

MENNONITE MISSION HEALTH ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
October 5 and 6, 2007
Portage Avenue Church, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

October 5, 2007, 7:30 PM Public Meeting

October 6, 2007, 8:00 AM Committee Meetings

October 6, 2007, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM Board Meeting

October 6, 2007 4:30 PM to 4:45 PM Separate Meetings of US and Canadian Board Members

Present: Ferd Pauls (President), Doug Cressman (treasurer), David Wiebe (Chairman on October 6), Peter Block, Bob Buhr, John Martens, Murray Nickel and Ray Harms-Wiebe (MBMSI), Glen Miller, Peter Kroeker, Rick Hamm (Friday only), Helmut Huebert (secretary)

Visitors from MMHH: Pakisa Tshimika, Gail Newell, Dalton Reimer

Regrets: Tom Klein, Dean Gaddam

October 5 meeting chaired by Ferd Pauls

- 1) Opening remarks and prayer by Travis Reimer, Pastor of Portage Avenue Church. He researched "Acts 29" ministries around the globe. Getting the good news of the kingdom of God is not yet complete.
- 2) Recognition of Peter Block
David Wiebe gave a history of Peter's involvement in medical work in India, Ethiopia and Nepal as well as his current volunteering. Peter gave insight into his path to be a doctor and a missionary. There were hard times, but there was much joy. An important scripture passage for Peter has been II Corinthians 4:15-16. Both Peter and his wife Arlene were honoured.
- 3) Mama Makeka House of Hope (MMHH)
Report by Gail Newel, who is an Obs/Gyne consultant, also on the board
 - i) East Congo has been virtually cut off from the world, and many atrocities have been committed, especially against women
 - ii) Near the Rwandan border, around Goma and Bukavu
 - iii) At least 100,000 women and girls have been raped, likely many more; there are also many refugees
 - iv) Gender based genocide has now been termed "Femicide"
 - v) Walungu Hospital has a Traumatic Fistula Program, which involves surgical repair of the injuries which often result from rape, as well as dealing with the associated social problems. In 2005 they dealt with 205 rape survivors, in 2006 with 169
 - vi) MMHH supports this program, and through them MMHA also supports it
- 4) Alto Refugio (The High Shelter) report from Frank Duerksen - This is an HIV/AIDS help program in Asuncion
- 5) Presentation by Pakisa Tshimika, Executive Director of MMHH
 - i) How can we do better in low resource countries?
 - ii) Generally small NGOs are the most effective

October 6 meeting chaired by David Wiebe

- 1) Opening prayer by David Wiebe
- 2) Acceptance of minutes
 - a) Oct 20-21, 2006 Board Meeting
 - b) May 5, 2007 Executive Telephone Meeting (ratified)
- 3) President's Report - Ferd Pauls- Read and accepted
- 4) Financial Report - Doug Cressman
 - a) Financial Statement
"Audited" report was reviewed
Still working on Can/US correlation

M/S/C that the report for the year 2006 be accepted

The report should state that this represents the Canadian statement only. The hope is that for the next year it will be a completely consolidated statement (Canada/US)
Finance Committee Report - 2 recommendations

M/S/C that MMHA proceed to register directly with CIDA

- i) The Chair to discuss with Ernie Dyck whether this is possible
 - ii) At this time administrative overhead is low. Discussion was whether we need to charge administrative overhead on all projects - at this time we are charging on only one project. Recommendation is that for now we continue with our present system.
- 5) Constitution - Ferd Pauls- The Constitution has been updated
Article V
 - i) The function of the Personnel Committee will be taken over by the Executive
 - ii) The Communications Committee chair will be part of the ExecutiveArticle VII - For Board Members un-excused absence from three meetings will make that person ineligible for a further term

M/S/C That we ratify the proposed changes of the Constitution

- 6) Committee Reports
 - a) Executive - Ferd Pauls - No additional items to report. Continue to function as we are doing now
 - b) Finance - has already reported
 - c) Communications - Glen Miller - There are 227 on the mailing list
 - d) Human Resources - function now taken over by the Executive
 - e) Constitution - has been dealt with
- 7) MMHA Relationships
 - a) MBMSI - Ray Harms-Wiebe Have traditionally worked together in India and Congo. MBMSI has been involved in the initiation of MMHA. Are currently working together in the Congo Medicine Credit Project with CIDA. MBMSI is now studying "What does it mean to be holistic?" Holiness, Health. Actually better described as "Wholistic". We are thankful for the cooperation in the past, present, and look forward to the future

- b) MCC - have explored whether relationship can be pursued. Probably not possible to have a relationship down in writing. May need to work on a country by country basis at local levels, with specific projects
- c) MMHH - Pakisa Tshimika, Gail Newel and Dalton Reimer - Current involvement in Medicine Credit in Congo. Looking at Health Zones. "Beauty from Ashes" in Eastern Congo. Centered at the Walungu Hospital, a project treating Traumatic Fistulas. Wish to have a centre in Kinshasa, a place to stay, and work. Sports programs

