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Every Home
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International • Canada



finding the hope

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WHY We Do WHAT We Do, in Canada

By Denys Blackmore



I accepted the responsibility of leading EHC Canada after serving for several years as pastor and church planter. That was just over thirty years ago.

Not long afterwards, I wrote a letter to our partners across Canada in which I shared my deep concerns for our nation.

Here is an excerpt of what I wrote in the early 90's. "As I have ministered across Canada these past 20 months as Canadian Director for EHC, I've come to realize more than ever the terrible bankruptcy of this nation that can only be described as a *spiritual crisis!*"

Results from expert research of those early years led me to conclude that Canada was in serious spiritual crisis. Here are some noteworthy points from back then.

- The percentage of Canadians professing a personal relationship with God through Christ was in serious decline.
- Disrespect for spiritual leaders was growing.

- An alarmingly high percentage of Canadian children were totally cut off from exposure to the gospel of Christ.
- A shrinking percentage of Canadians were attending church regularly, and in fact a growing number wanted no association with Christianity.
- Trends and legislation were underway to undermine religious freedom and bible-based values of the past.
- Non-Christian religions were experiencing significant growth.
- There was a shocking increase of crime, addiction, abuse, and more.

What about Canada today?

We are now thirty years later, and the state of affair is much worse. Trends are accelerating in the wrong direction. Personally, I take this as our signal to double down on our God-given mission.

Our Finding the Hope initiatives are the WHAT in “Why We Do What We Do, in Canada”. We present the gospel message of God’s love and salvation to everyone possible everywhere possible and facilitate a connection between people and the local church.

Now, here are some of the reasons WHY we do what we do in Canada.

1. **God’s love** and desire for lost people to experience his great salvation has not diminished toward Canadians and his great love compels us.
2. **There is a need** for lost people to have access to the gospel of Christ. It alone is the good news of what God did in Christ and is the power of God for the salvation of anyone who believes.
3. **There is a call in Scripture** to every believer and to every local church to go, preach, proclaim, and make disciples.
4. **There is a way** to provide the gospel to people. For decades our brothers and sisters around the world have creatively done this, in and out of season, and have demonstrated that the EHC’s approach plants seeds that produce fruit anywhere.
5. **There is a harvest** ready to be gathered. To date, hundreds of millions of people have responded to a gospel message received through EHC. They have received followed up and scores of people have joined one of EHC’s more than 400,000 Christ Group fellowships or a local church where discipleship takes place.

If a great harvest is being gathered overseas, why not here? I have worked with numbers of our teams around the world and have seen how they remain focused on mission in spite of drastic and dramatic changes in their nations. It is their first preoccupation, and the results are remarkable.

At the very heart of Finding the Hope is the conviction that the **gospel must be public truth, communicated frequently to everyone possible, everywhere possible.**

Our Canadian Finding the Hope outreach is specifically developed with strategies and resources to help churches and individuals be focussed on the harvest and engaged with the mission of reaching the lost. As we often say, it’s so simple.

God’s power to save has not diminished, neither have his love and grace towards everyone. As Paul wrote to Timothy, God wants everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Our God sees the crisis of our nation and has provided the only response that will make a difference. He sees the state of things, he answers prayer, and he is with his people on mission today, just as he promised before his ascension.

You can help spread the word.

We are praying that God will raise up more ambassadors who can help us connect with church leaders and potential Messengers of Hope and announce the availability of Finding the Hope resources and strategies. We have materials that can be passed along, and our office is able to follow up with any contacts. More information is available on our web site, hope.ehc.ca.

If you would like to be part of spreading the word, we would be delighted to hear from you. Our contact details are on the back page.

People need the Lord. Let’s work to make the gospel of Christ public truth in Canada.



God's amazing grace touches lives in Senegal

**A 9-year-old girl,
a piece of gospel
literature and
the Lord of
miracles...**

EHC's team in Senegal has been diligently praying and going to homes with the gospel in hand. The context of their work is very challenging, but they carry on, trusting in the Lord.

According to research, upwards of 96% of the population is Muslim with only 2 tenths of one percent being evangelical. To share the gospel message in Senegal takes special courage and wisdom.

From December 2022 to March of this year, many hundreds of thousands of people were reached in five regions of Senegal. The outreaches included home to home visits, special public events, and meeting people in public places.

