



# 2012-2013 Annual Report

Prepared February 2013

## CCRDA 2012-2013 Annual Report – February 2013

### 1 Overview of CCRDA

The Canadian Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA) is comprised of organizations and individuals who are committed to integrated, transformational development. CCRDA was previously known as the Relief and Development Group (R&D Group) of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). The group was formed in 1984, and since that time it has provided a forum for members to encourage one another, cooperate, share expertise, respond to changes in their field, and speak with one voice on social and policy issues. CCRDA was officially incorporated in June 2006 and received charitable status in May 2007 (retroactive to January 2007). The elected Board of Directors governs CCRDA.

#### **Activities February 2012 - February 2013**

This year, CCRDA has invested much of its time in redesigning its strategic focus and the types and quality of services that it offers to its members. At CCRDA's Forum in 2011, discussions were ignited regarding the value-added that CCRDA offers to member organizations. The purpose of discussions was to assess the unique value that member organizations attribute to CCRDA, and how the association can strategically develop those attributes.

The Board was left with the task to evaluate the feedback that was gained and develop a plan of action. In September 2012, a survey was developed and distributed to our members that addressed the areas identified in those discussions. Thirty-five out of thirty-nine of our member organizations responded to the survey. The results of the survey were passed on to the membership at our Forum 2012 for discussion.

As part of our pledge to Strategic Joint Initiatives, it has been important that we hear the voices of our members and respond in those areas that will add value to their respective works and to build synergy amongst our members to enhance the scope of our work to accomplish God's agenda. At the 2013 AGM, that new strategy and our new initiatives will be presented.

#### **Advocacy and Positioning**

##### **Membership with CCIC**

CCRDA is now a member of the CCIC and throughout the year, we have endeavoured to share information and networking opportunities that have been circulated by CCIC and its various working groups. Following an interactive presentation by Julia Sanchez (CEO of CCIC), speaking on the issue of partnership at our workshop, Philip Tanner attended the March 2012 CCIC AGM on behalf of our members and board, where CCRDA was confirmed as a member. At that time, he was able to say a few words about our association in the plenary and to network with the various representatives on behalf of CCRDA.

CCIC offers a number of benefits but not least is the Code of Ethics that have been ratified by all of their members. In 2013, CCRDA will be addressing this issue with its members, broadening the dissemination of these standards of operation, openness, transparency and accountability, and offering members an opportunity to benefit from accreditation in these NGO standards.

## Letter to the Ministry of Finance

A letter was submitted to the Ministry of Finance on behalf of our members in February 17 2012, in collaboration with The Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association of Canada. We received a response back on July 27, 2012 from the Ministry but unfortunately, it did not directly address the concerns raised. Specifically, the letter addressed the inconsistency of the requirement for activities to be "carried on by the organization itself" and the principle of local "ownership" for effective development. Upon consideration of further steps that could be taken, the board of CCRDA felt that it would not be effective to continue a dialogue by letter, given the concerns were appropriately articulated. Instead, the board decided to arrange to bring in experts on The Act for charitable organizations and give our members an opportunity to probe the issues and seek clarifications around transparency and accountability. To this end, an expert panel discussion was planned for the 2013 AGM.

## Annual Forum

### *Combining Word & Deed: Linking Evangelism with Social Action*

CCRDA Forum 2012: Nov. 20 - 22, 2012

Grande Rockies Resort - Canmore, AB

Steve Clarke, Board Member



In our humanitarian relief and development work it is easy to focus on the programs at hand, or to the specific initiatives we are about to embrace. It is less-easy "to look deeper under the hood", embracing intentional steps to discern God's larger plans for our work.

CCRDA Forum 2012 was an opportunity for our association members to be challenged about the heart of God. The vigorous call came from a distinguished author and professor who has been speaking for over 30 years about the poor and Christians' responsibilities to the poor. Dr. Ron Sider is the author of many books, including *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, an award-winning book that has sold almost half a million copies, and has undergone five revisions over time. Sider is also Director of the Sider Center on Ministry & Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary and President of Evangelicals for Social Action. He exhibits an unflinching passion for the linkage of our witness to Christ with robust and coherent social action.

