# GARTH LENO – PASTOR CARE

Our primary objective in Pastor Care is to help every pastor in the CNBC feel heard, seen, loved, and needed. When we use the term “pastor” we mean church planters, pastors, IMB missionaries working in Canada, student workers, collegiate ministers, chaplains, and our Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary & College faculty. They are all “family.”

We believe healthy churches are planted, pastored, and multiplied by healthy leaders. Pastor Care fosters stability and growth in our leaders by expressing our love and appreciation for them as often as we can through hand-written notes, anniversary cards, flowers on their anniversary, and so on. We will encourage our pastors and their wives as they do the hard work of church planting or pastoring a church and constantly show appreciation for them and the work they do. Through events, resources, and community building with other CNBC people in their region, they will know they are loved and they’re not alone.

**Personal Encouragement**

We have done our best work to encourage our pastors and workers across the country. Every month we mail an average of 35 hand-written encouragement cards to the senior pastors on our database. At Christmas we send a special greeting to the pastors and their families. This is not a small feat, but we are determined to express love and appreciation to every worker in our CNBC family.

**In Memoriam**

We created a memoriam video for all the pastors and workers in our CNBC family who have been welcomed into heaven in 2023-2024. This will be ready for the annual Gathering in October.

**Pastor Care Champions**

By the grace of God, we have several men and women across the country who have agreed to encourage and connect with our pastors as often as time permits. From B.C. to Atlantic Canada, we currently enjoy the added ministry of Ray Woodard, Dustin Connor, Steve Fish, Brad Williams, Jean-Marc and Myra Princivil, Josh Docksteader, and Steve Savage. I am grateful to each one of them for taking on the additional task of reaching out to pastors in their own regions. They are calling, writing, sending emails, meeting for coffee, and taking pastors out for lunch on a regular basis.

**Oasis Retreats**

I offer assistance to the Regional Ministry Leaders and planning teams for the annual Oasis retreats when asked to do so. The national office can assist with roll up banners, PowerPoint slide templates, copies for MailChimp or newsletters, and even booklets with the theme and room to take notes. It is an honour to attend on behalf of the national office, and I believe it is one of the best contact points for pastor care that we have. Our next round of Oasis retreats, which begins with the first quarter of 2025, will be anchored by the theme "Tell the Story." All our events will use the same theme – CNBC Women Overflowing, Great Commission Offering, Oasis. All will use the theme, "Tell the Story”.

**Marriage Retreats**

We presented an idea to Jeff Christopherson, our Executive Director, and then to Dr. Kevin Ezell, President of the North American Mission Board, for the development of one- or two-day marriage retreats across the country. Both Jeff and Kevin approved our proposal, and funding, for us to develop and offer a marriage tune-up to pastors from churches who are contributing to the Cooperative Program. We have enjoyed successful events in Edmonton, Montreal, and Canmore at the time of this report. Hopefully others will come together soon.

**New Pastors Orientation**

I give some leadership and oversight to the New Pastors Orientation (NPO). Prior to December 2022, we had not hosted an NPO since 2018. We have enjoyed presenting New Pastors Orientations in December 2022, March and June of 2023, April 2024. The next one is on the calendar for November 2024. The NPO is strategic for us. We are helping our newest pastors understand who we are and why we do what we do. Every church planter and every pastor new to our Convention is invited, and our capable, enthusiastic staff at the Convention contributes to the overall success of each NPO.

**Some of our Current Challenges**

I have mentioned these challenges in previous reports, but they do remain our most consistent challenge in the ministry of Pastor Care.

*Connection.* We would love to connect with *all* our CNBC workers across the country, but time, money, and availability restrain us. Please continue to pray that we would find creative and effective ways of helping *every* worker in the CNBC feel welcomed, loved, and needed.

*Communication.* In an age where communication should be extremely easy because of all the options available to us (email, text, voicemail, Insta, Messenger, etc.), it is very common for pastors and others to ignore emails, requests for information, and even an invitation to a free lunch or dinner.

*Consistent Giving.* We have a high percentage of churches that give nothing to the Cooperative Program. This is a challenge not only for Pastor Care but for every national team leader and the many ministries and missions we support.

Respectfully submitted by Garth Leno.