

# Journey of Faith—A Brief History of Missions Fest Alberta

*On the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Missions Fest Alberta, we reflect on our beginning and give praise and thanksgiving to our God for how He has led His people and blessed this endeavour. The main highlights are given below:*

- 1994--Wanda Kolba, a missionary with Frontiers, attended Missions Fest in Vancouver. She felt called by God to start a similar conference in Edmonton.
- July 1994, Wanda met with a friend, Pat Halligan-Baker, to discuss the proposed conference and to have prayer together.
- Pat remembers a vision the Lord gave to her at that time. She and Wanda were sitting in an old farm wagon driven by two large angels. They could not see where they were going, but God was in control and taking them on a most interesting ride.
- August 1994, the first Planning Team meeting was held with representatives from several churches. There was great enthusiasm and excitement.
- St. Paul's Anglican Church gave Missions Fest office space in their Christian Care Centre.
- February 3-5, 1995, West Meadows Baptist Church graciously provided their facilities for our first Conference. The theme was *"To All the Peoples of the Earth."*
- The first Conference involved 60 mission organizations and 17 sponsoring churches.
- The next four conferences were held in the Mayfield Inn Trade Centre. We outgrew that venue and are now at the Shaw Conference Centre.
- *We seek to help people find their place in the Harvest.* Therefore, over the years we have added to the conference in providing special programs for children; students in Christian schools and home schools; and special events for youth and young adults. We now have tracks that are especially geared for retirees; for business people; for women, and for those in church leadership.
- Throughout the conference, knowledgeable presenters conduct thought-provoking seminars.
- Keynote speakers are chosen to bring inspiring and challenging messages.
- The conference is free\* to attendees; there is no general admission charge. Free will offerings are taken at General Assemblies.
- The conference is paid for by exhibitors, sponsoring churches, and by free will offerings.
- Missions Fest Alberta tithes each year by choosing a worthy missions endeavour.
- This year, our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we give praise and glory to our God for 170 mission organizations (exhibitors), 110 sponsoring churches and 650+ dedicated volunteers.
- Missions Fest operates on prayer. Please join with us in praying that God will use the conference to *"thrust out labourers into His Harvest—While There's Still Time."*

*\*There is a small admission charge to reserve tickets for the Friday night youth assembly. To attend the Missions Fest Luncheon and the four tracks that are offered throughout the conference, pre-registration is required and there is a fee for each of these.*