



FREE METHODIST YOUTH MINISTRIES

R.R. #1 Seeley's Bay, Ontario K0H 2N0
Tel.: (613) 382-1286 Fax: (613) 382-1396

YOUTH MINISTRIES REPORT

The following is a brief overview of the recent history of Free Methodist Youth Ministries in Canada:

In the spring of 1989, there was a proposal made for a youth event to be held concurrently with CANADA '90 - The Inaugural Canadian General Conference. It was decided at this time that John Keller would serve as the youth representative on the CANADA '90 Steering Committee.

In January 1990, it was reported to the CANADA '90 Steering Committee that the youth event to run concurrent with the Inaugural Canadian General Conference would be a ministry training event, under the banner of CANADA '90 Youth Leadership Conference. A proposal was also made at this meeting for a National Youth Ministries Consultation to be held prior to the CANADA '90 event, in the spring of 1990. This proposal was accepted and arrangements were made to fund the National Youth Ministries Consultation.

May 10-12, 1990, the National Youth Ministries Consultation was held at the Canadian Headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario. Participants were Don Hand and Shauna Archer from Canada West, Pat Baczynski from Canada Great Lakes, and Joe Hooper and Craig Peters from Canada East. John Keller chaired the consultation. The following recommendations came out of this consultation:

- 1) That a Canadian Youth Ministries Council be established to develop strategies for youth ministries, to plan national youth programs, and to provide training for youth workers.

- 2) That the Canadian Youth Ministries Council be comprised of the Director of Youth Ministries of each the three Canadian annual conferences, an additional representative from each the three Canadian annual conferences, and the Canadian Director of Youth Ministries.

- 3) That the Canadian Youth Ministries Council be funded to meet three times a year.

In August 1990, the CANADA '90 Youth Leadership Conference was held. It featured training in Sonlife's Foundations seminar, fellowship events, and participation in the key events of the Inaugural Canadian General Conference. During this time, John Keller reported to the Education Commission on the Youth Leadership Conference and the recommendations of the National Youth Ministries Consultation. On motion, these recommendation were approved and John Keller was elected to serve as the Canadian Director of Youth Ministries.

On November 14-15, 1991, the Canadian Youth Ministries Council was formed and met at the Canadian Headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario. The members were Don Hand from Canada West, Joe Hooper from Canada Great Lakes, Craig Peters from Canada East, and John Keller, Canadian Director of Youth Ministries. During this meeting, it was decided that a national youth event should be planned to run concurrent with the next Canadian General Conference in 1993.

On February 21-22, 1992, the Canadian Youth Ministries Council met at Canadian Headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario. Members present were Don Hand from Canada West, Joe Hooper from Canada Great Lakes, Craig Peters from Canada East, and John Keller, Canadian Director of Youth Ministries. These were joined by Dean Angel from Canada West, Phil Decker from Canada Great Lakes, and Don Miller from Canada East, to discuss and make plans for the national youth event scheduled for July 30 - August 2, 1993 in Ottawa, Ontario. At this meeting, there was also discussion of additional goals for the National Youth Ministries Council.

On April 22, 1993, there was a conference call to further discuss the national youth event planned for July 30-August 2, 1993. Participants in this call were Don Hand, Dean Angell, Joe Hooper, Phil Decker, Craig Peters, Don Miller and John Keller.

On January 22-26, 1993, the National Council for Free Methodist Youth Ministries in Canada met at the Canadian Headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario. Members present were Don Hand, Joe Hooper, Craig Peters, and John Keller. There was considerable discussion and time given to the development of the purpose, key result areas, and goals of the National Council. On January 25 and 26, this group was joined by the National Council for Free Methodist Youth Ministries U.S..

On July 31, the National Council met at Arlington Woods Free Methodist Church in Nepean, Ontario. Members present were Don Hand, Don Miller and John Keller. Joe Hooper was included by telephone. During this time, the attached revision of the purpose, key result areas, and goals of the National Council were developed.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL 1992-93

CANADA EAST CONFERENCE

FREE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

The women of Canada East Conference have, throughout the year, demonstrated God's love to each other, to their community and to women overseas.

An increased involvement in community outreach has been demonstrated this year with women helping out in such endeavours as nursing homes, food banks, hospitals, clothes banks, new needy mothers, and the provision of transportation services.

From our annual fees, we are paying for a weekend of renewal for the Quebec ministers and their wives which is planned for September. In addition, our Global Missions project is to help fund the Cameroon (Africa) Women's Center, being established to improve the level of living for the women of the Cameroon church.

CONFERENCE LEVEL:

AUTUMN ADVANCE and SPRINGARAMA - Both of these annual events, in which over 500 women participated, have proved to be successful and valuable in encouraging and enabling the women of our conference to be more effective in their respective roles. Through these events and other contacts with the women of Canada East, we continue to emphasize the goals of WMI.

- Executive -- at least 3 meetings
- What do we do at these meetings?
 - plan, encourage, prepare, deal with finances
 - President has met twice with the presidents from Canada Great Lakes and Canada West (at Regina and Ancaster, Ontario)
 - determined the use and care of funds
 - finalized projects
 - correspondence
 - represented WMI on Conference boards/committees
 - visited groups and encouraged them

The presidents of women's ministries in the three Canadian conferences have met twice this year, resulting in improved communication and in a more focussed direction for the women of our Canadian church. A survey was sent to each pastor in the fall, the results of which are to help the leaders of women's ministries to focus on specific needs of Canadian women in their local situation. In Canada East, 66% of the churches responded, and an analysis of the information gathered is available. The survey identified several areas that need to be addressed within the local church and we, as an executive, will endeavour to fulfill those needs.

