

26 FEBRUARY 2023

MANITOBA-SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Charles Ed II Aguilar**

**PRESIDENT**

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# 1. LEADERSHIP SUMMIT REPORT

Every January, many conferences and missions around the Adventist world organize their pastors' meetings. Some conferences refer to them as "workers' meetings."

For the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference, we decided to call these meetings "Leadership Summit."

And last week's leadership summit was a huge success!

We brought together an inspiring group of people—pastors, chaplains, principals, care home CEOs, and administrative staff—to connect over their shared experiences in ministry.



Centred around Strength in Unity (Ephesians 4:1–16), these amazing leaders discussed how they could use collaboration to overcome any challenge that comes their way.

Plus, we had the honoured presence of a local church elder who contributed richly to this stimulating experience for all present!

Following Ellen White's advice, *"Whether superiors, inferiors, or equals, your work is, to begin with, your own heart. Humble yourself before God. Come into the right connection with Him by yielding to the creative power of the Holy Spirit. Then will be seen in the church the unity that is of value in God's sight. There will be sweet harmony, and all the buildings, fitly framed together, will grow into a holy temple in the Lord."*

As leaders, we must learn how to guard ourselves against divisive mechanisms such as fault finding, misinterpreting mission motives, circulating insinuations, arousing suspicion, and breaking confidence in leaders' integrity.

By coming together and staying united, we can overcome these divisive forces and be successful in our mission work.



The overarching objectives of the leadership summit were twofold: First, we wanted to equip leaders with actionable information and insights they could use in their ministry. Second, we wanted to build a strong network of leader-to-leader connections that would allow collaboration and unity across all ministries in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.

We stayed at the Manitou Hotel in Saskatchewan. While learning and networking were essential objectives, we also wanted our leaders to be rejuvenated. It is a beautiful hotel, home to the Dead Sea of Canada, a mineral lake with enough salt to make you float.



After the meetings, the summit participants can enjoy the hot mineral pool and continue discussing ministry and life.

On the last night of the summit, while relaxing in the hot mineral pool at the resort, I had a chance to connect with Pastor Neil Tagarao (Chaplain for West Park Manor Care Home) and Pastor Federico Cella (District Pastor for Weyburn & Estevan Church).

Pastor Neil had felt the call to attend the leadership summit for a while. However, he needed to find out if it was right. After all, his family already had so much going on, and it would be difficult for him to take time away from them. But in the end, Pastor Neil knew this was God's calling and decided to proceed with his plans to attend.

At first glance, he thought it was just another “*pastors meeting*,” where administrators would talk about lofty ideals without providing any real actionable information or insights.

He soon realized how wrong he was as each presenter spoke passionately and knowledgeably about authentic and inspiring leadership—from servant leadership models—to preventing sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse—to learning about the history of Adventist heresy—to breaking down ministry silos—as well as developing healthier systems and strategic frameworks for accountability.



During one of the talks on heretical teachings, Pastor Neil felt empowered when the presenter gave concrete examples of addressing heresies (anti-Trinity, sinless perfection/last-generation theology, etc.) respectfully yet effectively.

He took notes throughout the session, but what really stayed with him were all the amazing conversations he had with fellow leaders from different backgrounds who were unified under one goal: making sure every ministry has strong leaders dedicated to serving God's people in their communities.

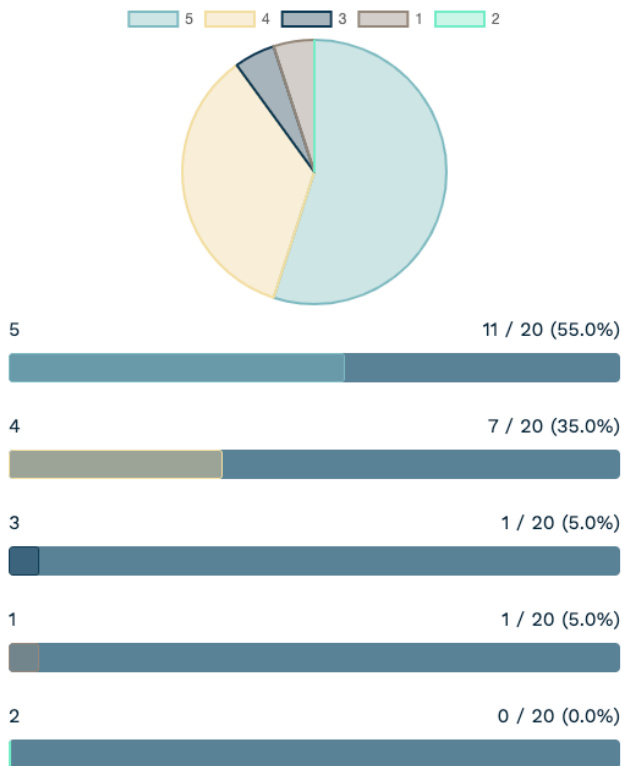
After three days of learning and networking at the leadership summit, Pastor Neil left feeling inspired and ready to put into practice everything he learned during this invaluable experience!

