

The Free Methodist Church in Canada
Around the world



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The Free Methodist Church began cross-cultural ministry in the 1880s, so we have a long history of evangelism, church-planting and wholistic ministry engagement around the world. Today the Free Methodist family can be found doing ministry in more than 80 countries, on every continent – in most cases entirely developed and led by national Christians. For a brief intro to each of these locations check out this address on our website: www.fmcic.ca > Ministry Areas > Global Ministries





Cross-cultural mission

There are still places in the world where the Jesus story will not be told unless a cross-cultural missionary goes and learns the language and culture of a people group and finds a way to present the gospel that resonates with those prepared by the Holy Spirit to receive the Word.



Ongoing testimony

A majority of the peoples of the world have had opportunity to hear the good news; some have responded, some have not. The task in those settings is for local Christians to live out an ongoing testimony in word and deed that points people toward Jesus – just like we do here in Canada.



Living Generously

We live in a broken, distorted world in need of healing and restoration in Jesus. In Canada that distortion takes certain forms; in Africa or Asia it takes other forms. It is often easier for us to think of “those poor people” – over there, rather than identifying and addressing our own “poverties” here in Canada. That being said, we are all called to share our resources and put the interests of “the other” ahead of our own. It is in this sense we seek to live generously, “*doing good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*” (Galatians 6:10)

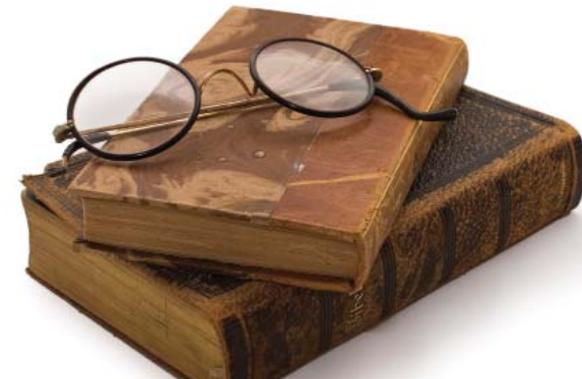
Global Mission in the 21st century

We are living in unprecedented times, when it comes to the spread of the Christian gospel. In 1960 Evangelicals numbered 89 million (2.9% of world population), but by 2010 they were 546 million (7.9%). The explosive growth of new Christian believers continues across Africa, Asia and Latin America, in contrast to the relative stagnation or decline in the northern/western hemisphere that was once considered “*Christian.*” In fact, sociologists suggest that most of the growth among evangelicals in Canada is the result of Christians immigrating to Canada from the “*Christian*” southern hemisphere – where we have been sending missionaries for over a century.

Christian mission – that is, sending missionaries to take the Jesus story to those who have never heard the story – is now being done by Christians from many countries, languages and cultures. The whole world is taking the “good news” to the whole world!

Brazilian Free Methodists are planting churches in Europe. Filipino Free Methodists are telling the Jesus story in the Middle East. Haitian Free Methodists are pastoring churches in Montreal.

With this complete reconfiguration of the Christian ‘map’ we also have to re-think the “*why,*” “*what,*” and “*how*” of “*mission.*”





Global Partnerships

The primary way that Canadian Free Methodist churches are involved in global ministry is via *local church initiatives*. That is, vision for mission engagement, internationally, is rooted in the desire and initiative of local churches, not the national Ministry Centre. This may include the formation of an ongoing ministry partnership or the support of missionaries sent as an extension of their own congregation's vision. It may include financial and personal participation in a variety of international mission projects, including short ministry trips/teams.

For more information on developing a *Global Partnership* check out this address on our website:

www.fmcic.ca > **Ministry Areas** > **Global Ministries**



Sri Lanka: Mission District

Canadian Tamil Free Methodist churches began ministry involvement in Sri Lanka in 2003, as a direct response to our Gateway Cities Initiative.

In 2004 a Mission District was inaugurated under the oversight of The Free Methodist Church in Canada. Today, a fellowship of more than 15 congregations is overseen by local leadership with encouragement from a group of partnered Canadian churches. Ministry leaders in this challenging country value ongoing Canadian participation in the development of new pastors and church plants. International Child Care Ministries (ICCM Canada) began a child sponsorship program in 2011.

