

EMCCTOGETHER

The Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada Family Stories of 2025

And Multiply

Matthew 13:8

The Ripple Effect of Leadership Development

By Kendra Franke

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Generational Multiplication

By Tony Baker

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Good Soil: Semillas in Listowel

By Allie Brendstrup

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Dear Readers,

Once I began collecting stories from across our denomination in the fall of 2025, I found it quite difficult to stop. The temptation was great to try to house more and more testimonies of God's miraculous work in this small book. I pray that God will multiply that desire in me into something more soon, but for now, this is the threshold upon which we stand.

Within these pages are stories, both long and short, from our EMCC family. You will hear from the next generation, from those who have reached retirement, and from the waystations in between—each testimony a meditation on God's math. By that same math, I hope that in these stories you will encounter many opportunities to see your place in the family of God. May He multiply these connection points into life-sustaining encouragement for you, and beyond you.

Excitingly, our denomination has already begun meditating on a new theme this year. We will explore 'Learn of Me - Cultivating a Teachable Spirit,' at our 2026 Regional Gatherings. I encourage you, as you cultivate, to write and submit a story of your own on this theme.

As its name suggests, this magazine is a vehicle for unity. Our mission in publishing EMCC Together is that truth and encouragement will be abundant among us. You can find our submission guidelines at emcc.ca/our-stories. The deadline for submissions this year is July 15th.

May you be blessed to know Christ more every day as you continue to pursue Him.

Allie Brendstrup

EMCC Communications Administrator

To download a digital copy of this magazine,
scan the QR code or
visit www.emcc.ca/our-stories



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REGIONAL GATHERING 2026

LEARN OF ME – CULTIVATING A TEACHABLE SPIRIT
Matthew 11:29

East. ON April 17-18
West. AB April 24-25

WWW.EMCC.CA



YOU DO *The Math*

A note from John Cressman, President of the EMCC

The enemy is working hard to divide and subtract. For decades, the church has focused on growth through addition.

In 2025, we acknowledged as a denomination that our multiplication reflex needed to be exercised. The message is clear from the first garden to our present context: we are charged by God to be fruitful (that is, to bear fruit that will last) and to multiply—to multiply disciples, leaders and churches. This magazine highlights some stories and steps we are taking toward multiplication.

Multiplication should be at the forefront of the church’s mind and mission. Simply put, the Great Commission is *everyone sent to multiply*. Every person is sent. Everyone is called to be a multiplier of God’s blessing and to equip others, by our example, to be disciple-makers. By God’s grace and our courageous obedience, we anticipate a future with more disciples, more leaders and more churches because of our commitment to God’s math-multiplication.

Multiplication is the result of exercising our “Spirit” reflexes. Jesus was moved by the Spirit as He walked this earth. (Mark 1:12) The Apostle Paul, moved by the Spirit, went on his missionary journey. (Acts 16:9) Since we are living by the Spirit, let’s follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. (Galatians 5:25)

Multiplication also flows from dreaming God’s dreams. He has poured out His Spirit on all people. Our sons and daughters will prophesy, our old will dream dreams, and our young will see visions (Joel 2:28). Multiplication is accelerated through intergenerational collaboration.

This magazine serves as our 2025 annual report, carrying us into our preferred future. We began 2026 with 21 Days of Prayer focused on Jeremiah 1:10, “See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” We returned to our knees, acknowledging that pruning precedes fruitfulness and multiplication. •

**LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.
LORD, TEACH US TO MULTIPLY.**



John Cressman is the President of the EMCC. He and his wife, Melanie, experience joy from grandparenting, supporting the local Junior-level hockey team, and walking together.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

JUNE 6TH | 1:00 – 4:00 PM ET
BY ZOOM



WWW.EMCC.CA



MULTIPLICATION BEGINS IN THE HEART OF GOD

BY LYNN DIETZ, EMCC REGIONAL MINISTER

“How many kids do we want?”

This was one of many questions my wife and I talked about in the engagement season leading up to our marriage. We both came from families of multiple siblings, and it was our desire to ‘join the ranks’ and multiply our family as well.

Where did this innate desire to multiply come from? Who initiated it? We see in the first chapter of Genesis that ‘multiplication’ begins in the heart of God and is embedded in the account of creation. We read about plants yielding seeds, trees bearing fruit with seeds, the oceans teeming with life and God blessing it all, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply.’ Then come creatures on the ground, reproducing according to their kind—and ultimately, God creates mankind with the mandate to multiply as well.

And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
Genesis 1:27-28

Multiplication was on God’s heart from the very beginning, and He blessed us with an invitation to join Him in His ongoing work in the world, drawing people back into His family after a nasty fall. Throughout Scripture we are reminded that God is a God of mission (Missio Dei) and He desires that we join Him in His mission, through His Son, to multiply followers of Jesus who are ‘rescued from the domain of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of the Son He loves.’ (Col. 1:13).

Jesus reinforced this same desire for multiplication to His followers on the night he was betrayed when He said in John’s gospel, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.” (John 15:16)

After His resurrection, He again embedded multiplication into His followers’ hearts, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

The Apostle Peter carried the message of multiplication onward and modeled it in his first sermon on the Day of Pentecost, proclaiming: “The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:39). It’s inspiring to note the effect of his message, as we see that three thousand people responded to God’s conviction and accepted Peter’s challenge to repent and be baptized that day. (Acts 2:38,41)

Whether it was God’s power to multiply a small lunch of five loaves and two fish into a meal that fed over five thousand men (Mark 6:42-44), or His grace to overflow fishing nets so full that the boats began to sink

(Luke 5:7), we want to see His multiplication in the same way through our lives and churches. We want to see the multiplication of Jesus’ followers and churches, to the glory of God.

Peter declared, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

So, how many kids does God want? As many as possible!

As such, multiplication is at the heart of our vision as the EMCC. Our foremost mission is to make disciples who make disciples, invest in leaders who develop other leaders and encourage churches and disciple makers to multiply new churches and communities of followers of Jesus on mission to the world.

Where will multiplication take us, we might ask. We see God’s desire for multiplication embedded in the first book of the Bible as He shapes creation, and we see the celebration of multiplication’s effects in the last book of the Scriptures. “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one

could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” (Revelation 7:9)

That Abba is patient, ‘not wanting anyone to perish,’ reveals some of the depth of our Heavenly Father’s desire for as many as possible to repent and come home to celebrate and worship around His throne. Revelation’s picture of worship in heaven stirs up great motivation to reignite our passion for multiplication. We pray together to see more come in from His harvest field, all to the glory of God. (Luke 10:2)

And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

Revelation 7:10-12

As we become more intentional about our vision to see increasing numbers of disciples, leaders and communities on mission, we gain our motivation in great part by what we see in Scripture. Our desire for multiplication begins in the heart of God and culminates around His throne! For His cause and for His glory! •

Lynn Dietz has served on the National Team as a Regional Minister in Canada’s four western provinces since 2006. Before that, his pastoral ministry spanned over 22 years in local churches, including such roles as solo pastor, church planting pastor, associate pastor and lead pastor. Lynn carries a strong passion for coaching, mentoring, communicating the Word of God, and developing disciple-making leaders. Helping to form and frame the lives of others around Jesus will continue to be a strong priority for Lynn as he moves toward retirement in the next season of life. His desire is to continue following Jesus into his community and to be the salt, light, and leaven of the Kingdom of God.





