



MOSAIC

FALL 2025

FROM THE GROUND UP:

*Grassroots Stories of
Ministry and Mission*

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STORIES FROM THE FIELD

LISA HOWDEN

Director of Communications

EDITORIAL

One of the most life-giving parts of serving in a national role is hearing the stories that often don't make headlines— stories of faithful, local ministry quietly shaping lives and communities. These grassroots moments remind us that the Church is not built in boardrooms or by grand strategies alone, but from the ground up, through prayerful presence, neighbourly love, and everyday acts of obedience.

In this issue of the MOSAIC, we are privileged to highlight just a few of the countless stories unfolding in Free Methodist churches across Canada. From rural towns to urban centres, these are stories of people showing up week after week to share meals, walking alongside those in need, inviting children into the story of Jesus, and imagining new ways to love their neighbours.

What encourages me most is how these stories reflect a deeply rooted and resilient Church. They show what happens when individuals and congregations live out the gospel not just in words, but in action. There's no single template here— just people using what they have, where they are, for the glory of God and the good of their communities.

This is what it means to be the Church— alive in our contexts, connected in mission, and committed to Christ. Our collective witness is built on the faithfulness of many, often in unseen places. These grassroots stories remind us that the Spirit of God is moving, not just in grand moments, but in the soil of daily life.

May you be encouraged and inspired as you read. And may we continue to learn from each other, celebrate one another, and build together— from the ground up.

Lisa

“This is what it means to be the Church— alive in our contexts, connected in mission, and committed to Christ.”



FREE METHODIST **CONVERSATIONS** *New Video Series*

fmcic.ca/fmconversations

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:

Baptism
Communion
Means of Grace
Holiness

COMING SOON:

Small Groups
Local Church
Partnership
(Membership)

Free Methodist Conversations: Foundational Distinctives

is a new video series designed to help us dive deeper into who we are as Free Methodists. Building on the Foundational Series first introduced at General Conference, these conversations explore the distinctives that shape our faith and life together. Whether you are preparing for partnership (membership), leading a Bible study or small group, or simply curious to learn more about what it means to be Free Methodist, these videos have been created to spark meaningful dialogue, deepen understanding, and encourage growth in our shared journey of discipleship.



A City on a Hill:

Living the Great Commandments

■ FROM THE BISHOP

I've now had the privilege of visiting dozens of FMCIC churches from British Columbia to Quebec. What beautiful diversity! The Body of Christ comes in so many shapes and sizes, colours and ages, cultures and dialects! It's pure joy to see the variety of expressions in our movement here in Canada—as well as in Ghana and Sri Lanka, our primary extended family beyond our borders.

“

Whether quietly supporting one another in prayer or visitation, providing necessities for people in our community, or publicly joining city-wide acts of witness and service, neighbourly love is a beautiful thing!

”

This issue of MOSAIC features grassroots stories “from the ground up.” Loving our neighbour fulfills the Second Great Commandment. Whether quietly supporting one another in prayer or visitation, providing necessities for people in our community, or publicly joining city-wide acts of witness and service, neighbourly love is a beautiful thing! In this issue, we celebrate it.

And it all flows from the First Great Commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). The heart truly alive to God catches the fire of divine love for others. Assured of our own belovedness— not merely as a passing feeling but as a deep-rooted understanding that we belong to God— we open ourselves to the transforming and maturing work of that love. We grow more and more into loving our family, friends, church members, co-workers, community, and, according to Jesus, even our enemies!

Acts of compassion and kindness and words of grace and wisdom build effective new bridges to the world around us. We become a “city on a hill,” shining the light of Christ through our very lives, and especially our life together. Shine on!

LINDA ADAMS
Bishop of the FMCIC



A JOURNEY TO CAMBODIA: OVERFLOWING JOY & LASTING IMPACT



■ ICCM & GLOBAL MISSIONS

Earlier this year, my daughter Vilena and I, along with three other women from Cornerstone Community Church in Almonte, Ontario, boarded a plane in Ottawa for a journey that would take us over 20 hours—and change us forever. What awaited us in Cambodia was more than just an adventure; it was an experience that filled my heart with deep joy, love, and peace beyond anything I could have imagined.

