



District Conference 2019

The President's Report to District Conference

O God, with all our hearts,

We long for You.

Come, transform us to be Christ-centred,
Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people,
multiplying disciples everywhere.



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Introduction

Awaken!

"I don't want my life to be explainable without the Holy Spirit. I want people to look at my life and know I couldn't be doing this by my own power!"¹ – Francis Chan

We are living in a time when there is a great shaking globally. Terrorism, economic oppression, ethnic cleansing, and natural disasters are disrupting global stability. People groups that were previously not accessible to Jesus are now becoming reachable. This is a moment in history when the Church must be awakened. We need to live and walk in the power of God and stand as men and women who fearlessly pierce the darkness with the light of Jesus Christ.

Assembly 2018 was a time of fresh visitation upon our movement. God broke in and many lives were "awakened" spiritually by His power and glory. One person after Assembly 2018 exclaimed, "God did an amazing work in my life. I went much deeper with Jesus and was healed of chronic pain. It was amazing!" Another participant affirmed, "I went to GA feeling a little empty and broken. I left feeling filled and healed." Still another individual acknowledged, "The Lord set me free from lies I had agreed to in my life. He helped me experience the freedom and power available through the Spirit, as we pursue Christ deeper!" A further participant confessed, "God cleaned my dirty stinky suitcase, refreshed my soul, and filled me with the Holy Spirit. A great revival on the personal level." More than 65 people experienced healing at Assembly 2018, relationships were restored, and people's lives were transformed. God was so merciful to us, but this is only the beginning.

The Psalmist declares, "Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved." (Psalm 80:19) We must be thankful for all God has provided but never satisfied. Our hunger for more of God's presence and for His reviving and restoring power to be released in greater measure must grow. My call to our movement in this season is framed around four words: ACCESS, ANOINTING, AUTHORITY and ADVANCE.



¹ Chan, Francis, *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*



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Giving Jesus full access to our lives releases a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit, expands our spiritual authority, and accelerates our Kingdom advance.

ACCESS: Rob Reimer suggests, “Most life change begins alone with God. If we give Him access to our hearts, He will do the inner work of transformation.”² Deep spiritual awakening begins in the place of solitude. God is calling us to be still and know that He is God. In the place of stillness our identity in Jesus is affirmed.

ANOINTING: The anointing of the Holy Spirit is vital to our mission. Paul states, “You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” (Acts 10:37-38) The anointing of the Holy Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ in us, animating, reviving, and energizing our lives and ministry.

AUTHORITY: Paul proclaims, “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6) Right now, in real time, God has subdued all authorities, powers and dominions under our feet. Chuck Davis exclaims, “This authority is not a special endowment, calling, or gift to a select few in God’s family, but the rightful inheritance of every believer!”³

ADVANCE: The result of access, anointing and authority is an accelerated Kingdom advance. Jesus made it clear, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21) Jesus is on a rescue mission. Greg Finke says, “Jesus is already on the loose, out there in our neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. He is already doing the heavy lifting in the lives of those around us. And he invites us to join him.”⁴

This report is an invitation to “awaken”, to rise up with a passion for unhindered access to Jesus, a deep anointing of the Holy Spirit, an embracing of our authority in Christ, and a boldness to advance God’s kingdom. R.T. Kendall reminds us that, “One of the greatest dangers for individuals and movements is to neglect the presence of Holy Spirit and to churn out Christian activity that has no touch of God upon it!”⁵ Not on our watch! Today is a day of AWAKENING!

² Rob Reimer, *Pathways to the King*, Location 259, Kindle

³ Davis, Chuck, *The Bold Christian: Using Your God Given Spiritual Authority as a Believer*

⁴ Finke, Greg, *Joining Jesus on His Mission*

⁵ Kendall, RT, *Holy Fire*



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Five "S" Strategic Planning

The Five "S" strategic plan (referring to the Sun, Sand, Silk, Spice, and Sea to Sea regions of the world) continues to guide the C&MA toward vision-attainment. The plan identified the major drivers of the C&MA as Culture, Nurture, and Venture, supported by Structure, which impact the work and mission of our family of churches. By 2024, the impact of the plan is intended to result in the following Legacy Impact Statement:

Legacy Impact Statement 2024

The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada will be a healthy and mobilized mosaic, empowering the generations to risk all to invite the most neglected to enjoy and be agents of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

Responsibility to realize this vision rests primarily with the regional developers (RDs), district superintendents (DSs), and the president's lead team. This team ensures that effective plans are developed and implementation is strategically assigned and monitored.

