

# Andrew Lamme, Regional Director

Thank you!

I know we express our gratitude every time we write these reports, but without your advocacy, we wouldn't be able to accomplish all that is happening across Canada. In saying that, God Himself is doing it, as Jesus instructed us to pray in Matt. 9:38: "Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

God is answering that prayer for us here in Canada. As I write this report, we have never planted as many churches in CNBC's history in a year. We are officially at 38, the same as last year, with seven more to be submitted for registration in the next week or two.

A city that needs to be highlighted but is not a Send City is Winnipeg. Our church-based CPC in Winnipeg, Andaza Hezekiah, does an incredible job there while leading his own church plant. Andaza immigrated to Canada from Nigeria several years ago and established the church he now leads. He is blessed with incredible gifts, one of which is being catalytic. The seven churches in the queue to be registered mentioned above are all in Winnipeg. The humble leadership that Andaza has brought to that city has turned those CNBC churches around 180 degrees. As few as 10 years ago, the fighting and lack of unity amongst the churches there was incredibly disheartening. God is on the move in Winnipeg now and Send Network has been a significant support in seeing that happen.

One area I will focus on in the next 18 months is Calgary. As you have read, Daryl Molyneaux has taken on a senior pastor role in Oregon, which is a significant loss to Calgary. CNBC is currently in the process of bringing on a new Regional Ministry Leader (RML) who will collaborate with our CPC there. My role there will be supporting, leading, encouraging, and working closely with the CPC and new RML for Southern Alberta.

We are blessed to be able to see what God is doing in Canada through the efforts of the generous support of the SBC, Trustees, CNBC churches, and the SN field staff across Canada.

Andrew Lamme

# **CANADA REGION UPDATES**

# Calgary: Johnny Thiessen, jtheissen@namb.net

#### **City Summary:**

As we close out an incredible summer of ministry, we've seen more teams and events than in recent years and already celebrated three new church plants, with more on the way. Though Daryl Molyneaux has transitioned to a pastoral role in Oregon, the Calgary team remains dedicated to sharing the Gospel, and we're seeing God at work in powerful ways throughout Southern Alberta.



Our established churches are catching the vision for multiplication, and new plants are taking shape. Recently, some of our planting couples attended the Send Network Gathering in Long Beach, and others joined the 6:4 Fellowship's Prayer Immersion in New York, strengthening their commitment to making prayer a core part of their ministry.

With support from the Aspen Network, several churches are forming a Residency Hub at Grace City Church. After summer teams helped with cleanup and renovations, we're ready to launch the program this fall, training four men for pastoral ministry with guidance from Brian Croft of Practical Shepherding, who will also support our planters and pastors in Calgary.

# **Church Plant Spotlight:**



**Restore Church, Mike and Steph Beaulieu**, faithfully live out their mission of "Partnering with God to bring restoration through Jesus Christ." Their outreach through summer events has created a significant impact on the community. Here are a few highlights:

**Neighborhood Food Bank**: Each week, they distribute perishable food from Costco to over 40 families, using a team member's garage as the hub.

School's Out Celebration: Over 2,000 people attended their free community event despite inclement weather. They served 1,100 hotdogs, hosted carnival games, and brought in five food trucks. Proceeds from raffles supported Airdrie's homeless population. Kids Camp: During the School's Out event, they invited children to a summer camp that drew 50 local kids.

**The Amazing Race Airdrie Youth Edition**: A well-attended evening event for around 50 youth.

**Airdrie Canada Day Parade**: Restore Church participated with a float, supported by over 60 team members.

Using funds from their summer events and donations from Send Calgary, they packed 45 backpacks for those in need, each containing a New Testament, an encouraging note, and highlighted Bible verses.





**Highlights:** 

- Junction Church partnered with a homeowners association to serve over 4,000 people in a community breakfast, creating a great impression and fun day with many activities for kids. It was an excellent opportunity to leave a lasting impact on their lives for Jesus.
- New planters, Nathan and Emily Taylor, are just settling into Calgary. They have been busy with vision tours from their home state of Louisiana, forging new partnerships to help them engage the community, make disciples and then plant a new church.
- Tapestry Church is a Sending Church that continues to engage the city of Cochrane and lead by example in this area.
- Hope Hills Church is set to launch a church plant next year in a community of 200,000 with fewer than 10 evangelical churches. This summer, they sponsored a Stampede BBQ that drew 1,000 people and registered several families for their day camps. With the help of 14 mission teams totaling 125 people, they baptized three people over the summer. Nine new families from the camp have since joined their services.
- This year, we were one of the few Canadian cities to host a GenSend team, led by Chris and Hannah Greenwood. Nine students participated, serving across three church plants. One is planning to return and possibly make Calgary their home.
- Each summer, we gather our entire family (CNBC, IMB, CBTS, and SN) for a BBQ, and this year, over 80 people enjoyed great food and fellowship. It was a celebration of our unity and shared mission to saturate the world with the Gospel.
- We are continuing our SN Planter Training this September with seven planters enrolled. They will meet monthly for training, prayer, fellowship and team building.
- Urban Grace is training around 20 men in ecclesiology and Godly leadership, not just for their church but for other Calgary plants as well, preparing them to lead their congregations with wisdom and faith.