**Population: 20,500,000 | Annual Growth of population: 0.88%
Evangelical: 1.2% | Annual Growth of Evangelicals: 2.3%**



Ghana: Mission District

Barrie Free Methodist Church began ministry in Accra, Ghana in 2005, developing a ministry partnership that has resulted in significant growth of the already existing single Free Methodist congregation. In 2009 the Ghana Mission District came under the oversight of The Free Methodist Church

in Canada as the result of sustained Canadian interest in the work there. Today there is a growing fellowship of new churches, with ongoing ministerial training and organizational development. A major project in Ghana is the development of a Free Methodist Women's University College.

Canadian partnership is desired for both church and pastoral development, as well as the education project.

**Population: 25,000,000 | Annual Growth of population: 2.11%
Evangelical: 24.2% | Annual Growth of Evangelicals: 4.5%**





Niger: Church-in-Formation

Canadian Free Methodist involvement in Niger began in 2005 when Caistor Centre FMC caught the vision of their pastors David and Jennifer Wright for this unreached Muslim majority country. In 2010 one new congregation affiliated with the FMCiC, a Ministerial Candidate was approved, and a "church-in-information" was inaugurated in Niger. This country is a challenging setting for new church plant growth, so ongoing Canadian partnership with the Wright's ministry will be needed for the foreseeable future. A major project is the development of a Ministry Centre in the capital city, Niamey.



