessors across the WCD to provide district wide prayer coverage. We put out an invitation to the churches to ask their intercessors to sign up if they wished to be part of this District-wide initiative to cover our family of churches in prayer. We named it, “***The Prayer Shield***”.

Fifty intercessors initially signed up from across the WCD. A newsletter goes out monthly to this group to encourage them, invite them to pray for specific requests and churches, and invite them to a monthly online ZOOM video-conference Prayer Group Meeting. These group meetings are small (a maximum of 8 thus far) but they are meaningful, and the prayer time is very special.

We are encouraged that the Prayer Shield Newsletter readership is high, indicating strong commitment from the faithful few. But the overall response to the Prayer Shield has been weaker than hoped. The hope is that The Prayer Shield will grow in covering the WCD in specific prayer, bring encouragement and community to the core of our praying people, to expand equipping and training on prayer, and to perhaps one day have a “911 Group” of intercessors who will be available to pray when a specific crisis arises within the district or a specific local church (i.e. like the Fort McMurray evacuation).

I am asking for a growing militia of intercessors to join this district wide group! If your church has not already joined the Prayer Shield, please sign up to receive the newsletter and connect one individual from your own church prayer team to receive it. As many churches have a thriving prayer ministry, some do not feel the need for the Prayer Shield. However, if the Prayer Shield could connect with each church’s prayer team, the prayer coverage and



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Prayer Shield profile would be advanced in each church with a growing umbrella of protection and Kingdom advancing saturation. Occasionally we feature a resource on the Prayer Shield that is a great fan out to our churches as well.

“Prayer is striking the winning blow at the concealed enemy. Service is gathering up the results of that blow among the people we see and touch.” SD Gordon

For newsletter sign up, Prayer Shield questions or ideas, or for further information, please email: theprayershield@transformcma.ca.

F. Reaching the Least Reached Embrace Focus on Reaching the Least Reached, Everywhere

The WCD continues to better integrate the “Big Three” (Making Disciples, Seeking Renewal, Reaching the Least-reached). These emphases are not silos but rather deeply connected realities. All three areas of emphasis are finding ways to more holistically express itself towards this larger picture. In the world of missions, we aim to develop our IW’s, church planters, STM’s and local church outward initiatives to be disciples, and to multiply disciples, who are growing personally in Spirit vitality and in fruitful evangelism.

New Venture Developments Since District Conference 2017

We praise God for the generous spirit of collaboration our churches are demonstrating, for a generation of apostolic leaders who are venturing out into new gospel fields and for the diversity of expression in our highly diverse culture. Our new ventures reflect traditional and non-traditional models; paid and bi-vocational planters, multi-ethnic, rural suburban and inner-city contexts. And, yet we desire Jesus to lead us even more expressions of himself in our communities! We look forward to using the insights of the Issachar Project to further inform how we can best catalyze and steward the new venture opportunities before us.

Currently in the WCD, we have 14 active new venture projects which range from those that are actively searching for a church planter through to execution. This does not include those that are more than five years old and have now achieved legal, developing church status. We celebrate this progress as having so many new projects at one time has not occurred



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for about 30 years; since the mid-1980's (measuring in 5-year windows). Of course, we need to pray that our numerous new ventures see the light of day and not only survive but thrive in the ministry of the gospel to their unique settings.

Note: We have shifted our language from 'church planting' to a broader category of 'new ventures', which includes church planting. New ventures are any new outward-bound initiative or ministry that has the potential to become a church. The intention here is to provide more breadth of space to our creative approach in mission to diverse peoples.

New WCD Churches by Decade (not including affiliations)

Year	# of New Churches	Comments
1921 (Beulah Alliance Church)	1	
1930	8	
1940's	3	
1950's	6	
1960's	10	
1970's	19	
1980's	33	
1990's	15	
2000's	7	
2010's (to date)	14	(includes new ventures that have yet to become legal churches)

C2C Network Partnership

The C2C Network, led by Johnny Thiessen in Alberta, continues to be a high-value partner for the WCD in identifying, training and resourcing church planters and providing oversight coaching to new ventures. Note: they are in the midst of a name change from "C2C Network" to "Multiply". The growth of church planting under the C2C/Multiply banner has been such that their leadership capacities are being stretched very thin. We continue to support C2C/Multiply financially as well as having engaged WCD planter Chris Haggith (Langdon) to work as a part-time (1 day per week) regional coach at WCD expense.