### Post Summit Survey

Over **80%** of the survey participants were satisfied with the leadership summit, and **100%** affirmed that the summit objectives were met.

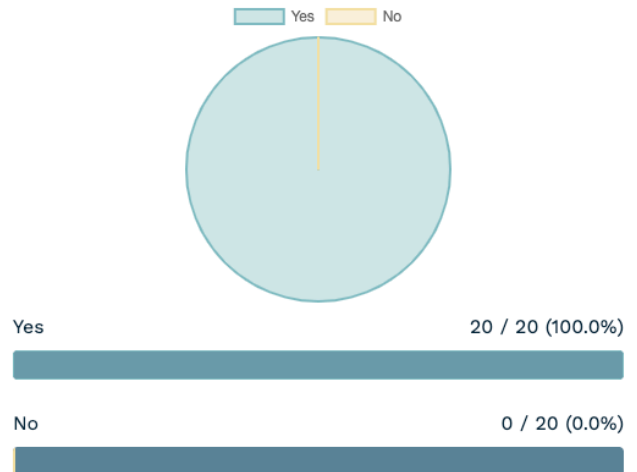
How satisfied were you with the event?

20 out of 20 people answered this question.



Were the leadership summit objectives met?

20 out of 20 people answered this question.



### Ratings

1. Elder Cyril Millett-SDACC (Parable of the Chairs & Breaking Down Silos): **98%**
2. Steve Matthews-ADRA Canada (Leadership Lessons, Preventing Sexual Harassment, Exploitation & Abuse & How ADRA Can Help Your Ministry): **91%**
3. Pastor Michael Dauncey-It Is Written Canada (Leadership Lessons & How Can IIW Canada Help Your Ministry): **89%**
4. Vinny Menslin-Burman University (Leadership Lessons & How Can Burman Help Your Ministry): **71%**
5. Pastor Cliff Holms (Update on Employment Standards): **75%**
6. Elder Ron Hetland & Pastor Charles (Mission Strategic Framework): **88%**
7. Dr. Michael Campbell-NAD (History of Adventist Heresy): **90%**
8. Venue & Hotel: **88%**
9. Food: **80%**
10. Games Night: **85%**
11. Overall Program Schedule (number & duration of sessions): **76%**
12. Program Package (folder, snacks & print materials): **77%**

### Feedback

#### 1. What was your favourite experience or moment of the leadership summit?

- A. My favourite experience was the team building when we went bowling...my best takeaway was Dr. Michael Campbell's presentations because we have all encountered people/situations he talked about. It empowered me that we need to deal with them sooner than later.
- B. I had two experiences. I loved the "chair" activity and the session on how churches and schools can work together. This has been a concern for many years in all conferences. I am excited to see us start

*merging our ministries and eliminate the lines of separation. Since the leadership changes last spring, the admin has been influential in keeping us all-inclusive. This is very exciting.*

- C. My favourite experience was working on the mission and visions of the conference collaboratively and spending time with the team and the presentations.*
- D. My favourite experience or moment of the leadership summit was the food and fellowship. As pastors, we seldom have time to spend together to work as a team to better our churches as a whole. We came together to develop ideas to help us progress as a team.*

**2. What would have made this summit better?**

- A. It would be nice to have some more stretch breaks and brain breaks. Much good information and it was so cram-packed. An extra day would be beneficial for time spacing.*
- B. Keeping to the schedule to allow for actual breaks between sessions and not having speakers during meals for more interaction between the people attending.*
- C. Less sitting back-to-back lectures every day and more rest to make the most of the venue/location to walk, swim, process/practice information, sleep, and connect with others.*
- D. Child care so that I could attend more sessions :)*

