



WorkerCare RECONNECTING

FOR MOST OF THE PAST 2 YEARS, MSC WorkerCare teams were unable to make any field visits to workers. Because of this, along with much of the world, MSC began much more regularly using video conferencing software to connect with workers. In many parts of the world, workers began making regular use of these tools as well in their life and ministry.

Together, this birthed the opportunity for MSC to organize group video calls with workers who live and serve in the same broad geographic area (such as a continent or subcontinent). Besides being an opportunity to hear updates from and connect with MSC, these calls have enabled some workers to meet other workers who serve in their part of the world for the very first time, even after many years of service. The use of video conferencing platforms by workers and MSC will continue to be one vital way of offering WorkerCare support going forward.

Even though online visits and chats help maintain connections with workers, the need for in-person communication and time together has remained the best practice for care. The old adage “you never know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone” has rung true and we’ve found ourselves extra thankful in recent months to be able to visit workers where they serve again. The WorkerCare team is once again seeing first-hand how workers are doing, and in doing so they are able to provide personal encouragement and practical assistance in a way that simply isn’t possible over video.



Coming up in October, the WorkerCare team will all be connecting in-person with workers attending MSC’s Requip conference in Guelph, Ontario. You can read more about it on the back of this issue.

Conrad Lechelt
Missions Director



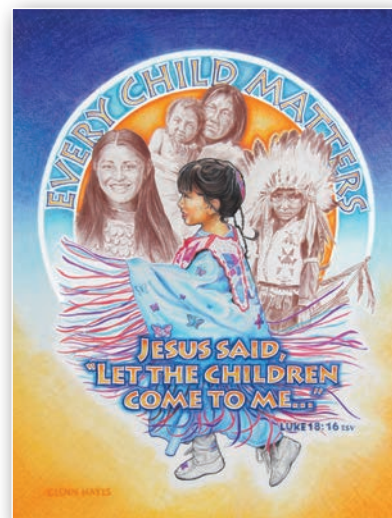
A Report on IPC

by **Ron Hampton**,
WorkerCare (Europe) +
Regional Representative (Prairies)

Last issue, we introduced you to some of the upgrades we're making to how we serve mission workers who live and serve in Canada. This reinvigorated direction was born at the November 2020 meeting of MSC's National Committee, as we agreed on the need to recognize workers based on what they are doing rather than where they are doing it. From these conversations, those serving cross-culturally are now considered Global Mission Workers (GMW) regardless of where they serve, even in Canada.

One vital grouping of GMWs in Canada are those who are reaching out and serving Indigenous people - aboriginal, Metis, or Inuit. Some of these workers serve within First Nations, others serve in inner-city outreach centres, and finally some serve in Canada's far north. In order for MSC to better support these workers, we have engaged in a new ministry initiative simply called Indigenous Peoples of Canada or IPC.

This past May, MSC held an IPC consultation conference in Winnipeg, covering all costs for those attending. The goal of this time together was networking, sharing, and encouragement. About 40 workers attended, including representatives from ministries like *Indian Life*, *Love Lives Here*, *Canadian Lifelight*, and *Union Gospel Mission*. MSC had five members of its extended team present (including members of the staff and WorkerCare teams) and workers attended from places as far as northern Alberta and remote Nunavut. Session topics were presented by Phil Barnes, Stephen Vance, and Howard Jolly (Director of CMA First Nation Churches). These sessions included MSC's Missions Model, Cultural Realities & Possible Remedies, Serving Cross-Culturally, Spiritual & Mental Health, and many more. GMW Becky Kew introduced a poster titled *Every Child Matters* painted by Winnipeg artist Glenn Hayes.



IN PRACTICE...

HOW CAN YOU PRAY? CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWS!

SUBSCRIBE to Mission Prayer Items emails that are delivered directly to your inbox and include current prayer items shared by mission workers from Canada as well as the United States.

These weekly bulletins include a link to download and print a paper copy to share or use in church bulletins.



ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SUBSCRIBE, TOO! Go to: msccanada.org/mpii

With that said, all who attended would agree that the best part of the IPC consultation was the fellowship. There was an unusual readiness for open and honest sharing among those involved and it was clear that a real need was being met. Each evening was devoted to a time of praise, thanksgiving, and prayer. The music team from Kildonan Christian Fellowship as well as Rick Martin and Howard Jolly from *The Rising Up Band* assisted us in worship. On the final day of the consultation, we held an open meeting and invited local believers to come and hear reports from workers. It was exciting to hear what God is doing among Indigenous people in Canada. We were thrilled to have a surprise guest for this session, Marian Ronald, who has served the Lord in Zambia for over 60 years!

