

The Vessel May Have Changed but the Mission Has Not!

In 1999, the BC Mission Boat Society was established with the directional vision, "To show and bring Christ, by ship based mission, to British Columbia coastal communities." From this, an amazing number of the relationships were first able to be formed solely through ship based missions, full of eager crews, flying the flag of the BC Mission Boat Society. Through the years, these relationships have grown, and many new ones started, but not solely by ship based missions but via other vessels, such as: water taxis, float planes, or in some cases via car. In 2001, the late Rev. Robert Koebernick wrote, "The BC Mission Boat still commits its plans to Our Heavenly Father, seeking that the fruits of this mission are according to His will." By 2004, the Board of Directors recognized that there was fruit via these other vessels and the words "ship based ministry" were removed to make room for the land based ministry that were being used to proclaim God's love year round.

By 2010, land based missions represented 75% of our year round ministry. This has been a trend that has grown as we have seen a changing interest in the ages, interests, and desires of our mission volunteers. On November 29, 2010, the Board of Directors for the BCMBS issued a news release stating, "[We] have made a strategic decision to focus on year round land based ministry... To focus in this direction, we have decided not to lease a boat in the summer of 2011. We have been led to this decision through careful prayer, and discussions, including the additional meeting held today. We believe it will enable more individuals, youth groups, and churches to experience and share God's love in the communities we are privileged to work with on the BC coast. We are excited about this, and invite you to join us in praying for God's continued leading and guidance for the BCMBS."

We know that it sounds funny that a mission boat society wouldn't be using a "boat" this year but we are okay with that and even agree that it sounds funny. But even though the vessel may be changing for this year, the mission and focus of our ministry continues to be to make God's love in Christ known and we are excited to use whatever vessel, all while "committing our plans to Our Heavenly Father, seeking that the fruits of this mission are according to His will."

For more information on how to join or support our year round ministry please phone (1-877-303-2323) or email (info@bcmisionboat.org) us!