

MAY WE ReINTRODUCE INSIDEMSC

AFTER TAKING A PAUSE over the last several months, we're happy to reintroduce you to InsideMSC. Our goal for this newsletter is to keep you informed about our operations. We've been hard at work and there is much to share with you, including news and stories from behind the scenes. We're committed to a rejuvenated, consistent approach of sharing these updates with you seasonally from now on.

We are encouraged by your faithful interest as someone who gives in support of missions, and we hope that each issue will encourage you with greater understanding of what God is doing. We're excited to let you know about new doors the Lord has opened, and ways He has provided access to resources and practical help for the workers in His harvest fields. There is so much cause for praise as we consider His ongoing direction and provision. It's all for His glory!

In every issue, you'll find a piece of practical help gleaned from our experience caring for mission workers and projects. We'd love to pass on some expert tips and notes that will help you to better care for and support mission workers in ways that go above and beyond the financial.

In this issue, you'll meet some new members of the team, learn about a new designation structure that's making our relationships with mission workers more clear and efficient, and discover more of what is happening in our own backyard with missions in Canada.



So, welcome, and welcome back at the same time.

Together in the Master's service,

Keri Halliday
Editor, *InsideMSC*

*Keri is a member of
MSC's National Committee and
serves as the Editor of InsideMSC.
Please join us in welcoming Keri to
our extended staff team!*

UPGRADING How We Serve Workers IN CANADA

Since 1940, MSC Canada has been called by God to help

churches send their own mission workers. Over the years, hundreds have been sent by their churches, through MSC, to share the love of Christ and the message of His Gospel. For most of our history, the focus of our work has been to make this possible internationally - seeing workers sent to reach every tribe, tongue, and nation on this planet. This focus has not changed.

What you may not know is that since 1940, MSC has also helped hundreds of local churches, camps, itinerant preachers, and other ministries throughout Canada. Internally, we've always referred to these as "home workers," recognizing the important role they each play in fulfilling the Great Commission here at home. The help we've provided to home workers has been very basic compared to the support we provide to overseas workers - typically, the simple help of receiving funds from donors and issuing tax receipts for gifts given to workers and ministries in Canada.

This year, we are making significant changes and investments in the way we will serve workers in Canada. We believe these upgrades are necessitated by the dynamic, ever-changing nature of ministry here, and the Gospel importance of reaching our indigenous, newcomer, and minority neighbours. However, to be clear, they are also necessitated by increased scrutiny from the Canada Revenue Agency, our increasingly litigious society, significant liability concerns, and the importance of safeguarding the vulnerable. At MSC, we feel a growing responsibility to offer more legal and logistical support to workers in Canada.



IN PRACTICE...

PRACTICAL SUPPORT COMES IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.

Kids and counsellors alike are looking forward to getting **back to camps and summer youth outreaches**, where many are exposed to the Good News during a pivotal time of life. There are many ways you can be of practical help, here are just a few:

- **PRAY** - reach out and ask for specific prayer requests
- **VOLUNTEER** with 'Spring Clean Up' before the season begins
- **SPREAD the WORD** - are there families interested in your area? ●●●



In a process begun this spring, we're requiring all mission workers in Canada to designate and enjoy the benefits of a **CLEARER, STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH MSC** in resourcing and recognition of their dedication to the Lord's work. We have engaged in this mandatory process because it ensures MSC's full compliance with what is required of us and it can ensure our ability to serve churches and their workers for the long-term.

Without getting into unnecessary detail, you should know that MSC will have two main designations for workers as we move into the future:

First, **GLOBAL MISSION WORKERS (OR GMWS)**, which includes all of the workers in other countries around the world as well as those in Canada whose life and ministry is cross-cultural and focused on evangelism and discipleship.