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National New Venture Alignment

The WCD is collaborating more closely with other Alliance Districts in our approaches to planting new ventures in areas such as communication, a national website (see <https://www.newventurescanada.com>), shared learnings and some developmental systems. You can sign up on the website to receive a prayer email featuring one Alliance New Venture initiative every week.

WCD New Ventures* Statistics

New Venture Projects – 14 **

New Ventures in Edmonton – 3

New Ventures in Calgary – 9

New Ventures Rural – 1

New Venture, non-geographic - 1

Ethnic New Ventures – 2

Bi-Vocational Planting Pastors – 6

Missional/Incarnational New Ventures – 6 ***

Notes:

* A New Venture is a multiplication initiative that has the potential to eventually becoming a legal church. This does not mean it is intended to become one (i.e., a multi-site) but does exclude other new projects that do not have the same potential (i.e., a new youth group). New ventures are measured nationally for a period of 5 years after its formal launch.

** This represents only ventures where people are already engaged. This does NOT include the numerous other conversations at earlier stages of development.

*** For example, simple churches, house churches, etc.

As the number of new ventures increases as well as its diversity of expression, the WCD aims to assess how we might better coach and resource the various streams of multiplication; i.e. traditional plant, multi-site, bi-vocational, ethnic plant (all of which are reflected above).

We must assess the reality in Edmonton and serve to strengthen our multiplication efforts there.



New Venture Accountability

All DEXCOM motions for new venture funding require an annual review to establish rationale for continued need and viability. For reference, below is an example of the kind of communication we are sending to New Venture leaders prior to approval of annual WCD funding allotments.

“DEXCOM asks the NEW VENTURE Task Force to review the [project name] on the following metrics:

- 1. Fruit Is the project developing the kind of fruitfulness that we originally set out to see? Are we seeing increasing numbers of people moving towards Christ in a continuum of faith development that would ultimately express itself in the reproduction of disciples?*
- 2. Formation Are we seeing the formation of a core group, a faith community, an expression of church that fits the culture of [target community]?*
- 3. Future Are we moving closer towards a sustainable organization and funding model? District funding is intended to provide time to nurture this area forward so that when funding ceases, a sustainable future can be realized in the present.”*

As a rule, if all three above areas are in a reasonable state of development with a meaningful, forward trajectory, then one could deem a project to be viable and worthy of continued investment. If any one of the three above areas are in serious question, then the viability of the project is in question and is likely in need of significant and immediate remediation. It could also serve as an early-warning indicator that the project is not likely to be viable in the longer term. If more than one of the above three areas is in question, in most cases the project is no longer viable, and an off-ramp ought to be considered. Funding would no longer be justified.



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Four Primary Streams of New Ventures

All DEXCOM motions for New Venture funding also now define the ‘stream’ of the church plant. The expressions of new ventures have significantly diversified in recent years. We are now creating better clarity of the 4 primary streams of planting, along with more careful articulation of the kinds of support a planter might expect from the WCD. We are also attempting to mitigate “stream-migration” whereby a project begins under one stream and then migrates to another without having clarity as to funding and other support ramifications (i.e., traditional plant to bi-vocational model).

Approach	Discernment	Apprenticeship	Governance	Funding	Support /Training	Time Frame
Classical	Assessment Centre	12 Months Formative and Preparatory	Task Force	Significant 3-4 years (including apprentice year)	Multiply	3-4 years
Multi-site	Assessment Centre for Interview Format	6-12 months Formative and Preparatory	Internal	Moderate 2-3 year including apprentice year	Multiply and/or internal	2-3 years
Missionary	Assessment Centre	Adhoc Focus on Longer Term Formation, Mentoring	Task Force	Minimal Bi-Vocation Focused on Transition Period Formation	Multiply Other DNA network	3-5 years
Ethnic	Existing Core Group	N/A	Existing and Developing	Minimal Focused on Development of Pastor	Adhoc	N/A



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New Venture 2018-2019 Goals

We aim to work with our churches to carefully identify future new venture goals in the WCD generally and more specifically within our key cities. We last did this in 2010 and we are due for a refresh. Not only will this help our churches dream and plan with greater focus, it will also serve to better facilitate collaboration between churches and focus the strategic/resource planning on the part of the WCD. In May of 2019 the WCD office is organizing New Venture gatherings in Edmonton and Calgary.

