

# Marvin's Health and Ministry Report

January-March 2015

Dear Friends of MentorLink Canada,

I am sending this report to a wide range of family members, financial and prayer supporters, ministry partners and colleagues, and friends to bring you up-to-date on my life and ministry since the beginning of 2015. For some of you, this information will be quite new; for others, much of it will be a repeat of previous emails I have sent this year. I want to express my deep gratitude for your prayers and your concern for Kay and me on this unexpected, faith-building journey.

Since surgery in December to repair my heart valve, I have experienced a couple of unusual, extreme side-effects that have hospitalized me on two occasions. My hemoglobin count keeps declining to a level where I need blood transfusions. After trying to bring healing through medication and rest, the surgeon decided I needed another heart surgery to correct the problem. As they prepared me for the surgery, the medical team discovered a pocket of infection located near the base of my right lung which was removed by a thoracic surgeon on Thursday, March 5. Fortunately, the infection had not entered into my blood stream. Until the next surgery on my heart, which is scheduled during the week of March 23-27, I am blessed to be resting at home. I am being checked regularly by nurses to monitor my health; I am also on a short leash to conserve as much physical strength as possible.

With this brief window at home, I decided to send a quarterly ministry report which will record MentorLink activities since the start of the year. In between doctor's appointments and two two-week periods in the hospital, I was able to continue to a reduced degree my personal mentoring ministry through Skype and phone calls and personal visits. One exciting blessing of my times in the hospital has been the opportunity to engage my roommates and some staff members in significant spiritual conversations. I also continued to serve as available on the ML Leadership Team and on several other boards. In light of my health challenges, I have also given considerable time to rescheduling several church mentoring conferences and the TIM course on mentoring. The uncertainty of my ability to fulfill commitments has been one of the greatest challenges I have ever faced in all my years of ministry. I am resting in the sovereignty of God and encouraged by the gracious responses of His children as I share the changes that arise.

On Monday, March 9, the ML Board held the 2014 Annual Meeting. We had a good year. Our total income was \$132,172, which was an increase of \$7,000 above 2013. Our total expenses were \$138,594. We were able to make a stronger commitment to assist people who desired to attend the ML International Gathering in Switzerland last May because of your support. All six Board members were re-elected for another year. They have graciously expressed their commitment to my continued leadership of ML Canada and my need to concentrate on

becoming well after the next surgery. They have instructed me to clear my calendar of major activities until the middle of June. Our chair, Bill Fietje, will be writing a separate email with some further information to the ML financial donors. **The planned ML celebration on April 17 has been put on hold until further notice.**

I am resting in the strong, supportive hands of our loving Father; He cares and supplies every need. I have been learning that one of the best gifts I can give to Him during this period of illness is patience – still learning!

With gratitude to God for your love and prayers,

Marvin