



CanadaWatch

CENTRE FOR FAITH & PUBLIC LIFE:

The EFC in the Courts and on Parliament Hill

MINISTRY SERVICES:

Global Mission Roundtable Update – five new strategies

NEW EFC RESOURCES:

Human Trafficking, Missions, Faith Today



Did you *know*?

- **600 women and children** are trafficked into Canada each year for sexual exploitation; 1500-2200 people are trafficked from Canada to the USA annually.
- **12 – 27 million** people are in slavery today.
- **600,000 – 800,000** are moved across international borders annually.
- **trafficking third largest** criminal industry in the world, outranked only by arms and drug dealing.
- **UN estimates** that trafficking in persons generates \$7 to \$10 billion annually for traffickers.

Human Trafficking – A story you must read

By Bruce J. Clemenger, President

Manna (name used to protect her identity) lived with her brother and was beaten by him on several occasions. When she was 14, she decided running away was her best option. Passing through the clutter and scuffle of a train station, a young woman noticed Manna crying and offered to help. She listened to Manna and won her trust, promising a job selling fabric. The woman led Manna to a place to rest and slept beside her that first night, but when Manna woke the woman was gone and another woman warned that her life was no longer her own. She would not sell fabric but her body.

Manna refused her first three customers, but the brothel keeper beat her repeatedly until she gave in to the men who had come to rape her. She tried to run away and even begged the men who raped her to rescue her or call the police.

In the November/December 2009 issue of the EFC's *Faith Today* magazine, I wrote:

"Few of us can imagine finding ourselves powerless and treated as objects, perhaps with our legal identities stolen, traded and used by others for mere economic gain. This modern-day form of slavery is difficult to comprehend but there are many people who have been taken or lured into a vortex of promises for a better life only to find abuse, intimidation, bullying and despair.

Our worth is not contingent – rather it is sacred, ours by virtue of being created and loved by God. Our response is to affirm the dignity of all, to respect others as image-bearers of God and to love our neighbours as ourselves."

The nightmare for Manna continued for two years until another girl who had been rescued by the International Justice Mission (an EFC affiliate) led IJM operatives back to rescue more girls hidden in a soundproof dungeon. Manna was one of four who were rescued. She now lives in an aftercare home that provides love, safety and schooling, where she studies to become a social worker. IJM helped build a case against her brothel keepers who were both convicted and sentenced to five years rigorous imprisonment. >>

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As Christians, we must pray for and support organizations like IJM as they pursue justice for the vulnerable and exploited.

It is for the sake of the “Manna’s” around the world, **including Canada**, that the EFC looks to its supporters for the prayerful and financial support needed to say to culture and the government what is and is not acceptable in God’s sight. The EFC provides a consistent voice that transcends whatever political party is in power, whether the House is in session or out. This is why the EFC has encouraged the passage of Bill C-268 which will impose a minimum sentence on anyone convicted of trafficking a person under the age of 18 in Canada. (See the “EFC Resources” to order the EFC’s new booklet, *“Not So Ancient: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery”*).

>> INFLUENCE

“I can’t be in Ottawa every day but every day decisions are made in Ottawa that affect all Canadians. The EFC is there to explain the viewpoints of the evangelical community in Canada, and I am pleased and proud to support them.”

– Jamey McDonald, Executive Director,
Baptist General Conference of Canada

You have asked:

How is the EFC funded? The ministry of the EFC is completely dependent on the prayerful and financial support of Christians in Canada. We receive no government assistance.

How many affiliates does the EFC have? Currently, the EFC’s affiliates include 40 denominations, 85 ministry/mission organizations, 36 Christian higher education institutions and approximately 900 local congregations. For more information regarding our affiliate program, please visit our website at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca or call 1-866-302-3362 (ext. 230).



>> IN THE COURTS: 2009 was a remarkable year in the courts, illustrating again that building Kingdom principles into the fabric of a nation requires long term commitment together with well researched social policy and legal arguments which the courts value.

Brief Update from the EFC’s Centre for Faith and Public Life in Ottawa:

IN THE COURTS:

In April 2009, the EFC, together with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, intervened before the Supreme Court to support the federal government in a constitutional challenge to its jurisdiction to regulate experimentation with human beings, from forms of embryo research to concepts of artificial reproduction and cloning. We are still awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada.

On December 15-17, 2009 the EFC intervened before the Divisional Court of Ontario in the Heintz v Christian Horizons case because an Ontario Human Rights Tribunal ruled that an evangelical organization must either serve only Christians or risk forfeiting the right to remain Christian. We felt compelled to do so because we believe this is in clear contradiction to both Jesus’ teaching and Canadian law and if left unchallenged, it could impact many ministries and churches who minister outside their walls and into their communities.

“In April 2009, the EFC appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada for the 20th time.”

