

CNBC PASTOR CARE REPORT FOR MAY 2025

Our primary objective in Pastor Care is to help every pastor in the CNBC feel heard, seen, loved, and needed. When we use the term *pastor* in this regard, we include church planters, pastors, International Mission Board missionaries working in Canada, student workers, collegiate ministers, chaplains, and our Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary & College faculty. They are all family.

We believe healthy churches are planted, led, and multiplied by healthy leaders. Pastor Care fosters stability and growth in our leaders by expressing our love and appreciation for them often through hand-written notes, cards, flowers on occasions, small gifts at some events, and so on. We will encourage ministry leaders and their wives as they do the hard work of church planting or pastoring a church and constantly show appreciation for them and the work they do. Through events, resources, and community building with other CNBC people in their region, they will know they are loved and they're not alone.

Personal Encouragement

We have done our best work to encourage our pastors and workers across the country. Every month we mail an average of 35 hand-written encouragement cards to the senior pastors on our database. At Christmas we send a special greeting to the pastors and their families, but our best intentions in 2024 were interrupted by the postal strike. This is not a small feat, but we are determined to express love and appreciation to every worker in our CNBC family.

In Memoriam

Last year we created a memoriam video for all the pastors and workers in our CNBC family who were welcomed to glory. We intend to continue this ministry of honor at the annual Gathering in October.

Pastor Care Champions

By the grace of God, we have several men and women across the country who also encourage and connect with our pastors, workers, and spouses as often as time permits. From B.C. to Atlantic Canada, we currently enjoy the added ministry of several men and women. I am grateful to each one of them for taking on the additional task of reaching out to pastors in their own regions. They are calling, writing, sending emails, meeting for coffee, and taking pastors out for lunch on a regular basis. As each Region forms its own Regional Ministry Team in the near future, Pastor Care will become an integral part of each team's work.

Oasis Retreats

I offer assistance to the Regional Ministry Leaders and planning teams for the annual Oasis retreats when asked to do so. The national office can assist with roll up banners, PowerPoint slide templates, copies for MailChimp or newsletters, and even booklets with the theme and room to take notes. It is an honour to attend on behalf of the national office, and I believe it is one of the best contact points for pastor care that we have. The 2024-2025 round of Oasis retreats were centred on the theme "Tell the Story." Next year we will focus on "Live Sent." All events and ministries will use the same theme – CNBC Women Overflowing, Great Commission Offering, Oasis.

New Pastors Orientation

I give some leadership and oversight to the New Pastors Orientation (NPO). Prior to December 2022, we had not hosted an NPO since 2018. We have enjoyed presenting New Pastors Orientations in December 2022, March and June of 2023, April and November 2024, and March 2025. The next one is on the

calendar for December 2025. Each NPO is strategic for us. We are helping our newest pastors understand who we are and why we do what we do. It is the best opportunity we have to infuse the Kingdom, Gospel, Movement vision into their hearts. Every church planter and every pastor new to our Convention is invited, and our capable, enthusiastic staff at the Convention contributes to the overall success of each NPO.

Some of our Current Challenges

The following represent some of the ongoing challenges and opportunities in the ministry of Pastor Care.

Connection. We would love to have every CNBC worker and spouse connected to other pastors/workers in their area. Hopefully we will be successful in creating clusters of pastors and wives all across the country. Please continue to pray that we would find creative and effective ways of helping *every* worker in the CNBC feel welcomed, loved, and needed.

Communication. In an age where communication should be extremely easy because of all the options available to us (email, text, voicemail, Insta, Messenger, etc.), it is very common for pastors and others to ignore emails, requests for information, and even an invitation to a free lunch or dinner.

Consistent Giving. We still have CNBC churches that give little or nothing to the Cooperative Program. This is a challenge not only for Pastor Care but for every aspect of our work in Canada and abroad. Please pray that a spirit of generosity will be found in every CNBC church in the country.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Garth Leno