



October 24, 2009

To: Canadian Baptist Pastors
Re: **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE** for CBM Pastor's
Short-term Mission Educational Opportunity

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings in the name of Christ. I'm writing to you with a very exciting opportunity that the Lord has blessed us with and which we trust will be of particular interest and benefit to you and your ministry.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our CBM donors, we have obtained funding to cover up to 50% of the total cost per participant for a pastor's educational short-term mission trip. This donor believes strongly that pastors and their churches can benefit from a cross-cultural learning experience, but that the cost of such an opportunity is often prohibitive for them.

Therefore CBM, in partnership with the CBWC and its sister organizations in our Canadian Baptist family, is offering **scholarships of up to \$1,700 to Canadian Baptist pastors** so that they can join us in one of our pastor's educational STM opportunities.

Organized around three transformational learning trips overseas, we want to enable pastors to participate in cross-cultural, peer-learning settings around a significant global mission reality. The expected outcome is that they will be able to bring back to their congregation and local community insight and models of relevant ministry which can help shape churches, particularly those which are in periods of transition.

Obviously, many pastors would like to be part of such a cross-cultural learning experience, but funding for these scholarships in 2010 is limited to 36 candidates.

Please read over the enclosed information package carefully and consider applying for one of the 36 scholarships. Priority will be given to those pastors who (a) meet the criteria listed, and (b) apply quickly!

Again, we are so grateful to God for providing this opportunity and look forward to amazing Kingdom impact in our churches as a result of this program.

Blessings,

Blair

L. Blair Clark (Rev.)
Associate General Secretary

PS: I look forward to hearing from you shortly! Application deadline is Dec. 15th, 2009.

Pastors Short-term Mission Educational Opportunity

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OF THIS PROGRAM?

Earlier this year, CBM arranged a short-term mission educational opportunity for a cross-regional delegation of Canadian Baptist pastors. The team, led by Rev. Cal Malena, visited a number of church ministries in London, England and then continued on to Kenya, where they visited ministry sites and interacted with ministry leaders from CBM's Kenyan partners to better understand integral mission and the amazing spiritual vitality of the African church.

Several months after their return to Canada, CBM was contacted on behalf of an anonymous donor and asked to plan additional pastor's STM experiences for other Canadian Baptist pastors. The donors were so impressed by the positive impact the experience had on their pastor and their church that they wanted others to be similarly blessed.

Realizing that the cost of a short term mission trip is often a prohibitive issue for many pastors & churches, they asked us to develop a proposal for similar, cross-regional delegation trips in which they would underwrite up to half the costs per participant. We are very grateful for their vision and their generosity.

WHO CAN APPLY?

CBM, in partnership with the four regional conventions and unions, is offering **scholarships of approximately \$1,700 to Canadian Baptist pastors** currently involved in local church ministry so that they can join us in one of our educational STM opportunities:

WHERE WILL THE PASTOR'S EDUCATIONAL STM TRIPS TAKE PLACE?

June , 2010: London, England and Beirut, Lebanon. **Focus:** Urban Mission and the Challenges of Religious Minorities. Hosted by Gary Nelson.

August, 2010. Vancouver / Duncan, B.C. & Pontianak, Indonesia. **Focus:** Contextualization and Indigenous Populations. Hosted by Terry Smith.

October, 2010: Argentina and Bolivia, **Focus:** Integral Mission. Hosted by Blair Clark.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE?

In order to respect the donors' intentions, we have identified the following criteria:

1. Candidates must have a minimum of two years pastoral experience.
2. Candidates should be senior pastors or pastoral team leaders, but consideration will be given to qualified associates as space permits

3. The consent and affirmation from the church board must be obtained.
4. Preference will be given to pastors who
 - a. ... have not participated in a recent CBM international STM, and
 - b. ... are working in cross-cultural or inter-cultural contexts
 - c. ... are working in churches in transition or which are attempting to bridge significant cultural gaps with their local community
5. Recommendation from the area minister, executive minister or senior staff person of the denomination
6. CBM will strive to have good cross-regional representation on each team

WHAT ARE THE TOTAL COSTS AND HOW MUCH WILL EACH PASTOR HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE?

The total average cost per STM trip is \$3,600. Based on our preliminary budgeting for these trips, the fixed amount of the donor's contribution, and recognizing the volatility of fuel prices its impact on flight costs, we expect that the cost each participant will have to pay will be less than \$2,000.

ARE THERE ANY EXTRA COSTS?

We will also be identifying for each team a ministry need in the area that they will be visiting, and will be asking each participating pastor to have their church do some fund-raising with a goal of raising between \$500 - \$1,000 to help meet that need while building congregational interest in the place that they will be visiting.

HOW TO APPLY?

Use the attached application form to apply for this program. In addition to the application form, please also include a letter of endorsement for your participation from your church's board. Please note that you are applying to the program in general, and on the application form have an opportunity to identify your own order of preference for the three opportunities, based on timing, your church's mission and ministry foci, and your own personal interests. The final makeup of each team, however, will be determined by CBM.

IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION

If you have further questions that you wish to ask prior to applying, please direct them to me, either by phone (905-821-3533 Ext.155) or e-mail (bclark@cbmin.org) and I will look forward to discussing them with you. The deadline for submitting applications is **December 15th, 2009**.