

How shall we picture the kingdom of God?  
*It is like a mustard seed.*



The Mustard Seed Foundation is a Christian family foundation established in 1983 under the leadership of Dennis W. Bakke and Eileen Harvey Bakke. The Foundation was created as an expression of their desire to be faithful stewards of the financial resources entrusted to them, to bring together the members of their extended families into common ministry, and to advance the Kingdom of God. The Foundation provides grants to churches and Christian organizations worldwide that are undertaking new ministry projects including outreach, discipleship, and economic empowerment. The Foundation also awards scholarships to Christians pursuing advanced educational degrees in preparation for leadership roles in both the Church and society. The Foundation affirms the Lausanne Covenant as its missional commitment to the world. All directors and staff of the Mustard Seed Foundation are committed followers of Jesus Christ.

# Dear Friends

*of the Mustard Seed Foundation,*

The 27th year of the Mustard Seed Foundation was characterized by continued recovery and consolidation following the 2008 global economic recession. Our total giving for 2010 was \$4.7 million, a reduction of \$300,000 from giving in 2009. The Foundation awarded 508 grants, nearly 100% of which went to local churches in 76 countries. It is not easy work discovering and funding worthwhile projects from local churches that are seeking to love their neighbors and to share the good news of the Christian faith. We are grateful for the team of eleven Mustard Seed staff members, six of whom live and work outside the United States.

Our average grant size was a little more than \$5,000. This grant size has remained fairly constant through the Foundation's history and has characterized our work to fund grassroots, indigenous ministries. These grants, which are small by U.S. and European standards, are intentionally sized to be appropriate matches for church projects. We believe the grants have significant impact as these "mustard seeds" grow and multiply the work of local church congregations.

In addition to our church-based granting program, Mustard Seed sponsors several scholarship programs. Our Theological Education Scholarship Program partners with international seminaries to fund deserving graduate students who will become pastors and ministers. In 2010, 193 students from 31 seminaries and theological schools received \$300,000 in scholarships. In addition, Mustard Seed partnered with Bakke Graduate University (BGU) to provide nearly \$300,000 in financial assistance to 147 international graduate students.

The Foundation awarded \$894,000 to 81 students through the Harvey Fellows Program, which seeks to identify and support top graduate students who desire to serve Christ in arenas where Christians are often underrepresented, such as academia, the arts, international policy, the sciences, and media.

One of the fastest growing programs of Mustard Seed is our granting to a number of seminaries and universities worldwide that are teaching courses in the "Theology of Work." In 2010 the Foundation awarded 29 grants totaling nearly \$300,000 to teach "theology of work" courses to nearly 7,000 students in both formal and informal courses, both in the U.S. and abroad.

The year was marked by the death of Savina Tong, a beloved MSF staff member, after a valiant struggle against cancer. Savina was an extraordinarily gifted, energetic and courageous woman. For eight years Savina worked tirelessly and creatively to enable MSF to provide grants to Chinese official and house churches. We miss her both as a friend and for the extraordinary work she did to further Christ's Kingdom through the Foundation.

Mustard Seed is a family foundation, whose board members are chosen from the extended Bakke and Harvey families. This year, Whit Harvey and Norris Laffitte chaired the Junior Board, comprised of family members ages 13 – 18 years old. Helen Laffitte, who has served several terms on the Senior Board, rotated off the Board. Cathy Harvey joined the Board for the first time, serving a 5-year term. In 2010 we were also pleased to welcome new staff member Amy Chan from Hong Kong to help continue the Mustard Seed Foundation's work in China and neighboring countries.

Each year as we reflect on our efforts to minister in Christ's name through stewarding the funds He has provided, we are humbled by our mistakes and overjoyed by the opportunity given us to fund mission work worldwide. We ask our Lord to strengthen our desire to serve Him in this important ministry. We pray for the believers and churches throughout the world with whom we have the privilege of partnering in ministry.

In His Service,

 

Dennis and Eileen Bakke