- Pray as we build our City Team that the right people will engage and be unified as we seek to see our city saturated with the Gospel.
- Pray for our Practical Shepherding Conference on October 4-6 in Calgary, that the right pastors and planters come so we can encourage and build them up.
- Pray for our two churches launching this fall, Grace Airdrie and Grace City, for the right people to join the core who have favour with the communities in which they are planting.
- Pray for Carlos and Ana Pulgarian, an amazing couple planting in Red Deer who have been going through tremendous opposition in almost every area of their personal and ministry life. They are beyond grateful for the generosity of NAMB's Care Department as we provided for some needs that were met above and beyond what they asked for. Pray for perseverance amid the struggles and for fruit from their labours.
- Pray for a van for Global Mission Fellowship, so Pastor Rukhema does not have to make numerous trips to pick up people every Sunday.
- Please pray for Restore Church and each family that receives a backpack from Restore Church, that they bless and plant Gospel seeds that bear fruit.



#### Edmonton: Nate Vedoya, nvedoya@namb.net

#### **City Summary:**

I truly believe that Edmonton is the Epicenter of a Kingdom movement and is positioned for incredible Kingdom harvest. Why?

- 1. Explosive Growth. Edmonton has grown over 100,000 people in the last two years (10% increase). Edmonton is projecting nearly 100,000 more people will move to the city in the next three years.
- 2. Over the last 10 years, our SEND Edmonton network of CNBC churches has grown by over 300%. Churches are being planted to reach every nation and generation.
- 3. Affordability. Edmonton tied for the fifth most affordable city in the world. With a lower cost of living compared to some of the other major cities, churches have more discretionary income and time for the Kingdom.
- 4. When you reach Edmonton, you reach the nations. Many of our churches have both local and international influence.

According to one city councilor "we need roads, we need utility lines, we need police stations, we need fire halls, we need rec centers, we need libraries, we need hospitals... " and might I add "*we need more Gospel centered, Kingdom minded churches.*"

In 2023, we planted and added five churches to the Send Edmonton Network. To date we are looking at eight church plants, with potentially two more by the end of 2024! The Lord of the Harvest, in response to our Luke 10:2 prayer, is sending us labourers from every nation. Churches are engaging their communities with the Gospel both geographically and culturally.

#### Church/Ministry Spotlight: Edmonton Korean Baptist Church (EKBC) / Pastor Seongbeom (Abraham) Kwon

Pastor Abraham and family moved to Edmonton in 2022, in view of a call to work with a Korean congregation in need of revitalization. It has been said that it is much easier to build a new home then to renovate an older home, especially if you are living in that home. It takes a special person to shepherd and lead a church through the process of healing, retooling and realignment. How did Abraham go about this? Prayer, prayer and more prayer! Through the difficult process of working through past pains, organizational fragmentation and missional drift, Abraham has prayerfully guided the church to a place of health. One of the tools he used was mission trips! Training up people and leading out in evangelism and outreach, EKBC moved from being mono-ethnic to mission-minded and crossed culture boundaries by engaging their communities and beyond. This past summer, Abraham led his congregation up north to work with a First Nations reserve, where they lead in VBS, worship and serving the community. The First Nations people of Canada are among the most broken people. Henry Blackaby once shared that "revival often comes through the most broken." Is it not like God to bring revitalization and healing and in turn we would bring healing and revitalization to a broken and fallen world? Continue to pray for Abraham and EKBC that God would provide for all their needs, that they would continue to engage cross-culturally and that they would multiply!





# **Highlights & Celebrations:**

- Filipino International Baptist Church (Pastor Neil Manzano) continues to reach the ever-growing Filipino Population (70 000+). The mother church has been instrumental in being a part of planting eight churches in nine years!
- Eight churches planted to date in Edmonton.
- Four planting candidates for the October Western Canada Assessment
- Incredible Summer of Community Engagement

- Need for an Edmonton Campus Ministry Leader for the fall of 2024.
- Collegiate Campus Gospel Engagements for the following: University of Macewan, University of Alberta, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, and Norquest
- For partners to come alongside SEND Edmonton Churches. Over 95% of our Church planters are Bivo/Covo and need partners who will pray, participate and provide.
- Pray that our pastors would "not grow weary in doing well."
- Pray for a Regional Ministry Leader with whom we will be working closely.
- Pray for a contextualized and fresh vision to reach 1% of Send Edmonton over the next 10 years.
- Pray for more laborers to join us in planting churches that would engage our community.
- Join us in praying for the "peace of our city". Edmonton, like any growing city, is full of tension and apprehension which leads to polarity and division.
- Pray that our Gospel unity as churches would be apparent to our neighbours.