M/S/C That we participate in the training involved regarding Traumatic Fistula Repair at the Walungu Hospital

- d) AMMC - Murray Nickel - Started as funding for 2 meetings of the Congolese Mennonite Association of Medical Doctors. Last meeting was January 2005; now nothing is happening. We need to encourage the group, so will keep it on the budget (\$3,000), and let them know it is there
- e) Tshikadji - John Martens - Plan to take a group of medically related people to see the facility, to make them aware of it and also to make connections. This is a good training centre; a 9 month program of internship is possible. Cost per internship is \$2,300. Probably 2 per year is reasonable
- f) Mtshabezi - Pakisa Tshimika - The program is good, although at present there is no physician
- g) Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association - Invited MMHA to join them

M/S/C To explore, and join if the fee is not more than \$100

8) Projects

- a) India (Jadcherla) - David Wiebe
 - i) Dr Arnold has had a vision for a medical college for many years
 - (1) The development of the medical college is proceeding
 - (2) Total cost of the project would be about \$12,500,000
 - (3) Mortgages, sale of land etc has been used for funding
 - (4) Aiming to begin classes August 2008
 - (5) The hospital itself is still functioning, although most of the energy is expended on the medical school
 - ii) Short Term people
 - (1) Need to encourage people to go
 - (2) At the present, this would be to help the hospital as it is
 - (3) If the medical school is established even more need for cooperation

M/S/C That we continue to make money available (\$5,000) for people to travel to Jadcherla to keep in contact

- iii) Concordia Hospital has accepted Jadcherla as a project, to which employees can contribute through a check-off on their pay cheques. Helmut Huebert made a presentation there on Oct 2, providing additional information to the employees

- b) Congo
 - i) Walungu Project - \$20,000 for first year, \$18,000 for the second year
 - ii) AMMC - \$3,000
 - iii) Congo Education Project - \$9,200 for internship at Tshikadji at \$2,300 each
 - iv) Publishing a book on Emergency Medicine Handbook compiled by Murray Nickel. Cost \$12,500; private funding has been provided. 2,000 copies will be printed; to be produced in Congo. Will be sold for under \$10 each.

M/S/C that Projects i, ii, iii, and iv be approved

- v) There are 3 excellent books written by Maurice King, which could be very helpful in Congo, relating to primary surgery, trauma and anaesthesia; produced by Oxford University Press. Thought is that these could be translated into French. Murray Nickel and John Martens to explore the possibility, and come back with additional information
- vi) CIDA Project with MBMSI
 - (1) Consists of a number of areas
 - (a) Leadership Development
 - (b) Medicine Credit Line
 - (c) Sustainable community health
 - (d) Empower local NGOs
 - (e) Phasing in additional health zones
 - (2) The current Medicine Credit Program is completed, and the thought is that it should be continued. A 5-year Medicine Credit Program is being worked on
 - (a) Cost
 - \$52,000 first year,
 - \$105,000 second year
 - \$135,000 third year
 - \$89,000 fourth year
 - \$44,000 the fifth year
 - \$427,000 total
 - (b) Possibly need bridge funding of about \$10,000 per month for 2-3 months, until the program takes effect

Recommend that we ask Murray Nickel to investigate bridge funding, if needed

Recommend that we approve the first year of funding, for 2008, of \$52,000

M/S/C

- c) Zimbabwe - Pakisa Tshimika - Sent \$700 for the lab in the past. Message is that this BIC Hospital needs support. First stage would be to get a permanent doctor on site. Then look to sending other people, or supplying more money. Need to make contact with the BIC Bishop to establish connections.

M/S/C That we contribute \$5,000 to the project, part of which is to be used to encourage doctors to work there, as well as other projects

- d) Paraguay - Alto Refugio (High Shelter) project – HIV/AIDS Hospice
David and Judy Schmidt are leaders

M/S/C That we designate \$5,000 for the Paraguay Project

- 9) Administrative Report - Ferd Pauls
 - a) Have administrative assistant available on contract basis
 - b) Plan is to continue present form for the next year
- 10) Executive Director
 - a) Job description was presented by Glen Miller
 - b) Recommend that for the next year continue as is, and work out the sharing of responsibilities
- 11) Membership
 - a) Are working on strategies to recruit more members, of all medical professions, both genders, other geographic regions
 - b) Recommend to study the situation and come with specific recommendation in the future
 - c) Need to reduce membership fee in partnership countries
- 12) Budget - See published budget
- 13) Appointment of Board Members

M/S/C That Ferd Pauls and David Wiebe continue as Board Members for the next three years

M/S/C That Frank Duerksen be appointed to the Board

Doug Snyder and Gail Newel have been approached, but have not yet answered

- 14) Election of Officers

M/S/C That the present Officers of the Executive continue

- 15) Next Meeting - Autumn 2008, probably the last W/E in September
- 16) Adjournment
- 17) The US section of the Board met and accepted the various recommendations as presented
- 18) The Canadian section of the Board met and accepted the various recommendations as presented
- 19) Evening banquet at the East India Company Pub and Eatery

Recorded by Helmut Huebert