**Population: 15,900,000 | Annual Growth of population: 3.94%
Evangelical: 0.1% | Annual Growth of Evangelicals: 3.7%**



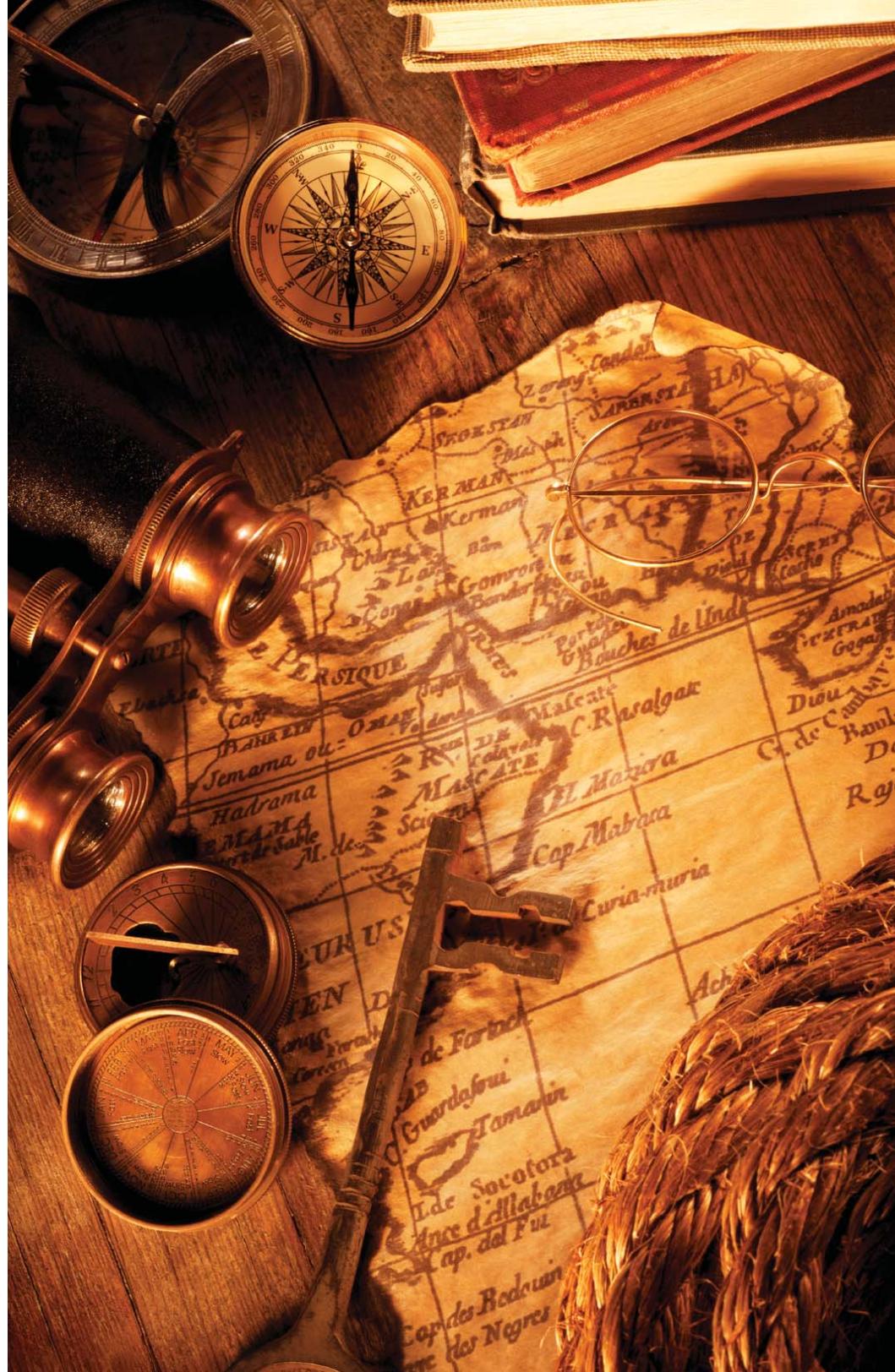
Kenya: Provisional General Conference

Free Methodist work in Kenya began in the early 1990s as the result of Free Methodists migrating from other countries in the region. Canadian FM missionary Debbie Hogeboom was one of those who migrated to Kenya in 1994. Since that time she has been involved in Christian Education, leadership development and coaching of church planters.



Presently Debbie is based in Eldoret and is giving direction to the development of Springs of Hope Bible College, the first Free Methodist training institution in Kenya. Today the Kenya Provisional General Conference numbers almost 200 congregations. Canadian partnership involves ongoing support of Debbie's ministry and the Bible College project.

**Population: 40,800,000 | Annual Growth of population: 2.67%
Evangelical: 48.9% | Annual Growth of Evangelicals: 3.4%**





India: Provisional General Conference

Free Methodist work began in India in the 1880s, the first global mission work of the new U.S. denomination. Over the ensuing years Canadian FM missionaries have contributed to the growth of ministry in India. In 2002 Sarnia FMC (now New Horizons) initiated a partnership with the Hyderabad Mission District (Andhra Pradesh state), a brand new initiative of the India Provisional General Conference. This partnership has involved the start-up support of new church planters, the purchase of property for a number of congregations, and regular ministerial training programs for pastors. Today there are dozens of congregations throughout this region as the result of this Canadian partnership.

Population (Andhra Pradesh): 87,200,000

Evangelical: 3.0% | Annual Growth of Evangelicals: 3.7%

Other Countries

Canadian Free Methodist churches have ministry involvement with a number of other countries including:

ASIA: Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, The Philippines, Taiwan

LATIN AMERICA: Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Brazil

AFRICA: Congo, Malawi, South Africa

We have been given the exquisite privilege and high honour of participating, as Jesus' servants, friends, and coworkers, in the mission of the Triune God. We are sent by the Father to be Jesus' ministers through the work of the Holy Spirit — agents of reconciliation and new creation.

Howard Snyder



Global Mission in the 21st Century | Joining in . . .

Partnerships

If your church would like to initiate a new global partnership, contact our Global Ministries office for help developing principles and practices.

If your church would like to join an existing partnership, contact either the Canadian lead church directly or our Global Ministries office for more information.



www.fmcic.ca > Ministry Areas > Global Ministries

Projects

Each country with which we are involved has a list of diverse projects that serve as our way of partnering for ministry development. These projects can be supported individually without joining a particular partnership.





Personnel

Debbie Hogeboom



Since 2006 Debbie has been based in Eldoret, Kenya where she continues her work in Christian Education and Leadership Development in partnership with the Kenya Provisional General Conference. Presently Debbie is actively participating in the development of Springs of Hope Bible College.

David & Jennifer Wright



Having returned to Niger (West Africa) in July 2012 for a second four-year assignment, David and Jennifer are involved in community-based church planting in the capital city of Niamey and will be continuing their work to establish a Free Methodist ministry in Niger.

Dan Sheffield



Dan Sheffield is a full-time cross-cultural worker supported by FMCiC churches through Giving Streams. He serves as International Urban Ministry Facilitator for the Free Methodist Church internationally. Dan's work involves researching, training leaders and developing resources that encourage the emergence of effective urban outreach and wholistic ministry in Canada and around the world.

Linda Stryker



After more than 20 years of service in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Linda is now based in North America due to health reasons. She continues to serve as a link between the FMC in the DRC and Free Methodist World Missions. Linda is also in the process of developing a new ministry to assist newcomers to Canada and the USA, especially those from Central Africa.



The mission of the church is in fact the church's obedient participation in that action of the Spirit by which the confession of Jesus as Lord becomes the authentic confession of every new people, each in its own tongue.

Lesslie Newbigin

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