



## **Marvin's Ministry Update**

*January – March 2021*

### **MentorLink Update**

Last April I began my report with this comment: "Welcome to 2020 – a year like no other!" Little did I know how prophetic that statement would be! The worldwide pandemic changed our planned international and local travel, but it also provided us with new opportunities to extend the ministries of MentorLink, both in Canada and globally. We have accelerated our transition to online gatherings and seminars, which are opening new doors for ministry. As you read this report, I am asking you to focus your prayers on the Global Leadership Team (GLT) and the ML Canada Team to "walk in step with the Spirit" and to remain faithful to our vision and values.

### **ML International Updates**

In the last six months, our international movement has suffered the loss of two amazing leaders, primarily because of the Covid virus. These men were deeply involved in MentorLink activities: Kursie Shefino, our main contact with the large EKHC denomination in Ethiopia, and Rene Mbongo, the GLT leader for our African Mentoring Initiative. ML Canada had been conversing with Rene about specific ways we could partner in French-speaking West African countries. I am personally mourning the deaths of these two very dear brothers and ministry colleagues.

The GLT has developed a plan to connect more closely with our ML Round Table Fellowship (RTF) through conducting four online gatherings annually. We recently expanded the RTF to 44 individuals. On March 23, we gathered on Zoom for a spiritual retreat led by Herman Moldez (Philippines) during which we celebrated the positive role of godly mentors in our lives. What a wonderful first gathering for encouragement and blessing!



### **ML Canada Updates**

Our first significant online mentor training seminar took place on January 28 with 35 Western Canada pastors, primarily from AGC churches. Three members of the ML Canada team shared in this six-hour seminar. Several ongoing mentoring opportunities have developed as a result. This was an excellent test for our online activities.

## **ML Canada Updates (continued)**

Terry Dorey and I conducted a training seminar for several members of the Bramalea Baptist Church Men's Ministry leadership team. The seminar was held on two Saturday mornings in March. Our ML Canada board member, John Attrell, helped to arrange this opportunity and will assist with ongoing coaching for the team members as they begin mentoring other men.

I spoke to the pastors of "For the City Cambridge" on February 18 on the topic "Creating a Mentoring Environment" in their life and churches.



## **Ministry Opportunities (Prayer and Praise)**

1. Praise for new doors opening for online training seminars. Pray especially for two, two-day mentor training seminars for Missionary Aviation Fellowship leaders throughout the world on April 13-14 and 28-29, 2021.
2. Pray for our ML Canada board meeting on Thursday, April 15. We have invited some potential new board members to participate; we are also developing a three-year leadership transition plan. I intend to remain engaged in this strategic ministry for as long as God gives me physical strength and a sound mind, but we need to transition to younger leadership to sustain the momentum God is giving us presently.
3. Pray for our international partners who continue to suffer health and financial hardships from the pandemic and terrorist activities. Pray for God to comfort and support the family of Rene Mbongo and his many mentees in West Africa.
4. Pray for me as I continue to mentor leaders and consult with individuals and churches in their ministry transitions. Praise God for various technologies that make these ongoing ministries possible. Please visit our updated website ([www.mentorlink.org/canada](http://www.mentorlink.org/canada)) and our Facebook page (MentorLink Canada) which provide more information.

*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)*