

A New Chapter

On September 30, I wrote on my Facebook page, "Today marks the end of a big chapter in my life. Exactly 40 years ago tomorrow, Lorna and I started active service with SIM Canada. Beginning tomorrow, I will



be seconded from SIM Canada to MentorLink Canada. Lorna and I are standing in front of my new office rented from SIM Canada and just a few feet from my previous desk. Many relationships and ministry contexts will change very little. I have been working with MentorLink in various ways for quite a few years and I continue to be an SIM Canada missionary with SIM still handling all my finances. It has been a privilege to serve as the Theological Education Ministry Point Person for SIM for the past six years and I will be able to continue to support/mentor my successor. I am grateful for many confirmations from the Lord for this new direction and that I can continue to trust him for this transition as I have been able to trust him in the past. He never changes. Great is his faithfulness."

Why MentorLink?

I first took the MentorLink Passing It On mentoring training in about 2003 and loved its values and focus. In about 2009 I connected with Marvin Brubacher, who was then the president of Heritage Bible College and Seminary and later

became the MentorLink Canada director with whom I am now privileged to work. That was during a time when I was leading a collaborative, church-based training ministry called School of Urban Biblical Studies. For the next two or three years, I found myself organizing Passing It On courses for Marvin to facilitate in the Greater Toronto Area, mostly in ethnic churches and at SIM. The conviction became deeply imbedded that mentoring, or life-on-life engagement, was an essential part of preparation for and being sustained in ministry. This was reinforced by my doctoral studies on the spiritual formation of missionaries as I studied the things that were most influential in the preparation and the ongoing development of missionaries. In preparation for the 2010 global missions conference called Lausanne III, MentorLink did three things that told me that this was a ministry worth paying attention to. First, they set up the Global Mentoring Project, using the internet to link mentors from around the globe with emerging leaders. Second, they were a (the) key partner in the development of a practical statement of the characteristics of a godly leader under the leadership of the Theological Education Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance. This came to be known as "The Leader's Covenant" and was introduced at Lausanne III, also known as Cape Town 2010. Third, from networking at Cape Town 2010, MentorLink partnered with the Jesus Film people to produce "Days with Jesus" as a video-based mentoring tool. In 2015, my friend and soon-to-become SIM colleague, Bob Kirk, went with me to Ethiopia to introduce to the Amharic Bible schools a character-focused leadership development course that we had developed based on the ten statements of the Leaders' Covenant and the Scriptural passages out of



which they grew. This course was well received and is being used by 156 Bible schools today. Shortly after that I was invited to join the MentorLink board. That was also about the time that my Ethiopian friend and church leader, Kursie Shefeno, was working on his Doctor of Ministry in

Leadership degree at Tyndale Seminary. He, too, was attracted to the MentorLink Passing It On and Leaders' Covenant resources and chose them as the basis of his project. I worked closely with him on that, and Marvin and I went to Ethiopia to help facilitate some of the trainings. With Dr. Kursie's unexpected passing, we are praying that his vision for heart-level transformational training of leaders for the Ethiopian church will still be fulfilled.

What Is Transformational Mentoring?

Christian mentoring is a relational experience through which one person intentionally nurtures the life of God in another individual. At MentorLink, we take a holistic outlook on life while focusing on mentoring that is transformational of the character and the heart.

Introducing MentorLink www.mentorlink.org/canada/

1. MentorLink is a worldwide movement and a network for equipping leaders and mentors globally who lead like Jesus and develop others to do the same.
2. The MentorLink Vision: For every believing community, effective leaders, and for every leader, effective mentors.
3. The MentorLink goal is to develop multitudes of Christ-like leaders around the world through personal relationships and by using our inside-out, character-driven training and resources.
4. Jesus' strategy was to multiply himself in his followers so that they would, in turn, continue the process with others. Jesus' strategy quickly became a movement. Mentoring looks slow, goes deep, and has the potential to multiply its effects.

What Excites Me?

1. I am excited by the chance to focus more on the Canadian church. Global opportunities like continuing to walk alongside Ethiopian and other global leaders exist, too, and it will be fun to see how God works.

2. I am excited by the chance to work alongside Marvin and with a core of four MentorLink Canada associates. It will be exciting to watch that number grow.
3. I am excited by the opportunity to see how God will transform my own life as well as the lives of others by focusing on the character and teaching and model of Jesus. At this stage of my life, I am asking, "When I stand before God, how much will I resemble Jesus and what can I present to him that is of eternal value?" I would be really excited if you would join us on this journey.

Lorna & TCK Care

In the midst of the changes in Tim's ministry role, my role remains the same – overseeing a ministry of care to our SIM Canada third culture kids whose families are serving in many places in the world. One of my tasks each month is to gather prayer requests from our families for a TCK prayer bulletin to be sent to a committed network of pray-ers. Included in this network are our retired missionaries, many of whom understand well the challenges of raising missionary kids. One retiree responded to this month's prayer bulletin with this encouragement note and her heart response to some of the specific prayer needs: "Thanks, Lorna. Wow! How do those families manage who have 3 children all in university at the same time? So many missionary kids living totally different lives from those who are their peers. And in the midst of Covid-19, the Lord's work carrying on well and safely and lots of brave missionary families on the move and dealing so well with homeschooling. It is all so inspiring. May you be blessed and encouraged, Lorna, in this special ministry." I am indeed blessed to continue to serve in this role.

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE to you, our faithful prayer and financial support team, who continue to encourage us and pray for us!

In partnership with you,
*Tim & Lorna
Jacobson*