



Dunamis Fellowship Canada

*Mobilizing, Equipping and Sending Holy Spirit Empowered
Leaders for Church Renewal and Missions*



Volume 3
October 2007

“KEEPING IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT”

“I’m more convinced than ever that the absolute *highest* value in personal evangelism is staying attuned to and cooperating with the Holy Spirit . . . The only thing you need in order to sustain an effective approach to evangelism year after year after year is an ear fine-tuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.”

That sounds like it comes right out of Dunamis materials, perhaps the *Mission and Evangelism in the Power of the Holy Spirit* Project manual, and it could. What’s exciting is that it’s a quote from the pen of Bill Hybels, senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, in his recent book and small group curriculum *Just Walk Across the Room*. This resource is increasingly popular and was named the Best Outreach Resource of the Year (for 2006) by *Outreach* magazine. I praise God for this meaningful message traveling right down the middle of mainstream evangelicalism, which I see as an influence on some of the healthiest Presbyterian and Reformed circles.

As we provide servant leadership for the continued pioneering work of Dunamis Fellowship Canada, we long to “keep in step with the Spirit” as we come alongside the church in Canada, prayerfully seeking to be a healthy influence for personal and church renewal.



In this newsletter you’ll read about some of the ways we are pursuing this vision. We consider the Dunamis video courses to be the primary way for us as a ministry to provide both teaching and experience in keeping in step with the Spirit. You’ll read more about this exciting ministry resource inside. Exciting opportunities for youth ministry are also growing in PRMI, of which we are a regional expression. Some Canadian youth leaders attended a leadership equipping event in the spring and share here from this experience. You’ll also read about our vital and essential intercessory prayer dimension of this ministry.

As we seek to see this ministry continue to grow and develop we are excited to welcome a new Board member from Alberta, Joanne Rozendaal, who you’ll meet in this newsletter. Our prayer is that we will see Dunamis Conferences and Courses offered from shore to shore, that God may be glorified by churches and Christians in our land increasingly being ignited in the power of the Holy Spirit, to do all that Jesus commanded, to the glory of the Father!



DFC is a faith ministry and our support all comes from gifts and donations from those who are blessed by this work. This month we also introduce another way to process donations, through a Canada Helps web partnership. Also, to keep in step with the Spirit we continue to pray for God to raise up leaders to step into this ministry. So again, if you have provided leadership in any way for a Dunamis or other PRMI event in the past, we would welcome the opportunity to connect with you and explore possible ministry opportunities that may fit your spiritual gifting, interests, and time availability. Please contact us.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Prayerfully seeking to keep in step with the Spirit,

Pastor Ray Vander Kooij, Chair, Board of Trustees, Dunamis Fellowship Canada

Facilitator Equipping for Dunamis Video Courses

Since 2005 my wife Barb and I have led the first two video courses (*Gateways* and *In the Spirit's Power*) a total of five times at Kortright Presbyterian Church in Guelph. Over 90 people at KPC have taken at least one Dunamis video course, so last January people eagerly awaited the arrival of *The Power of Prayer* video course which we held in early 2007. The excitement and anticipation were palpable; there is a thirst for teaching on the Spirit of God.

Comments after our earlier courses included:



"I started Dunamis late as I was out of town. Very quickly I felt welcomed and started to look forward to "my" Tuesday nights. I could feel myself drawing closer to God and to His people. I love to see God work and be part of it. I did and was!"

"I feel a significant deepening of my faith. Not the super mountaintop kind of teenage high I used to get at summer camp - often followed by a real low. This feels like I came in raw and I have been healed and empowered in ways I wouldn't have predicted. This doesn't feel like just another high; it feels like the waterline in my soul has been raised."

"The Dunamis course for me in summary is "total surrender to God the Father," and by so doing allowing the Holy Spirit to be the commander/director of my life – for God's glory and use."