For years, our small church has faithfully supported Cambodia through International Child Care Ministries (ICCM)—from sponsoring individual children, to funding special projects, and contributing Christmas gifts for students and staff in the three ICCM houses. Often, I'd find myself wondering about the children we were supporting: Who are they? What brings them joy? What does their everyday life look like? So when the opportunity arose to travel to Cambodia—and to do so with my 16-year-old daughter—I was both humbled and thrilled. Even now, it's difficult to fully express what it meant to share this experience with her.

Over ten incredible days, we visited the three ICCM holistic childcare development centres— Houses of Love, Joy, and Peace— as well as several church plants. With the help of translators, we led Sunday school-style lessons on being salt and light (Matthew 5:13–15), spent time with local teachers exchanging ideas and encouragement, and enjoyed dinner with a group of ICCM alumni. We worshipped together, shared meals, exchanged laughter, and shed tears. But above all, we witnessed a profound joy that radiated from nearly everyone we met.

That joy left the deepest mark on me. When I think of someone who truly embodies the joy of the Lord, I now picture the faces of the Cambodian people. And it wasn't just joy— we encountered a passionate desire to share Jesus' transformative love. Whenever I asked if there was anything I could pray for, the response was always the same: Please pray that more Cambodians would come to know the restorative grace and love of the Lord. Until I can return and see even more of what God is doing in Cambodia, that is exactly what I plan to do.

HOLLIE PALMER

Encounter Cambodia Team Member



“

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Matthew 5:13-15

”



ACTIVATING CHANGE LOCALLY TO IMPACT CHILDREN GLOBALLY

Poverty is more than physical hunger- We know that community transformation occurs when its future leaders are fully supported.

ICCM's child sponsorship program focuses on ensuring each child is nourished in all areas of his/her life. When a child is sponsored, they are provided with food, clothing, school supplies, and medical care through partnership with local Free Methodist churches.

*Learn more about child sponsorship
by visiting childcareministries.net.*

international
child care
ministries



Tyndale to Host Free Methodist Collection

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

ENGAGING WITH OUR RICH FREE METHODIST HISTORY

When the Free Methodist office building in Mississauga was sold, a new home had to be found for some important historical documents and books that were stored there. Thankfully, a few months earlier, I had received approval to start a Wesleyan Studies Centre at Tyndale University. It seemed like God's timing. So, after discussion with the Bishop and other staff, Dan Sheffield and I packed up about ninety boxes of historical treasures for shipment to Tyndale in May.

The purpose of the Wesleyan Studies Centre is to foster knowledge and appreciation of Wesleyan history and theology, with a special focus on the Canadian context. It will establish a specialized collection of books and archival material that will be available to interested students and scholars. The Centre will also work to disseminate accessible resources to the broader Wesleyan community,

and network with other related research centres, including the Robb Centre in Thamesford and the historical collections at Wesley Acres and Arlington Beach Camp.

The Wesleyan Studies Centre is still in its infancy. The facilities aren't even set up yet, and it will take some time to get things up and running. But I am very excited for what it will become in the years ahead. My hope is that the centre will not only preserve historical material but will also help us to tell the story of God's faithfulness among the Wesleyan churches in Canada—including the Free Methodist Church. If we are going to face the challenges of the present moment with faithfulness and clarity, we need to know who we are, where we've come from, and how God has carried us through the challenges of the past.

REV. DR. JAMES PEDLAR

*Chair of Wesley Studies & Professor of
Theology at Tyndale University*

THE WINDING PATH TO ORDINATION

■ WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

I was ordained in June 2024, but the road to that milestone was anything but straight. Years ago, while living in another city and attending a church of a different denomination, I felt a calling on my life when I was given the chance to lead worship during a summer evening service when the perceived “risk” of having a woman on stage seemed lower. (Amazing how the desperation of having the “regular” worship leaders on vacation can sometimes relax convictions!) I loved everything about the experience: choosing the hymns and choruses, rehearsing, planning the flow of the service. It gave me life. When the Worship Pastor returned from vacation, I asked him how I could become a worship pastor. His reply? “You can’t. You could teach the men how to, but you can’t lead.”

I wasn’t angry. I didn’t challenge it. But I also had no interest in teaching others to do what I myself longed to do. So, I chose a different path—got married, had kids, and focused on supporting my husband’s goals and dreams. What I thought was a dead end turned out to be a detour.