#### Montreal: Jacques Avakian, javakian@namb.net

#### **City Summary:**

Montreal has been a vibrant hub of church planting activity this summer, with several church plants making significant strides in their mission to reach the city. These churches have been busy hosting evangelism events, creating opportunities for meaningful conversations about faith, and seeing many respond by being baptized. Their focus on discipleship is evident as they welcome new believers into their congregations while also addressing the pressing needs of their communities. From organizing food drives and relief programs to offering support for those facing hardships, the church plants have been instrumental in caring for both the spiritual and physical well-being of Montrealer's.



In addition, from June 14 to July 26, a group of GenSend students arrived in Montreal to live out their mission in the city. These students dedicated several weeks to serving alongside a local church plant, fully immersing themselves in the life and rhythm of the city. Whether through community outreach, service projects, or supporting the day-today needs of the church, their presence added a fresh wave of energy and passion to the ongoing work.

As summer winds down, preparations for future growth are underway, with eight new couples set to be assessed for church planting in

September. This assessment process will pave the way for more church plants in Montreal, further expanding the Gospel's reach in this spiritually needy city.

#### **Church Spotlight:**

**Église Baptiste Jireh, Jesus Cancino**, continues to be deeply committed to serving and training leaders to actively engage with their communities. They have built strong relationships with local leaders and consistently meet the needs of the families God has placed in their care. However, their vision extends beyond their own congregation and community. They are devoted to equipping and supporting new church planters, enabling them to serve their communities, make disciples, and establish new churches.

Pastor Jesus Cancino and his team have been doing remarkable work in discovering, developing, and deploying church planters. One of their newest ventures is planting a church in Drummondville, a city outside Montreal.

On August 29th, Église Baptiste Jireh partnered with me to organize a Send Montreal event, featuring special guest Ramon Osorio, the Ethnic-Linguistic Church Planting Director. The event was a joyful occasion, where many pastors were inspired by Pastor Ramon's presentation, as well as the fellowship and shared vision of the Send Network. Many of the pastors and church planters were very encouraged and left the event edified.





# **Highlights and Celebrations:**

- In September, we will be assessing eight new couples who are in the process of planting new churches. Additionally, we have five potential church planters in the pipeline and application process, and Lord willing, they will be planting new churches in 2025.
- Many of our churches are beginning to envision themselves as sending churches, recognizing the opportunity to be part of something greater than their own congregations. They are exploring new approaches and seeking guidance on how to develop, equip, and send out teams to plant churches.
- Our recent Send Montreal gathering was a highlight for many pastors, especially those who traveled long distances to join us. They deeply appreciated the warm fellowship and the encouragement and support they received from the Send Network, which left them feeling uplifted and strengthened.

- New Church Planters: Pray for the eight couples being assessed this September, asking for wisdom and direction as they prepare to plant churches.
- 2025 Church Planters: Pray for the five potential church planters in the pipeline, that God would guide them as they move toward planting churches in 2025.
- Sending Churches: Pray for churches exploring how to become sending churches, that God would give them vision and guidance as they equip and send teams.
- Church Vision: Pray for wisdom and discernment for leaders as they work to plant new churches and serve their communities across Quebec.



#### Toronto: Brett Porter, bporter@namb.net

#### **City Summary:**

It's been an incredible summer. Our churches are diving deeper and deeper into the vision of engaging the city to see 1% of Ontario come to faith in Jesus in the next 10 years. Two things specifically have been bursting this summer.

First, many of our churches have been intentional as they have engaged the city this summer. The most exciting thing is not just the salvation and baptism stories, but the emphasis on disciples making disciples. God is at work continuing to see churches celebrate the first step of salvation and the next step in obedience of baptism and staying focused on intentional disciple making pathways. We are excited to see where this multiplication leads the region into the future.

Second, young and small churches are seeing themselves as strong potential sending churches. We are excited about the emphasis that our local team has been putting together for developing supporting, sending, and multiplying churches, so this early activity is God showing us that we truly are just joining Him in what He's already doing.

It's been a great summer, and the momentum is strong as we head into the Fall after Labour Day.

