



Let's start by celebrating!

It's going to be a celebration! The opening session of the annual BC Conference Convention on May 2 and 3 will feature worship, stories and encouragement for anyone who is part of a BCMB church. You don't need to be a delegate.



The new worship centre at Coquitlam's Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship—the physical culmination of one of the great spiritual stories to be told on Friday night to open the BC Conference Convention.

BCMB Director of Church Planting Gord Fleming says there are so many wonderful things happening in so many churches, the decision was made to share the good news in the first session of the convention, leaving the business issues until Saturday morning.

The Convention takes place at Abbotsford's Central Heights MB Church (on McCallum Road, right beside the freeway).

One of the stories to be told is from Coquitlam's Eagle Ridge Bible Church, which just started using its new \$3-million sanctuary and classroom addition. Another is the story of the near-explosion of church planting within our conference.

Also on Friday night, Guest speaker Tim Geddert will deliver the convention's keynote theme, "Mission Possible". It will be a good time.

Registration can be done through the BC Conference website (www.bcmb.org).

CALENDAR

- April 19 - Columbia Bible College
Graduation ceremonies -
Abbotsford - Central Hts
- April 20-May 1 - CBC Alumni tour
- April 30-May 2 - Credentialing
Conference - Langley/ACTS
- May 2-3 - BC Conference Convention
Abbotsford - Central Hts .
- May 4-6 - Pastors' and Spouses
Retreat
Harrison Hot Springs
- May 6 - 12th Annual Columbia Open
Golf - Surrey - Hazelmere
- May 10-11 - Stillwood "50th" party
- July 10-12 - "Gathering" -
Canadian Conference
Convention - Montreal



It's for ministry!

Workers put the finishing touches on "The Barn" gym at Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre, south of Chilliwack.

Officially opened and dedicated in a ceremony on April 13th, The Barn is in fact a wonderful new gym, the latest addition to the property. Social and meeting rooms are included, adding to the centre's capacity. (That "silo" is a climbing tower!)

Stillwood plans a major celebration in May to commemorate 50 years of camp ministry. Details inside!

Historic Services

BC Ordains Two Women as Pastors

“For me it is an encouragement from God,” says Grace Kim. “Totally from God.” On March 30th, Pastor Grace, a staff member of Vancouver Pacific Grace MB Church, became the first woman in Canadian Mennonite Brethren history to be ordained as a pastor.

The ordination service filled her church with well-wishers. It marked a new chapter that became a possibility for ministering women after the 2006 Gathering in Calgary, when delegates approved individual churches calling women into ministry at every level, as they felt led.

Now-Rev. Kim believes both the denomination and her church showed courage, and she is thankful to be part of it. “I didn’t have any intention to be ordained. I didn’t plan this,” she said.



*Grace Kim, Vancouver
Pacific Grace*



*Bev Peters, Abbotsford
Northview*

But her church proposed her, and a conference committee agreed.

She is one of two women in BC to be ordained this spring. Northview Abbotsford will ordain its Women’s Pastor, Bev Peters, on April 19th. (The service will take place in the church’s Centre court at 7:30.)

Both women concur with the denominational belief that ordination is an acknowledgment, not a sacrament as others may regard it – a recognition of a ministry in leadership of a body of individual believers.

Both women say they are carrying on with their work – but among some people they deal with, not having ordination was sometimes perceived as a less-than-full standing in ministry. No longer!

Stillwood Dedicates New Gym facility

With thanksgiving, in a ceremony on Sunday, April 13th, the new “Barn” gym complex was dedicated to God’s work at Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre.

Steve Berg, Conference Minister, reminded the 150 guests that Jesus called us to be salt and light in the world. Both salt and light are benefits - and through the camp and retreat experience, he said, “it’s opportunity.”

John Redekop, board chair, said The Barn is the 32nd new building to be completed at Stillwood in the last 10 years.