MULTIPLY

DISCIPLES LEADERS CHURCHES

BY HEINZ JANZEN

If God is calling you into ministry, go do anything else, and if that calling is still there, you must follow it. These were the words of a seminary professor I admired who taught me much about leadership and church multiplication. They remain relevant today.

Last summer, while pondering the idea of joining the EMCC National Team as Church Multiplication Initiative Coordinator, I was taken aback by the words of Jeremiah in my morning devotions,

You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me... But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.
Jeremiah 20:7,9

The prophet felt enticed and persuaded to obey God's call in his life, even while experiencing the hardships and challenges that came with his call to ministry.

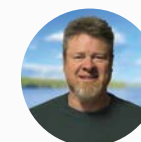
God's call on us today to help people become more like Jesus Christ in character, attitude, and behaviour, and to help churches multiply, is both bittersweet and inspiring. Bittersweet, because it doesn't come naturally and it requires full dependence on the Holy Spirit to transform a person. Yet it is also inspiring to see the church become interdependent and cooperate with the Spirit in multiplication. It is from this perspective that I look forward to serving the EMCC on a part-time basis, with a primary focus on assisting churches in the multiplication of churches that reflect contextual expressions.

So, what might our EMCC family anticipate from the Multiply Initiative in the coming year?

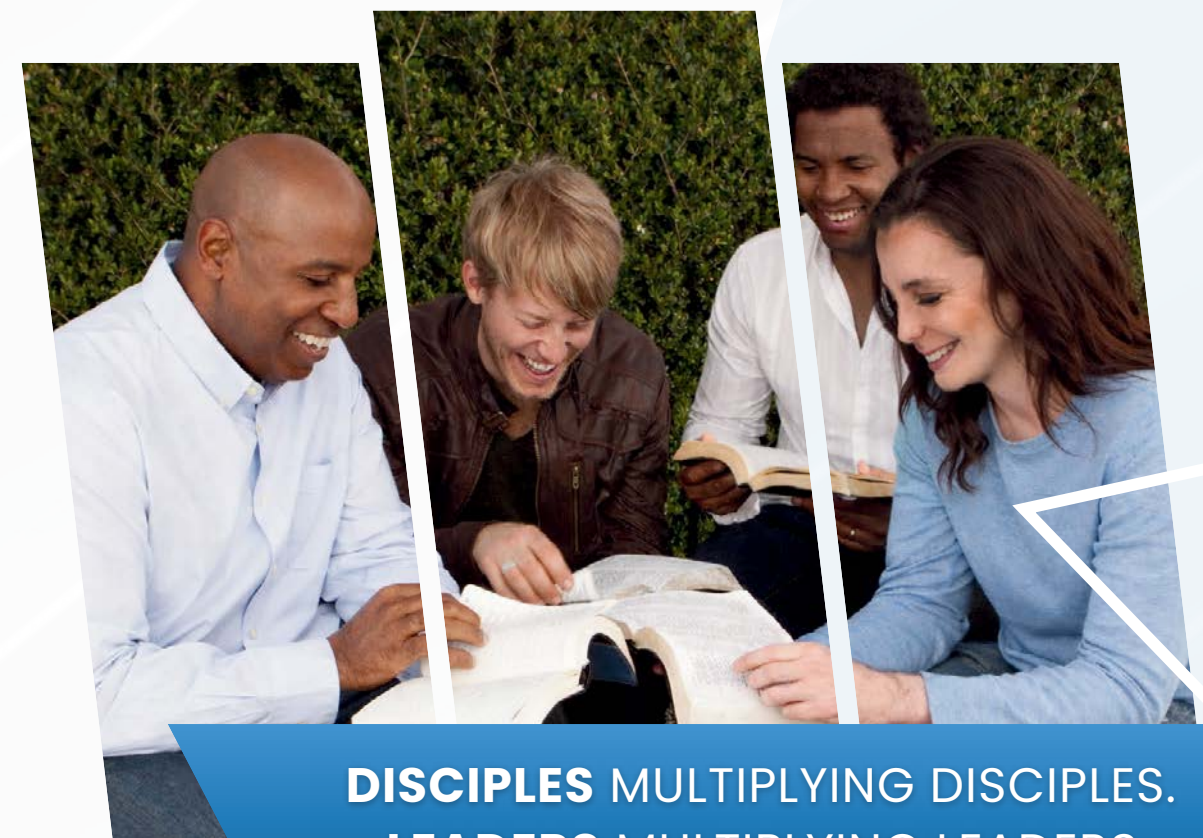
- A concerted effort, now underway, to research how churches are multiplying across the nation.
- The development of a cohort of individuals (a team) who share a common passion.
- An available point person or first call coach to assist churches that are ripe for multiplication. Reach out to me at hjanzen@emcc.ca, or find me on www.emcc.ca/multiply to learn more.

I have one call to action for each reader of this magazine. Paul encouraged the church of Ephesus to pray as he prayed for them (Ephesians 1:15-23). So, I echo Paul's words and say: Pray for me as I pray for you, that we may continue in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to make disciples of all nations.

Multiplying churches won't happen without prayer, so let us cooperate with the Holy Spirit, knowing that He will lead us in reaching the nation of Canada for Christ. •



Heinz Janzen is the EMCC Church Multiplication Initiative Coordinator, as well as the Senior Pastor at New Life Community Church in Stony Plain, Alberta.



**DISCIPLES MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES.
 LEADERS MULTIPLYING LEADERS.
 CHURCHES MULTIPLYING CHURCHES.**



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P CAMP PARTNERS

Our EMCC partner camps have been around a long time, serving the local church and broader community by making Jesus known through Christ-like integrity and values as they operate throughout the seasons. These camps are welcoming places set apart from everyday life, where individuals and groups of all ages from churches, schools, organizations, and families can deepen their relationship with Jesus, discover their place in God's story, and enjoy meaningful time together. In these settings, we make memories, form friendships, and our lives are changed. These camps are also powerhouses of Christian discipleship, spiritual formation, and leadership multiplication. They are helping to raise up the next generation, while fostering flourishing intergenerational relationships. Pray for our partner camps, and if the Holy Spirit is leading you to support them in other ways, we invite you to connect with a camp today!



Ontario



British Columbia



Alberta



Alberta



Ontario



Saskatchewan

The Ripple Effect of Leadership Development

BY KENDRA FRANKE

Leading is hard. It's messy. It means seeing people for who they really are in their joy and their weariness, their confidence and their doubts. It means walking with people in both the put-together moments and the chaotic ones. But what a blessing that is!

Through leadership, I get to care for each person on my team. And then something amazing happens: they begin caring for the people in their groups. From there, those people impact their families, their friends, their neighbours. It's like a domino effect. The way I lead doesn't just end with me or even with my team. It goes on to shape how parents, grandparents, and entire families see the church, and more importantly, how they see Jesus.