In our sessions, Dr. Sider got right to work by setting a foundation for our actions by speaking to us of a biblical definition of justice, composed of three pillars: Commutative justice (fairness in agreements and exchanges between private parties), Procedural justice (procedures and processes that must be fair if justice is to prevail) and Distributive justice (how the numerous goods of society are divided). The test of our commitment to holism is the degree to which these are interlinked in our witness and work.

Launching forward from this framework, Sider urged the group to undergird our efforts in holistic transformation with a balanced treatment of the following themes: Sin, the Nature of Persons, The Gospel, Salvation, Christ's identity and Eschatology.

In an evening public forum Professor Sider returned to his most famous work, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* with the question "How are we doing?" Opening with the sober statistic that 25,000 people die each and every day from poverty, Sider challenged the gathering with multiple scripture passages about God's love for the poor, and our responsibility to lift up the poor and oppressed. He noted that while many indices of poverty have improved over the last thirty years, Christians continue to compose one-third of the world's population and simultaneously control two-thirds of global wealth. He urged that answers therefore begin with us: We must change our

lives and live more simply, within less materialistic churches. Our churches, in turn, must be challenged to biblical faithfulness and active concern for the poor. And finally, as difficult as it is in the two-thirds world context, we must work for land reform goals that will give personal ownership of land for families. Increased access to capital through vehicles like microfinance loans will also foster significant poverty alleviation and increase family self-sufficiency, by strengthening society's most fundamental nucleus.

The final morning resumed with just our association members. It was here that Dr. Sider tackled the most difficult theme of "Social Sin, Structural Change and Evangelical Individualism." He noted the popular expression that insists that you change society "one person at a time." This sounds good, but he suggests that alone the notion is too simplistic. Equally true, he suggested, is that structures also need to be transformed.

Furthermore (and perhaps most importantly), the church and para-church organizations cannot ignore oppressive structures that block social justice. Sider stressed that "Many evangelicals have a dreadfully weak doctrine of creation; an almost non-existent understanding of either the prophets' or the New Testament's understanding of social sin, and a weak grasp of the church as a community." The solution? He calls for a more biblically balanced framework to correct excessive individualism. Coupled with this resolve should be the adoption of a wider embrace of the biblical teaching on social sin or structural injustice. Evangelicals, in Sider's opinion, need a much deeper doctrine of creation, focused on the fact that persons are made for communities. Finally, there needs to be a recognition that "the biblical vision of salvation is not that of isolated individuals enjoying a personal relationship with God, but rather of communities of persons worshipping God and embracing God's design for their common life."<sup>[1]</sup>

The greatest richness of our time together came in our discussion times following the formal addresses. Dr. Sider engaged with us openly in two-way dialogue. This straight-forward engagement was particularly helpful as we wrestled with complex issues and practical problems in our work that defy simple solutions.

The keynotes and discussion left us with a great deal to ponder, for future application. Dr. Ron Sider's solid biblical teaching of God's love and concern for the poor also "recharged our batteries", reminding us that it is the mighty One we serve who enables us in all of our efforts – and through divine empowerment takes us well beyond the accomplishments associated with our own strength.

[1] This delicate but deliberate balance of individualism and community is stated very clearly in one of Dr. Sider's books: "We must hold together both the importance and freedom of each person and the interdependence of all upon one another. An understanding of people grounded in the biblical view of persons created in the image of the triune God will insist that people find fulfillment not in self-assertive individualism or totalitarian communalism, but in a community of freedom, love, and mutuality that treasures both individual freedom and the common good." Sider, Ronald J. *The Scandal of Evangelical Politics*. Grand Rapids: Baker-Books, 2008, pp. 55-56.

## **Finances**

In early 2013, CCRDA had an external audit of the 2012 fiscal year by Nethercott & Company. No issues were identified. The financial statements have been approved by the Board and sent to the membership for approval at the AGM.

## Membership

We are pleased to report that CCRDA has 40 members, including 39 organizations and one individual. This year, CCRDA's membership campaign took place in February. Over eighty membership kits were sent to Canadian Christian relief and development agencies that are not yet members. The Board followed up with telephone calls. Based on expressed interest, past trends and plans to strengthen outreach, we are anticipating a growth in membership in 2013.