GMW

Second, **CANADIAN MINISTRY ASSOCIATES (OR CMAS)**, are those who serve in Canada within their own culture, primarily among other believers, living where they typically would. Around Canada, you'll find Canadian Ministry Associates involved in pastoral ministry, preaching, teaching, hospice, administrating and running Bible camps, prison ministry, producing literature, distributing and marking Bible courses, participating in evangelistic efforts, and serving local churches and believers in thousands of other ways. In the coming days, you will begin to see "Canadian Ministry Associates" profiles on our website, in our online giving system, and in our communications.

CMA

These designations will help us to better specifically serve both GMWs and CMAs serving in Canada and we look forward to seeing how clarifying and upgrading our relationship with these workers will help to propel missions in Canada forward as we move into the future. Please join us in praying for this important designation process, which some workers have now completed but many are still working through.

May we INTRODUCE Ruth Piao



In the fall of 2020, MSC hired Ruth as an important addition to our administrative team. Ruth is responsible for maintaining

worker records, overseeing MSC's archives, and assisting with daily financial activities as well as many other office tasks. In her own words, this is her story:

I was born into a Christian family and grew up in Toronto with wonderful parents who were a godly example to my two siblings and I. We were taught the Scriptures and I heard the Gospel regularly throughout my life. I always wanted to be saved but struggled with how to be saved. I made a few professions of faith while young, but I believe God saved me when I was 14, resting on 1 John 5:12 which says "He who has the Son has life."

While I was a young adult, the Lord gave me a desire to teach English in China and grow in my understanding of the Chinese people, culture, and language in order to reach them with the Gospel. I went to China in 2006 and lived there for 8 life-changing years. I had many opportunities while working to present Christ and the Gospel by teaching allowed topics such as Christmas and Easter. In addition, there were many chances outside of work to interact individually with students, who often had questions about Western culture and Christianity.

I met my husband in China and in 2014 we returned to Toronto to work among the Chinese people here. We have been involved with teaching ESL classes and running Bible Studies in Mandarin and have seen God bless this work. Recently, I joined the team at MSC and feel so privileged to be involved in an organization dedicated to enabling the spread of the Gospel around the world.



MISSIONS IN CANADA

For over 80 years now, generations of MSC mission workers have been sent from Canada to take the Good News to the far reaches of the earth. For most of these decades, they left knowing that their friends and neighbours here in Canada had access to churches, to Christians, to copies of the Bible, and to the Gospel itself.

While in some cases and places this is still true, a growing reality is that **CANADA IS ITSELF A GLOBAL MISSION FIELD**. Younger generations see an entirely different world when they open their front door, as more and more newcomers arrive from around the world

and move in across the street. In addition to immigrants and refugees, many see opportunities to live out and share the Gospel among the homeless and impoverished of inner cities, indigenous communities on reservations, and the remote populations of the far north and Quebec.

Increasingly, we are seeing more and more workers seeing their homeland of Canada as the place where God has called them to reach out cross-culturally, seeing it as just as much of a mission field as anywhere else on Earth. At MSC, **“we help churches send their own mission workers,”** so our job is not to send workers or create programs. Instead, we work diligently to lay down the foundation and the tracks that will enable workers to go to these groups and communities prepared, educated, equipped, and supported.

**PREPARED,
EDUCATED,
EQUIPPED,
& SUPPORTED.**

In recent months, we have begun a series of consultations with mission workers serving indigenous communities here in Canada, both to learn from them and to plan out pathways for future workers. As you’ve read about in this issue, we have also been reorganizing and strengthening the way we serve all of our workers who serve in Canada. Our goal in these efforts, which you will learn more about in future issues, has been to plan for the future of Missions in Canada, seeing “Our Home and Native Land” as a vital ambition in the rapidly changing world of missions.



Please pray with us that the Lord would direct our efforts and that many Canadians would come to know Him through fortified, thoughtful, and cruciform efforts as we move forward together.

On behalf of the National Committee,

Phil Barnes
Executive Director, MSC Canada

msccanada.org

