

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I would like to invite you to Missions Fest Alberta 2012! This weekend celebration brings together people of all ages, denominations, ethnic backgrounds, and professions from near and far. They come to be challenged, informed and educated in local and global mission activities, by participating in a variety of experiences.

First and foremost, Missions Fest is all about Jesus Christ and His passion for the lost. Prayer is a vital part of this ministry--it is only through the prayers of God's people that lives are changed and people are "thrust out" into the Harvest. Our Prayer Room is open throughout the conference; please pray that God will work mightily to accomplish His purposes in hearts and lives for the praise, honor, and glory of His own great Name.

Our theme for this year is "*The World is My Neighbor.*" We are commanded in Luke 10:27 to "*Love your neighbor as yourself*" and commissioned in Matthew 28:19 to "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*" People from many nations have come to Canada and now make this country their home. Let's reach out and share Jesus with them, and also find different ways that we can serve in our own neighborhoods. (*For example, one of our projects this year is to help with a snack program in a local school, where students come from diverse ethnic backgrounds--for details see "Missions Fest 2012 Projects" in the 2012 Conference Information.*) There are many countries that still haven't heard about Jesus; maybe God is calling you to go to the field or be involved with technology to reach them.

This ministry is funded by the support of over 100 sponsoring churches; through the sale of booths to Exhibitors; and through our annual *Cultural Connect* fundraising events held in both Calgary and Edmonton. Free-will offerings are also received at assemblies and donation centres during the conference. In addition, we receive support through the year from interested individuals. Because of these sources of funds, there is no registration fee required to attend the conference. Pre-registration is only required for two Friday events: Intensive Training Day and the Luncheon. The conference is facilitated by over 600 volunteers annually; we are thankful for those who dedicate their time and talent to serve each year. For areas of service, see "*Volunteers*" in the "*2012 Conference Information.*" *Join in and experience the blessings!*

More than 145 Exhibitors represent ministries ranging from local missions to provincial and national outreaches, international relief organizations, training schools, camps and support organizations. The Exhibit Hall feature areas are *International Street*, with colorful displays representing many countries, and the *Ministry Van* from Hope Mission.

Each year, national and international speakers mobilize hundreds of evangelicals to missions. Our keynote speakers for 2012 are Vince Antonucci from *Verve*, Las Vegas; Asmick Jean-Jacques from *LaCorde Youth Unlimited*, Montreal; David Macfarlane, Director of National Initiatives with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Canada; and Maralee Dawn, TV host of *Passionate Women* and *Maralee Dawn & Friends*. You won't want to miss any of their sessions as they share the messages that God has given them for us.

Many people have told us that Missions Fest has had a significant impact on their lives. Youth and Young Adult Pastors have shared that Missions Fest Alberta has played an important role in helping their youth and young adults to have life-changing experiences, altering the direction of their lives and helping them to become "*Kingdom-minded*" in their career choices. Youth and young adults can not only meet Jesus but also find His passion for their lives. One inspiring young adult story is from Jason, who will also be sharing his testimony at the conference, (see "*Missions Fest Testimony*" on the "*Home Page*").

Over the years many parents have told me that their children keep asking them, "*When is Missions Fest?*" Why are they asking? Why are children willing to give up vacations to come to Missions Fest? Children's ministry is very important to us, and throughout the weekend children hear all about missions. We are challenging them to think globally, to pray for people world-wide, to learn about other cultures and also where God would have them serve when they grow up. We pray for many seeds for missions to be sown and that the Holy Spirit would call many children "*by name.*" Statistics show that over 90 percent of adult missionaries today heard God call them as a child or early in their youth! Maralee Dawn is our children's speaker this year; she was called as a child and today she is a master ventriloquist and has a heart to see our children reached for the Kingdom.

Throughout the conference, you will be able to participate in sessions and activities as we hear about what God is doing here at home, in our country and around the world. The schedule provides all the details, see "*Conference Schedule*" in the "*2012 Conference Information.*" . *Seek the Lord's direction and find your place in the Harvest.*

Missions Fest Alberta feels like a taste of Heaven! Revelation 7:9,10 says, "*After these things I saw, a great multitude . . . of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the Throne and before the Lamb.*"

Blessings,
Joan Hubert

'Missions Fest is probably 10x more strategic an event than we even comprehend'

George Verwer: Operation Mobilization founder