Last summer, I saw that ripple effect of multiplication in a powerful way through the training I've been doing at Accelerate College. Part of my apprenticing role is investing in our young leaders for Camp Bethany, where we run 8 weeks of day camps over the summer impacting over 1000 kids in our community. I have the opportunity to equip our summer staff and volunteers, encourage them, and share the experiences God has given me. Watching those students step into leadership last summer was incredible.

Our staff took in the training, and then they passed it along. They poured into campers with patience, creativity, and love. They encouraged kids when they were homesick, celebrated with them when they had victories, and pointed them to Jesus at every opportunity. And because of that, these campers went home different. Parents noticed it. Grandparents saw it too. Families began to feel the impact of what started in the heart of a young leader.

That's multiplication!

And it humbles me, because most of the time I don't get to see the end of the story. My part is often just at the start of the chain. I teach, encourage, equip, and support. But then God takes that small seed and grows it in ways I could never have imagined. I might impact one person, who then impacts two, who impacts four, and before long, the message of Jesus spreads far beyond what I could ever reach on my own.

When I think about it, this is exactly how Jesus led. He poured into twelve disciples. He ate with them, prayed with them, and walked with them. And those twelve carried the message forward until the world was changed. That same multiplication continues today whenever we choose to invest in the lives of others.

This is why I love leadership. Even in the messy, challenging moments, I get to partner with God in what He's already doing. I get to see sparks of faith light up in someone's life, and then watch as that spark is passed along to others. I get to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the small, ordinary moments of equipping and encouraging. And then, I get to step back and marvel as God multiplies it in ways that only He can.

Leadership isn't just about what happens in the moment, it's about the legacy that's created when we are God-focused in each of our moments. It's about saying yes to the hard, messy work of caring for people, and trusting that God is using it to shape those coming after us. And the best part? I don't have to carry the weight of the results. My role is simply to be faithful with what He's entrusted to me and let Him do the multiplying. So when I think back on last summer, I can't help but feel honoured. I'm honoured to walk alongside other young leaders and to see campers encounter Jesus. I'm honoured to watch families feel the ripple effects.

Multiplication isn't just a strategy. It's the way the Kingdom grows, and I'm honoured to play even a small part. •



Kendra Franke is an Accelerate College apprentice working toward her BA in Leadership Development at Bethany Community Church in St. Catharines, ON



LET US GROW OUR CHURCHES YOUNG

The Growing Young Initiative in the EMCC is about empowering whole church communities to effectively walk alongside and influence the next generation of Jesus-followers.



THIS IS LONG-TERM CULTURE CHANGE, **ROOTED IN THE WAY OF JESUS.**

We offer a variety of ways for churches to engage:

- A national Growing Young Cohort.
- A recorded workshop from Regional Gathering to share with your team.
- A podcast series with stories and insights from across Canada. Find it on Spotify and iHeart.
- A growing library of resources, including prayer guides, workshop materials, articles, and assessment tools.
- A monthly prayer gathering for leaders and intercessors.
- Leadership coaching and connection through our EMCC Next Gen team.

We're praying this becomes more than an initiative. We want it to become a posture—a way of seeing and serving the next generation with open hands and open hearts.

Let's Pray Together

Each month we gather on Zoom for one hour to join our hearts to God's and pray for new generations and the churches engaged in the Growing Young Initiative. Anyone is welcome to join this prayer time. Whether you're a part of a Growing Young cohort church, want to see God moving among the Next Gen, or just love praying for God's people, we encourage you to join us. This space is for:

- Lifting in prayer specific Growing Young Cohort churches, their teams, the denomination's churches, and Canada's Next Gen.
- Sharing encouragement, testimonies, and hope.

Find the zoom link on the EMCC Prayer Calendar: emcc.ca/resource-index/prayer-calendar

What Is Growing Young?

The Growing Young Initiative exists to invite EMCC churches into a whole-church journey of listening to Jesus and cultivating change. We care deeply about younger generations and want them to feel fully at home with us. Growing Young is about learning a shared posture across the church that makes space for younger generations.

Podcast Spotify & iHeart
@ **EMCC Growing Young**

Email:
nextgen@emcc.ca

Number:
226-750-3683

All information and links can be found at
emcc.ca/next-gen-ministries#growing-young



GENERATIONAL MULTIPLICATION

GROWING GOD'S FAMILY

BY TONY BAKER

After graduating from Prairie Bible College in Three Hills, Alberta, I began a career at Starbucks in Seattle, Washington. As Starbucks expanded, I was tapped to open new stores in Yakima, Washington. I had no connection to Yakima, although I had driven past it many times while visiting family in Idaho. It was nothing more than a series of flashing lights on a dark desert highway, yet my wife and I, with our four kids, gladly relocated there in 2011.

Our new life was good, but something was missing. All my leadership and multiplication skills were being used to sell muffins and coffee. One Sunday morning at church, the director of a local gang ministry was talking about leaving the outreach and starting his own church.

I told my wife, "That's it! We should work in gang ministry!" She agreed, and we placed it before Jesus with a simple prayer: "If this is the direction, open the door." I spoke to the ministry director and expressed that after my father's suicide, I felt a calling from Jesus to reach youth who had lost their parents. After a series of interviews, I was hired.

Yakima had great wealth, along with excessive poverty, drugs, gun deaths, prostitution, murder, and every type of debauchery. Our ministry operated in an area known as "The Hole." We ran an after-school program five nights a week that focused on Bible studies, education, sports, and the arts, along with a free meal.

As we went about our service to the community, a young gang member named Rose would consistently stand across the street from our ministry, selling drugs and glaring at us. She took exception to my wife for reasons we could not explain. But we didn't give up on Rose. We invited her to everything until something clicked. Then late one night, she knocked on our door and handed us a camp application.

In the beautiful Cascade Range, far away from drugs and crime, the Holy Spirit moved in ways we never expected. Rose accepted Christ as her Saviour. We later found out that at the age of eight, she had witnessed her father killing her mother. Ever since that horrific event, she'd been on the run, physically and spiritually. Jesus saved her, and not a minute too soon.

Bad blood dies hard. Rose may have changed, but her enemies had not. One night on her way home, a rival gang from her former life caught up with her on the street and shot her in the chest. She bled out in the shadow of a small downtown church. A child of God, called to repentance, before being called home. And that's where Leonard Foster comes in. Leonard was a former resident of Yakima and my great-great-grandfather.

A month after Rose's death, my sister was going through a box of our Grandma's old things, and found historical records of our family. In 1858, Leonard Andrew Foster was born in Ohio. In 1899, Leonard's wife died giving birth to their last child, and he decided he'd had enough. He moved across the country to a place with no memories—Yakima, Washington. He brought his youngest son, Claud, with him.

My great-great-grandfather Leonard had no idea that Jesus would use the death of his wife in 1899 to save the eternal life of Rose in 2015. Leonard's son, Claud, settled down in Yakima and had a son named Ken. Ken had a daughter named Karolyn, and Karolyn had a son named Tony. And here I sit, typing out this story. The multiplication of Leonard Foster's family led to the multiplication of God's family, in Rose's salvation and beyond.