Our experience at Kortright has shown us the wisdom of making Brad Long's teaching more available. At Dunamis Fellowship Canada, we are excited that there are three Dunamis courses available now in video format. These three form a solid foundation for equipping people for their calling and empowering them for ministry. Co-operating with the Holy Spirit is so essential for strengthening our churches!

Dunamis video courses are different from other materials that you might get from your local Christian bookstore for use in your local church. Having one at your church depends on leadership provided by Dunamis video course Facilitators. One of our roles at DFC is providing that training; we want to enable and support leaders who can develop a local team and facilitate the video courses in their own congregations.

Perhaps God is nudging you to step forward and you're wondering. "Just what is a facilitator? What does a facilitator do?" Facilitators are enablers and organizers; they have received training and are authorized to lead video courses. They present the vision of Dunamis to the pastor and elders, recruit prayer ministers, behind-the-scenes workers and discussion leaders. Facilitators publicize the course concept to the congregation or region and make the logistical arrangements for the course. Because Dunamis Fellowship Canada and PRMI are faith based ministries, facilitators also have the responsibility to present the visions of those organizations and ask for prayer and financial support.

The vital qualification for being a Facilitator is growing in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit. Ideally those who become facilitators will have attended at least two Dunamis events and plan to attend more. I recommend that facilitators lead in pairs, especially if there will be several discussion groups. It's particularly helpful if at least one of the pair has a gift for administration.

Periodically DFC sponsors Facilitator Equipping events which include teaching on:

- Prayer and discernment of whether one is called to be a facilitator
- Strategies for introducing the course in the local congregation
- Recruiting and building your team
- The essential concepts behind the course that make it effective.
- How to use the materials
- Prayer for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to implement the course

Facilitator Equipping Events will be held regularly across Canada. Check with Sheila Thomson, Ministry Coordinator for Dunamis Fellowship Canada as to where and when there will be Facilitator Equipping Events near you.



Les Ferrier, Board Trustee of Dunamis Fellowship Canada



Upward Challenge Training Report

For the last four years my husband and I have attended the Dunamis conference held in Burlington. The teaching offered during these weekends has opened up a whole new world—the world of the Spirit. As the Youth Ministries Coordinator at our church I had a desire to offer some of the same teaching to our youth. Well this opportunity presented itself this May. Other youth leaders and I spent three days at The Community of the Cross to receive teaching on how to develop spirit-led and spirit-filled youth groups. Here are some of my reflections following the retreat.



How do we as youth leaders provide an environment where the Holy Spirit is wanted and welcomed? Do we as leaders really believe in the power of the Spirit? These are just some of the questions that surfaced for me during a three-day retreat I attended at Community of the Cross in May of this year.

I'm beginning to realize that as a leader of youth I need to fully digest what it is that I am trying to convey to the youth. It is just not possible to pass on the Truth when we have not owned it for ourselves. All too often we get caught up in a good program or curriculum. Somehow we convince ourselves that if we just get the right program we will see results. Jesus didn't have a program or curriculum to offer. What He had to offer was Himself. He was in the business of nurturing disciples by eating, sleeping, talking and modeling for them. Nothing Jesus did or said was because it sounded or looked good. He wasn't out to impress anyone. Everything He did and said was rooted in His love and devotion to the Father and His will.

Are we willing to offer ourselves to the youth in our midst? Are we willing to become like Jesus and model for the youth in all our actions what it means to live a life of faith? If the answer is "yes" then I think we need to get back to the basics and examine with fresh eyes the vision we have for leading youth.

When Jesus left His disciples He promised them that the Holy Spirit would be there to guide and lead them. This is the promise that we as leaders need to build our programs on and instill in our youth. We can't just talk about the presence and power of the Spirit. Our belief and trust in the work of the Spirit needs to be evident in the very fabric of our ministries. We as leaders need to embody this truth. We need to model lives that rely on the Spirit. Then and only then do we have permission to pass this Truth on to the youth.



