



## Marvin's Ministry Update

July - September 2013

### A Ministry and Family Overview

The months of July to September were filled with a variety of activities related both to MentorLink and to our family. With respect to MentorLink Canada, the activities included speaking for five churches, many mentoring meetings with various people, participating in another CREST cohort, beginning to share mentoring concepts with AGC pastors at their regional gatherings, and preparing for other seminars in the fall. I also visited with several of our ML Canada donors and was pleased to add three more people as prayer partners.

Many of you were aware that our middle son, Dave, his wife, Martina, and their two sons, Nathan (8) and Matthew (6) were living with us during their five-month home assignment. They serve with SEND International



in Ulan Ude, Siberia and just returned on Oct. 7. Our house seems very empty again, but we are grateful for the time together. We have also been involved in helping our oldest son, Dan, and his family, as they experienced the birth of another daughter, Emma Grace, and made a ministry transition from London to Barrie. In the midst of these changes and blessings, Kay experienced several very difficult months of health issues. She has now nearly recovered her former health for which we are very grateful. I have included a new family picture taken in early October which reminds us of God's abundant blessing on us.

### Personal Mentoring

My personal mentoring activities have increased since we signed a ministry agreement with CREST Leadership. In addition to the continued blessing and privilege of mentoring and/or coaching about seventeen men on a regular basis, I now have another eight men who are participating in the Ontario cohorts of CREST. The variety of age and experience they bring to our conversations is quite broad so our interactions are always engaging. A review of my DayTimer revealed 51 personal visits and/or Skype/phone calls with various people during the last three months. I am also finding an increase in the number and variety of people who desire to speak with me one time about issues they are facing in their lives and/or ministries.

Recently, one younger man, who is in the early stages of his growing family and seeking God's direction about his future career, wrote me from a "greasy spoon" restaurant to share the good news about the birth of his second child. He reflected on the many times we had eaten breakfast in similar restaurants before they moved away and thanked me for what we had learned together and the encouragement of those meetings.

## **Associated Gospel Churches (AGC) Regional Pastor Gatherings**

Last spring, I had the privilege of presenting some MentorLink mentoring concepts and tools to two separate groups of AGC denominational leaders. This door was opened by the chair of the ML Canada Board, Bill Fietje, who is also the President of AGC Canada. As a result, I have been asked to accompany the Eastern Canada Superintendent, Glenn Rider, to participate in eight regional pastors' gatherings in Ontario from this September to April 2014. My purpose is to inspire and encourage these busy pastors to re-commit or increase their commitment to the important leadership responsibility of mentoring younger leaders – and to provide some simple ideas and tools from MentorLink to assist them. In September, I participated in two: one in London and the other in Blind River. Glenn and I hope to create a network of accountability to continue to encourage the pastors to “do something” about what they have heard. So far, the response has been very positive from AGC leaders and the pastors who have attended. One young pastor who was present in London has already mapped out a strategy and timeline to increase mentoring in his church using the ML Days with Jesus tools in a very focused and interesting manner both this fall and in 2014. I was impressed and blessed by his plans.

## **Partnership with CREST Leadership**

CREST Leadership is a program designed by a fellow Canadian, Dr. Dan Reinhardt, for people at mid-life who want to gain greater personal insight and training for the second half of their life and ministry/profession. The experience is delivered in 3 three-day sessions per year for two years in London, Ontario. ML Canada is partnering to help increase the focus on mentoring between cohort gatherings and between members of the cohorts. I also have the privilege of presenting some of the materials and promoting its opportunities in various denominational and professional settings. This also opens interesting conversations about MentorLink tools and activities. I have now participated in the first two meetings of a new Ontario cohort of 15 people – one in late June and the other in mid-September. The next one will be in late November.

## **Other Ministry Responsibilities and Opportunities**

- a. Serving on the MentorLink International leadership team of four people. We are going to meet in Toronto from November 13-18 November to plan our next International Gathering for May 2014 and to continue the development of the new global community mentoring tools. I feel very privileged to serve in this role.
- b. Conducting a series of Passing It On! Seminars in three locations in the GTA – beginning on October 9 at the SIM headquarters and continuing into 2014. These are primarily focused on ethnic churches, multi-cultural churches and new Canadian church leaders.
- c. Hoping to set a date soon for our first training session with leaders of indigenous churches in using the Days with Jesus tools.
- d. Leading, preaching, and consulting commitments in various churches and organizations.



Thank you for your faithful, focused prayer support for the amazing opportunities and important responsibilities God continues to give to us. Also, please thank God for safety in my travels and for His blessing upon this ministry.

*Marvin*

“You (Timothy) have heard me (Paul) teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.” (2 Timothy 2:2)