



June 2022

Dear Minute-Man Friends ...

Thank you so much for the incredible response to the previous *Minute-Man Call* (#170), in which we asked for funds to help bolster the Outreach & Church Ministry Fund (OCMF). This fund is specifically used to pay for materials and expenses associated with outreach. A portion of the \$72,068.37 that was received for this Minute-Man Call was also set aside to help bring missionaries off the field to our upcoming staff conferences. This is a valuable time as a mission family and we're excited that soon we can bring everyone together once again.

A mission ceases to exist without its missionary force. Missions are people reaching people with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are so blessed to have an expanding missionary family. At NCEM, we try to see all of our missionaries every year and walk with them as they do the work of the ministry. We also want to come alongside them and provide an ongoing ministry of encouragement. Ministry in many of our locations can be lonely, and without these lifelines, it can become discouraging.

***Our Minute-Man Call (#171) will raise money for the Field Ministries Fund, member care initiatives, recruitment, and upgrading computers.***

We are excited by the number of people who have joined NCEM recently, and we want to see this continue, so the portion going to recruitment is an important investment. This is also true of technology, and while it seems a never-ending task to upgrade computers, they have become an essential tool in much of the work our missionaries are doing.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Walter Selke  
NCEM General Director

**NORTHERN CANADA EVANGELICAL MISSION INC.**

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Funds given for this Minute-Man Call will be spent in accordance with the specified designation, in keeping with NCEM Executive approved programs and projects. If a designation is oversubscribed (amount is greater than needed), if it cannot proceed, or if over time it becomes inconsistent with the charitable purposes or activities of NCEM Inc., the Executive arm of NCEM Inc. reserves the right to redirect the funds to another area of need consistent with NCEM Inc.'s mandate and purposes.



*Gilbert Bekkatla, Noah Wahlstrom and Nathan Willems with the Cessna 206 that would carry them, and many biblical resources, to three isolated First Nations communities in northern Manitoba.*

## VISITING DENE COMMUNITIES

The Outreach & Church Ministry Fund (OCMF) is accessed almost 100% by field missionaries for their ministry. It pays for *Indian Life* paper distribution, Bibles and Bible study materials, helping to fund special services in communities, and outreach trips such as what Gilbert Bekkatla has been doing—visiting his own Dene people in communities across the North. Funds are also used by Conrad Flett, who uses them for his networking and support of First Nations pastors and leaders in various churches and communities.

Recently Gilbert Bekkatla, Noah Wahlstrom and Nathan Willems returned from a trip to northern Manitoba. Nathan Willems writes about this experience, and I hope you are encouraged as you read about the ministry made possible through giving to our Minute-Man program.

### NORTHERN MANITOBA MINISTRY TRIP

by Nathan Willems

Earlier this month, I was invited to join a ministry trip to northern Manitoba. Gilbert Bekkatla

had received literature from Child Evangelism Fellowship (DVDs and David & Jonathan Mailbox Club lessons) and was planning a trip to three northern communities. The goal was to distribute the literature, visit and encourage the believers, and share the love of Christ with those we interacted with.

My wife and I recently joined NCEM in order to use my aviation skills as a pilot/mechanic to serve alongside other missionaries and help bring the message of hope in Christ to isolated northern communities. This trip was a perfect opportunity for me to experience ministry in the North, so I eagerly joined Gilbert and pilot Noah Wahlstrom. We climbed aboard our Cessna 206 aircraft and made the 3.5-hour flight northeast from Prince Albert over Canada's northern wilderness. It didn't take long to be convinced of the necessity of travelling in our mission aircraft as the winter road is only open for a few months, and the

only other option was an expensive ticket on a commercial flight.

The day after arriving was a Sunday, so we arranged to hold a church service. We were able to use a church building that is only used for funerals. I was saddened to learn that there is no functioning church in this community, and the few believers do not meet regularly for fellowship and worship. It was a blessing to meet with them that Sunday, to sing and pray together, and hear Gilbert deliver a sermon.

As we visited many homes there was a common theme, everyone had stories of the tragic loss of family and friends, and the community was shaken by the very recent death of a young man who worked as a counsellor. People also continued to express concern for the young people who are especially struggling and turning to substance abuse. I was deeply impacted by the weight of grief on this community and the need for the message of hope to be shared. We had the privilege of being



hosted by the Chief, who expressed his sincere gratitude for our prayers for the people of his community.

I want to thank all those who have given to make this trip possible, and I look forward to future opportunities like this to share the love of Christ. •