Elizabeth Schultz (a daughter of Brad Long) along with others, is in the process of developing materials geared toward meeting some of these goals. The material, Upward Challenge, is based on a week long summer event hosted at the Community of the Cross for the last few years. They are now working to transfer some of this material into a 14 week study. *Stay tuned for further updates on this material!!!*

Carmen Cooper

A New Addition to the Board

The Trustees would like to welcome Joanne Rozendaal to the Board, she is a native of Edmonton and is on staff at Bethel Community Church in Edmonton, Alberta as the Administration Coordinator. Joanne attended Dordt College (a Christian college in Iowa). She has a passion to serve God with excellence, and enjoys studying His word. Beyond her work responsibilities, she takes pleasure in hiking, loves the outdoors and ambitiously cycled 7120 kilometers across Canada in the summer of 2005. Joanne and her husband Curt have three married children and seven grandchildren.



Reflections of a Summer at The Community of the Cross

One of the things I have come to love since becoming part of the Dunamis Fellowship is the time my family and I have spent at the Community of the Cross. Both the people and place have become very close to our hearts. This year, my husband, John, and son, Jacob, have been able to help with the building at Ascension Point. It is so exciting to be able to see the vision coming to life in the spiritual and physical community. (See the picture on the front page of the first service being held in the completed building.)

Sandy Bassie, Board Trustee of Dunamis Fellowship Canada



INTERCESSORY UPDATE

One of my favourite children's movies is "Finding Nemo." In one scene Dory, a blue tang, is ensnared by a fishing net. Nemo, the little clown fish, has a plan to rescue her. He gets all the fish to work together and swim downwards so that the fishing net eventually breaks and all the fish are able to escape. When the fish were just swimming around with no specific direction they were not able to change their circumstances and escape from the fishermen's net. But once they worked together, swimming in one direction, they were able to make a difference and escape.

In a lot of ways Intercession is similar to these fish. When we work together in interceding for the needs of Dunamis Fellowship Canada we can see ourselves moving forward. God has blessed us richly at DFC as we seek his guidance for how we are to direct our ministry efforts in the next season. But we continue to need those who will stand in the gap, for our board and for the ministry, in intercession.

Our intercessory team is growing slowly, and is a vital part of the ministry of DFC. If you feel prompted by the Spirit to join this intercessory team or if you are running or plan to run a Dunamis video course, and would like us to lift you in prayer, please email us at: dfcintercessors@dunamisfellowship.org

Martin Boardman, Board Trustee of Dunamis Fellowship Canada



Events to Watch For

Ignite! Event – St. Catharines – November 10, 2007

Dunamis Regional Conference – First Christian Reformed Church, London, Ontario – 2008

Burlington Dunamis Conference VI – Evangelism – April 4 & 5, 2008

Dunamis Fellowship Canada Annual Meeting—Meadowlands Fellowship CRC Ancaster—May 2 & 3, 2008

Haiti Healing Dunamis



The Haiti Dunamis is a mission outreach of the Michigan Dunamis. The first three events have been offered, in cooperation with the Episcopal Church, with attendance growing from 40 to 120. The fourth Dunamis, "Healing Prayer," is scheduled for January 30 – February 2, traveling down on January 29 and back on February 2 or 3. A couple of more team members are needed for intercession and ministry. Experience in healing prayer ministry is important and ability to speak French is preferred but not required. For more information on this mission outreach opportunity please contact Sheila at the DFC office.

Donations

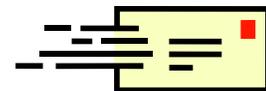
We have grown again—we are now registered with Canada Helps and have a 'donation button' on our website that connects directly to Canada Helps website. We have made this available for those who prefer to make donations online and we are still very happy to receive donations by mail.

We really appreciate your donations, they not only support the events and courses in Canada, but also missions abroad, outreach in Canada and our part time office. Our office is responsible for newsletters, records, tax receipts, general staff work and being available for you.

With enough donations, we can provide financial assistance for short courses and for missions abroad that are run by PRMI or DFC. We can also help to initiate events in churches across Canada and support the development of the video courses in cooperation with PRMI.



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