The strategic plan was developed early in my first term. Six years later, it is being examined with a view to determining what has been accomplished, what objectives may have faded from importance, and what needs to be added or tweaked to ensure continuing progress. Revisions to the plan are being presented to the May meeting of the Board of Directors for approval.

Culture

Culture is about passion, posture and purpose. More than an environment or event, it's a permanent heart-change. As president, I long for the the people of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (C&MA) to live in a cycle of continual spiritual renewal resulting in the release of the power of the Holy Spirit and the exultation of Jesus above everything we do. As God continues to lead us deeper in Christ, my heart's cry for the Alliance is that everyone would fearlessly dive into the river of God. Jesus wants to empower the Alliance to live as citizens of the kingdom of heaven with all the authority, power, and freedom that accompanies this status. This is the culture we are aiming for, not simply a great environment to do ministry in.

We are witnessing and experiencing an incredible move of God's Spirit in the Alliance nationally and internationally. People are running to altars for prayer, being set free from oppression, being healed, and lives are being transformed. While we stand in awe, the reality is this is the normal Christian life!



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Leadership is leaning in with intentionality to help the Alliance posture itself so that this becomes a sustainable heart-change and not just another renewal with a start and end date. Prayer is at the forefront, with the National Ministry Centre, districts, and our international workers (IWs) creating opportunities for workers and staff to enter into the presence of God on a regular basis with greater focus. As we focus on bringing access to Jesus to least-reached people groups (LRPGs), discipleship is rising to the forefront as one of the key areas we need to address. The district superintendents and core leaders are working closely with me to strengthen collaboration and communication across the Five “S”s. Decision-making and meetings prioritize developing key partnerships, relationship-building, and moving the strategy forward.

In response to the Alliance’s focus on bringing ‘access to Jesus’ to LRPGs, we are seeing individuals and couples answer the call of God to go. I am so excited to see God at work in people’s hearts and the Alliance nurturing a culture of well-disciplined people who listen to God, have a passion to reach the lost, and a willingness to risk all. We have IWs ready to be appointed in 2019; however, recent giving to the Global Advance Fund (GAF) has not been sufficient to grow our IW team. We need to fervently pray and explore ways to help the C&MA live in a culture of generous giving, so we can send those God is raising up. Great things are yet to come!

“Our God has boundless resources. The only limit is in us. Our asking, our thinking, our praying are too small. Our expectations are too limited.” – A.B. Simpson

District Superintendents

In preparation for district conference and the lead-up to DS elections in four districts, the DSs are grateful for the many prayers for leadership, especially those in transition. This past summer, the DSs held meetings and a retreat during which they conducted a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis, identifying key areas of focus for the coming months. The DSs continue to incorporate deeper life and prayer into more and more of their district and staff events and are encouraging their church leaders to do the same. We are hearing stories of leaders, lay workers, and individuals being transformed powerfully by the Spirit of God.

Alliance Pray! Team

The Alliance Pray! Team (APT) was first formed by Assembly in 1998. “Alliance Pray! is a Spirit-led catalytic movement to equip and mobilize followers of Jesus Christ in prayer in order to awaken, renew and revive Alliance churches and other Christian congregations for reaching the lost and transforming society.” This team creates prayer resources/training materials, holds prayer events, mentors leaders, assists our pastors to mobilize their churches, and develops prayer teams to intercede leading up to and at assemblies. In 2018, APT held two events to train intercessors. A newly



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developed, interactive prayer training called “Transform Prayer Course” was launched to mentor and train intercessors to focus in on God’s mission, both through our movement and beyond. This course uses new technologies, video resources, journaling, weekly zoom meetings, and a printed resource in combination with prayer/mission goal setting. The third cohort of this course is running with people from five provinces, (23 of our churches) meeting weekly. A French edition is almost completed, with a prospective launch planned for fall 2019. For more info, visit <https://alliancepray.ca>. The team’s goal is to serve Christ through serving the C&MA.