My family and I left our ministry in Yakima after seven years because the generation with whom we had prayed, preached, wept, and laughed was ready to build their own church. Daily, I see social media posts of the youth we trained to follow Jesus, duplicating the process. Through prayer, preaching, discipleship, and coming together to worship, they are multiplying a strong community of believers.

We are back in Three Hills now, the town of my birth, where I am the Youth Pastor at Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church. Within my first two years here, God grew the ministry from twenty-five youth to over eighty, while adding fifteen volunteers.

In my second year, they asked me to lead the young adult ministry. I said yes and told my wife the super-secret plan. "We walk down the street and talk to anyone who looks college-age. Like her!" I pointed at the young woman coming towards us in the crosswalk. She turned out to be a Prairie Bible College student and small group leader. After meeting us, she agreed to help recruit students. The following week, she died in a car accident.

So my wife and I went to the college once a week to bring comfort to the students who had just lost a classmate. We also began reaching out to young working adults who felt adrift in the community. By the end of the year, Jesus had grown our Young Adult ministry to over one hundred students.

Multiplication happens when we pray for the Holy Spirit to move in our lives and the lives of those around us. It happens best when we are obedient and faithfully preach the gospel. Is there sin in your home? Repent. Forgive. Is there sin in your leadership team? Repent. Forgive. Is there sin in your heart, where you envy those in your community and church? Pray for God to remove the seeds of sin that produce the fruit of death. Do not lose heart, for the harvest is ripe, and you are the few. You are indeed blessed.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

All Glory to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. •



Tony Baker is the Youth/College Pastor at Bethel Evangelical Missionary Church in Three Hills, Alberta, and a father of four. He is the author of Anabel's Lion and co-hosts the T.K.Baker podcast with his wife of twenty-four years. He is also the co-host of the podcast, Growing Young with the EMCC. Both can be found on Spotify. Enjoy!



RESONANT emcc Conversations



online, giving leaders the opportunity to share their challenges and learnings particularly around ministering to people who were divorced, cohabitating, single, or who identified as members of the LGBTQ+ community. These conversations culminated in three separate presentations at our 2023 Assembly which attempted to explore a Christ-like posture toward people in these situations.

One insight from that first year of conversations was that we needed further training in how to learn from one another and maintain relationships when our beliefs and practices did not perfectly align. To that end, the CFT developed a four-part training series called Resonant Conversations, which launched in 2024.

Resonant Conversations training addresses Christ-like posture, brings insights from the field of emotional intelligence, and offers tools and practices for problem solving and deep listening. Participants learn largely from their interaction in the group and from reflecting on their own real-life experiences.

Since the Fall of 2024, we've had over 60 people in six cohorts go through the training. Most cohorts have done the training online, however we recently held an intensive "live" training with our churches in Winnipeg. Each time we've led a cohort, the positive feedback from participants has affirmed that the training is helpful and greatly needed.

This past December, we were pleased to welcome Dr. Sam Barry to the CFT. Our continued hope as a team is to foster a culture where we can disagree without being disagreeable, where learning comes before lecturing, and where the grace of our Lord Jesus shines even in the midst of our most challenging relationships. •



We would love to see you in our next Resonant Conversations cohort. Visit resonantconversations.ca for upcoming training dates and times.

BY GAVIN WARK

In Spring 2022, President John Cressman formed The Conversation Facilitation Team (CFT). Ruth Esau and I were appointed as facilitators and Karen Witmer joined us, providing administrative support. Our team's mandate has been to offer safe spaces for leaders to express their experiences, struggles and practice with regard to divisive issues in order that we may learn to approach these with the posture of Christ.

The CFT was first tasked with understanding the challenges that pastors and leaders face in the arena of sexual ethics. In our first year we hosted many conversations across Canada, both in-person and

TEAM MEMBERS



Gavin Wark



Ruth Esau



Karen Witmer



Sam Barry



Journeying with EMCC's Compass Points

BY JEDEDIAH GORHAM

Over the past four years, the EMCC has been guided by a series of four compass points. This past year, we aimed to be “Multiplication-Minded.” Yet, to multiply, we need to be built up in the three previous points. At our church in Eau Claire, Ontario, we have embraced this set of markers and are already seeing some first fruits of multiplication.

What We Learned From Previous Compass Points

The first point we were invited to address in 2022 was to be “Future-Ready.” As we explored this idea at Eau Claire, we discovered the value of being more flexible with our time and in the ways we do things. Future-ready thinking also means understanding that we have multiple generations among us, and that each age cohort needs to know they are valued and how they can contribute to God’s continuing work. In 2023, with the next EMCC theme of growing in “Christ-Like Character,” we discovered how integral

relationships are in demonstrating the character of Christ. And the third compass point, “Actively Engaging Together,” was primarily about mobilizing pastors and people toward a common vision. That year, 2024, our regional EMCC churches had more opportunities to gather than previously, and our churches got to know each other a little better. That’s been encouraging!

Leading Towards Multiplication

In our journey over the last few years, our church was intentional about building relationships with our NextGen disciples and giving them opportunities to lead. I did this in the Guys’ Huddle, which is our men’s Bible study. This is a small weekly gathering centred around learning how to read and apply the text of Scripture and praying together. At first, I invited two younger men whom I had poured into to join me in this group. It was just these young men, with me as the leader. As I began to embrace the compass points, I started to have everyone in the group take a turn leading, with me just overseeing. This supervised leadership led us to where we are now. We now have some older guys in the group, and it is beautiful to see the older ones helping to lead others older than themselves in walking with Christ. The whole group somehow edifies one another. I don’t need to be at every huddle, and I have full confidence these disciples will stay on track.

Every Believer a Multiplier

One crucial truth emphasized in all of the compass points was the need to empower every believer to be a disciple-maker. This is the real key to multiplication. Jesus interacted with numerous people, yet He was intentional about pouring into only a few. It was that handful of Spirit-filled men and women who turned the world upside down. The

quality of a relationship and the challenge that lies within relationships is what allows good teaching to really take root.

Paul shares in 2 Timothy 2:1-2 “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” Paul was limited in how many people he could connect with as he wrote that letter from prison. He chose to write to a man he considered to be reliable and qualified, and who he thought of as a son.

How is this attitude leading to multiplication at Eau Claire? Well, our church demographic has grown younger, we are seeing leaders being developed, and we have had a dramatic increase in the number of baptisms. What excites me most is that our church family has been talking about what they have learned about handling Scripture and the message of Jesus outside the walls of our building.

I’m convinced that things can become even more amazing if the church were more than just a place for God’s people to assemble. The church can become a launching pad. The EMCC Compass Points have inspired us here at Eau Claire to ask questions and dream. What if we could harness the potential of every follower of Jesus? What could God do if every believer were a disciple maker? These are the sorts of questions that inspire our church family and me as a Pastor. I encourage your church family to consider how these compass points might help guide your adventures as together we seek to multiply the work of Jesus, one disciple at a time. •



Jedediah Gorham is an ordained minister with the EMCC and is the Pastor of Eau Claire EMC in rural Northern Ontario. He is the author of “Rough-Hewn Christianity: Inspiring Lessons and Tales from a Backwoods Pastor.”



