

# “On Mission Together”

## Saskatchewan Conference of MB Churches

### Director's Calendar

#### November

- 5 – Bridgeway Community Church  
(Swift Current)
- 5 – West Bank Fall Fundraiser
- 7 – Redberry Board Mtg.
- 9 – SKMB EB Mtg.
- 14 – National Ministry Team Mtg.
- 16 – CCMBC EB Mtg.
- 17 – 18 – Leadership Forum
- 19 – Hillside Christian Fellowship Church  
(Beechy)
- 25 – Redberry Fall Fundraiser
- 16 – Hope Fellowship Church  
(Saskatoon)

#### December

- 3 – Waldheim MB Church
- 3 – Hibret Christians Saskatoon Church
- 7 – SKMB EB Mtg.
- 10 – Parkland Community Church  
(Yorkton)
- 17 – Riverbend Community Church  
(Borden)

*Please pray for traveling mercies.*

#### Director of Ministry

Rev. Philip A. Gunther

Call or text:

**306-533-6191**

Email: [phil@skmb.ca](mailto:phil@skmb.ca)

604 Webster St.

Saskatoon SK S7N 3P9

#### Website & News Letter

##### Administrator

Heather Filazek

Email: [office@skmb.ca](mailto:office@skmb.ca)

### EQUIP 2023 – Fire & Ashes

#### Why Church?



Ken Esau, National Faith & Life Director, stated that Canada is witnessing a “Great De-Churching” and the largest group leaving are those 60 and older. Some of the top reasons for those leaving the church include: 1. Change in life situation, 2. Disillusionment with the church, 3. The church was unloving, 4. Changed beliefs.

The top reasons people would return to the church included: 1. If the church helped me feel closer to God, 2. If the church could fill an emotional or spiritual gap, 3. If the church shared my values. Esau wondered if these reasons given for people’s return are right or healthy. He went on to articulate and evaluate how people are answering the question “Why Church?”

All good reasons for being a part of the church...

- Why church? For the personal benefits – *my well-being.*
- Why church? For personal spiritual formation – *me and Jesus.*
- Why church? For the social good – *me helping my community.*
- Why church? For the proclamation of the gospel – *evangelizing the lost.*

*The best reason for being a part of the church...*

- *“Why church? Because it is centrally important in God’s kingdom mission for the world. The church is God’s kingdom community on earth called to worship him and proclaim his name. It is the visible witness of the unseen kingdom of God.”*

SKMB Communications

*I attended my second Equip study conference this Fall at Northview Community Church in Abbotsford, BC. Having been engaged with the MB Community for four and a half years, I found myself in a better space to appreciate and reflect on the Study Conference.*

*Northview did an incredible job hosting us. While that may be nice, I think on a deeper level, they reflected Biblical hospitality in everything they did. Whether it was the worship they coordinated or the meals or the break time snacks- they facilitated our gathering and nurtured our MB Community. One could argue that hospitality is a gift that has disappeared in our larger culture, and the church has a place to show hospitality as a witness to the*

*larger world. Northview demonstrated this gift to us.*

*While I enjoyed the Plenary Discussions and took lots of notes, the Table Discussion Groups resonated with me in response to the first two plenaries. The desire to discern in community is an anchoring distinctive for us as Mennonite Brethren churches. In those discussions, I valued our shared faith and the diversity of voices speaking to the topics of the nature and mission of the church. It was a tangible reminder of the ‘great cloud of witnesses’ that Scripture speaks of. We saw the Holy Spirit working through diversity to help us discern together.*

*I appreciated the breakout sessions I attended. I was discouraged I could only participate in two of them. I valued how each breakout I attended was rooted in theology but then explored how to live out the theology on that topic. I talked to*

others about their breakouts and gained a consistent sense that the breakouts were all of that calibre.

Finally, I was blessed to gather with the greater church family of Mennonite Brethren. We worshipped together. We ate together. We laughed together. We listened together. We learned together. In our diversity, we were united in our love for the triune God and His grace. I was blessed to be a part of Equip 2023 and look forward to Equip 2024.  
Mike Engbers



What is the MB Position on Exorcism? Is this something that we practice or should practice within our churches and ministries?  
Ken Esau, NFLT Director

Fall Fundraising BANQUET

*The Journey has just begun...*

**REDBERRY BIBLE CAMP**

Dessert Auction | Entertainment by Curt is Magic

**NOVEMBER 25**

Saskatoon Christian School  
5:30 pm - Doors Open  
6:00 pm - Dinner

Cost: \$25/person  
or \$150/table of 6

**LEADERSHIP FORUM**

NOVEMBER 17-18 | 7 PM - NOV 17  
9 AM - NOV 18

SPEAKER: DARRYL DASH  
FOREST GROVE GOERZEN ST. LOCATION  
102 GOERZEN ST, SASKATOON, SK S7K 7E3

SKMB SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

We are excited to invite you and leaders from your churches and camps to our annual Leadership Forum on Friday evening, Nov 17, 7-8 p.m., and Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. This year, we are excited to have Author, church planter, and pastor Darryl Dash with us.

**Who is the Leadership Forum for?** Leaders. Leadership matters in the local church. The church will need healthy leaders if it wants to remain faithful and fruitful in our cultural moment. Because of this conviction, we are excited to invite any leaders from our SKMB family to be encouraged and refreshed with the good news of Jesus. We want to encourage Pastors and leadership teams to attend this event but also for you to encourage and invite other leaders who lead various ministries, paid or lay, to join us.

**Where:** This year, we will be in Saskatoon at Forest Grove Goerzen St. location (Formerly the North Site), 102 Goerzen St, Saskatoon, SK S7K 7E3

#### Who is Darryl Dash?

DARRYL DASH is the author of *How to Grow* and *8 Habits for Growth*. He founded Liberty Grace Church in Toronto, and is the new pastor of Grace Fellowship Church Don Mills. He has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and has over 30 years of ministry experience. Darryl is married to Charlene and has two adult children and one grandchild. You can find Darryl online at [DashHouse.com](http://DashHouse.com).

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register. **Registration deadline is November 9.**

## Welcome to the SKMB Family



Hello SKMB family, my name is Dieter Penner. I want to give you a glimpse into my life and share some of the blessings God has given me. He gave me wonderful Christian parents and six siblings. My parents shared the gospel with us and I was saved in my younger years. After high school God gave me the opportunity to work in the electrical trade for seven years. At that time, while I was serving in my local church, I had a desire to go to Bible school. I applied at Millar College of the Bible and was accepted. It was also during this time that I met my wonderful wife, Brenda. We got married in 2020 and God has since blessed us with a handsome baby boy whom we named Theodore (Gift of God). By God's providence, we ended up in Watrous, SK. at the Philadelphia MB church for my fourth year Millar internship.

The church asked us to stay, and I now serve as one of the pastors here. I get to preach regularly, play music at the senior lodge, organize services for chapel at the Saskatoon jail, and walk alongside the people in our congregation.

**Supporting SKMB Churches and Camps in Making Disciples**