

## Year in Review – 2008

2008 truly was a year of “transforming lives in mission”. New long term missionaries were mobilized. Numerous short term teams went out to work along side our church planting sites. New believers were baptized among least reached people groups. More and more people in North America joined MBMSI in praying for the nations and in supporting our missions teams. We praise God for all that He has done and all the resources that He has provided over this last year.

As I look back at the many lives that were transformed this past year, I am thankful for how God has been transforming my own life and my family’s life as we serve in Abbotsford. The Lord has taught me so many valuable lessons this last year. I would like to share just a few of these with you.

### Running the Race

I still have much to learn about pacing as I work in ministry. These first years with MBMSI have been filled with many long days. I am learning that you can’t sprint through a marathon. Sometimes I miss the words of Matthew 11:30 because my personal to do list is not matching the Lord’s. Back in April, the “perfect storm” seemed to hit MBMSI as we managed to schedule more activity into five weeks than is wise by any standard. It was an amazing month of missionary meetings, board meetings, budget meetings, leadership meetings, missionary candidate processing, and even a trip back to Ontario. When the storm was over, God was there waiting patiently. So now I am slowly coming to understand the difference between what God asks us to do and what we expect from ourselves and even what others expect from us. A very wise man (Carlin Weinbauer) told me, “If you go slower, you often get there faster.” While this may seem counter intuitive when running a race, I am learning you must run as the Lord directs you.

### God’s Faithful Provision

As a result of our move from Ontario to B.C. to join MBMSI three years ago, I could tell story after story of how God has provided for our family. One of the highlights of this past year was the incredible response of Willingdon Church to support us as a “missionary family” as we serve with MBMSI. In October as I attended their Mission Banquet, I was overwhelmed by the amazing heart that this church has to reach the least reached. Willingdon’s support has been a wonderful blessing. Without a doubt, God is our provider! I am

continually amazed by the response of the hearts of the people of God especially in these times of financial uncertainty. I am learning more and more about walking in faith and not fear as we trust in God as our provider.

#### Spiritual Truths

I truly find great joy in teaching from God's word, whether to our missionaries in training or to our short term missions participants. This last year I was asked to teach our TREK participants on "Hearing God's Voice". The Lord directed me to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 2:1-16. I learned that we need wisdom from the Holy Spirit to understand spiritual truths in the Bible. These truths often appear to make no sense to a person using worldly wisdom. God has hidden so much from the world because it tries to see and hear in worldly ways. Thanks to the spirit of God, we are able to discern the secrets of the kingdom. I was also encouraged by the thought that God has hidden treasures (1Cor2:7 God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began) that each of us can uncover in His Word each day.

#### Encountering the Holy Spirit

The New Testament often speaks about baptism by the Holy Spirit. While it has been easy to read about the role of the Holy Spirit in scriptures, it has been harder for me to really comprehend the ways that the Holy Spirit works in our lives today. This year I had an amazing encounter with three people who were gifted in the prophetic and intercessory prayer. Through a time of prayer, I came to a better understanding of what it means to be born again by the power of the spirit. I am beginning to understand how the Holy Spirit can transform us to be more like Jesus. It begins with a deep heart response. We can truly become a new creation in Christ Jesus as we allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

In closing, it has been an incredible year of transformation. God continues to teach me about what it means to be more than just a servant, but a child of God. And we ask for the nations as an inheritance as we go and make disciples. I give thanks to the Lord for your faithful prayers for the ministry being developed through the work of MBMSI. Together we can make disciples of all the nations. May God's blessings be upon you in the coming year.

Your Servant in Christ,  
J.P. Hayashida