Ten years later, I found myself at a conference where the speaker challenged us to identify the deep dreams and desires of our hearts—and then surrender them back to God. With more honesty than faith, I told God: “I want to sing and talk about You.”

Then I added, “But I’m the breadwinner right now. I’ve got two little kids. And we live in the middle of nowhere.” Looking back, that prayer felt

dangerously close to a dare. But I’m forever grateful that God received it as an invitation. Within two years, I was invited to serve full-time on a pastoral team. I entered the tracking process and served faithfully as a Commissioned Minister for several years. Eventually, when I found myself in the lead pastor’s chair, I knew I wanted to honour the office by completing the journey toward full ordination.

This experience taught me something that I now hold close: We are all called to follow Jesus. That is our primary calling. But the arena in which we live out that calling looks different for each of us.

“

The dreams and desires in our hearts are often the very things He uses to draw us closer, to shape us, and to move us into the spaces we’re meant to inhabit.

”

God doesn’t dangle dreams in front of us to tease or taunt us. No—God loves us far too much for that. The dreams and desires in our hearts are often the very things He uses to draw us closer, to shape us, and to move us into the spaces we’re meant to inhabit.



Yes, the path may feel crooked. At times, you'll doubt whether you're in the right place, doing what God wants you to do. But in those moments, lean into this promise from Proverbs 3:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." [Proverbs 3:5-6]

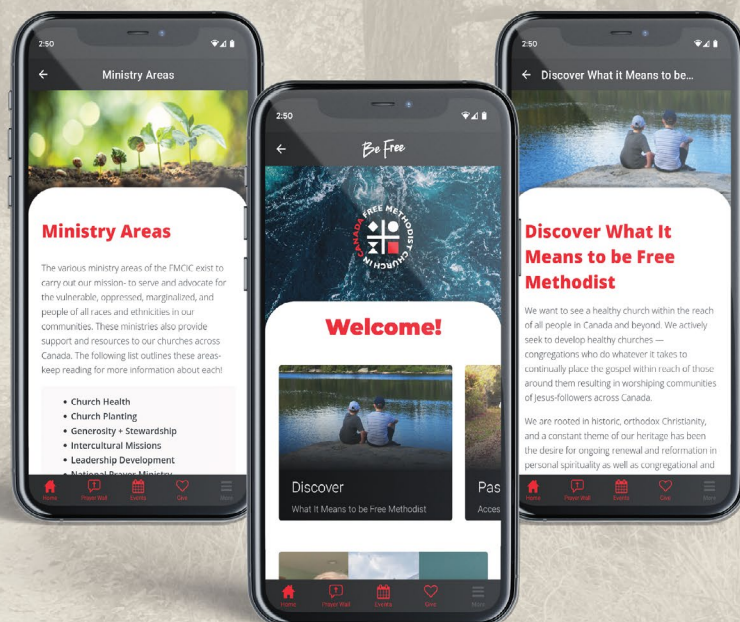
JODY PFEIFER

Lead Pastor, Weyburn FMC

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Discovering Community

■ AT FMX SUMMIT

On Sunday March 16, 2025 twelve Canadian Free Methodists landed in Orlando, Florida to attend the Exponential Global Conference. I was honoured to be invited by Bishop Linda to join the team.

I appreciated the opportunity to be part of the Canadian group, as it allowed me to connect with the NLT members and others on the team that I didn't know that well. However, I must admit that I was less enthusiastic about attending Exponential. Over the years, I have participated in several large conferences in the United States, such as The Leadership Summit, Willow Arts Conference, Catalyst, and Missio Alliance. While these events have been valuable, I have found that large conferences no longer hold the same appeal for me.

Additionally, I have observed that conferences in the United States often emphasize the differences between American and Canadian cultural contexts, which I found to offer limited relevance for my work as a Canadian pastor. Consequently, the return on investment for these events has felt somewhat diminished. I was not prepared for the surprise that awaited me.

We were invited to attend an Exponential Pre-Conference, hosted by Larry & Deb Walkemeyer (Strategic Catalysts for Multiplication for Free Methodist USA), called FMX Summit. This pre-conference included teaching from leaders in the field of discipleship & multiplication, storytelling from church planters and pastors, time for worship and prayer together, and more.

