

## EMMC Annual Report 2023

January 2024

*EMMC exists to **equip** and **encourage** our churches for effective ministry, **empowering** them to participate in God's work in the world.*

God is at work in the EMMC with churches and ministries that are making disciples and developing leaders for the next generation. From all these ministries we thank you for your gifts, prayers, support, and time. At the end of this year, we thank Lyn Dyck for eight and a half years of service as executive director of the EMMC. We appreciate the way that you have served our Lord, established our vision, gained our trust, communicated our ministries, managed our finances, and become our friend in this great partnership we call the EMMC.

### STAFF & BOARD

The General Board and Council are making progress on our ambitious 5-Year Strategic Plan (2020-2025) focusing on leadership development & education, missions, connections & events, and communications.



### LEADERSHIP

Kelly Lesser (Pastor of Care and Mission) is meeting pastors for encouragement and with churches to assess their ministry effectiveness. Pastors and church leaders are anticipating that a renewed Ministerial will engage and equip pastors with theology, resources, and connections for effective ministry. Morrow Gospel Church Winnipeg, Blenheim EMMC Ontario, Aylmer EMMC Ontario and Gospel Fellowship (Steinbach) Manitoba are in pastoral searches.

Antioch Community Ministries in Warman SK are in an exciting phase of working with Region 1 and EMMC in a Church Plant and Skatepark. Funding is coming together, and the building has begun.

Darrell Kehler (Director of Discipleship) is working with many churches accessing discipleship resources. Leading with Vision workshops continued in Gospel Fellowship Chapel, Shipyard Belize, Gospel Mission Church Winkler Manitoba, and Mennonite Gospel Church, Vauxhall Alberta.

### MISSIONS

Abe and Margaret Harder (MEM Bolivia Field Director) reports growth in the Low German ministry. Local leadership is stepping up in Villa Nueva and Hacienda Verde.

Amanecer is the newest ministry near the Belice colony in Bolivia with Ben and Bertha Kauenhofen. Land is secured to start outreach with church, school, and living accommodations.



LIEAB (La Iglesia Evangelica Anabautista de Bolivia) our Spanish speaking sister conference has a new leadership team with Fabri Tereba as president. The Deer Run Church in Leamington Ontario is supporting a construction project in Tarija.

Associate Missionaries: We have 28 missionaries (3 are waiting for EMMC funding) serving with 14 organizations in 10 countries.

### **CONNECTIONS & EVENTS**

The Gathering 2023 was held at Gospel Mission Church in Winkler with worship, workshops, and three EMMC pastors presenting the main messages. Tim Geddert addressed the Ministry Leaders speaking on the topic of healthy conversations in the body of Christ. Nearly 50 pastors/spouses followed up with a retreat continuing on the topic of healthy conversations in ministry at Pinawa MB.



Treasured Foundation gathered 200 youth and leaders at Steinbach Bible College on December 28-31 for worship, ministry opportunities, and workshops. Kent Martens engaged the audience with his speaking and artwork on the theme *Voice of Truth* based on John 10.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Telling the EMMC story through *The Recorder*, website, weekly Praise, Prayer & Pondering emails, monthly missions email, Facebook, Instagram, but not TikTok!

The Christmas Gift Catalogue gained interest as people found meaningful projects that helped advance God's work in the EMMC.

There are ongoing requests for Low German school curriculum developed in Bolivia. Active interest in the EQUIP discipleship resources in several languages keeps us connected with churches beyond EMMC.

### **FINANCES**

The EMMC General Council approved a budget for 2024-25 of \$858,116, another decrease from 2023-24. We saw good giving in the summer with churches reduced for the rest of the year. We saw some rebound with projects at Christmas.

### **CONCLUSION**

God is at work, and we want to be ready to join in His work. We look to our congregations and individuals to support important ministries with generous gifts. Your partnership enables EMMC to connect the churches and continue making disciples of Jesus.

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* Philippians 1:3-6

Terry Hiebert  
Interim Executive Director

Need more detail? See <https://www.emmc.ca/the-recorder>