

Missions Fest 2005 Highlights February 25 – 27

In light of experiencing God's blessing over Missions Fest Edmonton's 10-year history, the 2005 theme was, "Blessed to be a Blessing". Thousands of children, youth and adults who attended the weekend conference heard from local, national and international mission organizations how the nations and people groups of the world are being reached with the Gospel and how believers are being disciplined. We who have been blessed so richly now have many opportunities to be a blessing by praying, giving, sending or going to the nations.

Children were taken on MF Tours (simulated bus tours). Debby Sjogren clearly communicated God's heart to the children. She is the wife of Bob Sjogren who is president of UnveilinGLORY, and works with him in mobilizing churches in world evangelism. Jim and Mary Thurber, who also work with UnveilinGLORY, were active in the MF children's ministry.

Youth and young adults were challenged by Tony Campolo to "make a difference" in the world. Jim Thurber and Bob Sjogren further challenged them to become involved in bringing the blessing of the Gospel to a needy world.

General Assemblies featured:

Tony Campolo – author, educator and active advocate for "at-risk" children

Wagdi Iskander – pastor active in Arabic ministry

Nizar Shaheen – producer of "Light For All Nations"

Bob Sjogren – president of UnveilinGLORY

Their messages raised awareness of the world's needs and the church's responsibility. "Come over and help us". What does it mean to belong to the Body of Christ? Is my theology God-centered or self-centered? (Cat and Dog Theology).

"Sing to the Nations" on the final evening, brought choirs of various ethnic groups praising God in music. Tony Campolo's final challenge to Missions Fest 2005 was, "Missions in a Post Modern World". For Missions Fest 2006 we move on to "Pursuing the Father's Heart".