Nurture

Nurture is focused on identifying and equipping leadership, and creating onramps for leaders to engage on mission in the C&MA. It encompasses Envision, leader identification, funding and development, and works with our schools and our national networks. We are seeing encouraging movement in Nurture. In a short period of time much has been accomplished in identifying, developing, mobilizing and resourcing the next generation of workers for the C&MA. The migration of Candidate Development from Global Ministries (GM) to Nurture has produced a strong groundwork for the way forward. Ministry Opportunity Descriptions (MODs) are being created by Candidate Development/Go Global for all new IWs. The Development department has a new director and is developing a strategy for the infusion of new dollars from new streams. God is doing great things.

Envision Canada

Envision Canada Engagement

As Envision enters its third year of operation, engagement from Alliance churches and traction in our districts continues to grow. Currently there are: Envision trips (10 days), internships (1-12 months), apprenticeships (2 years), and the annual Summit (one-week leader development conference).

Launch of Gap and Other Programs

In addition to existing pathways for Alliance missional engagement, plans and preparations continue in the development of two new cohort-based gap programs: Justice Semester⁶ and Global Semester⁷,

⁶ Justice Semester is a 12-week program based in Thailand starting in January 2019 under the leadership of Darren Herbold and For Freedom International.

⁷ Global Semester is an 8-week program based initially in Senegal starting in June 2019 under the leadership of Joze and Jocelyn Reverente, Sand IWs currently serving in Canada. Future Global Semesters will rotate in location targeting each of the 5S regions over the next two years.



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as well as a new travel study program⁸ in partnership with Ambrose University. The first all-Canadian led Summit⁹ in Montreal occurs this spring at Montreal Chinese Alliance Church. Summit 2019 seeks to continue identifying emerging missional leaders from the ages of 18-32 and empowering their skillsets by creating a space that offers training, collaboration, and ministry to the soul.

New Ventures

The past three months have been a prime ministry season for New Ventures. In addition to launching the New Waters podcast and new website¹⁰, it has seen 7 new ventures and 1 apprenticeship launch, 4 new ventures become churches, and completed annual reviews for all 30 new ventures.

It has been a season of conversations with leaders and we expect to see even more new ventures launch in the first quarter of 2019. Through the New Waters podcast, the goal is to have existing leaders from across the country share their experiences in a way that will enrich the Alliance family and continue to invite leaders to see and respond to the new things God is doing. With over 500 downloads of the first two monthly episodes, it appears to have found a receptive audience.

New Ventures aims to support each district (primarily through implementers who walk with them to identify their needs for the next season) with processes to start new ventures and facilitate support to new venture leaders. New Ventures focuses proactively on encouraging new communities of faith specifically interested in reaching those with little or no access to Jesus. An exciting development on this front is a partnership with Venture at the National Ministry Centre. Venture has partnered with the Catalyst Campus new venture (targeting international students) and is interested in partnering in other new ventures focused on giving access to Jesus to diaspora communities in Canada.

Licensing & Ordination

Assembly 2018 asked the Board of Directors to fully implement a new, updated and uniform ordination and licensing process by General Assembly 2020. This is being addressed by the National Licensing and Ordination Committee (L&O), which has developed a draft comprehensive licensing plan that articulates the current reality across districts, provides clarification on the challenges, and proposes a pathway forward. A draft new study guide for licensees and draft licensing interview form are also being developed. The DSs have asked the L&O to move forward with these and a subcommittee will be convened to work out the pertinent details. Once a path is struck with licensing,

⁸ Ambrose Travel Study is a 3-week program being facilitated in partnership with Dan and Melodie Ibsen who currently serve as IWs in residence. Students will travel to both Senegal and Guinea for three weeks in Jan/Feb 2019 as part of their intercultural study program, receiving credit.

⁹ <https://envisioncanada.org/summit/>

¹⁰ Some of the key features on the website include a visual representation of new ventures across Canada on a map, information about the new venture regions from BC to the Atlantic, and clearer calls to action from visitors, including an integrated giving platform that allows them to give online.



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the committee will move forward on the alignment of the ordination process. The committee is eager to continue its work on behalf of the National Leader Development Network (NLDN). Its work will come to the Board of Directors for review and approval.

GoGlobal

The reshaping of GoGlobal alongside of the development of Envision has resulted in a fresh rhythm and momentum over the past two years. Weekly candidate meetings are creating integration as we journey with people. In addition, once a month the regional developers join the candidate meeting to align development processes with the strategic needs of global assignments. This is a significant advancement and lays a solid foundation for the candidate processes.

