

Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

January 2009

Happy New Year!

While economists are predicting a gloomy year, the board of the Northwest Mennonite Conference is excited about the upcoming events in 2009, and are confident that, with God's direction, these events will be a blessing to churches and individuals in the Conference.

Men's Retreat

The first major event is the Men's Retreat taking place February 6-8 at Camp Caroline. The speaker for the weekend is Stan Burkholder.

Stan and his wife Chris have been married for 27 years and live on an acreage near Bluesky, Alberta. Stan's roots go deep into the community as his parents, Paul and Doris, left Tofield to plant a church in Bluesky in 1948. Stan was born there. The small northern community of Bluesky is west of Peace River.

Stan has been very involved in the church and community in a variety of ways. He has been moderator of the local church, and has represented NWMC on the Mennoite Foundation Board. He ran Burkholder Building Supplies for over 25 years, and has been President of the Western Retail Lumber Association.



Stan and Chris Burkholder

He was also the chair of the Fairview Health Plex Foundation and involved in local government.

His life has included some challenges. In 1998 a fire totally destroyed the family business and was rebuilt in nearby Fairview. A health setback ultimately led to the selling of the business in 2004 necessitating some major mid-life changes.

Currently Stan is a sub contract Industry Trainer- he trains workers in the building industry in estimating skills and stress management. He travels across Canada and the US doing motivational speaking in both Church and Work settings.

Men, come and be challenged and encouraged as you listen to Stan share his story and insights into life.



Living as Men of Integrity

Men's Retreat '09

Speaker: Stan Burkholder

February 6-8, 2009

Place: Camp Caroline

Cost: \$170.00

Register: with your pastor, or contact

Mal Braun at 403-337-2412 or

malellie@rehus.net

Pastor goes free with 7 men from your church!

NWMC Annual Convention

March 27-29, 2009

Camp Caroline

**Come to a family-friendly,
inspirational Convention!**

Saturday Night concert: Tim Milner

Workshops:

Praise and Worship with Tim Milner
Treasurer's workshop by Mennonite
Foundation

Youth activities planned by Kathryn
Toupin

Cost: \$150/adult
Pool and gym time!

Newspoint

Did you know...

***You can read back issues** of the newsletter on our website at nwmc.ca? Just click on "churches" and then "newsletter".

***Melford and Verla Haas** of Bluesky Mennonite Church will be serving with MDS for 2 months in Cameron, Louisiana. He will be managing a work site dealing with recovery from Hurricane Ike.

*Please pray for:

Pastor Jorge and Ruth Vallejos. Ruth has been battling cancer and Pastor Jorge had a mild stroke in December.

Pastor Eduardo and Laura Guinez. Laura struggles with both hip and heart issues.

* **Steve Hewko** of Christian Volunteer Movement is leading another Missions Trip to Gambia in February.

* Services of the **Duchess Mennonite Church** are available locally at 101.5 FM.

*Youth, you may want to check out the **blog of the Duchess Youth** at youthdmc.blogspot.com.

* **Don and Louise Alberts** had a wonderful time in Israel and particularly enjoyed the teaching at Mt. Carmel School of Ministry.

* **Ray Landis** had his last radiation treatment on January 9th. He has felt fine throughout and is still working out at the gym every morning!

* Don't forget **Breakforth** conference in Edmonton Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

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