The following membership was approved by the Board since the last AGM: Christian Horizons Global, Greater Vancouver Youth Unlimited, and Loving Arms Charitable Corporation. These members will be ratified by the membership during the AGM.

In February, membership renewal invoices were sent to all current members.

## Membership Totals 2005-2013

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
27 including 2 associate members	27 including 2 associate members	28 including 1 associate and 1 individual member	33 including 1 associate and 2 individual members	34 including 1 associate and 2 individual members	35 including 3 associate and 2 individual members	38 including 3 associate and 2 individual members	37 including 3 associate and 1 individual member	40 including 4 associate and 1 individual member

## Current Members

ACTS	Greater Vancouver Youth Unlimited *
ADRA Canada	Lifeline Malawi Association
Africa Inland Mission International (Canada)	Loving Arms Charitable Corporation *
The Arms of Jesus Children's Mission Inc.	Mennonite Central Committee Canada (Associate)
Asian Outreach International (Canada)	The Leprosy Mission Canada (Associate)
BethanyKids Canada	Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada
CAUSE Canada	Ontario Christian Gleaners
CBM Canada	Partners Relief & Development Canada
Christian Children's Fund of Canada	The Salvation Army Canada
Christian Horizons Global *	Samaritan's Purse Canada
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee	SIM Canada
Compasio	Visionledd
Compassion Canada	Watoto Canada

Crossroads Christian Communications Inc.	The Wellspring Foundation for Education
Emmanuel International Canada	Word & Deed Ministries
Engineering Ministries International Canada	World Hope Canada
ERDO	World Relief Canada
Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada Global Initiatives	World Vision Canada
FIDA	Wycliffe College (Associate)
Food for the Hungry Canada (Associate)	Will Postma (Individual Member)

\* To be ratified by membership at the AGM

### Newsletter

CCRDA's newsletter, *Now That's Progress*, is distributed to members quarterly. The publication is also available at [www.ccrda.ca](http://www.ccrda.ca). For each issue, member agencies are invited to write about a specific theme in addition to submitting general news and announcements. This publication is meant to act as a forum where members can keep each other informed, share their knowledge and learn from others' best practices. Since last April, the themes have been focused on the millennium development goals: literacy and universal primary education, gender equality, reducing child mortality, and environmental sustainability. If you have an idea for a future theme, please let us know!

### Staff

Joella De Boer has been the part-time Coordinator since November 2010.

### Website

The Best Practices Online Forum is available for members to use. We are all very busy with planning, implementing, and reporting on projects, but in order to design the most effective interventions, we need to stay informed. This is the impetus for the Best Practices Forum. It is a space for sharing the extensive and varied knowledge and experiences of our member organizations, as well as outside sources, for the improvement of on-the-ground programming by all of us, around the world. Both searchable and easy to browse, the objective of the Forum is to be a dynamic online library of CCRDA Best Practice knowledge, a single efficient source for the information your organization needs most.

The site contains a wealth of information, including contemporary theory, program case studies, statistical reports, and practical manuals. While these are important assets, the true wealth of the Best Practices Forum comes from CCRDA members. You can access materials posted by your CCRDA partners, as well as post your own. Take advantage of this opportunity, and help make it the best resource it can be, by posting relevant program reports, successful funding applications, practical manuals, baseline surveys, and philosophical and spiritual foundations.

## Workshops

CCRDA will host workshops in the Fall of 2013. The date and theme will be announced soon.

