



# From the President's Desk...



November 2010

Dear Pastors and Leaders,

What a delight it was to be with so many of you this year at Whistler. As several of you have written, this was likely our best convention ever. We felt taught, inspired and encouraged by our church.

There was such a healthy representation from new pastors who've recently joined our Foursquare Family of Leaders and a strong contingent of ethnic leaders. I love the fact that we are truly an international, multi-cultural church.

There were several points of review I want to make, especially for those who were not able to join with us in Whistler.

1. There are DVDs available for your review and to use in the church. We've already made use of Ted Vail's inspiring teaching on multi-cultural ministry in our church. A full schedule of DVDs will be sent to you.

I especially recommend:

Jerry Cook - *How to be Pentecostal without Splitting the Church*

Doug & Tyler Friesen – *Intentional Leadership Succession*

Barry Buzza – *Sumphoneo* – a philosophy for seeing how the church works

2. Make sure you receive and read the two books that were given to all registrants.  
*Sumphoneo* – Barry Buzza  
*Supernatural* – Chris Jordan

These are valuable resources for all pastors to read and teach to our churches.

3. One of the strong emphases of our convention was "Passing the Torch" to the next generation. I already recommended Doug's & Tyler's excellent presentation. It was worthy of much future discussion and implementation.

Over the years ahead, you will see a strong move toward raising up young leaders, training and discipling them, and releasing them to ministry.

In April, our entire Pastors' Conference will focus on this important subject. We've been asked by Dr. Daniel Brown, our special guest presenter, to each bring with us to Calgary, a young leader whom we can expose to Foursquare Canada leadership. Please be preparing, praying and saving for this purpose. Mark your calendars for April 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at the Four Points Calgary Airport.

4. Another of our priorities, over the past 3 years, has been compliance with both, Canada Revenue and CCCC regulations. We adhere to the biblical mandate to "Obey our Government Leaders" and to "Submit to the authority God has placed over us."

Although some have difficulty with some of the requirements, they are all for the mutual health and safety of our Church.

Rebecca, Rhonda and myself understand that things like Employee Contracts, Council Covenants, and Joint Ministry Agreements for sending money to overseas ministries are challenging to us who prefer the status quo, but be assured, we will not expect anything of you that is not for the betterment of our Church.

Each of us is committed to our thorough understanding and compliance with these important regulations. We are always available to explain and help implement each of these requirements. I personally will be travelling to each unit this year to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you so much to the large contingent of pastors and leaders who are ready and willing to comply with righteous, orderly and decent systems.

5. Number 4, compliances with Government standards sets the stage for another major shift in our Canadian Foursquare Church.

We are a national church, and as such, one of our biggest hurdles in becoming truly national is the size of Canada. Because many of our largest churches are in the

Lower Mainland of BC, and our Head Office and staff also are here, we've unintentionally become a Western mindset church over the past 30+ years.

Most of you could name a handful of men (with grey hair, or no hair, and white skin and considerable years of experience) who have carried most of the weight of leadership and administration in the FGCC. But we Western Elders are no longer the face of our multi-ethnic, two gender, younger Canadian leaders.

Over the past couple of years, and increasingly over the coming two years, you'll see a notable shift to releasing leadership from across the whole spectrum of our national church.

To date, we have ordained and empowered our Unit Leaders with most of the authority necessary to make decisions, even financial ones, in their own units. We have also given our Unit Leaders the power and authority to grant licenses to those in ministry in their own units.

Rhonda has appointed and anointed Hub Administrators from across our nation, to work alongside her in financial management of each unit.

Over these next two years, you will see Church Planting, Care, Missions and Education released to the National Leaders with more authority and privilege than they've ever had. Both the National Board and National Office exist to serve the Church in our ministry to our cities and villages.

Of course there has had to be some safety factors implemented, as well as unifying systems such as confluent accounting, but it has all been with the overall objective of delegating power to the people in the trenches.

Over the past months, Rebecca, Rhonda and I have had unprecedented invitations from many national leaders to serve them, by teaching organization and systems management in their National Offices. We Canadians have a good reputation for orderliness and the peace which follows on the heels of healthy systems.

Lastly, but high on our priority list, has been the move toward true representation of the multi ethnicity of Canada.

This year, we have seen several new churches become part of the Foursquare Church of Canada. In the first couple of years of our administration, like any good gardener, we had to do a lot of pruning, but seeing the proliferation of new buds on our tree has validated those difficult decisions.

Most of our church plants have, and likely will continue to be either mono-ethnic churches, or multi – ethnic churches. Immigrants, like they were in the 1950's after WWII, have always been most open to putting down new spiritual roots and developing relationships. We will be making some good material available to the National Church on this vital subject over 2011.

In 2011 also, we will be giving special attention to improving our communication with all licensed pastors. You'll want to keep up to date with our new IT systems. We'll emphasize making all of communications widely available and easy to understand.

If there is ever any other ideas or improvements you'd like to suggest to our office or the National Board, please feel free to call or write us. It's our pleasure to serve Jesus and His Church here in this great Nation.

Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial letter.

Barry