WCD New Ventures List – Current

114 Communities

With the wind-down of Encompass Partnership, this project is in limbo as Encompass Partnership was to provide the needed fiscal infrastructure. The Advisory Committee of 114 is working with the WCD office to determine feasibility and any next steps.

WCD funding: none to date.

Please pray that the 114 Communities AdCom will have wisdom to determine what Jesus' intention is for this project.

Capstone Church (West Calgary)

Capstone is now functioning as a Developing Church, which is no small matter to celebrate. Capstone will soon “fall off” of our New Venture list as being a project 5 years old and now organized.

WCD funding: \$70K for apprenticeship period (2013-2014). No funding for planting phase.

Please pray for more workers who will help us lead many into the kingdom and also for our finances (as a church plant, our financial 'belt' gets tight at times).” – Kyle Harnett



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Crosslife Church (SW Edmonton)

Chris and Rhea Logan continue to wrestle with bi-vocational realities as they assess their future.

WCD funding: \$175K over four years. All funds now disbursed.

Please pray for more harvesters to join us in our immediate neighborhoods to share in the prayer and mission of loving our neighbors and making much of Jesus in all we do. – Chris Logan

The Exchange (SE Calgary)

The Exchange is positioned to be fully functioning as a Developing Church as of July 1, 2019 after being birthed out of First Alliance.

WCD Funding: \$180K, in third and final year of funding.

Please Pray for Church planting, Leadership Multiplication, and Disciples who make disciples. – Caleb Delamont and Brad Young

First Alliance Multi-site (Calgary)

In September 2018 First Alliance hired a church planter to lead them towards launching a site/campus of FAC at Glenmore Christian Academy. They aim to launch public services in Fall 2019.

WCD funding: none to date although DEXCOM can anticipate an appeal for subsidy with this project in coming months.

Pray for the planter, Jeff Marshall, that a strong, missional team would form around him and for favor with unchurched people in SW Calgary.

Glacier Ridge Church (North Calgary)

Glacier Ridge, out of Foothills Alliance Church, launched their public services on Sunday, September 16 in a public school in north-central Calgary (Evanston).

WCD funding: \$150K, in second of three years of funding.



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Pray for the continued formation of the launching members of this church and for a strong DNA to be set of reaching lost people for Jesus and making disciples that make disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit. - Planting Pastors Cam Loewen and Eric Mok

Horizon Church (Brentwood – Calgary)

We are a young church both in physical age, but also spiritual age/maturity.

WCD funding: \$150 over 5 years, in year two of funding.

Please pray that God will send more godly men and women who are mature in their faith who can disciple new believers into the fullness of Christ, as well as for our young believers to grow into Christlikeness. – Nathan Hildenbrandt

Midtown Calgary Chinese Alliance Church

This past year Midtown Church (pastored by Leonard Lam) affiliated with the CMA. We look forward to assisting them as they continue to form organizationally and strategically and gather as a church in central Calgary.

WCD funding: none to date.

Please pray for unity in their midst and favor among the Chinese community in Calgary.

Old Strathcona (Edmonton)

This New Venture is undergoing course corrections with clear lines of accountability.

WCD funding: \$90K over two years; in early second year.

[Please pray] that God would provide fellowship with some other mature believers in our neighborhood that would join with us in prayerful, intentional community engagement for the sake of God's kingdom. – Nathan Carroll



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Ponoka Restart

Planter Ryan Keehn has resigned, and the future status of this restart is unsure. The remaining core team of some 15 or so adults continues to meet to discern next steps. This core group recently crafted and signed a covenant together to be a faithful witness in Ponoka.

WCD Funding: \$155K.

Pray for clarity in discernment for the remaining core group and how WCD office can best support this group.

Rehoboth Church of Calgary (Eritrean, Downtown Calgary)

This church of Eritrean believers was formed in 2008 but had been operating independently and without any legal structure.

WCD funding: none to date.

