

Missions Fest 2008 Highlights

February 22 – 24

“Short-Term Outreach. . . Long-Term Impact!” We are all missionaries and the theme is intended to focus on the fact that each of our lives, when surrendered to the Lord, can have long-term impact--wherever God has placed us. Thousands of children, youth and adults who attended the 2008 conference heard from local, national, and international mission organizations about how the nations and people groups of the world are being reached with the Gospel and how believers are being discipled. 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 ministered to by Art Henkel and the Kids Travel Company, Allan & Florrie McGuirl, the Encore Team and missionaries. On Friday morning, MF Missions Quest provided a lively, fast-paced look at missions for several hundred young people from Christian schools and home schools in the Edmonton area.

Youth and young adults were challenged by Bruce Main and Nizar Shaheen to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and “make a difference” in the world. Youth/young adult activities included JOLT & Global Challenge Trek, Missions Cinema, and Global Worship Concert of Prayer.

General Assemblies featured:

Joshua Banda—Deputy Chief Bishop of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Zambia

Bruce Mains—Executive Director of UrbanPromise Ministries

Marie Ens—“Retired and Refired” missionary and founder of “Place of Rescue” in Cambodia

Nizar Shaheen—Bible teacher and television host of “Let There Be Light” and “Freedom in the Truth” which is a new live phone-in satellite program which attracts between 30 and 50 million listeners worldwide. Many from unreached people groups have come to Christ through this program.

The Lord demonstrated to us once again that this is His conference, and He used the keynote speakers and seminar presenters to challenge us and move us to a deeper level of commitment to our Savior. 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? Challenges were given to business people through Marketplace Connection; to pastors through the Leadership Luncheon; and through various seminars for both groups. One hundred and seventy exhibitors made many contacts throughout the weekend. Our special feature was *Aviation Alley*. The small plane on display attracted attention and served to emphasize the importance of aviation in missions.

A dramatic highlight of the weekend came on Saturday evening. Bishop Joshua Banda’s challenge to Missions Fest 2008 was “Mission Outreach: The Opportunity of a Lifetime.” Joshua emphasized that “*the opportunity of a lifetime must be seized within the lifetime of that opportunity*” and that “*every single opportunity in this life has a life span.*”

At the conclusion of his message, Kendall spoke about the ministry she and her husband have in a limited access nation and the physical and spiritual needs of the refugee population there. As a result of her plea for help, the Lord prompted Missions Fest, together with Bob Gal from *LuvEdmonton*, to propose that **containers** be filled with new clothes, blankets and shoes destined for that country. (*It is interesting to note that Edmonton has just recently become a container port.*) Many people came forward with commitment cards to “seize this opportunity” to show the love of Christ to these needy people. We will be sending you further information about this project.

During the weekend attendees were blessed by the musical talents of groups on the Festival Stage and at General Assemblies. “Sing to the Nations” on the final evening, brought choirs of various ethnic groups praising God in music. Once again, Bishop Joshua Banda gave a message to challenge the body of Christ to give ourselves unreservedly to our Lord and Savior so that He can use us in changing our world.

AND NOW the Lord has granted us an awesome opportunity to seize!! AM 930 “The Light” has given us an opening on their Daybreak Program to have missionaries report **live from the field** on what is happening. This is an incredible opportunity to raise the awareness of missions, not only to Edmonton listeners but also to people all over the world through the internet. We praise the Lord for this avenue and ask that you and your congregation be in prayer that God will use this program for the honor and glory of His great name and for the furtherance of His Kingdom. **Please contact us if you have missionaries who would be available to participate in this outreach.**