

Missions Fest 2004 Highlights  
February 20 – 22

This year marked the tenth anniversary of Missions Fest in Edmonton. As in other cities across Canada and the USA, Missions Fest brought thousands of people together for the purpose of informing them about global (local, national and international) missions, and encouraging and challenging them to be active in Christ's mandate to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.

Friday Field Trips for children, special programs for youth/young adults and children, general assemblies as well as seminars for youth/young adults and adults, provided opportunities to learn and become involved in prayer, giving, sending or going in ministry to all nations. We praise God for the co-operation of 83 sponsoring churches, the hours of service of over 500 volunteers and the participation of 140 exhibitors that make it possible for every age group to explore and learn about what is happening in global outreach. The aggregate attendance of the conference was 21,000.

“Let the Children Come to Me” was the conference theme responded to in different ways by speakers who shared the same urgency, reflecting their passion for reaching out to a needy world with God's love.

Maralee Dawn and her puppet friends, effectively used their talents in their ministry to the children. The keynote speakers were: Kendall, a convert to Christ with a love and burden for the Muslim world from which she came; Phyllis Kilbourn, director of Rainbows of Hope, a ministry to children in crisis; Mohan Maharaj, international evangelist and former director of Mission of Mercy Canada; Floyd McClung, pastor of a church whose cell-based community ministry center touches all nations (also former International Director of Youth With a Missions); Doug Nichols, International Director of ACTION International Ministries. Their messages raised questions and challenges: Who is my neighbor? No man cares for one soul. One can make a difference. Do you love Jesus? Give God your little to be broken and given out. You, do something! Everyone is called. God wants you to lead a movement. Live passionately for God.

Hundreds in the children's and youth/young adult sessions responded to the invitations to receive Christ or to surrender their lives to Him. Eternity will reveal the results of decisions made by children, youth, adults and senior to get involved in the harvest.

The grand Finale, “Sing to the Nations” brought local choirs with songs of praise from varying ethnic backgrounds. Floyd McClung gave the final challenge to the conference to be “sold out” for Christ in reaching out to the world with the Gospel.

TEN 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reflections:

- God's faithfulness and provision have been evident each year.
- From the first conference in West Meadows Baptist Church God led us to the Mayfield Inn & Trade Centre and on to the Shaw Conference Centre.
- We are grateful for the excellent communication and co-operation with facilities and vendors.
- Sponsoring churches joined forces to promote and support the weekend conferences.
- Funds came in to cover all expenses.
- Volunteers shared the vision and worked tirelessly.
- Speakers, seminar leaders and exhibitors have shared their passion for world evangelization.
- Even frigid winter conditions did not hinder God's purpose and plan.
- A committed team embarked on the journey of faith that saw the beginning of Missions Fest in Edmonton. A committed staff continues the journey of faith year after year.
- For 10 conferences where lives have been changed, where children, youth and adults have accepted Christ's last mandate to go make disciples among all nations by praying, sending, supporting and going, our response is: To God be the glory. Great things He has done.