

A MISSIONS FEST TESTIMONY

The greatest lesson I have learned through Missions Fest is that every Christian can be involved in Missions. As a high school student, I was very fortunate to serve as the Youth Platform Manager for Missions Fest Alberta. I was inspired every year by



Christians who dedicated their lives to cross-cultural ministry and sharing Christ's message of love with those who had never heard. It was easy for me to feel God's hand at work in my life and guiding me towards a career involving missions, but it was so much harder for me to grasp how I could best serve Him. I remember being full of questions: Do I need a University education? What should I study? How could I influence my congregation to become more excited about the Great Commission? And, ultimately, how could I become sensitive enough to God's calling on my life to get over my own agenda to serve Him with my whole heart? As it turned out, God began to open these doors through my involvement with Missions Fest Alberta.

As a Grade 12 student, I spent many hours with a couple who were international workers with the Alliance Church. They challenged me to find my role in the Great Commission using the gifts and talents God had given to me. It became clear that I should attend University and pursue an education in the practical sciences that could be used in international service



in the future. Through a series of very unique, God-orchestrated events, He called me to Calgary for my post-secondary education. Missions Fest Alberta was a critical component in this, and helped me connect with a warm church family in Calgary where I can continue to grow closer

in my walk with the Lord.

My post-secondary career began in Engineering, which is valuable in tent-making contexts of the developing world. God then opened a unique opportunity for me to pursue a Medical degree, and I am now working with the Christian Medical & Dental Society of Canada – a Canada-wide group of Christian physicians with a common faith in Jesus Christ. The CMDS chapter in Calgary is active in the discipling of Christian physicians, as well as projects on the international scale. God has used this group to challenge me, and focus my career goals on His work around the world.

My own cross-cultural ministry began with a missions trip to Tijuana, Mexico with Ellerslie Road Baptist Church and Mexico Caravan Ministries. This trip was an amazing learning experience for me, and demonstrated on such a fundamental level the ability of Christ's message to transcend cultural differences. And while it was such a privilege to be the one "sent" on this trip, I realized how much work it takes for a church family to support a trip like this. There are truly roles for all people in God's mission – those who want to go and serve, those who want to pray for God's spirit to turn hearts toward Him, and those who can support these trips with the resources needed to make a tangible difference in their lives.

As a University student today, my ministry has taken a new direction, as I am not able to easily travel overseas for the time being. So, I am active in sending others through my local church, promoting missions wherever possible, praying for those we are able to send, and providing resources for these trips to be successful. In recent years, I have watched God grow some amazing cross-cultural ministries for new Canadians in both Edmonton and Calgary. For those, like



me, who are not able to travel overseas right now, it is so encouraging to see the work that is taking place within our own borders to reach those cultures who traditionally have no knowledge of Jesus Christ. I have

had a few very close friends dedicate their lives to the Lord over the past few months, which has been an amazing reminder that He answers our prayers. He is committed to reaching all people with His love and forgiveness; it is a great privilege that He chooses to use ordinary people like you and me to accomplish His ends.



The mission statement of Missions Fest Alberta is to equip workers for the Harvest – at home and abroad – so we can share Christ's love with all people of the world. God has faithfully been at work in so many congregations across our province to promote cross-cultural ministry. He truly has a place for each of us in the Great Commission, and it is so exciting to watch Him at work in our lives.

My challenge for you over the Missions Fest 2012 weekend is to find a way you can partner with God's work in cross-cultural missions. Is He calling you to go? Is He calling you to send? Is He calling you to provide support as resources? Whatever it is, be encouraged to know that He is in control.

In Christ,

**Jason
Motkoski**