[Please pray] Our great hope and prayer is to lead as Holy spirit to the right direction to preach the gospel for the lost. And for amazing revival in our city. - Bi-Vocational Pastors Tesfit Tikabo and Abraham Gofar.

Tuscany Missional Communities (NW Calgary)

This New Venture, launched out of RockPointe Church, continues to bear fruit.

WCD funding: \$137K, currently in final of 3 years funding.

Please pray for wisdom for us as we determine the best way to multiply, pray for an unbelievable sense of unity as we continue to share this mission together, pray for continued inroads into our community and for favor as we continue to share the hope and the love of Christ with the good people of Tuscany. – E.M.



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Inglewood Apprenticeship (Downtown Calgary)

This Apprenticeship, launched out of The Exchange, serves to develop Ryan Luttrell in a business-as-mission model to establish a church in Inglewood, Calgary. See his coffee-roasting website: <https://www.ourcollective.ca>.

WCD funding: \$19K over 2 years, currently in first year of funding.

Pray for Ryan as he develops as a church leader, a businessman, and as a disciple maker.

Beulah Downtown Site (Edmonton)

Tyson McCombs has been hired as the planter for this new site out of Beulah. They aim to launch in fall of 2019 and are currently forming community and exploring location options.

WCD funding: none to date although the WCD should expect an appeal from Beulah for subsidy.

Pray that Jesus would use Tyson to form a core community to launch fruitful ministry in the downtown region.

WCD New Ventures List: Matured since 2017 District Conference and No Longer in Active 5-year Window

The Neighbourhood Alliance Church - Langdon

Under the leadership of Pastor Chris Haggith, The Neighbourhood has achieved developing church status and is no longer counted as a church plant.



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Eckville Congregation

This congregation developed under the governance of our CMA church in nearby Sylvan Lake. Following a pastoral transition, the congregation chose to affiliate with the Evangelical-Free Denomination in January 2019.

Living Christ Alliance Church (Eritrean – Edmonton)

This congregation developed under the ministry of Beverly Alliance Church and achieved affiliated status in 2017.

Chaplaincy Ministries

I honor and celebrate the Alliance chaplains throughout the WCD who faithfully express the love of Jesus to the least reached people in our province. This segment of our ministry is healthy, expanding and able to take the life, love and message of Jesus into many arenas where the Church as an institution cannot go. Chaplaincy ministries are expanding throughout the WCD. We now have 45 Alliance chaplains in the WCD, an increase of about 30% from my report to District Conference 2017.

The Association of Alliance Chaplains continues to cooperate with Ambrose in establishing a chaplaincy educational track. We look forward to offering prospective students a dedicated course of studies explicitly focusing upon chaplaincy.

The composition of the 2019 the WCD Lead Team for the Association of Alliance Chaplains (AAC) is as follows:

Jill Burt - Christenson Communities
Cyril Gowler - All Weather Windows, RCMP
Kris Knutson - The Mustard Seed of Edmonton
Albert Kwan - Wing Kei Care Center
Karen Hansen –Covenant Health (Chairperson)
Don Neufeld – WCD Chaplain Liaison

Don Neufeld reports, “Overall, it’s been an extremely rewarding experience for me and an honor to work with our District Lead Team. I also Chair our National Chaplaincy committee. We continue to see the chaplaincy grow across Canada. I look forward to continuing to serve in this capacity in the days ahead.”



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Going Global – Mobilization and Multiplication

Commitment to our Alliance family mission, passion to extend compassion and justice, and urgency to provide every district language group on earth to have access to the Gospel continue to be the hallmark of WCD churches. We are thrilled at how pervasive and deep this engagement is at most of our churches and want to underscore that because of God's grace flowing through you – the love of God is flowing like a mighty river to many lost people who have never heard the good news of Jesus. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving, praying, sending, and supporting our sons and daughters to serve all over the world. You are making an eternal difference!

Kairos Course

We continue to shine the light on the Kairos Course (www.kairoscourse.ca) in the WCD as a key tool to train in biblical theology of mission and in inspiring people to bear God's missional heart and action. We will be offering the course 5 times in 2019 in Calgary, Red Deer, and Grand Prairie (for the first time ever in the Peace region). In Alberta we are running courses in four languages; English, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese. We are also investing in the version 5 update of Kairos materials and videos and in the creation of the enhanced youth version.