As we project deployments for 2019-2020, 22 candidates will participate in pre-departure orientation (PDO) to be held at Tyndale in Toronto from May 31 to June 9. Along with candidates already approved, we anticipate sending out 21 new workers in our fully-funded, partially-funded, and self-funded categories in 2019. In addition, the apprenticeship program is growing and the positive trajectory of seeing apprentices choose to transition to longer-term vocational ministry is proving an effective way of strengthening our current initiatives.

The ongoing development and implementation of the ministry opportunity description (MOD) continues to be developed which will result in a “pull” deployment system of drawing candidates into our process based on the strategic assignments required by our teams. With the transition of licensing international workers to the districts, the candidate team, along with members of the global ministries leadership team (GMLT), are working on the development pathway of training components unique for people serving globally.

As we faithfully pray for new labourers, the Lord is answering. People within our churches are hearing and responding to His call. It is a great privilege to humbly steward how the Spirit of God is stirring in the hearts of His children in this season to bring access to Jesus to the least reached peoples of this world.

Development

Development Director

A large component of Development is pastoral (the nurturing of relationships); however, there is also the business side. It has been decided that the Development team should focus on developing a strategy for the infusion of new dollars from new streams. This means a change in approach for the new Development Director, who joined the team in January.



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New Financial Ventures

The creation of mechanisms to raise new dollars to be invested in new leaders, new ventures and churches, new fields, and ministries is key. We are also looking at new ways for entrepreneurs and business leaders to engage in using their gifts to expand kingdom work in innovative and unique ways. To see these become reality, the C&MA is in the process of exploring two new financial ventures:

The Alliance Charitable Fund Canada.

Such a fund would be established for charitable planning goals in order to establish a lasting legacy through charitable donations, in contrast to making one-time gifts from time to time. Under the right circumstances, this fund would have numerous benefits to donors such as tax savings that would otherwise need to be paid by the donor, shielding charitable gifts from the risk of loss from litigation, and providing confidence that the donor's lasting wishes would be carried through. By utilizing Canada Revenue financial structures, the C&MA would receive sustainable returns from the fund that would be directed to the funding of the mission.

Alliance NewCo Canada.

Such a private company would be established as a corporation under Revenue Canada. Management responsibility would rest with its directors and one of the main distinguishing factors from a stand-alone charitable fund is that private corporations can accept investment from multiple Alliance donors who direct the shareholder profit to be donated to C&MA. Like charitable funds, a private corporation can offer significant tax benefits for donors. The unique nature of this company is that it would be managed by the donors or by those who are connected to the donors, who are skilled company managers. The work product from this corporation would be attractive to many customers inside and outside of the C&MA family.

Venture

In these important days, the Alliance needs to consider the question, "Who does God choose to use in His mission?" Zechariah 4 is a moving account of how the Spirit of God launches new expressions of the Kingdom of God through faithful servants who walk in intimacy with God and follow the urgings of the Holy Spirit. This is beautifully affirmed in the well-known words God gave to Zerubbabel, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

Isaiah 66:2 states, "These are the ones I look on with favour: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word." At the core of Venture is the well-nurtured apostolic leader. Nurture and Venture are inseparably linked. At the forefront is a risk-taking expectation and commitment born of the Spirit of God through prayer. This leads to partnerships with like-minded



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and mission-focused people. New venture initiatives are transforming the lives of people in need of 'access to Jesus' around the world.

Five "S" Regions

Sun Region

Due to unprecedented political instability in Venezuela, our team has been relocated and assigned to an emerging new venture in Mexico City. One of our newest IW couples began their ministry partnering with an established Union church to nurture a new international church start-up. They have since been pursued by the established church for senior leadership while continuing to move forward the new international church start-up. We look forward to seeing what God will accomplish in both of these churches.

Sand Region

One of the long-term visions in the Sand region is the multiplication of ventures that will place pioneering Chinese people into North African church-planting efforts among Muslim-background Africans. One of our Chinese Association lead pastors, who did not realize that his vision to reach North African-background Muslims was a shared Sand region initiative, has applied to an intense two-year training module in a North African environment with a separate mission agency. We have agreed to monitor the ongoing development of this pastor and this ministry hub for potential future partnership initiatives. In Niger, we celebrate the ongoing emergence of a Muslim-background people group church after a decade of prayerful evangelism and seed-sowing.