There was a noticeable absence of the “hype” commonly associated with large conferences. Instead, I was genuinely engaged by the authenticity, candid stories of both success and failure, and the wise insights shared by leaders committed to faithful witness and disciple-making within a secular culture. I soon realized I was among a community of like-minded individuals dedicated to confronting the challenges of our era and committed to planting and leading multiplication-focused churches.



I was deeply touched by conversations I had with two former American bishops. Each approached me individually to extend an apology on behalf of the Free Methodist Church regarding the treatment of Canada by their President. One of these bishops was visibly emotional as he expressed his concern.

Here are two highlights of the content shared during the Summit:



1. Multiplication and Discipleship

Dr. Ed Love (Executive Director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship) discussed the insights American leaders are gaining as they work to foster renewal and revival within the institutional church. They have identified that restoring a sense of movement will be driven predominantly by individuals with Apostolic gifting. Additionally, there is ongoing clarification of leadership roles across national, regional, and local church levels. It is also evident that sustained effort, support, and training are essential for the success of various church planting initiatives. The focus and dedication of American leadership were both encouraging and inspiring.

2. The 10:02 Prayer

There is a prayer initiative among FMX members called “The 10:2 Prayer.” Since learning about this, I have set my phone alarm to sound at 10:02 AM each morning. Together, we recite the prayer of Jesus found in Luke 10:2: “Lord, send out workers into the harvest.” Are we willing to respond to this call and be sent out into the harvest, friends? God works powerfully through individuals who are willing, available, and who prayerfully rely on His strength as they engage with others who are receptive to hearing the good news of Jesus and His way of life. Why don’t you join me at 10:02 AM every morning!



God works powerfully through individuals who are willing, available, and who prayerfully rely on His strength as they engage with others who are receptive to hearing the good news of Jesus and His way of life.



The FMX Summit was a great experience, and I’m grateful to Larry & Deb Walkemeyer for their invitation to Bishop Linda and our group. I hope this will be a partnership that grows between the FMCIC and FM USA.

EVAN GARST

FMCIC Church Planting Coach

ATTENTIVE TO PRAYER:

AN INVITATION TO SEEK GOD TOGETHER

■ NATIONAL PRAYER TEAM

The title of this magazine is such a fitting word to describe what you would witness during the short but sweet, Spirit-filled time of prayer that happens six days a week in the online gathering fondly referred to as “Prayer for Revival at Noon Eastern.”

I’ve been attending these Zoom meetings for the past couple of years, and it is no overstatement to say that God is changing lives through this extraordinary mosaic of prayerful people. Beautiful faces scattered across my screen represent a wide array of ministry areas and walks of life. True to the vision of the Free Methodist Church in Canada, this gathering draws people from every corner of the country—and beyond. Each day, leaders, pastors, parents, and prayer warriors from Canada, India, Africa, and more are ushered into the throne room of God. A short devotional stirs our hearts and unites our minds toward one purpose: to humble ourselves and sit at the Lord’s feet in the midst of our busy lives and pressing demands.

Fragments of Spirit-led prayers often lead to “hallelujahs” as people offer a sacrifice of praise to our High Priest and celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit. Though separated by distance, our daily devotion to God and one another has

fused us together as friends of Jesus, united with a deep sense of purpose and calling to this Kingdom work. Personally, my faith has stretched and deepened through the testimonies of praise and the words of wisdom and knowledge spoken. From physical healings to open doors for ministry, from encouragement in weary seasons to reports of baptisms across Canada, these noon-hour gatherings are fueling spiritual renewal, revitalization, and church health across the nation. God truly hears the prayers of His people as we walk by His Spirit!

In the same way Nehemiah’s mission was sparked by prayer and carried forward by a mosaic of people united to rebuild what had been broken, we too pray: *“O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today.”* [Nehemiah 1:11]

The invitation is open to all—come and see how the Lord is reviving His Kingdom!

LAURAL JEANSON

National Prayer Team

Order From Chaos

Become Human In God's Kingdom

“

I am leaving you with a gift — peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

”

The Gift of Peace

Peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is the intentional destruction of chaos and the establishment of divine order. The ancient Hebrew word shalom reveals a deeper meaning: “to destroy the authority that establishes chaos.” From the beginning, humanity has been entrusted with this task. Genesis 1:26 states, “*Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us,*” embedding within us the divine purpose to co-create order alongside God.