Ron Brown serves on the board of Kairos Canada and is actively involved in the multiplication of volunteers and trained facilitators that lead the training experience. We now have 3046 alumni in Canada (1017 in Alberta), 849 facilitators trained (284 in Alberta), and 102 head facilitators (43 in Alberta). About a third of all Kairos activity is in Alberta and approximately 80% of that would be Alliance.

The Kairos Course, borne out of the well-known Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course, was compiled in the Philippines by Living Springs International to help engage the Filipino church in world Christian mission. Since 1994, thousands of Filipinos have participated in Kairos. The Philippines now ranks as one of the top missionary-sending countries in the world. Kairos, in the meantime, has spread to 90 other countries and in 2013, it reached Canada and was quickly adopted by the WCD as a tool for inspiring, discipling and mobilizing pastors and lay people to engage in God's mission in the world.



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The Kairos course appeals to a variety of adult learning styles through prayer for unreached peoples, growth-point peer discussion groups, short lectures and video teaching, and special cross-cultural activities. This mission course has been described as, “a simple and practical way to understand, be challenged and integrate the Great Commission into each believer’s life.”

For more information: [Kairos Events](#)

Candidate Countdown

The WCD has ten people (50% of CMA Canada’s new candidates) going through preparation for a 2019 departure to ‘the ends of the earth’. Some are now taking Alliance History and Thought, Kairos, getting licensing done, preparing to attend Pre-Departure Orientation in Toronto in early June. Destinations include Kazakhstan, Northern Iraq, Egypt, Laos, UAE. A special commissioning service was held in January at Rockyview Alliance Church to send Bryan and Jessyka to join the newly formed Yazidi team in Northern Iraq. Praise God!!

Wisdom Board

A new group has been formed for guiding and advising the mobilization agenda in the WCD. The newly formed board consists of Josie Vance (Beulah), Stan Man (Edmonton Chinese), Dave Bradford (Brooks), and Wade Paton (RockPointe).

INTERWOVEN

The Sand and Silk regions held an event in Greece in February for their 100 IWs. About 80 pastor and lay leader visitors from Canada (of which, approximately 20 were from the WCD) went first to visit IWs in their ministry areas and then joined together for this conference. The first part of the week was listening to reports from these regions and the second half of the week was a Soul Care event run by the Balzers. Several WCD pastors used the district ‘experiencing Alliance missions’ travel subsidy for this event.



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Experience Alliance Mission Subsidy

This program is available for and limited to an Alliance Field experience and will, pending the availability of budgeted funds, allow up to \$1000 every two years for a WCD Senior Pastor and \$1000 every 5 years for other licensed workers. We want our pastors to be knowledgeable about and relationally involved in our C&MA IW's lives and their fields of service.

Experience Alliance Missions is now assisting 15-20 WCD licensed workers per year to head to C&MA mission fields for STM's, vision tours and seamless link connections. Further details and application for this program are available in [Appendix G](#).

Alliance World Fellowship (AWF) in Equipping Regional Academics

The WCD is sponsoring a project to assist AWF in equipping regional academics to become proficient in leading and teaching Alliance History and Thought in their respective settings. Representatives from the various AWF regions will meet in Nyack with Dr. Bernie van de Walle for special training in summer 2019.

Strategic Partnership – International Students

Discussions are underway between International Students Ministries of Canada (ISMC) and WCD/CMA-Canada to, a) form an official partnership and b) strategize effective ways to engage the 500,000 foreign students in Canadian universities. As this goes forward, we would look to strengthen the local church ministry of hospitality and witness to international students across WCD and in particular strengthen those WCD churches that are adjacent to a university. Perhaps a 'campus missionary' type role will emerge? (Charged with engaging the nations on campus as well as mobilizing local church parishioners and Christian students on campus to engage foreign students in acts of hospitality and intentional relationship).



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New Simpson Biography

An American author and former IW in Brazil, David Jones, has written a new biography of A. B. Simpson to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of his death in 2019. We will distribute this new book as a gift to conference registrants at district conference this year. We are also promoting/guiding a French translation for the benefit of the St Lawrence District and the French Africa Alliance churches.

