

# Points of Connection

## Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

December 2009



### Merry Christmas!

Have you ever looked at the birth of Jesus from Mary's perspective? She, more than anyone, knew that this baby was the Son of God, yet there were some unwelcome surprises at the time of His birth:

#### 1. Travel

The need to travel to Bethlehem at the time of His birth would have been disturbing. It was about 130 kilometers and was normally a 4-day trip. Any woman due to have a baby values home and security at such a time. Did she wonder, Why has God allowed these circumstances? Why now? Or did she see it as God intervening to bring about His purposes to have the Messiah born in Bethlehem?

#### 2. Poor Accomodation

They arrived after a long trip to find there was no room for them. That's enough to make a pregnant woman panic! She bore her child in an unfamiliar, crude setting and had no place but a feeding trough in which to lay God's Son. Why? God's Son was not given a high class entry into this world, nor

even an ordinary one. It was a humble beginning. Did Mary wonder why God allowed this for His Son? Did she feel forgotten by God? Was God making a point?

#### 3. Loneliness

Where were the grandparents, the relatives and friends who usually come to celebrate a birth? Mary and Joseph were far from home.

God sometimes requires hard things of His children, but He has His own unique ways of comforting us and meeting our needs in a way that is far beyond our expectations.

Though it appears He deliberately chose to have His Son born in unusually poor circumstances, He honored Him by sending a company of angels to announce His birth. The most amazing birth announcement ever was made to some of the most lowly people—shepherds! They came and told Mary and Joseph what they had seen and heard, and if the parents had any questions about the hardship that God had allowed, they must have vanished when the shepherds told them their story.

God doesn't always do what we expect Him to, but many times He does far better!

## Convention Sponsorships

The NWMC Board is once again planning our Annual Convention at Camp Caroline as an inspirational family time open to everyone. There will be activities for youth and children as well as workshops for adults. It's a great time to be encouraged in your faith, connect with other churches, and be a part of what's happening in the Conference. The dates are March 26-28, 2010.

Camp Caroline is a great facility with plenty of room, a bright open dining area, a cozy fireplace area, a swimming pool, hot tub and gym.

Because we would like to encourage the participation of families and youth, we want to keep our registration fees as low as possible, which means they won't cover our expenses. We invite any who have a heart for it to make donations to the Conference to specifically help cover the cost of Convention. If this is something you would like to help with, you may send donations earmarked for Convention to Carol at the office at:

NWMC  
Box 1316,  
Didsbury, AB, T0M 0W0.

#### Camp Caroline Lounge



## Newspoint

*Did you know...*

\* **Salem Mennonite Church** in Tofield, AB held a LIFE Weekend on the Gospel of John on November 6-8th with 21 attending. Mal and Eleanor Braun offer a number of such courses to any of our churches. For more information check the website at [nwmc.ca](http://nwmc.ca).

\***Thank you** for your generosity to the El Salvador Project on Missions Sunday, November 15th. We will announce the amount raised when we have our final figures.

\* **Marion Yoder** from Smith, AB has gone to a Christian Hospital in Mexico for December 1-13th to receive treatment for cancer. In January she will return for 6 more days of treatment. She has colon cancer which has spread to her lungs and liver. Pray for the Lord's good hand of healing to be upon her.

\***The Lethbridge Hispanic Church** dedicated Werner and Erika Herrera to the Lord for service as Associate Pastor on November 22nd.

\***The Duchess Mennonite Church** held a Cowboy Christmas Celebration at the Duchess Hall on December 2nd. It included a Western Art and Craft Show and a concert.

\* Please pray for the **Edson Mennonite Church** in their search for a pastor.

