



Mid-Year Review 2009

It is hard to believe that it is already June. As I stood upon the front steps at 9:00 in the evening, the sky was still in twilight as we approach the longest day of the year. I can relate to some very long days as I look back at the first half of this year. There is much to celebrate. Let me share a few highlights.

Discovering Your Call

Each year, MBMSI hosts a week long event called Spring Adventure. It is a chance for people who are interested in serving in long term mission to meet with MBMSI and learn more about different opportunities. The week is filled with time for teaching, sharing testimonies and prayer. Our theme this year was "Discovering Your Call". As I spent one morning sharing with these potential missions candidates, I was reminded of how God shares and affirms His call on your life. It was an amazing week where people heard God speaking. This September we will be hosting our largest MTI (Missions Training Institute) as we have made invitations to over 20 different people considering full time missions with MBMSI. It is exciting to watch as God is calling workers to the harvest fields.

Ministry Credentialing

While I probably won't be using the title "pastor" very often, in May I was able to complete my ministry credentialing with the BC MB Conference. As part of the leadership team with MBMSI, it is valuable to have formal credentialing. It was a very good process for me in which I learned quite a bit about MB history and was able to study the MB Confession of Faith in greater detail. The passage from 1 Corinthians 3:11 (*For no one can lay any other foundation than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ.*) has held special meaning for me as it was foundational to our journey to join an MB Church. The timing of this study worked well in preparation for the strategic planning work and teaching I would be doing later in the month.

Thailand Trip

May was a very full month as I travelled with Carlin Weinbauer to Thailand for 8 days to work with our missionaries. I am so thankful that this trip was covered in prayer. It was a time filled with meetings focused on strategic planning as we worked on a 10 year plan for church planting in Thailand. With the recent registration of our Thailand MB Foundation, we now have the ability to lay the ground work for a national MB Conference of churches in Thailand. This conference will eventually become part of the global ICOMB (International Community Of Mennonite Brethren) family of churches. God is doing amazing things in Thailand!

Towards the end of our visit, Carlin & I also did some teaching during the Thailand Retreat And Consultation (TRAC). It was an incredible time of sharing and prayer. Interestingly, the theme of the TRAC event was foundations from 1 Corinthians 3:11. It is amazing to see God at work!

Shine On

One of the major communications projects that we began back in September 2008 was the Shine On videos. Our plan included sending out a set of DVDs containing 2-minute videos that could be used each month by our churches in North America. Our goal was to bring glory to God as we shared His story in mission. In the first year, we were able to tell stories of missionaries, new believers, and church members from countries like Thailand, Burkina Faso, Peru, Mexico, Portugal and the Ukraine. On our last DVD, we included a "bonus track" called Worship Him which was an inspirational collage of video footage set to music. (You can watch this video and other videos on our web site at www.mbmsiVideo.org/stories.) A huge amount of work has gone into this project over the last year and it will continue for at least one more year. Our hope is that people will see how they can Shine the light of Jesus around the world.

In All Things Pray

Carlin Weinbauer is an amazing man who has served God faithfully for over 50 years. He served with our MBMSI leadership team for a number of years and "retired" last year, but he continues to serve with MBMSI in many ways. It is a blessing whenever I have a chance to work with him. Carlin often tells me that "prayer is the work of the ministry". He reminds me not to let people walk out of my office without praying with them. I often hear his voice in my mind saying "in all things pray". The Word tells us to pray and to pray often. This last season has been a season of prayer and I wish we had prayed even more. Our times of prayer have been very encouraging and affirming. It is also time for rebuking and correction. We need God's wisdom and revelation to guide us. As my prayer life is being transformed, I am beginning to experience what it means to know "prayer as the work of the ministry". It is incredibly faith building.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your prayers. You are part of the ministry work that is being done through MBMSI. On several occasions, I have sent out special requests for prayer and I have felt God's blessings as a result of your prayers. Thank you for all your support that makes this ministry possible.

In Christ,
J.P. Hayashida