#### **Church Spotlight:**

**Faith Emmanuel Baptist Church (FEBC), Francisco Ordaz**, is a primarily Spanish speaking church. God is doing some incredible things in and through this church and in particularly in and through the leader, Pastor Francisco Ordaz. FEBC is in the midst of sending out their first church planter. They are also doing an incredible job engaging the city through connecting with newcomers to the region. They have developed a strong connection with city organizations that are providing resources for those new to the country.

FEBC has been able to not only connect with these newcomers, but they have brought them in as family. God allowed them to be a part of FEBC's family, specifically to a strategic family camp this summer. The result of this strategic engagement over the past few months is seven new believers and approximately 30 new people, who are newcomers, being connected to the church family.

FEBC not only has taken a great step in engaging the city, but they are intentional with their disciple-making pathway and their leadership pipeline. This is a beautiful picture of seeing families giving themselves away to see the expansion of the Kingdom of God.





# **Highlights and Celebrations:**

- This summer we are celebrating some exciting milestones in our region. We have seen God give us more churches in less than four years (56 new churches), which is not only a record, but is 10 more than we saw God do in two decades from 2000-2020. This is in the midst of a record year in 2024, where we have seen 17 new churches in Ontario alone. God is at work.
- Toronto has continually been called, by the BBC, the most multi-cultural city in the world. The beauty of the growth is that the Lord has allowed us to be a part of seeing over 80% of our new 56 church plants be led by pastors who are non-North American born. We truly are reaching the world in one city and are seeing healthy churches everywhere for everyone.

- Please pray as we grow our team into our new leadership pipeline across the region. Pray for our team as we make adjustments to keep up with the rapid growth.
- Please pray for pastors to continue to pursue healthy churches, as they lead themselves and their teams towards engaging the city, an intentional disciple-making pathway, a leadership pipeline, and lead in the way towards multiplication.
- Join us in praying as we serve together with Send Relief in seeing a new space, a growing emphasis of engaging the city that will lead to making disciples to see the birth of new churches.
- Please be praying as we continue to see more families with the IMB moving to Toronto, ten families involved as we serve together to engage the city and people groups.



#### Vancouver: Peter Blackaby, pblackaby@namb.net

# **City Summary:**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21

God is answering prayer and is doing what only He can do in our city of Vancouver and throughout our province of British Columbia! We are seeing multiplication momentum picking up. We are seeing churches raise up and send out leaders in church planting teams. We are seeing God calling families from outside our city (and even nation) to church plant in our area. We are seeing salvations and baptisms in both established churches and church plants. God is moving in answer to consistent, focused prayer for our city and province.

# **Church Spotlight:**



**Korean Baptist Church of Vancouver (KBC), Paul Min**, is a multiplying church that was recently featured in a NAMB article. Pastor Paul Min is a humble, faithful, visionary shepherd. And, God has done amazing things over the past 10 years.

This church has developed a heart for multiplication, and they are now preparing to send out their third church planter and team in three years. Each church planter spends a season being mentored by Pastor Min, expanding their ministry experience, all while recruiting a core team from within the

church. Then, the planter, his family, and the core team are commissioned by KBC to plant in a new area of city. We celebrate God's faithfulness, as KBC is reaching and baptizing more people than they are sacrificially sending out! As they have embraced evangelism and church planting, this church has grown from 70 members to 400 since Pastor Min came as pastor in 2014.

The church sold an insufficient property, then purchased and renovated a church building in Metro Vancouver that has become a vibrant ministry hub for their own Korean congregation and also provides space for a multicultural English speaking Send Network church plant. This is one of only eight CNBC church buildings in our city of nearly three million people and 65 CNBC churches.

NAMB's feature article: <u>https://www.namb.net/send-network/resource/50-year-old-korean-church-finds-new-life-by-embracing-a-church-planting-vision/</u>

# **Highlights:**

- Celebrating five CNBC church plants in four different languages so far this year!
- Qadir Anwari and his family have moved from Winnipeg to Metro Vancouver (1400 miles) to plant an Afghan friendly church.
- Cameron Moore and his family will be moving from Jonesboro, GA to Nanaimo, BC (2800 miles) to begin planting Hub City Church to serve the city's diverse communities and to be a church planting hub for the



surrounding area. They are completing a residency and will be sent out by FBC Jonesboro. They will be received, locally mentored, and supported by Canvas Church (Victoria).



- Vancouver Glory Church (Eung Seo Hyun) This church plant was preparing to launch publicly when their facility rental fell through. Pray for the Lord to provide a new dependable and affordable facility rental location in Burnaby South New Westminster.
- Pray for two planter couples as they prepare for Church Planter Assessment in September.
- Pray for three churches in different parts of our province who are learning from each other and exploring how to best develop church planters and leaders through residencies.
- Pray for pastors, leaders, and church members to establish healthy, Spirit-led rhythms of life and ministry that will carry through the dark and wet season that is to come.