

# Innovation

Reflection by  
Rev. Dr. Terry Smith



## INTRODUCTION


CBM has a long history of innovation. Many of the effective ministries we are involved in today have come as a result of fearlessly following where God leads. This month, Terry Smith examines CBM's bold approach to mission even at the risk of failure. Examples include empowering nationals to lead the work with their endemic knowledge of their own cultural milieu; Casa de la Amistad (Friendship House) which ministers to children of incarcerated parents in Bolivia; training African church leaders from certificates to doctorates in theological education; and the Guardians of Hope program that supports children affected by the HIV/AIDS virus. These are just some of the many ways innovation has helped us reach the world in word and deed.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. *Think about a bold, audacious move you or your church has taken in the past.* What were the outcomes, both positive and negative? How did this experience shape your approach to mission and innovation?
2. How can you or your church empower underrepresented groups to take on leadership roles in mission work? What steps can you take to ensure diverse voices are heard and valued?
3. *Consider the needs in your local community or globally.* How can you innovate in your mission efforts to address these needs effectively? What new strategies or partnerships might you explore?
4. *Reflect on a time when a church initiative you were involved in did not succeed as planned.* How did you and your team respond to this failure? What did you learn from the experience, and how did it inform future efforts?
5. In what ways can you or your church foster unity of purpose in mission work, both locally and internationally? How can collaboration enhance the impact of your efforts?
6. How can you incorporate innovative approaches to theological education and spiritual formation in your church? What new methods or programs could you explore to deepen discipleship and leadership development?

## EXCERPT

*No one, nor any organization, should set out with the stated goal of being innovative. In fact, innovation is more often the result of repeated failures (with the permission to do so!) .... Many of us who have served with CBM over recent decades would readily admit that we were allowed, even encouraged, to attempt new things, even at the risk of failure.*

 We encourage you to share your own reflections using #CABA150, as well as follow along for the latest news and events on our website.