Envision Canada (<https://envisioncanada.org>)

Envision is a new mobilization vehicle in the Alliance that is quickly gaining traction across the country, including in the WCD. It is designed to be a resource to the C&MA, to help identify and develop future missional leaders who innovate, establish, and strengthen communities of faith in key urban environments. We do this through short-term trips, internships, apprenticeships, gap year offerings, go global careers, leadership development, and ministry resources.

If you have a desire to serve God, but aren't sure about next steps, Envision Canada exists to journey with you. They are ready to help you discover your unique skills and potential calling -- and have connections with people, places and opportunities across Canada and around the world. If nothing else, these opportunities will expose you to the deeper life and missions which is the DNA of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

We are grateful for the diverse means by which people can experientially discover the global work of the Alliance and be meaningfully developed at the same time.

Local Church Mission Leaders Gathering

We host a WCD local church Mission Huddle twice per year. It is a time for any interested pastors and local church mission leaders to share activities or events they are using to focus on missions in their churches. We learn from each other. A mix of IWs are also in attendance.



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Our last Missions Huddle took place in Red Deer, March 21, featuring Jozé Reverante presenting the new pilot project called *Global Semester*. This initiative is part of Envision Canada.

New Short-Term Mission Trips (STM) Team Guide

A new guide book for STMs is intended to help churches, especially STM team leaders, prepare well for these events. The guide includes “best practices” preparation for the home sending church, for the participants going, and for the receiving group. This will be circulated throughout the district by the coaches as they travel and through our missions’ leader’s gatherings ([Appendix H](#)).

Global Vault Podcast

“As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:20

We are well into the second season of a bi-weekly podcast. This is a half-hour conversation with Alliance IWs which seeks to bring to the CMA-Canada tribe the stories of God at work amongst the nations. The aim is to use another available medium for a demographic that does more listening than reading. We now have 37 podcasts in the vault. (Check it out: <https://globalvaultpodcast.ca/>)

Alliance Mission History Book Projects (<https://www.cmacan.org/publications/>)

The first book of a trilogy providing the social history of our Canadian Alliance global engagement was entitled, *The God You May Not Know*, and came out in 2016. *The God Made Known*, Volume Two, was distributed to delegates at General Assembly 2018 in Calgary.

Work is well under way on volume three and will focus on *CMAC Global Ministries*, which was birthed in 1998, twenty years ago. This book is on track to be ready for distribution at General Assembly 2020 (40th anniversary of CMA-Canada).



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The Global Advance Fund – WCD Giving to GAF

Our WCD churches and congregants have been exceptionally generous to Alliance missions via donations to the GAF for decades. This runs deep in the DNA of our WCD family. As such, we were both surprised and concerned to see *WCD giving to GAF* well below budgeted expectation in 2018. Ron Brown says, “I don’t recall this ever happening before over my tenure”, and somehow didn’t even occur at the height of the Alberta recession. We have no explanation at this point but are grateful to see a sharp uptick and turn around in GAF donations YTD in 2019. Thank you for leading your churches to be ‘on mission together’.

Global Advance Fund - January 1 - December 31, 2018

2018 WCD Faith Goal	\$ 6,095,073
2018 WCD Actual	\$ 5,290,135 (87% of faith goal)
2017 WCD Actual	\$ 5,823,954 (100.35% of faith goal)

Global Advance Fund - January 1 – March 31, 2019

2018 WCD Faith Goal	\$ 1,515,926
2018 WCD Actual	\$ 1,546,615 (102% of faith goal)
2017 WCD Actual	\$ 1,469,362 (96% of faith goal)

International Workers Home Assignments - Current and Upcoming

Calgary Area

Tim & Roxanne Brazeau
Rick & Susan Kilbrai
Kurt & Kim Peters
Dan & Ruth Rossi
Grant & Sandi Weber
David & Becky Peacock

Home Assignments

May 1, 2018 – May 1, 2019
July 8, 2018 – July 7, 2019
June 1, 2019 – August 31, 2019
Pending, travel documents
July 15, 2019 – July 14, 2020
August 2, 2019 – December 3, 2019



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Edmonton Area

Cori Ibsen
Pablo & Silvina Papavero
Melody

Home Assignments

June 4, 2018 – June 3, 2019
July 15, 2018 – July 20, 2019
August 26, 2018 – August 25, 2019