But how do we fulfill this calling? What does it mean to move from chaos to order, and how do we live as bridges between heaven and earth? To explore this, let us delve into the biblical narrative and examine two figures who embody these principles: Moses and Jesus.

Humanity's Divine Purpose

The call to create order begins in Genesis 1. Humanity is made in God's image, symbolizing the ability to creatively and constructively manage chaos. Furthermore, “likeness” points to our role as secure bridges between heaven and earth. This dual purpose of reigning over creation and fostering divine connection is illustrated in Genesis 2, where Adam names the animals, participating in God's creative process.

This foundational purpose extends into the rhythms of our daily lives. Every act of stewardship— whether in our families, workplaces, or communities— echoes the original call to transform chaos into order. In the modern world, this calling translates to tangible acts of creativity. Consider a pile of lumber delivered to a home improvement store or rolls of fabric in a sewing room. These raw materials embody potential— chaos awaiting order. A builder creates a home; a seamstress crafts garments. This is humanity reflecting the image of God.

Moses: Consuming Chaos

The story of Moses demonstrates how obedience to God can transform chaos into order. At the Red Sea, Moses faces the ultimate representation of chaos: turbulent waters and the pursuing Egyptian army. With God's power, Moses parts the sea, creating a path of safety for the Israelites and consuming the chaos of their oppressors.

In Deuteronomy 6:4, the Shema* begins, “Hear, O Israel.” The word “hear” implies not only listening but also obeying. Moses teaches Israel that obedience to God’s commandments leads to societal order and freedom. This principle is reflected in the Ten Commandments, which establish a moral framework to counteract the chaos of sin.

Israel is the nation (people) that has been given the authority to destroy chaos. According to Romans 11:19–24, Jesus has grafted the new believers into His people. What is the implication then? The followers of Jesus are taught the way of the Lord. Yes, what way is that? One way is to be consumers of chaos. Followers of Jesus have been given the authority to consume chaos. The creation description of people’s involvement matches the result of Jesus being Lord of our lives: being followers, being grafted, being eaters of chaos.

Moses’ life challenges us to consider how we might “hear and obey” in our own contexts. Where are the places of chaos in our lives that need to be parted, and how can we, through God’s guidance, create pathways of peace?

“

Where are the places of chaos in our lives that need to be parted, and how can we, through God’s guidance, create pathways of peace?

”



Jesus: Calming the Storm

Jesus’ ministry is the ultimate example of creating divine order. In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus calms a raging storm. The disciples panic as thunder, wind, and waves threaten their lives. Yet, Jesus rebukes the storm, saying, “Peace, be still.” The chaos obeys, and calm prevails. This act not only demonstrates Jesus’ authority over nature, but also symbolizes His power to bring peace to our inner turmoil.

In another instance, Jesus walks on water, embodying triumph over chaos (Matthew 14:22-33). His invitation to Peter to join Him reflects our call to step out in faith, trusting that God empowers us to overcome the chaos around us. These stories invite us to examine the storms in our lives and consider how we can invite Jesus to speak peace into those situations.

* Shema: a daily prayer from Deuteronomy; bibleproject.com/articles/what-is-the-shema/

Constructive vs. Destructive Chaos

Not all chaos is inherently destructive. Genesis 1:2 describes the earth as *“formless and void”* before God begins His creative work. Constructive chaos is the raw potential from which order can emerge. This is the chaos of a blank canvas, an unplowed field, or a new beginning.

However, destructive chaos— the chaos of oppression, sin, and disobedience— must be addressed with urgency. For example, consider the contrast between Hungary and Romania after the fall of communism. Hungary embraced creativity and renewal as evident in vibrant communities and flourishing innovation. Romania, by contrast, remained under the grey shadow of destruction with its people stifled by years of imposed chaos.

Our role is to discern the difference and act accordingly, nurturing constructive chaos and dismantling destructive forces.

Becoming Human

In Luke 9:1-2, Jesus empowers His disciples, giving them *“power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases.”* This authority extends to us today, as we are called to participate in God’s mission of restoring order. To be human, then, is not merely to exist but to actively fulfill our purpose as co-creators with God.