Silk Region

After a decade of faithfully sowing the seed, strengthening relationships and partnerships, we are celebrating the birth of two churches, one among a Central Asian people group and another in the Arabian Peninsula, that are both Muslim background. To our knowledge, in both cases these are the first faith communities to be established among our prioritized majority people group.

Spice Region

In October of 2018, a probe trip to Nepal was conducted, during which we connected with an emerging Nepali church planting network. This network nurtures partnerships with key C&MA people and projects, connecting them with people from other like-minded organizations. Twelve Nepali churches have been established across various LRPGs, and there are many others not yet networked, seeking to partner with the C&MA through the Alliance World Fellowship (AWF). In addition, we celebrate the simple beginnings of two Tibetan faith-communities emerging in the two key cities that reflect the initial longings and prayers of our founder A.B. Simpson.



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Sea to Sea

We have been actively seeking ways to bring integration of Venture initiatives among diaspora peoples across Canada into already well-defined New Venture structures. Fresh conversations are taking place between Global Ministries (GM) personnel, district leaders, New Venture Implementers and Association leaders. The spirit of cooperation has never been stronger. New initiatives are being considered with diaspora and indigenous peoples in Western Canada, Central Canada, Quebec, and several emerging partnerships in Atlantic Canada.

Values

The five Global Ministries values of Prayer, People, Presence, Proclamation, and Partnerships continue to provide a grid for recruitment of the right kind of venture candidate and the development of the church-planting cycle. We believe in the intentional development and adherence to these values for the people that God chooses and calls into Venture.

Challenges

While the ways of operating within Global Ministries are changing, the basic mechanisms and overall responsibilities remain intact. Moving the new paradigms forward for engaging the diaspora through our district leadership in the Canadian context is complex, as relational influence trumps positional decision-making. The relational investment is going very well with district leadership. In a culture of high trust and we are advancing the right conversations.

Jaffray Project

The Jaffray Project is designed to strengthen the C&MA's focus on pioneering among LRPGs, enhance our collective understanding of missions, and encourage generosity across our denomination inspiring people to sacrificially pray, give and risk all to bring access to Jesus to the remaining LRPGs across the globe. Jaffray Project resources have been greatly enhanced to assist with this and are available in the C&MA media bank.

Opportunities

Mobilization

The vision for highly effective mission mobilization across Canada continues to gain fresh momentum. Various district models are being integrated. For the second year, the Home Ministries Seminar (HMS) included active engagement from district superintendents.

Re-engagement into India

The mission-focused discernment process at Assembly 2018 was a highlight and raised a significant level of interest across our constituency. Assembly affirmed a return of Canadian engagement among the many remaining under-engaged peoples of India that for security reasons is to be formally referred to as our Gateway initiative.



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Justice and Compassion

Justice and Compassion continues to support and promote a variety of ministries including disaster relief, refugee settlement, community development, advocacy, chaplaincy, creation care, justice, indigenous reconciliation, addressing global hunger and poverty, and other holistic ministries. Justice and Compassion ministries and resources can be found at: justiceandcompassion.com

Creation Theological Working Group

The first meeting of the Creation Theological Working Group took place in October 2018 at Ambrose University. In order to broaden the conversation to the wider evangelical community, Joanne Beach has been assigned to work alongside the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) to facilitate a theological forum for evangelical churches across Canada to respond to the [World Evangelical Alliance/Lausanne Movement's Call to Action](#) regarding the doctrine of creation and environmental stewardship as a Gospel issue.

Refugee Sponsorship

Since becoming a national Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) in 2012, as of December 2018, the C&MA in Canada (on behalf of 104 local churches) had submitted applications¹¹ to resettle 776 individuals. This includes churches in our partner denominations¹² who we are also serving. Combined, 1,302 individuals have found refuge in Canada through the ministry of 135 local churches in this eight-year chapter of our story.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) – C&MA Equity Use

The C&MA, in conjunction with the CFGB, are about to start a major food assistance project in Yemen through a local Christian NGO that will reach 822 households. Also this spring, we will be supporting another multi-year agricultural and livelihood project in Niger implemented by Samaritan's Purse-Niger that will impact 1,800 households with the expectation of reaching 7,560 total beneficiaries.