Lakeland Area

Christ & Terra-Lynn Ulriksen

Home Assignments

July 31, 2019 – July 30, 2020

Encompass Partnerships (EP)

Throughout most of 2018, DEXCOM was in a season of dialogue, study and exploration, together with the Encompass Director and Board, with the aim of improving the financial sustainability of the EP mission. On January 11, 2019, EP Director Harvey Matchullis advised DEXCOM that the Encompass Board had chosen to surrender their facility and property to WCD effective February 1st, and to commence a multi-month wind down of their operations starting February 1st as well. On January 22, WCD sent a communication out on this matter to all licensed workers ([Appendix I](#)).

Throughout Q1 we have been responding to this decision and now have an interim leadership team in place to serve the many tenants and ministries dependent upon this facility. This place of stability is short term and decisions are still needed on our longer-term plan vis-a-vis the facility itself and how best to respond to the original mission of EP that is still a dominant need in our churches /district.

I personally want to thank Harvey Matchullis for his excellent leadership over these many years. EP has been a very important venture for the WCD and though this iteration will be coming to a conclusion we continue to embrace the core mission for which it was founded. Harvey has been the apostolic impulse without which we would not have ventured into this mission experiment.



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St. Lawrence District (SLD) Partnerships

The dominant unreached people groups in Canada are Francophones, First Nations, Big Urban Centers and New Canadians. Add to that the incapacity of our work in Quebec relative to our other provinces/districts, and the lack of responsiveness of its people to the Gospel, it is defensible to look upon SLD as a mission field that needs special attention.

In response, the WCD has been supporting SLD and the iterations of ETEQ (French theological training) with leadership development, coaching, relational ties, church partnerships, encouragement and finances for almost two decades. The financial portion of this investment to date totals approximately \$400K. We also have encouraged and developed partnerships between local churches in our respective districts and have outlined a protocol for multiplication. In 2012, Dexcom approved a multi-year WCD/SLD MOU that expired in 2017.

In 2018, I met with new SLD DS, Mabilia Kenzo, to evaluate the effectiveness of this MOU and our partnership and have received a written report in this regard. This spring, DEXCOM affirmed a new 2019 – 2023 WCD/SLD Partnership MOU that will see us invest \$120,000 to focus on church planting and leadership development. I encourage WCD local church leadership teams to prayerfully consider how you can be involved in the advance of the Gospel in Quebec.

District Camps

We praise God for the ministry of our three camps; Nakamun, Bellevue, and Chamisall. This past year alone (2018), they hosted 2900 summer camp kids, 12,000 people in rental groups, and assisted over 300 children/teens to find saving faith in Jesus!

Ken DeMaere serves on behalf of the WCD on our camp boards in Alberta. His task there is primarily to help them understand that their work is centered around their partnership with local churches and their ministry efforts towards Children and Youth.

The discipleship and learning process that goes on in the local church's ministry is added to in a person's camp experience, and the growth and discipleship steps that are fostered at camp are ideally carried to fruition in the local church.



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Additionally, the young adults and adults who work with the campers are being discipled by the board and staff to in turn disciple the campers that they serve over the camping season. Chet Kennedy now serves fulltime as the first ever paid Director of Camp Chamisall. He is making contact with our Southern Alberta churches to promote the camp ministry, with positive response. We also applaud Rob Toews and his leadership team of our Bellevue and Nakamun camping ministries, who are doing an excellent job by proclaiming the gospel and serving their constituency. For more detail see [Appendix J](#).

Change in Funding Model for GAF/Canadian Ministry Fund

On May 1, 2019, DEXCOM approved two very important motions regarding the future of and changes to the Canadian Ministry Fund. The DEXCOM 'decision profile' providing the background details on these approvals below is found in [Appendix K](#) and will be presented for further clarity at District Conference as part of the DEXCOM Report to DC 2019.

