

Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

September 2010

Salem's 100th Anniversary

The 100th Anniversary of Salem Mennonite Church near Tofield, AB was a highlight of the past summer. The weather was perfect for the July 24, 25th weekend. About 600 people, coming from Ontario to B.C. in Canada, and from 7 U.S. states joined together to celebrate. An air of excitement and anticipation prevailed as people gathered beneath the tent erected on their beautiful grounds for this event.

The Salem people did an incredible job of planning the event, with great attention given to detail. The stage was decorated with antiques, and the church gym held displays which told stories of their history through pictures, videos and mementos.

An 80-voice choir was led by Jim Boettger of Salem, Oregon, whose



father had been a former minister and bishop. Levi Smoker, a former pastor, told a children's story of the crossing of the Jordan River, using memorial stones as a reminder to remember what God has done. Don Kauffman, grandson of a former deacon, told the History of Salem. Current pastor Mark Loewen acted as MC.

The keynote speakers, former and current Conference Ministers Ray Landis and Mal Braun, led us in "Looking Back", and "Looking Ahead". Response to the whole event was enthusiastic.

Salem has prepared a Centennial History Book which is available for \$35 plus \$10 shipping, and a dvd of the weekend, including footage from their 60th and 75th anniversaries, for \$20. To order them, contact Diane at 780-662-2946, or email salemchurch@live.ca.



Red Deer's Debt Retirement Celebration

On July 24th the Red Deer Spanish Christian Church *Fuente De Vida* (Fountain of Life) celebrated a milestone: the debt retirement of their building. A celebration was planned with guests from other Northwest churches invited.

The program included music, drama by the youth, and dance by both youth and children. Former Red Deer Pastor Lilia Osorio brought greetings, as well as Pastor Jose Gurdian from Medicine Hat, Pastor Joe Mrak from Smith and Conference Minister Mal Braun. Pastor Jorge Vallejos of Edmonton was the guest speaker for the occasion.



The church property is blessed with a large, treed area beside a creek. After the service they served a meal outside in the beautiful surroundings where the trees gave relief from the hot sun.



Pastor Luis Vega is thankful to God that this goal has been met before his retirement.

Newspoint

Look for more pictures at :
nwmc.ca

Did you know...

* **Noel Dwarika** began as Interim Pastor at the Edson Mennonite Church on August 1. He and his wife Melanie are expecting their second child in October.
***The NWMC Hispanic Churches** held a campout at Gull Lake on August 20-22 which included a baptism service.



***Bluesky Mennonite Church** held a creative Farewell service for retiring pastor Nick and June Dyck on June 27th. Nick and June plan to move to southern Alberta. The church is presently involved in a pastoral search.

* **Pastor Ciro and Loly Serrano** of Red Deer have completed a 2-year Interim Pastorship at Calgary Iglesia La Gracia De Dios. A Farewell was held on August 29th. The church is continuing its pastoral search.