World Partners

Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada
Following Jesus Together



EMCC World Partners

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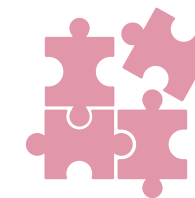
Consultation

Fresh opportunities are everywhere. We're here to help you discover how to strengthen existing partnerships and provide guidance for new connections. If you or your church is looking for new missional and partnership opportunities, please visit emcc.ca/consultation to book a chat with our World Partners team.



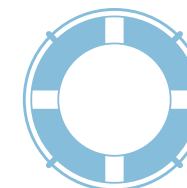
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We are connected to Indigenous leaders, workers in Canada, bi-vocational professionals, and global workers supporting Jesus' mission in other cultures. Through us, you can invest in workers sent through a variety of agencies so they can participate in Jesus' mission across different contexts. In places where an existing Indigenous-led church exists, we join humbly and mutually in response to expressed needs.



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The church around the globe is blessing others and demonstrating the good news of Jesus in an integrated way, and you can participate with them. You can help global churches and ministry partners in their self-defined goals in developing disciple-making focus and addressing community development needs. Every community has access to natural, physical, human, social, spiritual, economic and time resources. It's as they are empowered to recognize the resources they already have and see that God equips them to solve problems, that the attitude of the community can turn to hope. All World Partners' opportunities, partnerships, and projects flow from this value, along with our calling to announce the Good News.



Activating Compassion

We serve a compassionate God who calls us to compassionate action. Disaster and complex crises often arise, and we as the church must respond to alleviate suffering and be a hopeful presence. We invite individuals and churches to contribute what they can to collective responses to the impacts of war and conflict, climate crises, and other disasters. You can join World Partners in supporting newcomers to Canada, providing emergency food relief and humanitarian response in crises.

Learn more at emcc.ca/world-partners



BY ALLIE BRENDSTRUP

GOOD SOIL: SEMILLAS IN LISTOWEL

Rumblings of something cool and different happening in Listowel, Ontario reached my inbox in the fall of 2025. I investigated, ending up face-to-face on Zoom with Dan and Anne-Marie Chapple, who have been global workers with EMCC World Partners in Mexico for many years. Never having spoken with them before, I asked them to paint the picture.

The conversation that followed was lush and expansive, with stories from long before COVID-19 changed the Chapples' lives by bringing them home from Mexico. We spanned their future hopes, prayers and dreams both for themselves and a new community of Spanish-speaking believers in Ontario. What was revealed to me as they spoke is that God's plans are more deeply glorious than we can fully know and more perfect than any we can make for ourselves, because as the inventor of our heart languages, He understands us completely.

The Chapples have bright faces and eager voices as they begin to tell me what God is multiplying in Listowel. The story starts in three places, with three Mexican couples attending Listowel EMC around 2020, and Dan and Anne-Marie praying about their God-given desire to reach Spanish-speaking seasonal agricultural workers in Ontario around the same time.

The third origin story comes from within the congregation at Listowel EMC, who knew they had a great opportunity before them to love newcomers well, and were looking for ways to support the growing group of Spanish-speaking believers who attended their services. Strong relationships were starting to develop between three older English-speaking couples in the congregation and the three couples from Mexico. The desire to do more to help this group grow in relationship with Jesus was steadily increasing.

“Through the grapevine,” says Dan, “we heard that there was a group of Spanish speakers at the church. So, I met with Pastor Carter and we talked about some discipleship material that they could use. I presented the material to the group, and showed them how to study. Then they started asking if it would be possible to do a service once a month in Spanish.”

Good things take time to grow, and from those initial seeds of desire it was a few years before they saw the fruit. In July of 2024, Listowel EMC had their first Spanish-language service which has been going strong ever since on the last Sunday of each month.

At first glance, what the Spanish service provides is hard to fully define beyond the obvious gift of making worship songs and biblical teaching easily understood without translation. For families with young children who are seeking to make

a life here in Canada, this runs deeper. Anne-Marie explains, “It’s important for their children to see them worshiping in their heart language and serving the Lord, and growing in their faith through our Latin side...”

Heart language—that term got under my skin. I looked into the phrase and found that, “Unlike terms such as “first language” or “mother tongue,” which focus on when a language was learned, “heart language” highlights the emotional and spiritual connection with a language.”¹ This knowledge widened my understanding of the ministry’s impact on Spanish speakers in the Listowel area who already know Jesus and on those who don’t yet know Him. What may begin for some as a great opportunity to converse with others in the language of their hearts can lead to so much more as they hear from the Creator of that heart language, and experience the gospel in community.

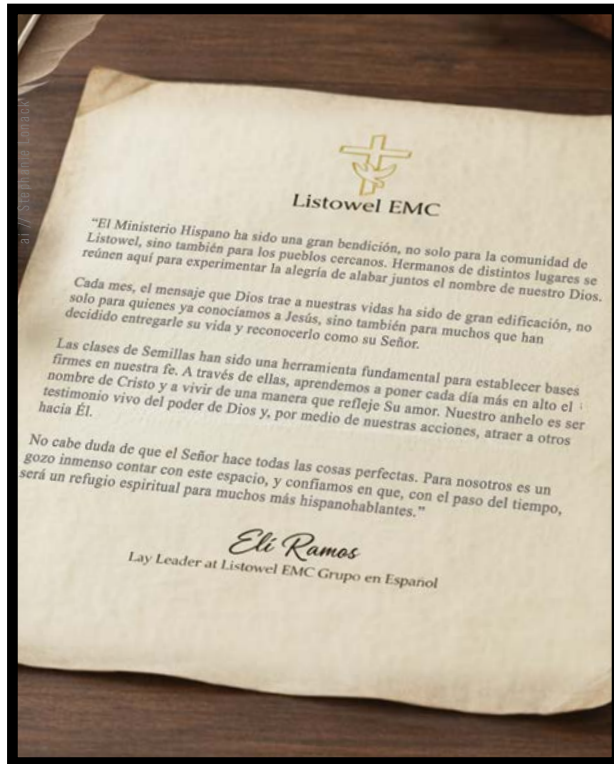
Eli Ramos, one of the core members of the Mexican group who first started attending Listowel EMC, illuminates the significance of this ministry even further. His quote is translated here:

“The Hispanic Ministry has been a great blessing, not only for the community of Listowel but also for the surrounding towns. Brothers and sisters from different places gather here to experience the joy of praising the name of our God together.”

Each month, the message that God brings into our lives has been greatly edifying—not only for those of us who already knew Jesus, but also for many who have decided to give their lives to Him and recognize Him as their Lord.

The “Semillas” (Seeds) classes have been a fundamental tool for establishing a firm foundation in our faith. Through them, we learn to lift up the name of Christ more each day and

¹ “What is a Heart Language?”, The Word for the World (blog), Mar 4, 2025 <https://www.twftw.org/post/what-is-a-heart-language>



church members connect deeply with the Spanish-speaking group in life's wide ranging joys and challenges. One English-speaking member shared with Anne-Marie, "This Latin group is the best thing that's happened to this church in a long time." It's clear the power of the gospel is transforming the whole community through these relationships.

