

Mahlon & Audrey
Far North Representative

The HORTONS

JULY, 2021

Dear Supporting and Praying Partners:

I ask you to read this letter carefully as I have a very important announcement to make. My wife and I have ministered with Macedonia World Baptist Missions Inc. since the last of December, 1975. I believe we are the longest *servant* missionaries with Macedonia, almost 46 years, We have faithfully served in the Bahamas, Haiti and Canada. During that time, we planted three churches in Haiti and two in Canada.

Some of you have faithfully supported us during that entire time and for this we are very grateful.

It has been a long journey, but a blessed one. On July 17th I will be 90 years old. Due to my age and health issues I will put down the mantle I have carried since 1962

I will continue to help in the ministry in the mission church in Oshawa, Ontario where our son is a missionary. If you do desire to continue supporting us, which would be greatly appreciated, you may continue sending your funds to Macedonia World Baptist Missions Inc.

BRIEF HISTORY

We were married on September 10, 1955. We both were involved in the local church where we had met and later married. Our church's weekly youth meetings were held at our home in the evenings. My wife would also have a weekly Bible club at our home for the neighbourhood children during the day.

In 1958 people didn't travel far to church. Since we lived about 7 miles from our church, we could not get the Bible Club children to go with us so I talked my brother into helping us start a church in our small town. My wife's cousin was called to preach so we told him we would give him all we could if he would come and be our pastor. He agreed, so we started The Lafayette Baptist church which flourished and later became our commissioning church when we left for Haiti.

I was in the greenhouse business and in 1962 I left it and took a job as foreman of Sun Valley Bulb Farm in Myrtle Point, Oregon. It was while we were there that the Lord called me into the ministry. I told my Christian boss I would have to leave and go to Bible College. He said if I would stay, he would build us a new house and give me a \$1000.00 a year raise. I said, "Thank you, but no thank you, I must follow the Lord." Today that farm is the largest of its kind in the U.S.A

I moved to California with my wife and four small children. I had enough money for a month's rent on a house and my first semester's tuition. I did not have a job for a whole month but trusted God would provide and He made the "widow's oil" stretch which He has always done. My wife was a stay-at-home mom. She had a weekly Bible club to reach the neighbourhood children with the gospel. While I was in Bible College God gave us our fifth child.

THE HORTONS ARE COMMITTED TO
SERVING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Dr. and Mrs. Horton have faithfully served as international church planters for over 50 years. Now they are raising awareness for the need of church planters in the Far North.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Macedonia World Baptist Missions Inc.
P.O. Box 519
Braselton, GA 30517
Mission Office: 706-654-2818

E-mail: mahlonhorton@mwbm.org
www.hortonchallenge.com

BIRTHDAYS

Mahlon - July 17 - 1931
Audrey - August 21 - 1933

ANNIVERSARY

September 10 - 1955



After Bible College I pastored one of the oldest Conservative Baptist churches in Oregon, Brownsville First Baptist Church. I pastored it for one and half years then moved to Rainier, Oregon and planted The First Baptist Church of Rainier, Oregon. I was involved with the Conservative Baptists and was a home mission church planter. We had to discipline a couple and they went to the state office and complained so the office cut my aid. The church we had started was able then to pick up the amount the office had been paying. After about 6 months we voted to go independent and consequently we became the very first Independent Baptist Church in Oregon. That was in 1968. I pastored there until 1975. The church was totally self-supporting and we were a family with 7 children.

We had a church building and a parsonage sitting on one and a half city blocks. We had a bus ministry, radio ministry and a kindergarten school as the public school did not have a kindergarten class while I pastored there.

In 1975 I moved to Grangeville, Idaho and pastored a new church for 9 months. While there we met a missionary from Macedonia and he said Macedonia wanted someone who had been pastoring for a while to help train Haitian pastors. I applied and the last of December, 1975, they accepted me to be a missionary with them.

In January, 1977, the day it snowed in Freeport, Bahamas, we arrived there to spend 3 months relieving a missionary. There God wonderfully gave us His life line for Haiti through a newly saved Haitian lady.

Then we flew on to Haiti in April, 1977. I was the very first resident Macedonia missionary in a very strange Haitian Macedonian world that did not want us there. They were not there to welcome us. But God's wonderful life line was available.

We had been given the name of the brother of the newly saved Haitian lady in Bahamas. The brother and family in Haiti welcomed us into their family and God used them to spare our lives for His Glory. They knew their country and their people and they trusted God and we instantly loved and trusted each other. They became our beloved life-long friends.

You would have had to be there to fully understand the severity of the situation we were thrust into. I was given orders to leave the country in 48 hours with my wife and five children. Our oldest two children were in college. My life-line (non-Macedonia family) fought for us. She got an audience for us with the Minister of Interior of Haiti, who later became President of Haiti. Through him we got our legal papers to live in Haiti. God has a sense of humor. Interestingly, my legal Haitian visa says I am black and was born in Port-au-Prince. (Even though I was supposedly a racist against the blacks.)

We thrust ourselves into the work, had a Bible Club in our house to reach our neighbourhood, with our life-line friend interpreting for us, which led to starting a church in our house, we loved the people, learned the language, and trained the pastors who confided in us why the head man did not want us there. He was stealing the mission money from his own people and much more. He hated us. He was a cruel man involved in witchcraft and had put a curse on me. He was also in the President of Haiti's private militia.

