



FALL NEWSLETTER 2025

Greetings From the New Executive Director

Six years ago, my family and I moved back to Canada to engage in the mission of God in my homeland. After 20 years in church-based ministry mostly in the United States, it was clear that God was calling us to something new. We moved to Sarnia, Ontario and began working with a small but well-established group in an impoverished area in the city. When that expression of mission didn't work out as intended, I began to serve a small, rural church near Sarnia while continuing to dream about what God's expanding mission in Canada could look like. I was beyond thankful to be invited to join Mission Alive Canada, first as a board member, and now as its Executive Director. Mission Alive Canada seeks to develop, train, and equip missional leaders in both existing churches and new church plants to carry out the mission of God wherever they find themselves—in communities, neighbourhoods, and workplaces. I am excited to partner with God on this journey of growing Mission Alive Canada as part of God's expanding reach in Canada!



Mission is Everywhere

My family took our summer vacation in the beautiful Bruce Peninsula along the northeastern shores of Lake Huron. Days were spent exploring Tobermory, taking ship cruises over old shipwrecks, and paddleboarding at beaches, each one like a new gem filled with crystal-clear water and gorgeous landscapes. Nights were spent, well, otherwise, as each return trip to our hotel led us to a new surprise—a broken coffeemaker, an air conditioning unit that couldn't keep up, mold in the lobby coffeepot, a dehumidifier that didn't work properly, and the worst—a declined credit card. It was a comedy of errors for the ages.

My natural inclination was to be angry, and I'd be lying if I didn't admit that as my first reaction. But instead of letting these things ruin my vacation, I was able to make a turn toward understanding, and to let things play out in a better way. I recognized the humanity of the front desk worker who was doing her best to create a welcoming environment, the busy-ness of hotel

staff who served guests all day long, and the harried life of the owner who seemed to spend his days troubleshooting problems throughout the hotel.

I had a conversation with this owner when he brought a dehumidifier to our room to help address some moisture issues we were having. It was clear he expected me to be upset, but I smiled at him and thanked him for doing what he could and recognized that he had a lot going on. This owner adhered to a different religion, and I was able to engage him in gentle conversation about religion in general. He introduced himself by name and shook my hand when he left the room.

What changed for me? I had been reading an excellent book called *My Vertical Neighborhood: How Strangers Became a Community* by Lynda MacGibbon (IVP, 2021). In the book, Lynda describes her move from eastern Canada to the isolation of apartment life in Toronto (her vertical neighbourhood), determined to live as a Christian in this new place. She befriended several of the apartment residents over the weeks and months, and engaged in such activities as communal meal nights, Bible studies, writing and book clubs, and service opportunities as they arose. People came and went, but there was always a core nucleus group who stayed together, investigating new and interesting ways of trying to introduce others to the way of Jesus.

The book opened my eyes to the mission all around us that we often miss out on. We wait for someone else to do it; we bemoan missed opportunities; we want the church to organize something for us. But mission is everywhere if we open our eyes and seek where God already is. Where God is, is where we find mission.

- Will you take just a few minutes after work to listen to a coworker share what they are struggling with?
- Will you walk your neighbourhood at night and smile and say hello to neighbours?
- Will you take a meal to the family down the block who just had a baby?
- Will you open your home to a community book club that might build relationships that actually lead somewhere?

Following God on his mission intersects with these small moments that we miss if we are not paying attention and are waiting for someone else to organize us. The question is, how do we cultivate sensitivity to the Spirit of God, to hear his call, and to be led by him to where he would lead us?

This is one of the ways in which Mission Alive Canada can help. Through our Discipleship Cohorts, you will learn how to listen to and follow the gentle voice of God into mission. Through coaching, you and your team will learn how to lead and equip others to do the same. And for those of you who feel called, we can help you explore what it would mean to plant a missional community, a microchurch, or even a missional small group right where you already are.

Are you ready to dream big? Are you ready to dive into the stream of God's mission? Reach out and let's talk! Connect with me at missionalivecanada@gmail.com.

What's Happening at MAC?

- We attended a men's retreat and a Restoration Movement Heritage Barbeque in September. It was great to get out and meet new people and reconnect with old friends!
- We are looking to launch a new group to explore missional immersion in your own context—if you would like to journey together for 13 weeks to build on your commitments to Christ, community, and mission, reach out here.
- We are working with the Newmarket Church of Christ to help them locate and establish a Neighbourhood Minister for the great work they are doing in their immediate community. Learn more about them and why they are seeking a Neighbourhood Minister at newmarketchurchofchrist.ca/. Follow the Parish House link. To learn more about their Neighbourhood Minister position, scan the QR code.



- **Join Us On the Journey:** Share resources—help us bring this mission across Canada, even to your neighbourhood!
- If you want to stay connected to what Mission Alive Canada is doing, scan this QR code.