Richmond Chinese MB church commissions Mandarin- language minister

Her university degree is a Ph.D. from the University of Alberta. It’s in pharmaceutical sciences. In fact, based on her ten years of scientific work following graduation she can claim more than 20 publications to her credit. But that’s science. Her passion is God’s people, and discipling them in the gospel.

Ping Su is ministering in Richmond to Mandarin speakers, as someone trained in Christian Studies (postgraduate) at Evangel Seminary, Hong Kong.

Pastor Ping Su came originally from Mainland China. She has been on staff at Richmond Chinese MB since 2007.

Now she is commissioned as a pastor by the BC Mennonite Brethren .

Richmond Chinese MB is like many MB churches in BC. Most of these churches were started to provide ministry in Cantonese, the dialect spoken in and around Hong Kong. However, immigration patterns have changed, and now more Chinese speaking families are coming to Canada from Mainland China and from Taiwan. .

About 40 Mandarin Chinese speaking people gather as a language group at Richmond Chinese MB, pastored by Ping Su. It is a growing work, says Richmond Pastor Peter Mau.

Stillwood turns Fifty!

A weekend camping celebration — you're invited!

Except that it is up to date and leading edge, you might call Stillwood Camp and Conference Centre “venerable”. It’s just not venerable—there is always too much going on, too many new things happening, to earn that description.

Stillwood celebrates fifty years of ministry this year, and board and staff have planned two days of events to mark the occasion. Says board chair John Redekop, “It will be a great celebration.”

Saturday, May 10th

- 10 AM Stillwood Run - to raise money for camperships for underprivileged kids
- All Day - Open House for all
 - events for children, including petting zoo and other attractions; live music
- 3 PM Concert with singer Chris Janz and others - followed by refreshments

Sunday, May 11th

- 4 PM - 50th Anniversary “Walk Down Memory Lane”, sharing, testimonies and stories
 - 75-piece MEI Band
- 5:30 PM - Celebration Banquet - for the old fashioned price of just \$15 a plate.

Some members of the first camp board are also expected to be present - along with many campers who made significant spiritual decisions at Stillwood (or Columbia Bible Camp, its original name.)

Almost there...

“www.WatchThis Space”

The ads sometimes say, “Watch This Space!!!” It’s one of the ways that advertisers can introduce a new product to the public.

“Watch This Space” is also a relevant phrase on the web. BC Conference has almost completed a major redesign and upgrade—and you will see it soon at www.bcmb.org.

The BC Mennonite Brethren website will become more up to date and more easily navigable. And it will contain more content than the current site. Most people will find it more attractive.

One component of the site has been activated already to allow easy, on-line registration for conference events, like the Convention and the Pastors and Spouses Retreat.

“More and more people use websites to answer basic questions and to find out information,” says conference administrator Marilyn Hiebert. “Our new site will make it easier to offer much more information.”

(commercial)
*While you think of it -
Go Online NOW
And register for the
B C Conference Convention !*

It IS easy being green!

BC Conference Convention 2008 is ‘going earth friendly’. So many convention resolution books are left behind each year that Conference organizers decided to try to conserve paper (and trees!) this year.

The Convention book will be available on the website. It’ll be available from April 18th, onward—and delegates who want to print specific sections or pages can do so easily, right off the website, as needed.

(There will be some books available at the convention for those who are forgetful.)

BC Link Photo Gallery



Deacon Steven Lee, Pastor Grace and Asst. Conference Minister Bob Friesen during the ordination service at Vancouver Pacific Grace.



Cameras get lined up as members of the Mandarin Group at Pacific Grace go to the stage for pictures, following Grace Kim's ordination service.



Just what every church wants - an adequate-sized foyer! This is part of the new worship centre at Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship. The tile was laid by member-volunteers -- over a 2 month time period!



Marilyn Hiebert represented the BC Conference at the official opening and dedication of Eagle Ridge's new facilities. And that bouquet in front is from Conference, too.



(l-r) Stillwood Board chair John Redekop, with Camp Director Harry Edwards, presents plaques of appreciation to donors David Froese and Henry Schroeder during dedication ceremony of the new gym, "The Barn".