It was an intense time as I was threatened, sued for \$200,000.00 by the man that hated me, had a court order that I couldn't leave the country if I tried. God protected me and intervened on my behalf through people in high places as the President's wife. They lost the case, and did not get a penny of the \$200,000.00. And I only paid out around \$200.00 for lawyers. The last lawyer, who won my case, later also became the president of Haiti for six months. He was an honest Catholic lawyer defending us against so-called "Christians" who were an utter disgrace to the cause of Christ. How sad!

When I left Haiti, after my four years were finished, I had 13 other law suits against me. If they initiated the lawsuits then they would lock me up and it would take a year to investigate me.

We came home from Haiti and spent a year on furlough. We were asking the Lord where He would have us serve Him. We believed the Lord was leading us to go to Canada. But we were told by a leader in another mission that Canada was closed, don't even bother to apply.

However, as we believed God was directing us in that direction, we made application to go to Canada as missionaries. Our request was received and we were told to go to the Canadian Embassy in Atlanta with our educational, financial and health information for the four of us. We went before a counsellor and we talked for a while. He never asked to look at a single paper in our briefcase. Then he right then and there gave us our papers to enter Canada within 6 months as legal landed immigrants. We did not even have a sponsor in Canada. But God was directing us and He opened the door wide for us to move into Canada with all of our belongings where we were given our Landed Immigrant Papers as well as our Social Insurance Cards (same as Social Security in the States) on July 1st, Canada Day. We were free to do everything but vote.

In July of 1992 we became Canadian citizens in order to more effectively identify with and reach our now fellow citizens. We are dual citizens. In this era of COVID-19 and closed borders we are free to enter and leave Canada as citizens to continue ministering there.

We moved up to Chilliwack, British Columbia on Canada Day, July 1, 1982 with two young boys. We moved into a brand-new neighbourhood and began holding a 5-day D.V.B.S. in our home and handing out Source of Light Bible club lessons. We had eager students filling them out daily. Then we started services in our home as we did not have money to rent a building.

A little later the Lord provided a building rent free if we would just clean up the beer bottles and garbage from the Saturday night parties on Sunday morning before church. It still was just my wife and some children that attended. We led an adult or two to the Lord who began attending the services.

We did not know anyone when we started the church nor did we have anyone to help us start the church. We had God and that was all we needed.

There was an empty church building available for sale, but we did not have a congregation to buy it. We believe in and practice the indigenous principle of God growing the church and then the church having the responsibility of buying and maintaining their own building.

After being there 4 years, the new congregation, Faith Baptist Church, was able to buy their own church building, a former funeral home now resurrected for the living. It was nearly paid for when I left.

To understand how remarkable that is, you need to understand that Canadians are not familiar with the Independent Baptist movement where there is no head. One out of three Canadians is Catholic. The majority of Catholics are in Quebec. Only 8% of Canadians in Western Canada are religious. Canadians pride themselves on being cautious. They watch you carefully. They believe Americans are much too hasty in their actions.

I resigned the church in Chilliwack in December, 1992. We moved up into the interior of B.C to Kamloops in March, 1993. This time we had our daughter and her husband, a widow lady and we as a core to organize The Berean Baptist Church as we had all moved to Kamloops. What a blessing that was to have help in teaching and other leadership areas. I was 62 years old at that time.

Again, after operating for only 4 years we had a congregation who was able to buy their own building, a former Lutheran church building. Both times we did not seek funds from the states. It was all done by the local responsible Canadian Christians.

In fact, in the large province of British Columbia there are around 40 Independent Baptist Churches of which only 14 churches have their own buildings and the Lord allowed us to buy two of them and they are both national Canadian churches that are debt free.

I resigned from pastoring in 2009 as I was 78 years old and felt I could not pastor any longer as my ambition was slipping. I had only taken one six-month furlough in 1988 and after that I went 20 years without a furlough while founding the two churches in British Columbia.

The mission asked if I would be The Far North Representative for Macedonia, which I accepted. Therefore, from 2009 until now in 2021, we have been available to speak in churches to promote missions.

So, now at the age of 90, I feel it is time for me to put down the mantle, as my get up and go is almost gone

Our life verse is Joshua 1:9 and our life choruses are as one: "I am determined and I've made up my mind, I'll serve the Lord, (repeat) I'll follow wherever He leadeth, I'll pasture wherever He feedeth, I am determined and I've made up my mind, I'll serve the Lord." "My Lord knows the way through the wilderness, all I have to do is follow (repeat) Strength for today is mine alway and all I need for tomorrow, My Lord knows the way through the wilderness, all I have to do is follow." It has been a privilege to follow the leading of our precious Saviour.

It has been an honor to serve the Lord and to be your representatives on the mission field. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your faithful support and prayers over the years.

Committed to His Service,

Dr. Mahlon D. Horton

Dr. Mahlon Horton

3377 Harmony Rd. N. Oshawa, ON L1H 0K8, CANADA

mahlonhorton@mwbm.org Phone: 1-905-922-3442

