

Open cash offering on Sunday December 17, 2023
at Dauphin First Baptist Church



Dear Church Board Chair and Pastor,

As we near Christmas, amid ongoing war in both Gaza and Ukraine, we long for redemption, liberation, unity, and peace more than ever. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." At Advent, we remember how God's people once yearned for a Messiah to restore the nations. We find ourselves with this same longing again, filled with hope for greater things to come.

Each year, the CBWC is blessed to provide a Christmas Love Gift to express our thankfulness and love for retired pastors who began their service among us before the CBWC had a pension plan. Last year, we were able to bless 12

retired pastors and 24 widows of pastors with substantial gifts totaling \$20,100 —five of them new recipients. As we have begun to lose some of our dear friends due to advanced aging, our Regional Ministers and their Administrative Assistants add new folks to the list as need arises. We look forward to being generous again this year!

It brings us great joy to read the notes of gratitude from recipients who have been blessed by the Christmas Love Gift. As one retired pastor on behalf of he and his wife wrote:

“What a blessing it is for me to receive this large gift and especially so at this Christmas season! It must bring you great pleasure to write out cheques like this. I and my wife, who is now living in a special care facility with Alzheimer's, have always been thankful for the support and care we have received from our denomination. With sincere thanks...”

In past years, we have encouraged our churches to take an offering in December for the Christmas Love Gift. Alternatively, we ask that you consider donating funds from your own benevolence fund and ask that you please forward these gifts to the Calgary Head Office with the memo Christmas Love Gift.

May God bless you as we draw near to Him during this Advent season.

Serving with you, for Him.

Rob Ogilvie | Executive Minister



CULTIVATING
LEADERSHIP



INVESTING IN
RELATIONSHIP



ENGAGING
IN MISSION

Canadian Baptists
OF WESTERN CANADA