The EFC’s legal team presented with excellence and the judges were respectful in their receipt of our submissions. We expect a decision from the panel of judges in six to ten months.

thank you! The EFC team is deeply grateful to the many individuals, congregations and ministries who supported us both prayerfully and financially throughout 2009. Our work in the Courts and on Parliament Hill is making a significant difference as we continue to build on past victories. We engage in these and other initiatives in partnership with you. **Your prayers and financial support make it possible. Together, we are stronger!**



When Parliament was prorogued, all government legislation “died on the order paper.” Private members’ bills did not. When Parliament resumes, the EFC will move forward quickly on these bills and engage with new government business as well. Here’s a preview of the bills that the EFC supports or opposes:

- **Bill C-268** – minimum sentences for trafficking of children – we support
- **Bill S-223** – assistance be given to victims of human trafficking – we support. (we have made additional anti-human trafficking proposals to the government which we will continue to pursue)
- **Bill C-300** – corporate responsibility from mining companies operating in developing countries – we support
- **Bill C-304** – develop a national housing strategy – we support
- **Bill C-384** – right to assisted suicide & euthanasia – we oppose



EFC Ministry Services

The Global Missions Roundtable:
Partnership, Prayer, Structure & Progress

The Global Missions Roundtable (GMR) provides opportunity for evangelical church and mission leaders from across Canada to help equip the Canadian church in its future mission endeavors. This collaborative venture operates on the ministry partnerships platform of the EFC. The partnership has recently reconfigured to focus more specifically on the following:

- 1. EMERGING MISSIONS LEADERS:**
Building bridges with those who are not connecting with established structures.
- 2. SECOND CAREER LEADERS:**
Connecting with the many “boomer-aged” Christians who are making a career shift into life ministry.
- 3. LEADERS OF DIVERSE ETHNIC GROUPS:** Developing relationships with those who are leading the explosive mission vision within ethnic churches not connected to the established European Church.
- 4. PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**
Working with the wider constituency to identify common issues, challenges, and opportunities, which may well lead to collaborative efforts.
- 5. RESEARCH AND RESOURCING:**
Generating reliable Canadian mission stats and producing Canadian tools for global mission endeavors.

>> IMPACT

“Sometimes the moral and spiritual decay around us seems overwhelming, but God is faithful and we want to honour Him. Supporting the EFC is one way we can do this, especially since it takes a team effort to tackle the front line issues. We have great comfort knowing that the EFC is standing up for what we believe, supporting the body of believers, and informing our leaders in such positive, dignified and professional ways.”

– Mr. & Mrs. L. King, Ottawa, ON

The EFC’s Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism looks at Evangelical Congregational Finance

Between 2003 and 2008, a period of economic prosperity in Canada, 40% of evangelical congregations saw their incomes decline when 2008 values were adjusted for inflation. Congregations with smaller budgets were more likely to decline than those with larger budgets. The median rural congregational income was just half of that of urban congregations. These are just a few of the findings in “Canadian Evangelical Congregational Income, 2003-2008,” the first in a series of articles on evangelical congregational finance, which will appear in the upcoming issue of Church & Faith Trends. Visit the EFC’s website at www.churchandfaithtrends.ca for more information.



>> IDENTITY

“It is encouraging to see how the EFC is setting an example for Evangelicals to join together in ways that honour Christ, while still maintaining our theological integrity. I travel to broken communities around the world and I do not underestimate the importance of the reconciling and community-building work of the EFC.”

– Dave Toycey, President, World Vision Canada

EFC Resources >>

For more information on any of the following resources, visit www.evangelicalfellowship.ca or call toll free 1-866-302-3362 (ext 234).

◆ ***The Code of Best Practice in Church-to-Church Partnership:***

provides benchmarks for achieving high standards when churches around the world want to partner directly with each other. Accompanying this Code is The Guide to Best Practices in Church to Church Mission.



◆ ***Not So Ancient: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery*** booklet designed specifically for youth discussion groups.

Go to theEFC.ca/humantrafficking to read the EFC's recent report on human trafficking and watch an EFC video that can be used in church and youth groups. Request your own copy of *Not So Ancient...*, the first booklet in our *Activate* series. **Coming Soon:** *How Merciful? Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide* - the second booklet in our *Activate* Series.



◆ ***Faith Today***, the EFC's award-winning magazine is now available in digital format. Subscribers can continue to receive the print edition and also gain access to a searchable archive of issues which optimizes for iPhone or iPod Touch automatically. Visit www.faithtoday.ca/digitalsample and consider a reduced-price, digital-only subscription. Existing subscribers, use www.faithtoday.ca/digital.

Upcoming Events >>

The EFC's Christian Leaders Connection (CLC) Events:

In many cities across Canada, members of the EFC's senior team inform and equip church leaders to respond to the challenges and opportunities we confront in a rapidly changing society. The theme for this year is ***"Being Evangelical in a Complex World: Stats, Facts and Trends."*** Register soon online at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/clc or call toll free 1-866-302-3362 (ext 236).

UPCOMING CHRISTIAN LEADERS CONNECTION LOCATIONS ARE:

March 25 – Thursday

Providence College & Seminary
10 College Crescent
Otterburne, MB

March 26-27 – Friday/Saturday

EFC will present at the SERVE conference
Briercrest College & Seminary
Details and registration at
<http://www.briercrest.ca/events/upcoming/serve.asp>

April 13 – Tuesday

The Metropolitan Bible Church
2176 Prince of Wales Drive
Ottawa, ON



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The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is the national association of Evangelicals, gathered together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals and a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society.