

Greetings Rocky Mountain Mission Center!

I believe we came expected to be blessed by the Holy Spirit at conference and we were! We began with a time of fellowship and worship, what better way to form as a community and reconnect with each other and the Holy. The tables were set with table cloths, tea pots, cups, saucers, spoons and cookies, dozens of cookies that had been baked by many persons in the mission center. Persons gathered at the tables, choosing which tea to sample for their first cup and eyeing the many varieties of cookies that had so graciously been baked and shared. Of course conversation began long before the direction had been given to begin. A list of questions was provided to assist with the conversation in a missional direction, so that all of this fellowship would have some specific bearing on our journey together as a people of God. It worked, at least in my group! I heard stories of struggle, of compassion, of questioning just how it is that we give hope to those around us. Stories of reluctance, but of hope were expressed, and we shared our journeys as less than perfect disciples of Jesus. Hymns were sung, laughter abounded in that opening service of fellowship and worship as we came together again.

Throughout the weekend, there was a joyous tone to the conference. Persons came to be together, to share in worship and fellowship and to conduct the business of the mission center. All was done with an attitude of openness and honesty. Of course concerns were lifted up. As we see our available funds from the Expansion Fund decline and the need to use more reserves, concerns rose. As the body became aware of the small attendance at youth camps, concerns rose. Even though attempts were made to be fair and just concerning the election of representatives to the USA National Conference Advisory Team, concerns were shared about the selection process. All of these concerns were appropriately shared in the Spirit of hope and love of the body. Conference is a time and place where we can experience an overabundance of joy and togetherness, where we celebrate achievement and hope for the future, but it is also a place where we must provide space for concerns and disagreement, where frustrations can be shared as a way of journeying towards wholeness for the whole body. And so, conference would not be complete or whole, nor would we be true to the purpose of conference if everyone did not feel the permission to stand up and express concern or apprehension. In that light, this was a great conference! Again, we were blessed with all age groups! The youth continue the trend of being involved, sharing in worship and teaching the body about hope and love in the midst of a hurting world. Take time in your congregations to ask the persons who attended to share their experience of conference. I believe you will be blessed as we were at conference! Thank you for your continued support as we strive to pursue God's mission together.

P.S. Thank you to everyone who brought cookies and tea cups to the Mission Center Conference! We appreciate your willing to share with us. - Shandra

Blessings,
Tim



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MISSION CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 7, 2010

2010 RMMC Conference: Approximately 235 persons participated in the 2010 Rocky Mountain Mission Center Conference at some point during the weekend. Thirty-one were youth. About 170 persons stayed overnight for the majority of the conference activities. It was a time of grand fellowship as participants began the conference with an appreciation banquet for pastors and then settled into a tea party where persons shared around the table about mission, God's call to one another and their response. The main room was filled with lively conversation as persons shared with one another over tea and cookies. They shared as a sacred community; it was a joyous beginning to conference.

Business was attended to as well. The 2011 Proposed budget was passed. Bob Walker of the Brighton congregation and Andrew Barentine of the Colorado Springs congregation were elected to represent the RMMC on the USA National Conference Advisory Team. Melanie Grimes, Dave Tiffany, and Chuck Stevenson were elected to the Big Spruce Campground Board and John Madden, Jim Smith and Jordan Wight were elected to the Camp Paradise Board, also Camp Paradise board vacancies were filled by Andy Larkins and Ralph Remington. Of special note, the conference was blessed with the consideration of Marlene Krueger of the Longmont congregation, to the office of Evangelist, who was ordained on Sunday morning of conference. The worship offered new hope and a blessed sending forth as those gathered, witnessed a call and response to ordination and the sharing of the Lord's Supper.

Various persons were honored and appreciated as a result of their service and pursuance of educational goals. The 2010 Annual Mission Center report will be available online as well. Please go