Alliance Faith and Home in Action Catalogue

An annual compassion gift catalogue is provided in order to raise funds for relief and development ministry. Donations given through gift catalogue ministries and disaster relief appeals over the last nine years has reached approximately \$5.4 million. The 2018-2019 gift catalogue projects are ongoing and can be found online at: <https://catalogue.faithhopeinaction.ca>. Stories and updates of justice and compassion ministries can be found at: <https://faithhopeinaction.ca>. The 2019-2020 catalogue edition will be available in August 2019 online and in print.

¹¹ At the time this report was published, we still have Syrian families referred to us by the Alliance Church in Mafraq, Jordan that we are looking for churches to sponsor. If interested, please contact refugeesponsorship@cmacan.org.

¹² The denominational partnership with the Evangelical Missionary Church, Fellowship Baptist, and Associated Gospel Church is continuing in 2019.



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Truth and Reconciliation Learning and Prayer Guide

It is encouraging to hear stories of Alliance churches that are building relationships with Indigenous Peoples in their communities and considering ways to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The Justice and Compassion office has developed a [Learning and Prayer Guide](#).

Association of Alliance Chaplains

Our network of chaplains continues to grow. There is a great opportunity for local churches to link up with a chaplain through the Chaplaincy Link initiative. For more information, contact your District Chaplain Representative.

Disability Ministries

Disability Ministries seeks to support and encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life and work of the church. Under the leadership of Cynthia Tam, we continue to offer two webinars per year on various themes. The Church Network for Supporting Disabilities Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/supportingdisabilities> provides resources for churches.

Parish Nurse Ministries

There continues to be a small informal network of six parish nurses. It was decided that the national coordinator position would not be filled after Janice Buck retired in June 2018. We are grateful for the years she served in this role. The chaplaincy district networks will extend invitations to parish nurses to attend their events in the future.

Alliance International Work Team Trips for 2019

This ministry continues to offer three to four trips a year, with the following trips scheduled for 2019: January 09-23/19: Los Cabos, Mexico; February 20-March 06/19: Panama City, Panama; March 23-April 06/19: Ensenada, Mexico; and, October: 19-November 02/19: Mexico City, Mexico.

Disaster Response

Since the last General Assembly report, the C&MA has supported the following projects mostly facilitated through local churches and local Christian NGO partners:

- [New Brunswick Flooding](#) – We supported flood relief efforts through a partnership with The Atlantic Alliance New Ventures, the Eastern Canadian District, and a local church in New Brunswick, Lakeville Corner Baptist Church which is in the centre of the flooding area.
- [Southeast Asia](#) – Our team in a Southeast Asia country responded to a region that had been devastated by flooding due to a dam break. It is an area (known for trafficking girls) that our personnel and team were previously not able to access. After the dam broke, our team was invited by village leaders to come and bring relief.



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- **Lombok** – We supported relief efforts after the earthquake in Lombok. We have committed funds for a second phase. Video Update: <https://vimeo.com/292986876>
- **Irma Hurricane Relief on a Caribbean Island** – Our team oversaw major relief and reconstruction projects on this island implemented through the local church.
- **Mexico Earthquake** – Two communities impacted by the first earthquake, Juchitan and Oaxaca, have Alliance churches. We were able to provide funds that enabled the churches to provide food kits, mattresses, blankets, tarps, drinking water, and gas stoves to 50 most vulnerable families (approximately 250 individuals) in these two locations.
- **Venezuela** – Because of the increasing economic struggles in this country, we are continuing to support relief efforts through the relief arm (Comité de Ayuda Social) of the national Venezuela Alliance. We are entering a new partnership with *CAMA* and *Food for the Hungry* for ongoing response.
- **Yemen** – Food assistance program as highlighted in the CFGB update on page 13.

Defend Dignity

“Defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:3, 4). Defend Dignity (dD) exists to end sexual exploitation in Canada. The C&MA, through dD, can help end sexual exploitation in Canada through awareness, advocacy, and aid.