**3. What was your biggest takeaway from the summit?**

- A. My biggest takeaway is how we are changing as a conference, and everyone and every ministry is included. I love the new strategic framework. I think this should be introduced on the church and school board levels. I love how the admin is so supportive of us leaders and is trying so hard to connect and support us as fellow leaders. I can see that God is working on these changes to our conference, which is fantastic. God bless the administration as you listen to God's still, small voice. You are in my prayers as we move forward.*
- B. My biggest takeaway from the summit is that we will accomplish the mission sooner when we work together and support one another rather than working in silos.*
- C. Surround yourself with the best leaders, and don't be afraid to surrender your leadership to someone more capable of leading a God's organization.*
- D. There are others out there who are having the same difficulties as me and have people to connect and sympathize with.*

**4. What topics would you want to see more of at future leadership summits?**

- A. Health and community outreach (including how to reach small communities)*
- B. I would like to see a time when principals/teachers can break away and have a speaker to help them in their ministry. It would also be helpful for a speaker explicitly address how to reach/the concerns our youth face today. That said, it would be nice to have a time when the youth director network with the pastors and discuss how they can support the youth in their church's schools.*
- C. How can the SDA Church in Canada, through the local conferences, enhance the quality of life for the workforce using the gifts and resources in more meaningful ways by thinking outside of the box and showing a genuine sense of care and effort to improve all aspects of the gospel workers' lives?*
- D. Spiritual Abuse and Sexual Abuse within the Church.*
- E. More about the relevance of our faith in today's society & working with people who struggle or don't have the same views.*
- F. Personal growth, leadership, time management, church administration tips.*
- G. Running effective meetings. Strategic planning. Connecting with your community leaders etc.*
- H. Practical ways to involve youth. More on handling theological conflicts and presentation on existing resources within NAD.*
- I. Health - Mental and Physical; Have Dr. Campbell come again to be more in-depth; Violent Threat Assessments.*
- J. Effectively teaching Bible studies or seminars.*

## 2. MISSION STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (MSF)

In 2015, the Executive Committee of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference voted on its mission and visions. However, there was no strategic framework that bridges the mission and the visions and also makes administration, pastors, chaplains, principals, teachers, care home CEOs, etc., accountable for how the conference is doing in its journey to accomplishing the mission of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference.

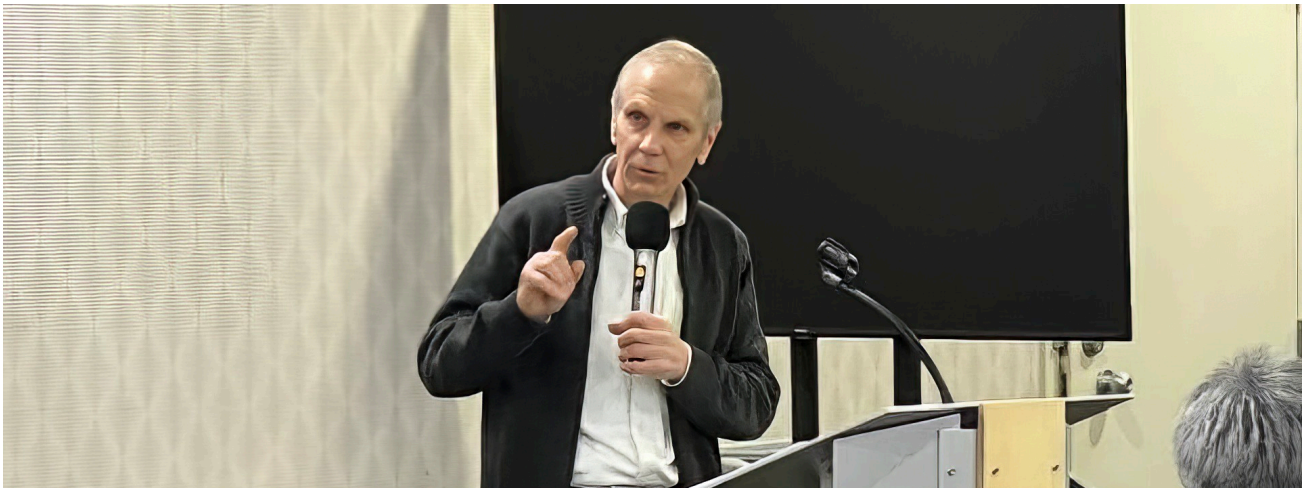
### **The Need for a Strategic Framework**

A strategic framework is a visual outline of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference's overarching strategy. It serves as the foundation for messaging and organizing priorities, and it is designed to inspire and demonstrate how the conference is working towards its mission, vision and goals.