Grupo en Español, as the Spanish-language ministry is known, has grown to a core group of 20 believers, and as of January 2026 is now holding two services each month. Others of varying beliefs and backgrounds come and go, bringing the number up to 40 participants at some gatherings. These meetings are a huge encouragement to the community, along with the Chapple's discipleship basics program, Semillas (Seeds), which Dan has been teaching there since 2024. It is no longer only a Mexican group, but includes Hondurans, Belizians, Nicaraguans, Salvadorians, Cubans, Peruvians and Filipinos.

Though their ministry is growing and flourishing in Ontario, Dan and Anne-Marie are completely dependent on God for what their future will look like. Their generous testimony of obedience is a seed of encouragement to me, and I hope that it can be planted in your heart as well. May it multiply into conviction, in the good soil of our hearts, so we might act in faithful obedience to His voice. Let us also pray with this community, that God will speak into Spanish and English hearts alike and continue to multiply opportunities in Listowel for all hearts to meet Jesus. •



Allie Brendstrup is the Communications Administrator for the EMCC National Team. She lives in Eau Claire, Ontario, where she and her husband Marshall are working to build up the body of Christ through friendship, art, good food, and conversation.



A MEMBER OF
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Who we are:

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is made up of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. Since 1983, we have come together in the belief that everyone is made in the image of God and it is God's desire that no one should go hungry.

What we do:

We provide emergency food access for people in crises such as war, earthquakes and floods. We provide long-term support so farmers can produce in the midst of erratic weather.

How do we do it?

These members partner with trusted locally-based organizations in developing countries to meet emergency food needs and achieve long-term solutions to hunger.

Working with local partners means they have an understanding of the communities, the culture, and the context, increasing the impact of our programs. These partners work to serve the most vulnerable people in their communities

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WHEN WHAT YOU HAVE Feels Too Small

BY MIKE SWALM

There's something special about our Lord's miracle in multiplying the bread and the fish. (Matthew 14:13-21) It's not the only "multiplying" story in Scripture, but it is the one that most often captures the imagination. Maybe that's because it is such an earthy and relatable story.

When We Try to Fix It Ourselves

We've all been in that place; we're captivated by something, perhaps an activity or some entertainment, and we realize much too late that we have not adequately provided for ourselves. Our stomachs start to growl and the "hangries" set in.

The disciples could see the same symptoms all around them and they saw the solution we usually do: everyone needs to leave here and get something to eat! It was the simplest and most obvious fix for the problem, yet Jesus rejected it. Instead, He called on the disciples to feed the crowd. They bristled at the impossibility of Jesus' suggestion—the crowd was too big, and the provisions too small.

Yet, Jesus' next command was even more surprising. 'He said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.'" (Matthew 14:14) Despite thinking they knew the solution already, the disciples obeyed, and watched as Jesus did what none of them would ever think to do. He gave thanks for the food they already had and distributed it. And the story continues with everyone being able to eat, and 12 baskets of leftovers to deal with!

In their human way of approaching problems, the disciples may have found it tempting to try to systematize Jesus' approach in this

passage. Maybe they considered changing their working strategy from pursuing the most obvious solution to instead pursuing the least obvious. We tend to look for what will work based on what we've experienced. And what an experience they had! But what we find in this story is not a promise that God will always feed everyone. There are plenty of places in Scripture that talk about God providing, but what I see in this passage is the ability of God to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

More Than Just a Detail: Gratitude Before the Breakthrough

We see Jesus insist that the crowd be seated, and then He simply looks up to heaven (His Father) and expresses thanks. Jesus is thankful to His Father before the miracle of multiplication happens. He sees what is there and He is grateful for what has been given. Instead of begging for the multiplication, focusing on the lack, and strategizing solutions with his disciples, Jesus pauses and thanks God for what is already there.

I pastored a small church for years, and in the beginning I kept asking the same question.

"How can I multiply this church?"

I begged God to multiply our congregation, our finances, and our ministries. I wanted this multiplication for God's glory, but I also wanted to "crack the code" and ensure that I could control the outcome. I saw the size of my church as a problem, and the various methods being espoused by church growth experts and missional prophets as the solutions. I was sure I knew how to solve the problem. It was only years later that I learned from Jesus how my seeking to



control was essentially idolatry, worshipping my own strength and acumen instead of God. I learned that I was being invited to be thankful for the church I had. And when that realization took hold, everything in me changed.

God's Multiplication Might Look Different

My church didn't grow by leaps and bounds. In fact, it was roughly the same size when I left as when I started. While the church didn't grow in size, I believe my faith did. I was a different man when I stopped trying to force God to bless me and instead thanked God for the blessings He had already lavished. God did not multiply my church's numbers, but He multiplied my love for His people. He did not multiply our offering, but He multiplied our reliance on Him for provision. Our reach was not multiplied, but our love for our community certainly was. And if I had focused on the "lack" of multiplication, I might have missed God's work in building up His church.

I remain convinced so many years later that God's designs, ways, and thoughts are higher and better than mine. My desire to "fix" the problem of a small church led me to seek out solutions in all the wrong places. If only, early on, I had learned to listen to the voice of my Master, calling me to the radical posture of gratitude for everything entrusted to me, how different might those first years have been? If I had recognized that my gratitude would multiply as God showed me His glory in the faces of His faithful servants, I might have been a much better, and far more thankful, pastor. As it is, I am so thankful that I learned to hear His voice when I did. I often still try to control the situation and the outcome, but I am quicker now to let go, to be thankful, and to await the multiplication God has in mind.

There are a lot of formulas for different kinds of multiplication out there if you know where to look. Instead of seeking formulas, perhaps seeking thankfulness for what we have and trusting God to achieve His plan for multiplication is a better way forward. I know it is for me. •



Mike Swalm pastored a small church in Calgary for 20 years before becoming president at Rocky Mountain College in January of 2025. He is married to Patricia and together they have four wonderful children (two in university in Florida and two still at home) and one dog.



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A conversation with Justin & Tiffany Fotheringham about what happens when God invites us in, instead of the other way around.

AN ACCIDENTAL CHURCH

BY ALLIE BRENDSTRUP

Justin and Tiffany Fotheringham live in North Bay, Ontario, and sometime between 2023 and 2025, they accidentally started a church.

Along with serving a hot meal twice a week and providing donated shoes, clothing, and care packages, this church worships God with music, preaches the Gospel, and hosts a weekly Bible study.

“We started as a prayer ministry,” Tiffany begins. “We never intended for it to be a church. It started out as a prayer time, seeking the Lord, then wanting to do outreach, evangelism and discipleship. Suddenly, the people from the street are coming in. They’re getting saved and now they’re saying, ‘Well, teach us how to read the Bible—teach us where to go from here.’ We’ve tried to say it’s just a mission—it’s just a ministry. But other people have corrected us and said, this is the church.”

In 2023, Justin and a group of North Bay pastors began praying weekly for the city. Soon the group grew to about 30 people, meeting in different places around North Bay. Some Christian leaders who shared their vision eventually offered them a regular place to meet, on Main Street. During the group’s first year there they began a worship night on Tuesdays, and in May of 2024, they started meeting on Sundays as well.