#1: *DEXCOM approved of changing the name and purpose of the Canadian Ministry Fund to 'New Venture Fund' – so that 100% of donations will be used exclusively for Gospel/mission expansionary purposes in Alberta/NWT (either directly or in partnership with our WCD churches in outward bound regional mission).*

This approval includes the following:

- To have a transitional name of 'Canadian Ministries/New Venture Fund' for 2 years, starting January 1, 2020, after which time it will become the 'New Venture Fund'.
- The intention that the New Venture Fund would be managed as an internally restricted fund pending professional advice from our accountant with respect to the implications of reallocating/redefining the existing funds and defining the New Venture Fund.
- An understanding that the WCD is already incurring 'New Venture' fund type expenses which will be allocated to this fund and that our expenditures in this area will not increase by the total amount of New Venture Fund donations. However, as this fund grows, the opportunity to invest in new venture type activities will increase.



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Inasmuch as the current Canadian Ministry Fund allocates 15% of all donations to Ambrose University;

#2: *DEXCOM approved of the ongoing allocation in future WCD Budgets, effective January 1, 2020, the greater of \$175,000/year or 15% of WCD Net Interest Income to Ambrose University.*

This approval includes the following:

- Based on the net interest income of the last 3 years, \$175,000 to Ambrose would have been 23% (2016), 20% (2017) and 15% (2018) of net interest income. As net interest income is anticipated to increase, at 15% of net interest income, Ambrose would expect to receive more than double what they received through the current CMF equation.

I am confident that these decisions will serve us well for the next generation and will add greater fuel to the fire of reaching the least reached to multiply disciples everywhere.

Conclusion

It has been my pleasure now for the past eight years to serve, in concert with Mandy and the wonderful team here at the District Office, as your Superintendent. My heart is full of gratitude and I am humbled by the opportunity to lead this jewel of a district.

Together we count it all joy to stand with our pastors, elders and churches in good times, and bad. A great day consists of a whole lot of loving on our leaders. Sometimes that means listening, or helping, coaching, mentoring, or maybe confronting, and often resourcing, partnering, gathering, and yes even prodding. And our mission - what we wake up thinking about daily - is, "Lord use me today to encourage and catalyze our WCD leaders to pursue Jesus for life, church and world transformation".

I want to thank you, our constituency, for your support, prayers, and graciousness towards us district folk. We don't always get it right, but you have been patient, kind and loved us anyhow! Thank you for your trust and partnership.



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This summer, we will be saying 'farewell' two members of our District Team, **Ron Brown** (13 years as District Missions Coach) and **Don Neufeld** (14 years as District Coach) who have served us so capably and faithfully and who will be retiring from their positions at the WCD. These key leaders will be greatly missed. Thank you, brothers, for stewarding your lives and gifts in the WCD to the benefit and blessing of us all.

This past standing District Executive Committee has once again made an outstanding contribution to our District. You are a great strength to me personally and have given strong guidance to our District. I particularly want to recognize those members who are concluding their service on DEXCOM ~ Cheryl Zamora, Bruce Palsky, Gail Rodgers, Ryan Tuck and Calvin Andringa. Thank you each so much for your leadership and ministry.

Friends, these are exciting and yet somewhat ambiguous days as we head into a season of significant change and respond to the many challenges and opportunities raised through the Issachar Project. Undoubtedly, we are experiencing God's rich blessing – peace in our churches, goodwill between our leaders, and the 'right' desires seem to be flowing in our churches' hearts. At the same time, we regularly face opposition and obstacles on our journey.

We frequently pray, 'Oh God, with all our hearts, we long for more of you.' This is such a wonderful prayer, both in posture, but also in focus.

As the old hymn writer said, 'My goal is God Himself...

***My goal is God Himself,
not joy, nor peace, nor even blessing,
but Himself, my God;
'Tis His to lead me there - not mine,
but His - At any cost, dear Lord, by any road.***



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Today I remind us all that our mission is not our messiah. And the Issachar Project is not the vehicle that will save us. The Lord Jesus Himself is the object of our affection and attention. He is with us. We seek Him. We walk with him. We point to Him. And HE will lead us into the future He has prepared us for. In fact, I believe, by God's grace, the WCD will morph and emerge into Christ centered, Spirit empowered, Mission focused people multiplying disciples everywhere. Yes, even right here in our own post-modern, post-truth, post-Christian culture.

So, as we are faithful with all He has given us to enjoy and steward, let us be certain to fix our eyes on Jesus...

Thank you for your guidance, prayers and partnership as we serve 'together in mission'.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Trask
WCD Superintendent