Many existing strategic frameworks exist (BASICs, REACH, TAO, PLANT, etc.). However, we wanted a strategic framework that pays homage to the history and pioneers of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference and is relatable to the two provinces.

### **The Process**

With the recommendation of Pastor Ron Marshall, we engaged and consulted with Elder Ron and Patti Hetland of the Quill Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church, who presented at the leadership summit the agricultural methods that Canadian prairie farmers would go through the season.



The summit participants then presented the implications of the Canadian prairie agricultural methods to the mission application.

1. Preparing the Soil
2. Planting the Seed
3. Crop Care & Protection
4. Harvest
5. The Usefulness of the Harvest

After the groups had presented what it means for their local ministries, they discussed how the 12 vision statements of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference fit into the agricultural methods.





The result of the group discussion and activity.



12 Visions	Mission Strategic Framework					
	Preparing the Soil	Planting the Seed	Crop Care & Protection	Harvest	Usefulness of the Harvest	
United Prayer	4	4	4	5	4	4
Preaching	2	3	3	1	1	1
Camp Whitesand/Summer Camp	3	3	3	1	1	1
Schools	3	4	1	1	1	1
Training	4	1	1	1	1	2
Evaluation	4	1	1	1	1	2
Worship	2	2	3	3	3	2
Small Groups	2	2	3	3	3	2
Growth	1	2	2	3	3	3
Camp Meeting	2	2	2	3	3	2
Outreach	1	2	1	2	2	1
TMI/Participation	2	2	1	2	2	4

The mission of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference is to develop a culture of making disciples and healthy churches that help connect people in their communities to Jesus.

**Mission Strategic Framework**

Preparing the Soil (Community Assessment/Outreach)	Planting the Seed of God's Word	Care & Protection of Relationships	Harvest (Public Evangelism)	Usefulness of the Harvest (Spiritual Gifts)
United Prayer	United Prayer	United Prayer	United Prayer	United Prayer
Training	Schools	Preaching (Righteousness by Faith)	Worship	TMI/Participation
Evaluation		Summer Camp	Small Groups	
		Worship	Growth	
		Small Groups	Camp Meeting	

**Full Description of Vision Statements**

**United Prayer:** Foster a United Prayer emphasis for all our churches to strengthen the urgency of our mission for God.

**Preaching:** Uplift the importance of the preaching of a Righteousness by Faith in all the churches.

**Camp Whitesand/Summer Camp:** Reach children and youth conference-wide through Camp Whitesand.

**Schools:** The culture of our schools will be community and outreach focused equipping teachers, staff, and Adventist parents in the mission school paradigm.

**Training:** Area training for broad spectrum communicability service including health ministries.

**Evaluation:** Evaluate our territory to strategically accelerate church and school planting initiatives.

**Worship:** Cultivate a worship and guest care consciousness that builds relationships between unchurched people and God.

**Small Groups:** Develop small groups in every church as a major source of relationship building for the community to become integrated into the church family.

**Growth:** Double the number of churches in our mission territory, double attendance.

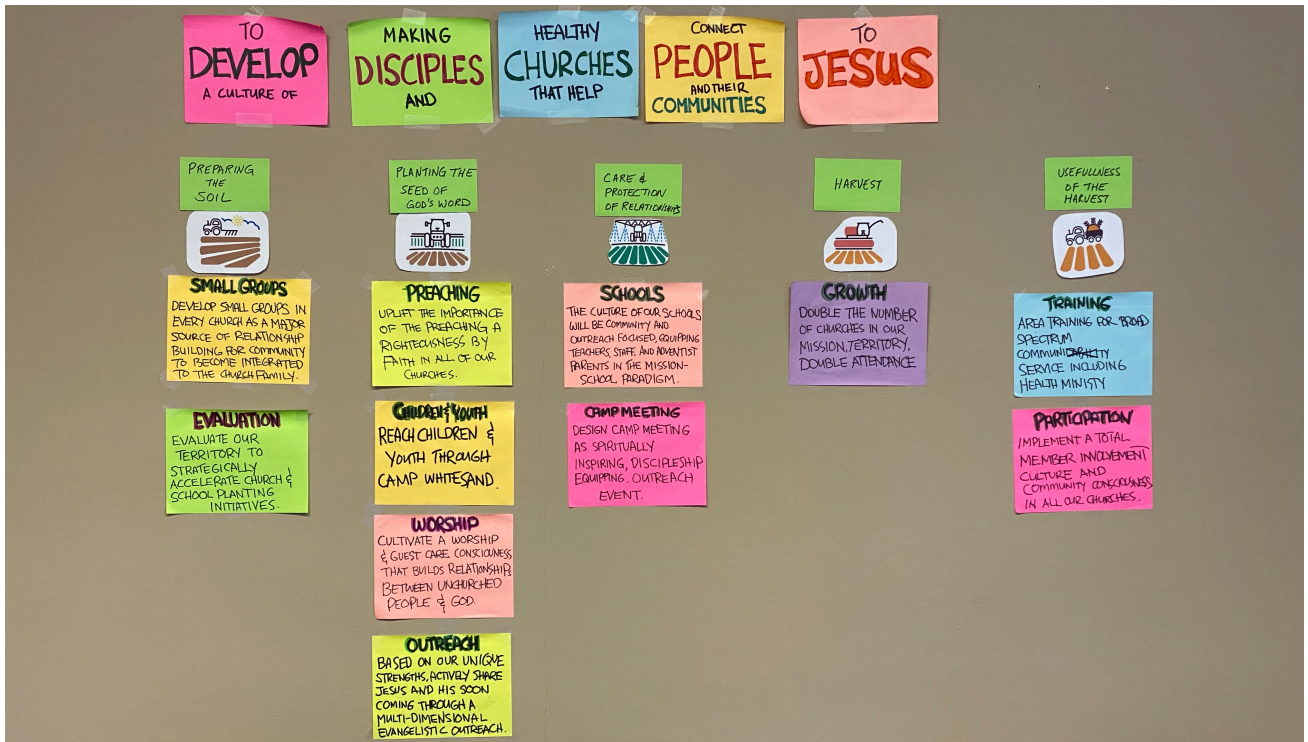
**Camp Meeting:** Design Camp Meeting as a spiritually inspiring, discipleship equipping, and outreach event.

**Outreach:** Based on our unique strengths, actively share Jesus and His soon coming with the Man-Sask Conference area through a multidimensional evangelistic outreach.

**TMI/Participation:** Implement a Total Member Involvement culture and community consciousness in all our churches.



The office staff, together with Pastor Waldemar, Pastor Carvel and Pastor Etienne, went on to refine the mission strategic framework.





## Seventh-day Adventist® Church

MANITOBA SASKATCHEWAN  
CONFERENCE

# MISSION STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Mission Strategic Framework (MSF) is a consultative and participatory process that brings together the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference's mission and vision.

The objective of the Mission Strategic Framework is to provide local churches, schools, and care homes the training and resources they need to develop a culture of making disciples and healthy environments for faith to grow.

### Five Pillars of the Framework

The MSF uses the *"agricultural method"* of discipleship that Jesus taught. This method sees discipleship as a process. Jesus told the story of the sower, in which the seed is God's Word and the soil is the heart of the hearers. (see Luke 8:11, 12, 15) And He said that all people were like *"fields"* that were *"ready for harvest."* (John 4:35)

In consultation with Elder Ron and Patti Hetland of the Quill Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church and using Jesus' harvest cycle as a guide, we adapted the harvest cycle to fit the Canadian farming model in five essential stages:

#### Preparing the Soil



#### Planting the Seed



#### Crop Care & Protection



#### Harvest



#### Usefulness of the Harvest



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**OBJECTIVE: Community Services**

*"The sowers of the seed have a work to do in preparing hearts to receive the gospel... In Christlike sympathy, we should come close to people individually and seek to awaken their interest in the great things of eternal life. Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently, it may be a useless effort to present the Saviour to them; but while logic may fail to move and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, revealed in service may soften the stony heart so that the seed of truth can take root."*

*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 57*

**STEP 1: PREPARING THE SOIL**



As a Canadian prairie farmer preparing for planting season, many essential tasks are done before seeds can be sown. First, it is essential to study the cropping history and crop growing analysis to select varieties of crops that will do well in the local environment. Secondly, understanding weed threats is also necessary to develop strategies to control them during the season. Thirdly, financial projections should also be made to maximize returns on investment. And finally, after all the preliminary work is finished, soil moisture conditions need to be monitored to know when it is time for planting.

**MISSION APPLICATION**

The first phase in the process is to prepare the **soil of the heart**. When the church comes close to people in service, we show that we care and gain their confidence. Acts of loving kindness help to prepare hearts to receive the truth of the gospel.

**POTENTIAL MINISTRY PARTNERS**

ADRA Canada, AdventHealth, Burman University; Lighthouse FM; Hope Channel Canada

**METHODS**

Prayer & Fasting; Learn About Your Community, Listen to Community Members & Leaders; Bring People Together to Develop a Shared Vision; Assess Community Needs, Issues & Gaps; Help Community Members to Recognize & Articulate Areas of Concern & Causes; Establish a Vehicle for Change; Develop Action Plan; Implement Action Plan; Evaluate Results of Actions; Reflect & Regroup

**OBJECTIVE: Friendship Evangelism**



**STEP 2: PLANTING THE SEED**

As the Canadian prairie farmer prepares to plant the seed, the seeder machine is checked, and the seed quality is inspected to ensure the seed is suitable for planting. It's essential to adjust the seeding rate accordingly and consider when to plant, as this affects water absorption and nutrient availability of germinating plants. The seeding machine's ground speed also needs to be considered when seeds are being planted, as this affects how well each seed absorbs water and how much soil contact it makes for them to start growing. An inoculant is also essential as it increases crop yields by adding beneficial bacteria to the soil. This helps break down organic matter more efficiently, ultimately contributing to healthy root growth.

**METHODS**

Prayer & Fasting; Seek to understand the needs of friends; Sharing Jesus in the workplace/marketplace/playground; Home fellowships

**MISSION APPLICATION**

The next step is to **plant seeds of spiritual truth**. We do this by bringing spiritual topics into our conversations and sharing our stories with the people we know. This approach is called *"Friendship Evangelism."*

When the soil of the heart is ready, planting the seed of God's Word can spark spiritual interest. We must plant these seeds if we ever want to have a spiritual harvest: *"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."* (2 Corinthians 9:6)

By studying the Bible with people we know and care about, we plant the **seed of the Gospel** in their lives. By doing this, we plant seeds of interest, hope, questions, and conviction that can lead to faith in Jesus. A person must meet Jesus in the Bible to become a disciple.

**POTENTIAL MINISTRY PARTNERS**

Burman University

**OBJECTIVE: Vibrant  
Christ-Centred  
Bible Studies**



## STEP 3: CROP CARE & PROTECTION

After planting the seed, prairie farmers take several steps to care for and protect the crop. First, roguing is essential as it helps to identify and remove any weak or diseased plants during the growing period. This ensures that only healthy, high-yielding crops are harvested to maximize the harvest. Optionally, herbicides and insecticides can help minimize pest damage and weed threats; this helps keep yields higher by reducing losses due to insects or weeds competing for resources needed for a successful harvest. Pre-harvest coordination is also crucial since farmers can anticipate potential problems and make any necessary adjustments before harvesting begins. Lastly, pre-harvest inspections are conducted to assess crop conditions and determine if any issues could affect yield quality; this ensures that farmers can adjust their approach to harvest successfully.

### MISSION APPLICATION

After preparing the soil of the heart through community service and planting the seed of God's Word through friendship evangelism, the next step in the harvest cycle is to **care for and protect the growing spiritual interest of our friends**. This is the most complex and most time-consuming part of the harvesting process, and the best way to do this is through ongoing Christ-centred Bible studies: *"Like babies that were just born, you should long for the pure milk of God's word. It will help you grow up as believers."* (1 Peter 2:2)

### POTENTIAL MINISTRY PARTNERS

Burman University; Discovery Bible Guides; Picture of God; It Is Written Canada; Native New Day (SDACC Indigenous Ministries); GC Adventist Mission (Adventist—Muslim Relations; Adventist—Buddhist Relations; Adventist Hindu—Relations; Adventist—Jewish Relations; etc)

### METHODS

Prayer & Fasting;  
Thematic;  
Prophecy; Word  
Study; Sabbath  
School; Creative  
Devotional; Health  
& Wholeness;  
Righteousness by  
Faith

**OBJECTIVE: Public Evangelism**



## STEP 4: THE HARVEST

During the harvest of the crop, Canadian prairie farmers take several steps. First, they prepare their storehouse by ensuring the building is dry, ventilated, and sufficiently insulated before the grain is brought in. Secondly, any harvesting equipment is serviced and in good condition—this ensures that it runs efficiently and minimizes losses due to mechanical failure or breakdowns during harvesting. Thirdly, harvest timing is also essential as this affects quality and yields; more than early or too late can reduce yields significantly or cause changes in quality. Additionally, combine settings must be set just right to ensure efficient harvesting without causing damage to the grain, while moisture content must also be monitored closely. This helps control mycotoxin levels that can impact safety and quality during and after storage.

### METHODS

Prayer & Fasting; Health and Lifestyle Evangelism; Daniel and Revelation Evangelism; Family Life Evangelism Programs

### MISSION APPLICATION

After the care and protection of friends with ongoing Christ-centred Bible studies, it is time to reap a harvest of **spiritual decisions**—leading people to commitment decisions.

### POTENTIAL MINISTRY PARTNERS

Burman University; It Is Written Canada; Voice of Prophecy; AdventHealth; NEWSTART; CREATION LIFE

*“And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

**Luke 10:2**



**OBJECTIVE: Exploring  
Spiritual Gifts**



**STEP 5: USEFULNESS OF THE HARVEST**



After the crop harvest, Canadian prairie farmers take several steps to ensure success for the next season and return on investments. First, a tithe is typically paid as a religious duty, thanking God for the harvest. Secondly, some grains are saved for profit or to cover expenses during difficult times. Additionally, some grains are stored for replanting later, guaranteeing a successful crop for the next year without buying new seeds. Furthermore, some seeds are stored until market conditions are optimal or as insurance against potential losses due to weather or disease. Lastly, it is essential that the harvest is not squandered since wasting precious resources can lead to losses in return on investments.

**MISSION APPLICATION**

After the joy of the harvest, our discipleship process continues with identifying the spiritual gifts of the new disciples. Jesus called us to make disciples. To do so requires that the new disciples' **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** are used intentionally and systematically after baptism. The church must nurture new church members and train them to engage in the discipleship process. *"Then Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.'" (Mark 1:17)*

**METHODS**

Prayer & Fasting; Spiritual Gifts Assessment and Training

**POTENTIAL MINISTRY PARTNERS**

Burman University

*"Let all be taught how to work. Especially should those who are newly come to the faith be educated to become labourers together with God."*

**Christian Service, p. 69**

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The Mission Strategic Framework will be reflected in the following platforms:

1. Prairie Horizon
2. Conference Advance Offering, Readings, Envelops & Videos
3. Websites & Social Media
4. Funding & Fundraising Initiatives
5. Etc.

## 2. PASTORAL PLACEMENT UPDATES

Through the Man-Sask website, we have received more than 70 applicants and have installed pastors for the following churches:

1. Pinehouse Drive (*I'm still working on the news report*)
2. New Perspective (*News here: [https://www.mansaskadventist.ca/news/news\\_1/new-perspective-community-sda-church-welcomes-new-pastors](https://www.mansaskadventist.ca/news/news_1/new-perspective-community-sda-church-welcomes-new-pastors)*)
3. Henderson Highway (*News to be published after the installation service on March 18*).
4. West Park (*News to be published after the installation service on April 1*).
5. Silver Heights (*News to be published after the installation service on March 11*).

We are in the urgent mode of analyzing data from the following churches/districts:

1. Brandon/Erickson/Portage District
2. Prince Albert District
3. Hudson Bay District
4. Swift Current District
5. Living Hope District

**Target dates to fill the vacant districts: May 2023**