CHURCH

As they became more established, Justin yearned to go out into the street, evangelize and bring in the homeless. He’d pastored for ten years at Lakeshore EMC in North Bay, and came out of that period sensing God calling him to the margins, to reach the lost, disciple them, and create a home for God’s family. But God told him to do nothing, just worship at His feet. Justin remembers God giving him the story of Mary and Martha, and saying, “I do not want another program. What I want is my presence to be more than enough.”

Seven months went by. Some people moved on, but many were excited to keep leaning into the posture and practice of learning and waiting on God in worship and prayer, and through Bible studies and discipleship.

“There was this Mary/Martha tension, where we wanted to be doers,” Tiffany remembers. “We are doers. We see the Bible has called us to work, and be hands and feet. So, to slow down, just sit at God’s feet and be Mary, was humbling. It was a time of growing...and really established servant hearts in all the people that were coming out.

I think it laid a foundation for outreach, because then it was coming from a heart that’s already been sitting with the Lord.”

Of the night in January 2025 when God finally called the group to rise up, Justin recalls, “Tiffany had been sick, so she wasn’t able to do worship. So, I’m playing YouTube worship. This is not the way I want to do things, and so, it’s not going well for me.” Yet, Jesus answered Justin’s discouragement with His presence. Ten people showed up and began wholeheartedly worshipping. Justin prayed out loud, “Lord, would you bring the people that you’ve called to come to this place?” Almost immediately, the doors opened and the place began flooding with homeless brothers and sisters. “We were blown out of the water,” says Justin. “That night, you know—I was complaining about the worship. I was complaining about our numbers...and [God] said, ‘Justin, I don’t need you to do anything. I’m in control of this. I’m the one leading this.’ And it just hit me—it really is just God’s presence.”

Soon after God opened those doors that night, the church began offering meals and resources along with worship and sermons on Sundays, and worship, prayer and Discovery Bible studies on Tuesdays. The number of people who come on Sunday afternoons has grown to over 100, with about 80 people attending on Tuesday evenings. Those who come for food and clothes often stay for the whole gathering. Friends joining in from other community support programs in the city who work with the same people have noted that there is a peace at Mercy House they don’t often see.

The name “Mercy House” came to Tiffany as she prayed for God

to condense the vision and heart behind what He is doing in and through this group. Tiffany explains, “The mercy—the compassion God has shown us—we want to extend that to others. And then a house—a home, where it’s welcoming, and any and all are invited—is a place of belonging. Really, we’ve opened the doors and we will never turn anybody away. People are coming, feeling like it’s home, and continuing to stay.”

Mercy House is learning as they go. A multitude of details work together to fulfill and sustain the mission. Along with a governing board to whom Justin is accountable, Mercy House has teams of volunteers helping to oversee operations. A small security team implements policies which maintain safety at the gatherings. There is a growing children’s ministry. Worship leaders help Tiffany with music and audio/visual work. Tiffany also coordinates five hospitality teams from surrounding churches and Mercy House, who make and serve food, distribute donated clothing and shoes, and assemble and distribute care packages.

Justin and Tiffany are excited to see the body of Christ not only desiring to be the active hands and feet of Jesus, but actually doing it. They are witnessing people, including themselves, grow in confidence as they serve God and develop relationships with Him and one another. “God’s doing a work in me,” Justin shares. “Through this, He’s strengthening my faith to really believe He is who He says He is.” The Fotheringhams remain planted at Jesus’ feet as they and the community continue to give away what the Lord provides.

Justin speaks plainly, “We haven’t had a paycheck in two years, and God has continued to bring us finances and provide for us. I felt Him say that it’s not wrong to have a stockpile, but He said, ‘Justin, if you have a flow through where I provide just enough, you’ll always have a testimony with me.’” Justin’s anchoring verse has been, “...the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” (1 Peter 2:6b) As the monthly operating expenses increase with the activities of the church, the “flow through” of God has not left them in deficit, and their needs are being miraculously met. Furthermore, God’s financial and material provision is not the only testimony of this church.

Tiffany emphasizes that this ministry is not glamorous, polished, or easy. But the resurrecting power of Jesus and the continual work of the Holy Spirit is evident. One woman’s life was saved from suicide through the prayer of an obedient believer. Another woman was released from drug addiction and the occult by the Holy Spirit’s filling. She’s now an evangelist, sharing Jesus and inviting friends into the community. Two men came to know Jesus by the simple gift of a kind stranger bearing free pizza. Not glamorous. Yet, these stories reveal the glory of God as He invites us into His presence, and like Mercy House, we take Him up on that invitation. •

Allie Brendstrup is the Communications Administrator for the EMCC National Team. She lives in Eau Claire, Ontario, where she and her husband Marshall are working to build up the body of Christ through friendship, art, good food, and conversation.





NEWLY CREDENTIALLED MINISTERS

Dec 1, 2024–Dec 31, 2025

P Provisionally Licensed Ministers

Rajiv Masih	Edmonton, Alberta
Parker Meginbir	Waterloo, Ontario
Mpumi Maweni	Stouffville, Ontario
Michelle Campbell	Chilliwack, British Columbia
Temitope Ijilusi	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Valerie Hopman	Airdrie, Alberta
Heather Terris	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Cody Archer	Didsbury, Alberta

O Ordained Ministers

James Ferber	Miller Lake, Ontario
Cam Hudson	Edmonton, Alberta
Aaron Dalman	West Kelowna, British Columbia
Vince Vanderveen	Chestermere, Alberta
Catlin Allen	Calgary, Alberta
Mike Swalm	Calgary, Alberta
Alisha Durksen	Medicine Hat, Alberta
Rob Ford	Winnipeg, Manitoba
James Wall	Renfrew, Ontario
Matthew Laker	North Bay, Ontario
Jacob George	Calgary, Alberta

L Licensed Ministers

Rob Campbell	Blyth, Ontario
Tony Baker	Three Hills, Alberta
Lawrence Irwin	Calgary, Alberta
Matt Schorr	Calgary, Alberta
Ron Stone	Calgary, Alberta
Rick Bruinsma	Stratford, Ontario
Timothy Sivagnanam	Beaumont, Alberta
Anicet Batariho	Edmonton, Alberta
Lena Blain	Cochrane, Alberta
Melanie Nelson	Rocky View County, Alberta
Cindy Martin	Rocky View County, Alberta
Thomas Maier	Cremona, Alberta
Val Lieske	Calgary, Alberta
Matthew MacGregor	Paris, Ontario

RECENTLY Retired Ministers

Catch up with our retired EMCC leaders, with Jean Winker.



Jean Winker is a long-time writer and contributor in EMCC publications and communications, bringing news and encouragement to congregations all over Canada and beyond. She lives in New Hamburg, Ontario, hosting family and friends as often as she can. She occasionally comes out of retirement to interview people, and delights in telling their stories about what God is doing in their lives and ministries.



Lennie Fahnestock, Ordained, Honorably Retired: August 10, 2025

After 22 years in EMCC youth ministry—first in Stratford, then Vineland—Lennie became lead pastor at Vineland until 2012. When an adult son faced a serious health issue, Lennie and Bonnie shifted their focus to family. In 2013 Lennie accepted an interim position at Lakeshore, North Bay, which began his long-term calling to transitional ministry. He served ten Ontario congregations, most recently Tavistock EMC.