MSC is budgeting for more consultation conferences in 2023. Most of the workers who attended are maintaining on-going contact. We at MSC have watched the Lord patiently lead us and work through the small steps of faith taken so far. Please pray for and support this rising mission force reaching out to Canada's Indigenous communities.

"First I want to say how much I enjoyed my short time with you and the others attending the MSC Consultation. Bless you folks, keep up the good work. I certainly want to be included in any news and updates. I look forward to the next event."

Heather Barefoot, *Loves Lives Here*, Winnipeg, MB

Thank you again for the work that you put into last week's event. It was excellent. We felt very encouraged by the fellowship, instruction and encouragement.

Tim Nielsen, *Naomi House*, Winnipeg, MB

We can't believe how well you treated us! The room was amazing and the food incredible! Thanks so. We loved the conference!

Rick Martin, *The Rising Up Band*, Niverville, MB

Words do not express the surprise when we opened the gift of support from MSC. We are reminded that the Lord knows exactly what is needed and will provide for the needs of his servants according to his will. Thank you and God bless you and MSC.

Todd Wawryzniak, *Indian Life*, Calgary, AB

INTRODUCING Lisa Barber



In 2018, Lisa Barber joined MSC's Worker-Care team. Lisa helps with worker counseling, particularly after a return from the field. In her own words, this is her story:

I was born and raised on the Saskatchewan prairies in the midst of a family that loved and served Jesus Christ. In addition to being pioneers in farming, my family practiced radical hospitality, was instrumental in planting a Brethren Assembly, and launched a Bible Camp that now serves as the home of Deeper Life Ministries.

My love of adventure, combined with my passion to help believers thrive in the midst of trials, led me to join International Teams in 1986. I began by smuggling Bibles to Christians in Eastern Europe and then moved to Romania to reach out to University students and help with a church plant. I served in Europe for a total of 8 years before returning to Canada to provide practical and spiritual care to cross-cultural workers serving around the globe, most recently in partnership with MSC Canada.

As a minister of encouragement to cross-cultural workers, I engage in the work of spiritual nurture and discipleship. This involves active listening, debriefing, life coaching, biblical teaching, personal mentoring, relationship building and resource discovery and development.

Five years ago, I moved back to the family farm near Strasbourg, SK to help care for my aging parents. My dad has since passed away and I continue to live with and care for my mom. We also have a quaint little guest house (my grandparents' old farmhouse) so I enjoy hosting family, friends, and cross-cultural workers who come to enjoy the beauty and the quietness of the prairies.

PRAY FOR *Requip*

IT MAY SURPRISE YOU TO LEARN THAT MANY MSC MISSION WORKERS DO NOT REALLY KNOW EACH OTHER. Workers who serve in the same region often know one another, and many might know of each other through the annual *Missionary Prayer Handbook* or the weekly *Mission Prayer Items*. However, most have never met in person.

This October, MSC will be hosting well over 100 mission workers who serve in Canada and around the world for the second edition of our retreat conference, *Requip*. Although it is designed around friendly fellowship, delicious food, helpful training, and important conversations, *Requip* is mainly about bringing MSC mission workers together for a few days every five years or so.

One of the greatest joys of working at MSC is knowing all of the incredible workers that God has called through local churches and having a front-row seat to all the unique ways they serve the Lord. Something wonderful about *Requip* is the chance it provides us to share a taste of that joy with the workers themselves - the joy of personally knowing more of their incredible coworkers in God's service.

After two years full of uncertainty, restrictions, isolation, and loss... we have designed this year's *Requip* to be more retreat and less conference. There will still be sessions by excellent speakers on vital topics designed to help workers navigate a rapidly changing world, but more than ever, time will be set aside for workers to learn from one another in interactive settings and topical discussion groups.

We are also planning the theme of our time together around the idea of health - whether physical, spiritual, emotional, financial, or relational. This will include topics such as how to practice healthy self-care, manage interpersonal conflict, cope with cultural challenges, deal with difficult people, balance family responsibilities such as aging parents and children entering post-secondary education, and cope with mission in a rapidly changing world.

Jerry Bolton

Communications & IT Director

Please join us in praying that when we gather together from October 3rd to 6th, GOD WOULD BE GLORIFIED AS WORKERS

- **EDIFY AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER,**
- **RECEIVE HELPFUL TRAINING,**
- **AND SHARE VITAL CONVERSATIONS.**

Photos from 2015 Requip conference.

msccanada.org