This concept is echoed in the question, “Are you becoming human?” True humanity reflects God’s image by fostering peace, creating order, and bridging heaven and earth. As Ephesians 4:11–12 states, *“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”*

Our journey toward becoming truly human involves embracing these roles, recognizing that each of us has a unique contribution to make in God’s kingdom. Whether through teaching, serving, or leading, we participate in the divine act of bringing order to the world.

There is another journey most humans are going to take or have taken. This journey starts at death. Dying is back-translated** from a word picture perspective. You have the sign or complete of chaos, or you could say the ultimate chaos.

How does Jesus deal with this ultimate form of chaos?



Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.” Do you believe this, Martha?

John 11:25–26

But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.

Acts 2:24



**Back-translate: to translate a translated text back to the original language; en.wiktionary.org/wiki/back-translate

“

I am leaving you with a gift — peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

”

Jesus becomes the consumer of chaos. What a wonderful title for Jesus. What a wonderful thing Yahweh has done for us and the world!

The Gift of Peace

Jesus' parting words in John 14:27 remind us of the peace that transcends understanding. This peace is not passive but active — an invitation to destroy the authority of chaos in our lives and in the world. As we embrace this calling, we find joy, creativity, and fulfillment in being co-regents with God.

So the question remains: Are you becoming human? Are you stepping into your divine purpose to create order, bridge heaven and earth, and live in the peace of God's kingdom? As we answer these questions, may we move boldly from chaos to order, carrying the light of Christ into a world in need of restoration.

JOHN CARTER ADAMS

Rev. John Carter Adams, husband to Bishop Linda Adams, holds a master's degree from Wheaton College in evangelism and discipleship. He is the retired vice president of the Institute for Emerging Itinerant Evangelists, a ministry of East West Ministries International.

Resources:

- ["Hebrew Word Pictures"](#) by Frank T. Seekins
- ["Salvation Means Creation Healed: The Ecology of Sin and Grace"](#) by Howard A. Snyder (Author), with Joel Scandrett
- ["Hebrew Word Study"](#) by Skip Moen





Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at the work of Paula Moriarty, our Director of Global Missions and ICMA, as she travels, connects, and collaborates with partners around the world. Through photos and video, you'll witness the heartbeat of Global Missions ministry—stories of hope, transformation, and faithful partnership in action. **This visual journey highlights the people, places, and moments that shape our shared calling to make Christ known globally.**

Paula Moriarty
Director of Global Missions and International Outreach Ministries (ICMA)

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August 29, 2025

Updates from Our Mission Districts: Sri Lanka & Ghana

The excited to share some encouraging updates from our two Free Methodist mission districts - Sri Lanka and Ghana.

In Sri Lanka, the church family is preparing for a full and inspiring week at family camp. This gathering will be a time of teaching, prayer, worship, and connection. A key moment will be the annual meeting, where a new superintendent will be elected under Bishop Linda's leadership. Please keep these meetings in your prayers, asking God to guide the process and bless the church in Sri Lanka with renewed strength and vision.

Turning to Ghana, we're thrilled that Superintendent Ahmed will be joining us in Canada this fall! He'll be present at both Minister's Conferences - September 16-19 in Saskatoon and September 22-25 in Valley Acres, Board of Missions. From September 16 to October 3, he'll be traveling with us, visiting churches, meeting with leaders, and sharing firsthand about the incredible work God is doing in Ghana.

This is a special opportunity for Canadian churches to listen, learn, and celebrate together with our Ghanaian brothers and sisters. If you'd like to meet Superintendent Ahmed to your church or board during his visit, please reach out - we'd love to make that possible.

Let's continue to pray for both Sri Lanka and Ghana, giving thanks for the work God is at work in these mission districts.

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Global Missions

Empowering Global Mission — Locally Engaged, Globally Connected

As we come together across Canada, we build bridges of connection and mutual empowerment with our global partners — learning from one another, growing together, and advancing the Kingdom of God in every nation.

Initiatives

Global Partnerships

Encounter Trips

Missional Training

International child care ministries

Resources

Free Methodist World Missions

Global Connection Stories Blog

A visual journey that highlights the people, places, and moments shaping our shared calling to make Christ known globally.