Lennie and Bonnie cherish family time in Virginia, and he enjoys bow hunting, solitude and occasional preaching opportunities. Sharing his faith brings joy. “I love telling how Jesus saved me, and He can save you, too.”

Lennie is committed to deepening his walk with Jesus. His life verse, Acts 20:24, shapes his purpose: “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”



Jordan Polson, Licensed Minister, Active Retired: March 31, 2025

Jordan’s previous business experience and over two decades given as a volunteer assisting or leading ministries at CrossRoads Church, in Red Deer, Alberta, led to his appointment as Executive Pastor in 2005. He oversaw finances, staffing, facility ministries, and found joy in supporting church ministry leaders. Guided by James 3:17, Jordan sought God’s wisdom, aiming to empower leaders to dream freely while resourcing them to bring those dreams to life. Collaborating closely with the Lead Pastor, he helped turn shared vision into reality for the church.

Now retired, Jordan senses Jesus calling him to devote increased focus to his family. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two adult children and two grandchildren. Jordan enjoys woodworking projects for their home. He continues to consult with churches on growth and vision.

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” James 3:17 (NIV)



Mike Leist, Ordained, Honorably Retired, Feb 16, 2024

With over 40 years in pastoral ministry, Mike served C&MA churches in California, Minnesota, Saskatchewan and Alberta. He met Blanche while completing his Theological degree in Regina, and after many years of ministry in the USA they returned to Saskatchewan. Mike served at Little Plume EMC, in Redcliff, Alberta for eight years and they enjoyed the fun and fellowship of a country church. In addition to preaching and teaching which are his passions, Mike took the lead in fund raising and constructing two church buildings and renovated two others.

Since retiring from Little Plume in April 2022, Mike has opportunities to preach in nearby Medicine Hat. Blanche continues her career as an RN. “We have three wonderful adult children and are happily enjoying our three young grandchildren.” Mike’s newest hobby is exploring family genealogies and with the help of his tech-savvy sons-in-law he hopes to create a video version as a legacy gift to future generations.



Don Timmons, Licensed Minister, Honorably Retired: Dec 12, 2024

Before pastoring at Kenaston, Saskatchewan, Don served twice in pastoral positions and as an inner-city chaplain. At Kenaston, he loved hearing people’s faith journeys and sharing his with them.

“A key passage for me is Proverbs 3:5-6. God says, ‘Trust me and I’ll lead and guide.’ I’m an evangelist at heart. We recently moved to Strasbourg, Saskatchewan, and I start my days asking God for opportunities to share my faith. As I meet people, I’m in awe of the connections God makes and the conversations that unfold. I know what God has done for my life, and I want others to have that too.” Don and Diane have two adult children. They enjoy kayaking. In a church home group, Don facilitates as people share sermon applications.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6



Binder Mahil, Provisional Licensed Minister, Honorably Retired: Jan 15, 2025

In 1998, Binder and his wife Harjit and another couple stepped out of home group format and launched Punjabi Christian Centre in Surrey, BC. It was a challenging ministry, and Binder drew strength and confidence from John 15:16, understanding from it that God chose him for the work and therefore he could do it. Binder was especially passionate about the church’s annual Christmas outreach dinner that saw 150-200 Punjabi-speaking residents come to enjoy authentic food and spend time with congregation members.

In retirement, Binder is involved with people and loves to share his faith and pray for others. “Every morning, I ask the Lord what my task is for that day. He is my only helper.” Harjit has retired from nursing, and the couple has two sons. Binder is involved in competitive Greyhound racing, and says, “This is my new mission field. You never know how the Lord can use you.”



Norma Wilson, Provisional Licensed Minister, Honorably Retired: March 31, 2025

Wanting to help people find freedom from hurt and pain from the past and teaching that cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit is key to this transformation is Norma’s passion. She developed and then taught a course about the Fruit of the Spirit in Ottawa churches for several years. With relocation to Wakefield, Quebec, the family began attending Eglise La Pêche, and she continued teaching. Seeking a covering for her ministry, Norma applied for EMCC Credentials.

In retirement, her passion for the Fruit of the Spirit as a ‘toolbox’ for believers has not dimmed. “My ministry is to equip believers to walk so that their character and attitude is like Christ’s.”

Norma, widowed since 2011, enjoys time with family and likes oil painting and swimming.

“I ask Jesus, ‘What do You want me to do, and I hear that He has me where He wants me and I am to trust Him and be patient.’”

Together We Multiply Impact

PENTECOST OFFERING

2025

By Scott Clubine, EMCC Vice President

Our 2025 EMCC Pentecost Offering raised \$32,382—a powerful expression of generosity and partnership across our EMCC family. Thank you to every individual and church who participated in giving toward this shared mission! These collected gifts are being distributed among three key ministry areas, each contributing uniquely to the work of God's kingdom:

1. Canadian Foodgrains Bank

A portion of the offering has been directed to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which multiplies donations up to four times through government partnerships. These funds help provide emergency food and support to vulnerable communities in Ethiopia and Sudan, where ongoing conflict and drought have created severe hunger crises. Your generosity is helping to bring tangible hope and sustenance to families in desperate need.

2. Inundo Development

Another portion of the offering supports Inundo Development. Based in South Africa, Inundo is a training and demonstration hub for Farming God's Way—a biblically grounded, conservation-based approach to agriculture that restores degraded soil, increases productivity, and reflects God's design for creation care. Through hands-on mentorship and discipleship, Inundo equips farmers, pastors, and community leaders to integrate faith, farming, and leadership development. Participants are trained not only in sustainable agricultural practices but also in how to reproduce these principles within their own communities to multiply both harvests and hope.

3. Partnered Camps

Part of the offering invests in camps partnered with the EMCC, where hundreds of children, youth, and families encounter Jesus in meaningful and life-changing ways each summer. These ministries continue to be a vital part of discipleship and spiritual formation, shaping the next generation of Christ followers.

A Spirit of Generosity and Growth

Your gifts as part of the 2025 Pentecost Offering reflect the heart of our denomination: empowered by the Spirit, united in mission, and multiplying God's work in the world. Thank you for being part of this multiplying movement!

Stay tuned for more information on our 2026 Pentecost Offering, supporting:

- 1. Neighbour to Neighbour (Kolkata, India)** – A disciple-multiplication initiative led by Salvation for All Ministries, under Shane D'Souza (EMCC World Partners International). New worship gatherings have been planted in a slum community, where new believers are being discipled and equipped to share the love of Jesus with their neighbours in word and deed.
- 2. Cuba Relief** – Support for the Missionary Church of Cuba as it serves amid national crisis. Cuban churches are providing food, medicine, and practical care, while faithfully proclaiming the hope of salvation in Christ.
- 3. EMCC Church Multiplication (Canada)** – Seed funding to help launch new EMCC churches across Canada as we continue to prioritize church multiplication. •



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OUR VALUES

We value the ways, words and works of Jesus.

We value listening and responding to the Holy Spirit.

We value relationships.

We value humble servant leadership.

We value collaboration.

We value mutual learning and partnerships with our global partners.

We value the next generation.

We value mutual respect in our differences.

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