Awareness and education of the realities of sexual exploitation continues through “Exposing Exploitation,” a youth curriculum ordered through the Defend Dignity website. Beatrice Wallace, an Indigenous survivor on the dD team, is writing her story in book form, available in 2019. This book will be used on reserves through the Strengthening Our Sisters initiative to educate Indigenous women and girls about sexual exploitation. REVEAL is a seminar-based conference providing information on pornography, as well as practical ways of coming alongside sexually exploited people. This conference is becoming increasingly popular with 3 already slated for the spring of 2019 in Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Advocacy for law and policy reform with the Federal Justice Committee took place in 2018 as dD was a witness to the committee and provided a brief for its study on human trafficking in Canada. Defend Dignity and Ambrose University are partnering on a research project examining prostitution in the city of Edmonton. dD’s Director also participated in the National Consultation on human trafficking, hosted by the Federal Public Safety Department in September 2018. At the provincial level, the director met with the Manitoba Minister of Health to discuss the harms of pornography and there is now further interest in that province to address this issue. Other provincial health minister meetings are on the horizon. dD focuses on the harms of pornography through the Choose Change¹ campaign



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which asks companies and organizations in Canada to change practices that facilitate the use of pornography. One victory was won when Boston Pizza restaurant responded positively to the ask that they filter their public wi-fi in all their restaurants. We are currently formulating a list of organizations for 2019. We are also asking Walmart and Loblaw stores to remove Cosmopolitan magazine from their check-out counters.

Aid to exploited people is another focus of dD work. The Survivor Fund continues to provide funds to churches and agencies on behalf of an exploited client. Defend Dignity is pleased to give away 15% of its annual income for direct help. To date, almost 50 girls and women have been helped.

Defend Dignity also encourages churches to participate in First Response Bags; bags of goods each valuing \$250 given to a woman or girl who is exiting a trafficking situation.

Structure

Structure supports the president by overseeing the executive office, strategic plan implementation and measurement, governance and legal issues, General Assembly, and NMC management (personnel and facilities). Alongside the strategic plan review, the three current health measurements (Local Church Annual Report, Official Worker Survey, and the Transformation Tracker) are being reviewed with the objective of combining them to reduce the burden of completing so many documents. To fulfill General Assembly's mandate, a meaningful measure of disciple-making will be developed and added to the measurement process as approved by the Board of Directors.

In 2018, the National Ministry Centre moved from its long-time address at 30 Carrier Drive in Toronto to a new location at 7560 Airport Road in Mississauga, Ontario. The move was precipitated by Humber College's offer to acquire the Carrier Drive location for its academic needs. The Board of Directors accepted the offer and mandated that the net proceeds from the sale be allocated for a new, long-term facility for the C&MA. The current location is being leased for three years, and plans are underway to identify the best long-term location for the NMC by 2021.

Assembly 2020

The General Assembly 2020 theme is "Indescribable: Embracing the Majesty and Mission of Jesus," a Christ-centred focus. The plan is to have Assembly convene again in two locations: the anchor site in the Toronto area and a second site in Alberta. In 2018, Assembly met for the first time in two locations; the two-site concept was evaluated and the results indicated that a further trial should be held with the main and second sites switching sides of the country. The intention is to make Assembly more accessible to more people. In order to make Assembly more affordable, it will be shortened by one day to a Tuesday evening - Friday afternoon format with registration fees reduced by 20%. Specific locations and dates will be announced by the Board of Directors.



Report of the President 2019

Items to be considered at GA 2020 include distance voting for president, a new (combined) statement on the family and marriage and related practical implications for ministry and pastoral care, a report on a uniform licensing and ordination process, and information and resources on gender identity.

Conclusion

In October of 2018, Agnes and I were part of a revival tour in Wales. My grandfather was saved in the Welsh revival and my spiritual DNA is filled with revivalist passion. I saw the places that my grandfather would talk about and heard the stories of radical transformation that would cause his voice to rise and eyes to fill with tears. One of those places was Pencoed in South Wales. Many believe this was the place where the first flames of revival were ignited. Four 18-year-old young miners began to pray on a mountain above their village every evening after they finished their work underground for the day. Suddenly, more people began to join the young men on their nightly vigil. Even non-believers were drawn by the presence and power of those gatherings. People were filled with a spirit of prayer and with a passion for the lost. In an incredibly short time the whole neighbourhood was ablaze with divine fire. On Sundays, as many as six meetings would be held, and on one Sunday 30 people came to Christ.

The church was AWAKENED and the nation was transformed! The spiritual condition of Wales up until that time was desolate. The bars were full and the churches were empty. However, four young men were hopeful. They believed they could make a difference – and they did! In a time of incredible Kingdom opportunity, the stage is set for awakening. Hope is rising and revival hunger is growing.

Could this be the time when young men and women will be called of God in Canada to go up to the mountain and pray over their neighbourhoods, their churches, and their families? Stir us O God...awaken us O God! Let hope arise!

Dave Hearn



President

The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada

