

Our Canadian churches need us.

assistcx.org/canada



Dear friends,

I am writing to you from Canada to tell you about some significant changes, challenges and opportunities that are impacting our work here.

First, allow me to give you some background that led us to where we are today:

As you may know, we started Assist Church Expansion six years ago to help churches in the U.S. and Canada with revitalization, restarts, vision refreshes, campusing, and church planting. During this time, we've seen God do amazing things in the U.S. Over the past six years, we have worked with over 40 churches in a variety of situations and needs to accomplish exactly what we set out to do: plant, revitalize, restart, adopt and help. God took our small team of 3 missionary families and grew it to include over 7 full- and part-time staff, and 4 occasional coaches.

However, despite all the positive growth we've seen in our Fellowship in the USA, it has come at a cost to Canada. At the time of Assist's launch there was so much need in the USA that it required nearly all our time and focus. I was spending about 90% of my time working with our USA churches, leaving only 10% to give to our Canadian churches.

Canada's shifting landscape

Sadly, the challenges facing our mission in Canada are not limited to leadership resources; our Canadian churches have experienced other losses. The progress we've made in Canada has been set back significantly by a combination of COVID lockdowns, cultural shifts and economic strain among other factors. In recent findings by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, weekly religious service attendance (which includes all religions) in Canada has dropped to just 7% in 2023. In addition, 54% of Canadians express no religious affiliation and only 8% claim affiliation to the evangelical church.

To cope with these impacts, Renew Church in Ontario had to consolidate its four campuses into one which is meeting at a rental location on Sunday afternoons. GracePointe Community Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta has permanently closed. Community of Hope Church in Vancouver remains healthy, but has stalled in its growth.

Reviving the work in Canada

My heart has been aching for Canada and I want to see the mission move forward again. I am writing this to you because I believe God is calling us to do just that, and we are going to need your help to make it happen.

To begin, Beth and I will refocus as full-time missionaries in Canada. During my time working to launch Assist Church Expansion, we were focused on raising funds for Assist as an organization in place of our missionary support for the work we do in Canada. Because of that, our personal mission support was reduced significantly.

The way forward

We will need to raise the remainder of our support to provide for ministry engagement in Canada. Our fundraising for GFC from the USA will benefit missionary support, recruitment, internships, leadership development, and resources for our churches. We will need to raise \$130,000 and we are halfway there.

We are eager to get back to focusing our attention on Canada, and we believe God will help us strengthen our existing churches, build a team, recruit and disciple future leaders, and start new churches in Canada.

We would be grateful for your financial help to reach this goal and we covet your prayers for this is a spiritual battle that must be fought with spiritual weapons.

Thank you for considering how you can partner with us to do God's work in Canada.



Sincerely,

Philip and Beth Bryant

Missionaries to Canada

Grace Fellowship Canada

LEARN MORE



GIVE



Canada needs us.



Since starting our mission in Canada in 1998, we have witnessed the country's transformation into a post-Christian nation. The survey findings below from the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada demonstrate how dire the need for Christ's Church in Canada has become.

