



Evangelism & Church Planting

It's easy to track and monitor the impact of a water project in sub-Saharan Africa or a food distribution effort in the Middle East. We are frequently moved by photos of giddy children lining up for school in their colourful uniforms in Kenya and India. But community development outside of strong, growing and engaged local churches can easily revert to solely humanitarian service.



That is why CBM places the local church at the centre of mission. We deeply believe in the Church – in Canada and around the world. We partner with local churches to extend Christ's love to all people, because the mission of the church is to bear witness to God's love and grace in a broken world.

CBM believes in a Gospel that is both spoken and demonstrated. We call this integral mission. Sometimes the Gospel is expressed by providing assistance to children who are left orphaned by AIDS, sometimes it is by training pastors who plant churches and share the Good News in the Middle East, sometimes it's working for reconciliation in places of conflict. CBM assists our global church partners and their local congregations through integral mission initiatives that respond to social needs and opportunities for effective witness in their own contexts. Many of our partner churches are located in communities of extreme poverty and social alienation where they have an exceptional opportunity to share God's love and comfort. Each of CBM's partnerships has developed out of unique historical circumstances and an invitation to work collaboratively in ministry.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Evangelism is the task of using words and actions to explain the Gospel and encourage decisions of faith. Ours is a changing and challenging world where the message of God's hope and salvation is vitally important to restore hope in the midst of brokenness.

Our partners face complex issues and we help to empower them as they share the life-changing Gospel message. The task is still enormous. The number of followers of Christ in India is just over 2% of the total population. In certain regions of India, Christians face significant religious persecution. In Bolivia thousands of young people migrate each year to the large cities in hopes of

better opportunities, but often get lost in the process. The church in Bolivia hopes to reach out to this generation of youth and beyond. People in the Middle East are familiar with unrest and uncertainty. The students at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary are committed to building bridges of reconciliation to break down the barriers between people and unite them in a shared love of the one true God. All of our church partners share the strong calling to proclaim the message of salvation in their communities. Their work is endless, yet they press on with the task of sharing the Good News.

THE CASE FOR QUEBEC

The average Canadian city or town has approximately one church per 1,250 residents. Presently, church-planters estimate that Quebec "needs" 3,092 new churches planted, 1,346 in Montreal alone (!) to simply reach the level of one church per 2,000 residents. This is a colossal task, particularly because of the low weekly church attendance among Quebec's 375,000 Protestants, higher than average pastor attrition rates, aging buildings, low tithing practices, and challenging social contexts.

CBM is investing \$75,000 a year to help our partner, the French Baptist Union, to start new churches in and around the city of Montreal.

Jean-Christophe Jasmin

is a pastor-in-training at Église Baptiste Évangélique de Pointe-aux-Trembles in the Montreal area and stresses the challenges and new directions of outreach in this context. *"Evangelism in Quebec has to be completely reconfigured, we are really in a post-Christian society. There are some Christian values that are still ingrained in society, but... people don't know who Jesus is, what Christians believe."*

In a conversation with CBM, he spoke about the constant struggle people have to find meaning in life through work, relationships and other avenues when *"God gives true value... we're trying to find new ways to reach people."* We need your prayers and support for the work in Quebec and for pastors, like Jean, as they minister there.

GROWING CHURCHES

After more than a century serving in global mission, we at CBM continue to remind ourselves of why we do what we do. It is because we profoundly believe that God uses local churches to transform broken lives and communities. God's mission encompasses everything, but its centre and starting-point is the local church, a community of God's people. Brokenness can be spiritual, economic, relational, or psychological, and He wants to bring healing to all of this. To accomplish this, we embrace our broken world by addressing the difficult social and spiritual wounds in our world today. Since our earliest days of mission engagement, Canadian Baptists have seen the emergence of local churches as a vital and intrinsic part of Christian witness.

It takes great coordination and work to build the strong foundations of a new church in a community. Starting new congregations is costly and risky. Typically, less than 50% of all new churches reach their 5th anniversary. Unique skills are required for training church planters, and very few seminaries or Bible schools are equipping pastors and evangelists for this crucial task.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CBM invests hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in church planting, evangelism and equipping ministries globally. Some examples include:

- Supporting outreach and church planting in French Canada
- Supporting indigenous church planting efforts in the Andes mountains of Bolivia
- Training evangelists and church planters to serve in Lebanon and other countries throughout the Arab world
- Empowering women through sanghams (self-help groups) in India to share the Gospel
- Supporting outreach among First Nations peoples in Canada
- Ministering to Chinese university students studying in Germany – the majority of whom will return to China and hold positions of influence

In sharing the good news of Jesus Christ around the world, CBM's story is one of remarkable impact that is disproportionate to the size of our budget and the number of staff who serve with us. Canadian Baptists sent their first missionaries to India in 1874. Today, we continue to be innovative and responsive in our approach to mission. Working in 16 core regions with 35 partners around the globe, we are fully engaged in dynamic partnerships with emerging global churches and their leaders. Our Field Staff work alongside our partners through integrated teams comprised of both Canadians and nationals, serving in the areas of leadership development, church-based community development, evangelism and church planting.

The challenges of the world today are not those of 150 years ago. People are now linked across the globe in ways never thought possible even two decades ago. The realities of technology and air travel enable us to reach every corner of the earth with astounding efficiency and effectiveness. However, the need for vibrant faith communities that witness to the power of God's transforming love is as urgent today as it ever was. At CBM we feel privileged to be part of that witness all around the world and invite our Baptist churches to join us as we continue to encourage all people to serve and share God's vision to love Him and one another.

In the event a particular project or program is oversubscribed or where local conditions prevent implementation, CBM will redirect your donation to where it is needed most.

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CBM *embracing a broken world
through word & deed*