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fmcic.ca/global-missions

Upcoming Global Missions Engagement Opportunities

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Jan 2026 | Middle East: Northern Iraq & Jordan |
| April 2026 | (Easter) JUMELI youth Conference: Lima, Peru |
| Aug 2026 | Sri Lanka Family Camp & Annual Conference |
| Fall 2026 | Encounter Burundi: Women empowering women |

FEEDING BOTH BODY & SOUL

“

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

Matthew 25:35

”



At Holt Free Methodist Church, ministry looks a little different on Saturday mornings in the summer and fall. Instead of gathering indoors, members set up a simple produce stand in the church parking lot—an idea born out of generosity and a desire to serve their neighbours.

It started when a local farmer and member of the congregation approached Pastor Matthew McEwen with an offer: “I’ve got produce. I can donate it. Can you run the stand?” The church embraced the invitation, and what began as a small idea has become a meaningful ministry. Each week, volunteers set up a stall overflowing with fresh vegetables and fruit. Community members stop by, not only to purchase produce but also to linger, chat, and connect.

All proceeds from the stand go directly to the York Region Food Network, helping families in need across the region. For Holt FMC, the project is more than a fundraiser— it’s an expression of



faith in action. “It becomes a time of fellowship for the church and a time of outreach, meeting our neighbours,” Pastor McEwen explains. The stand has become a bridge between the congregation and the wider community, creating opportunities to build relationships while supporting those experiencing food insecurity.

The project is also a reminder of the deeper spiritual calling. “Please pray for the workers in the harvest,” Pastor McEwen asks, “both literal and the spiritual harvest.” As the church shares food with its neighbours, it also shares the love of Christ—planting seeds of hope and cultivating connection throughout the community.

A simple roadside stand has become a place where generosity, fellowship, and mission intersect. Holt FMC is discovering that sometimes the best way to serve the Kingdom is to begin with what’s already in your hands— and to offer it with love.

MATTHEW MCEWEN

Lead Pastor, Holt FMC





Intercultural Camp Experience

■ INTERCULTURAL MISSIONS

Over the last couple of years, across our movement, God had been planting seeds of vision. A vision for great connectionalism between our churches in the west and the east – a vision for greater cultural collaboration and learning – a vision for our first ever Intercultural Camp! This past summer, thanks to the prayers, support and generosity of many across the FMCIC, twenty campers and leaders from Quebec travelled to the prairies for a week of intercultural discipleship and mission. With a

beautiful kingdom-like convergence of Haitian, Burundian, Indigenous and cowboy culture, we spent a week worshipping together in four different languages, teaching and cooking a variety of cultural cuisines, visiting Cote First Nation and the Buffalo Project, experiencing horseback riding, canoeing, fishing and serving at the Roblin Rodeo! God was faithful to meet our campers in this time, both young and old, inviting them deeper into their faith and hearing His call upon their lives! One of our young western campers also shared this testimony:

“

Our week started on Monday when Pastor Heath, my dad, my brother, and I went on a long bus ride to Winnipeg to pick up our friends for the Intercultural Camp that Roblin Free Methodist Church was hosting. Our week was filled with all kinds of activities: times of worship, exploring the town, outdoor adventures like canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, and quadding, visits to Cote First Nation and Madge Lake Bible Camp, a basketball game, the Roblin Rodeo, personal testimonies, delicious meals— both Haitian and home-cooked— and nightly bonfires. Our worship felt like a special way for all of us to draw closer to God together, and I hope



that even through horseback riding my friends from Quebec learned to trust in the Lord just a little bit more, just as I have learned. It was also great to have campers cheering us on during the rodeo competitions, they gave me the confidence and reminded me that God was there carrying me through.

ADAM KLINE

Director of Intercultural Missions

PEYTON CORNELL

Intercultural Camper from MB



Some of the other campers had the following to say about their experience:

“

"I will never forget this opportunity. I had to leave behind my daily life [in Montreal] and just be in nature, reconnect, and see how joyful and beautiful life can be without all the superfluous things that we, as city people, can get lost in. For many, the time to slow down was an eye-opening experience."

— Mahéva Lucie Clermy

Le camp à Roblin était une très belle expérience. Nous avons rencontré de merveilleuses personnes qui nous ont accompagné tout au long de cette aventure."

— Neylande Dussap

'The camp in Roblin was a wonderful experience. We met some amazing people who accompanied us throughout this adventure.'

— Neylande Dussap

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