In addition to the survey, the executives from the three Canadian conferences are writing a booklet in order to provide each local with suggestions for organization, programmes and resources.

LOCAL LEVEL:

Global Missions

- work meetings - boxes sent to mission fields
- monthly support for a single mother in Quebec
- missions focus and prayertime
- Child sponsorship
- World Relief project support
- support of VISA work teams
- Canada East Conference Boot Camp - sponsored by the World Missions Committee
- encouragement for reading Missionary Tidings
- care packages for missionaries
- hours spent ripping sheets and rolling bandages - these are still needed!

Women's Ministries

- coffee mornings (especially Saturday a.m.)
- Ladies' Night Out/ Mother-Daughter Banquet
- Community outreach programmes -- food banks, nursing home and hospital visitation, Group Homes, Clothes banks, school breakfasts.
- specialty groups -- Seniors' Social Tea, Mom's Morning Out
- Bible Studies
- World Day of Prayer
- Collecting Campbell's Soup labels
- Help/baking for shut-ins
- transportation services to church, appointments, shopping, etc.
- welcome to newcomers in the community
- prayer chain/secret sisters

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As an executive, our aim is to encourage ALL women in every church to:

1. Be involved in a ministry using her spiritual gift(s).
2. Develop a lifestyle consistent with Christ's teaching.
3. Develop mutually supportive relationships within the fellowship.

and 4. Develop a global awareness and acquire knowledge of Free Methodist missions.

Respectfully submitted,

Olwen Sigsworth

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President, Canada East Women's Ministries International.

CANADA GREAT LAKES
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES REPORT
1993

The women of the conference have demonstrated their desire and willingness to assist and build the Kingdom of God. Their creativity and ingenuity in ministry to their communities and overseas demonstrates God's grace.

Some ways they have been active in Global Missions were: 32 boxes of various items sent to missionaries and hospitals; love offerings, cards, letters and Christmas gifts sent to missionaries; Used postage stamps sent to the Canadian Blind Society and Canadian Bible Society; eye glasses sent to the Christian Blind Mission; soup labels sent to East L.A. Light and Life Christian School to help purchase computers; taught missions in CYM programs.

The women have used a number of different ideas to minister in their community and church. They had special speakers, music; prayer partners; secret sisters; took in food to shut-ins and visited with them; baby showers; Mother-Daughter Banquets; gifts to Women's Crises Centres; Garden Party Brunch; craft demonstrations; monthly luncheons or breakfasts; videos; prayer groups; knit for local Christmas Baskets Program; provided meals for families in duress, spoke out on social issues such as abortion and boycotted stores with pornographic material advising stores of what they were doing; supported Literacy for Adults by collecting pop tin labels; knit caps and sweaters for Incubator "Premie" babies.

At our Fall Day we were privileged to have Carolyn Ellis and various women from our conference minister to us. Our attendance was 180 to 190 with women present from every church except one in the Southwest District. Brenda Chapman was our speaker at Spring Retreat. The Spirit of the Lord was present in a special way through the messages and sharing times. Our attendance was 82 for the weekend.

From the thirteen churches who reported we have 404 women involved in women's ministries across the conference. There are three churches who started programs for women that previously didn't have any. We praise God for this.

The presidents of the three Canadian conferences met in the fall and spring. We decided to do a congregation survey of all the Churches in Canada regarding the women in our churches. In Canada Great Lakes 69% of the churches responded. From the surveys we made the following observations: 53.3% of the adult (+18) congregation are women; 43% work outside the home; 17% are single; 18% have elementary school aged children; 6% are single mothers; 22% are seniors. The survey identified several areas that women needed help in organizing the women's ministries in the church. The executives from the three conferences are developing a brochure with ideas for organization, programs, and resources for women's ministries.

Respectfully submitted Elizabeth Frost

Women's Ministries Report
Canada West
1993

The Women of Canada West have been active in the local church during the past year. They have promoted activities to support foreign missionaries and their own community. Women have taught the missions part the childrens' CYM program in many of the churches. They are active in the worship services of all our churches.

Compassion Month promotions had special emphasis in many programs. Women and men were active, rolling bandages and collecting used clothing for the various mission fields. They sent medical and school supplies overseas. Missionaries received cards, parcels and letters from many Canada West womens' groups. Women organized prayer groups and Bible studies.

Community involvement included support for shelters for women and children, volunteering at the nursing homes and for 'meals on wheels'. One local sent baskets of baking and other small gifts to the teachers at all the local schools. They also invited them to attend the film 'Molder of Dreams'. Several locals used craft sessions and video presentations for outreach.

Canada West had two Women's Retreats during the past year. One last fall at Arlington Beach and another in Edmonton, Alberta this spring. In total close to 200 women were able to attend these times of renewal.

The executive of Canada West Conference has organized another book of program ideas for Women's Ministries. These programs are written by people from across Canada, and contain new and interesting programming ideas. This is the Day is the name of the 1993-94 program book.

The president's of the three Canadian conferences met in the fall and the spring. They decided to surveyed all the Churches in Canada about the women in our churches. In the Canada West Conference, 61% of the Churches responded. An analysis of the information gathered showed that 52% of the adult (+18) congregation is women. Slightly over 42% of the women work outside their home, 15% are single. Mother's of school age children make up 24% of the women in our churches. Only 7% of the women are single parents, and 25% are seniors.

The survey identified several areas that women are needing help in organizing the women's ministries in the Church. The executive from the three conferences are working on developing a brochure with suggestions for organization, programs and resources. This will be available at General Conference in July.

Respectfully submitted by: Sandra Alexander