The following testimony demonstrates vividly how God works as his people pray, plan, and follow his leading as they go in the name of Jesus.

God uses a 9-year-old girl and a piece of literature in a unique way

Babacar got a 15-year-old girl pregnant. His father was angry because he had selected another girl for his son.

On the day of the birth, the girl had to undergo a caesarean section that would save her and the baby. Babacar could not afford the costs of this critical procedure and began to look everywhere he knew to find the money.

Two weeks earlier, on December 7, 2022, a team of volunteers from EHC had passed through their village. Babacar, his father, and everyone else chased them away. Two days later, Babacar's sister, 9-year-old Fatoumata, met the volunteers and asked them for a tract that she kept. When she discovered that her brother was in financial

trouble, she called the number on the back of the tract and asked for help. The volunteers were able to collect the money that allowed Babacar to pay for the medical expenses.

He explained to his father that it was the evangelists who had helped him, which further angered his father. In the turmoil, Babacar lost consciousness. His family ran into the night looking for help. Again, the little girl used the number on the back of the tract to call the evangelists. Soon they arrived and prayed for Babacar. He came to life during the prayer, 87 minutes after he was presumed dead. Astonished, the family demanded to know who this Jesus was to whom they prayed.

The event was an extraordinary turning point for Babacar and his family. He decided to follow Jesus, his father agreed to welcome the

evangelists, and allowed him to marry the girl he loved. Two families were thus reconciled. Babacar and his wife Rokhaya were baptized on January 29, 2023, and presented to God their little girl Flora whom they named after the EHC volunteer who had accompanied the EHC leader when their house was first visited.

**Let's pray for these
precious people and for
EHC's team in Senegal.**

Finding the Hope Update

Finding the Hope outreaches are scheduled for the summer months in Québec and in Ontario.

Québec

FTH outreaches are reaching homes and people in over 50 communities centered in Mont Royal, Côtes-des-Neige, and Montmagny. These outreaches feature major public evangelistic events to which people of all ages are invited. Finding the Hope packets containing our booklet and an invitation to these events will be delivered to approximately 70,000 homes, representing a potential population of more than 150,000 people. Messengers of Hope will be engaging with people, and a saturation with the use of social media is also planned. Please pray for fruitful outreaches!

Ontario

Two unique outreaches are scheduled for the neighbourhoods of North and East York in Toronto. A special evangelistic event will run over a few days to which people of all ages will be invited. An invitation will be included in the FTH packet to homes in the North York neighbourhood. Please pray that people receiving the gospel message in both neighbourhoods will be receptive!

Messengers of Hope in Action

One of the great advantages of the Finding the Hope booklet is that it can easily be passed along to someone, even when a conversation is not possible.

Marlene from Thunder Bay, Ontario has been using the Finding the Hope booklet for some time. She writes, "They are very well received. Everywhere I go I give them out—at the post office, the grocery store, and so on." She added, "Everybody's in a hurry and I only have a short window of time to hand out a booklet." Even so, Marlene prays that God will use the FTH booklets to speak to people about the most important matter of all!

Let's pray for the **laborers involved in all these outreaches**, that they be **strengthened in every way by God's grace and Spirit**. Let's pray for **hearts to be receptive to the gospel message**.



THIS JULY

we **give thanks to the Lord** for our nation and **pray fervently** for his **mercy** and **grace** to be poured out from **coast to coast**.

LET'S PRAY

to the **Lord** who is able **to do** immeasurably **more than** we can **ask or imagine...**

We pray for...

- Canadian Governments —for those who shape our nation, in federal and provincial governments, that they would serve humbly and be awakened to their responsibilities before God.
- Revival in the Church —for a renewed devotion to the Lord, his Word and his mission.
- Spiritual Awakening —for an outpouring of God's Spirit upon the over 38 million people who live here.
- The Gospel in Canada —for the gospel of salvation to impact every aspect of Canadian life and society.

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The vision of EHC is to reach everyone, everywhere, with the message of the Gospel. Established in Canada in 1946, this ministry has taken the Good News of Jesus to over 2.4 billion homes in nearly 200 nations and has followed up with over 250 million people who have written to express their desire to know Christ.

President/CEO: Denys Blackmore **Vice President:** Jacqueline Dugas



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