



It was a busy week in Western Canada!

It is wonderful news that we have just completed a week long visit from Hands at Work in Africa founder George Snyman and co-worker Lynn Chotowetz, who came all the way from Masoyi, South Africa, to help us consolidate our new partnerships and forge the way forward.

Through the generosity and assistance of Westside Kings Church in Calgary, a number of joint events and strategy sessions were scheduled to keep George and Lynn fully engaged with the work at hand.

This trip was essential to help Hands Canada define our role, and establish partnerships with key organizations. We now have a renewed sense of commitment that with the support of the church and community, ordinary folks like us can make a difference, and that we can positively affect change in Africa.

George began his mission in Canada by speaking at three Sunday services at Westside Kings Church in Calgary, where the relationship with Hands Africa was first established some 4 years ago. After sending over 150 people on 15 teams, as well as many Footprinters and Midtermers, and Longtermers Jayme and Lynn Chotowetz, the relationship was further strengthened by a new commitment to the 100,000 by 2010.

Westside continues to build a strong leadership and training program that continues to be a standard to be emulated and have reaffirmed their partnership with Hands at Work.

In the middle of the week, George and Lynn travelled to Canada's flat land (Lynn's homeland) to Saskatoon Saskatchewan in response to an invitation from Lakeview Free Methodist Church. They also attended a meeting with Mary Jacobi from the Catholic Diocesan Mission Office that represents over 75 churches. Mary was very impressed with George's philosophy and the mandate of Hands at Work. Future collaboration between the Saskatoon Diocese and Hands is very likely.

Dinner was held with the Chotowetz and Haskey families. George was delighted to meet some of Lynn and Jayme's family. For dessert they surprised him with an ice cream cake for his birthday.

After dinner, it was off to Lakeview Church for George's talk entitled, "Compelled by the Father's Heart". Approximately 75 people were in attendance. As usual, George's African stories and obvious faith in Jesus Christ touched the hearts of everyone. There was a good Q&A after with many interested in short and long term missions in Africa. Lakeview Free Methodist Church facilitates

teams and individual support for Hands. At the present time, one member, Kristal is in Masoyi with Forward Education and three more people are interested in going. Shelly is the part-time staff person who does the organizing.

During the rest of the time in Canada and between major events, George and Lynn met with many interested individuals, groups, committees and information seekers on how they can play a role in supporting Hands.

On his final Sunday in Calgary George preached a passionate sermon at two services at First Assembly Church and met with Sara Curdie, their missions pastor, and several committee members. First Assembly is particularly interested in Nigeria and currently has long termer Lisa Poulsen in Masoyi, working in the accounting department and living at the farm.

The week culminated in a strategy session sponsored by anchor church Westside Kings with staff Colette DeJordy, Chris Wiersma and Jeremy Duncan. Richard Brown from VisionLedd, Matt Janes and Mark Crocker from the STM Network, Paul Day, George and Lynn from Hands Africa, and Stan Geddes from Hands Canada met to forge a new partnership and future operating strategy for Canada.

Happy Birthday George!



Throughout the very busy week, George did take time out to celebrate his latest birthday - twice. It would appear that he didn't have much wind left as he missed three candles on his initial blowing attempt! This was at the Birthday Eve party at the Dalley's in Calgary Alberta.

The official birthday celebration took place in Saskatoon Saskatchewan, on Tuesday August 19th, sponsored by Jayme and Lynn's families.

This was George's 3rd birthday away from home and we were honored to host it in Canada.



At the alumni meeting of previous team participants from anchor church Westside Kings in Calgary, George speaks to over 80 people about the 100,000 by 2010



A question and answer session was held after the presentation and included partners Hands Africa, Westside Kings Missions Committee, and Hands Canada

George, Lynn and The Hands Canada team, along with those available from the Westside Kings Missions Committee and family members, celebrate our new partnership at a bar-b-que in Calgary, framed by the Canadian Sunset.