## 2 Current Goals and Objectives

- ◆ UNITED CHRISTIAN VOICE: *Advocating together from a Christian perspective for social and policy change on international relief, development, and justice issues to federal and provincial governments and agencies.*
- ◆ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONSULTATION: *Providing an annual members' consultation for group reporting, interaction, and decision-making.*
- ◆ ANNUAL FORUM: *Holding an annual forum for sharing information and expertise, networking, and dialogue.*
- ◆ JOINT STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:
  - *Encouraging cooperation, fostering partnerships and leveraging our resources and capacities in order to maximize the impact of our programs*
  - *Working together to address issues and topics of common interest*
  - *Facilitating joint learning opportunities*
  - *Stimulating joint publicity and promotion*
- ◆ CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT: *Enabling, engaging and mobilizing our constituencies.*

## 3 Finances

The chart attached as **Appendix A** outlines the following:

- 2012 Budget and Actual
- 2013 Budget

## 4 Board

### 4.1 2012-2013 Board Members

Chair	Philip Tanner	* Christian Children's Fund of Canada
Vice-Chair	Steve Clarke	Compassion Canada
Director	Chris Bosch	World Vision Canada
Director	John Rose	SIM Canada

Director

Tracey De Graaf

Crossroads Christian Communications

Kathy Elias has served as Treasurer (non-director) since July 2011.

\* Philip Tanner served as co-Chair with Patrick Canagasingham until June 2012 when Patrick resigned from the Board. The Board is very grateful for Patrick's dedicated service to the Board and equally appreciates Philip's service on the board as Chair from July to the present.

## 4.2 Board Responsibilities

The CCRDA board is a volunteer body and so we recognize and value the time and energy that each member of the board has put in on behalf of the Association and its respective members. The Board provides direction and vision for CCRDA and is expected to be in tune with membership needs and to seek ways of supporting members. This year, Board members have each taken on at least one area of oversight. General responsibilities of the Board include:

- Developing and maintaining a strategy for CCRDA to be a Christian voice in the Canadian international development arena.
- Initiating and maintaining activities that will benefit the majority of CCRDA members, while contributing to the achievement of the CCRDA objectives (i.e. briefs on specific issues, brochures, articles in local newspapers or national papers, etc).
- Maintaining a relevant database of key information related to the activities of the members, thus enhancing the potential for linkages and collaborative efforts in Canada and overseas.
- Maintaining links with relevant groups and coalitions in North America (i.e. CIDA, CCIC, Accord) and internationally (i.e. Micah Network, Micah Challenge).
- Representing the membership at key meetings and functions (i.e. CIDA meetings, etc.)
- Ensuring that members are updated frequently on CCRDA activities.
- Developing and monitoring an annual CCRDA budget.

Specifically, Board members commit to:

- A 2-year term, with the possibility of renewal at the end of that term.
- Participating in 80% of Board meetings. These are held approximately every month, and most are conducted via conference call. Face-to-face meetings occur semi-annually or as needed.
- Participating in e-mail discussions among Board members regarding CCRDA initiatives.
- Updating Board members on recent conferences or discussions in which they may have participated.
- Attending the annual CCRDA members' consultation.
- Potentially serving as Chair of a sub-committee (i.e. Forum Committee, Development Education Committee, Issues Committee).
- Fairly representing the views of the entire CCRDA Board when in situations where s/he is identified as a Board member.

#### **4.3 Role of the Board Chairperson**

- The Chair of the Board will coordinate overall functions and activities of the Board and work closely with the CCRDA Coordinator, dividing up functions between the two accordingly.
- The Chair will call Board meetings and establish the agenda for those meetings in collaboration with the CCRDA Coordinator.
- The Chair will represent the Board and CCRDA at key events and functions, but not exclusively. The task should be shared as needed and possible with other members of the Board.
- The Chair has the duty of managing and co-signing fund disbursements from the CCRDA accounts.

#### **Closing**

2012 has been a year of growth and visioning for CCRDA. The Board has spent this past year considering how best the association can serve our growing membership base over the next five years. Starting with defining the value that a Christian relief and development association can offer to a very diverse group of both mission and development organizations, we began to forge strategies that will build capacity of our members in areas that are critical to succeeding in changing economic and political climates that face us today and that are likely to be relevant to our work over the next several years. We also considered the importance for faith-based organizations to come together in forums created for refreshment and encouragement, giving opportunities to share and pool resources, and strengthening the collective body of the faith-based development community. Thus, as we come together at the 2013 Annual General Meeting in Mississauga, Ontario, we are excited to move forward as a stronger and more effective collective body of Christ. We close 2012 as a time of contemplation and welcome 2013 as a time of action!