

## **Mennonite Brethren Global Missions: What God Has Done**

### 1. Purpose and Focus:

- to remind ourselves of what God has done through the Mennonite Brethren in the global witness to the Gospel and planting of churches, and to see the spiritual dynamics that gave rise to missions as the central integrating activity of the early Mennonite Brethren churches.
- to motivate us to a new mission vision and thrust in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 2. Audience:

The audience is lay adults. The outcomes should capture the attention and motivate our churches. It should be in a format that allows it to be used in Bible study groups and Sunday School classes

### 3. Scope:

- the project should examine both historical and geographical dimensions of global M. B. missions.
- the first section should very briefly trace the origins of M.B. missions in Russia, M.B. migrations to North America, and the origins of missions in North America. [about 20-40 pages]
- subsequent sections should trace the birth, growth and mission outreach of the major global M.B. churches [about 20-30 pages each]. These should include:
  - \* India
  - \* China
  - \* Africa: (Congo,
  - \* Latin America: (Brazil, Colombia, Panama,
  - \* Canada: (current missional church movement)
  - \* U.S.: (current missional church movement)
  - \* Europe and Russia: [?]
- a concluding section that gives an overview of the current state and mission visions of the M.B. churches around the world [about 30 pages]. This needs to integrate the different regional presentations into a big picture and point the way ahead in partnerships, and new ways of doing missions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 4. Outcomes:

- probably a book of about 200 - 300 pages. This should be presented in a modern format with pictures, sidebars, and other new ways of presenting a vision
  - \* one possibility is to write the book in sections so that each can be published separately as well as in a single book form. For example, different country reports might be issued in small pamphlet forms of about 10-15 pages each.

- possibly a study guide that can be used in Sunday School classes and study groups
- possibly a video presentation.
  - \* showing M. B. congregations worshipping in different parts of the world to create a sense of our diversity and our unity
  - \* brief interviews with key M. B. leaders from around the world.
  - \* giving brief vignettes of ordinary M. B. people in different countries
  - \* showing some of the M. B. mission outreach programs in different countries
- probably a web site that gives additional materials and sources for further information.
  - \* this can include references to previous publications on M.B. missions, and possibly some original documents
  - \* this could include a section for local churches to share what they are doing and learning in mission outreach
  - \* this could include COMBS documents that it wants to share with the churches

#### 5. Writers and Editors:

- it would be good to have a general editorial team of about four to six who would take responsibility to supervise the overview, content, writers and editing of the final products
- it would be good to have two co-editors who take primary responsibility for gathering and organizing the materials for final production
- the regional chapters should be written by leaders in the regions. We need urgently to begin gathering lists of possible writers for each region. The editorial committee should appoint these by 2006 at the latest.
- the editorial board should give stylistic guidelines to the writers by 2006. These should include instructions on level of writing, use of references and bibliographies, and linguist styles.
- office support in typing and revising manuscripts should be done at some central office

#### 6. Processing the task:

- the editorial committee and co-editors should be appointed by 2006
- these should finalize the general guidelines and time-tables by 2006
- working drafts should be in by 2008
- the committee and editors must keep in constant touch with COMBS to organize and coordinate the project. While COMBS does not have control over the project, input from COMBS must be taken very seriously.
- decisions need to be made on the press, and the production time-table

#### 7. Publicity:

- the editorial committee should arrange to disseminate information on the project to local church leaders in the coming years so that they look forward to the release of the outcomes and to make use of them in the churches.
- COMBS should be involved deeply in all releases and publicity projects.