

Community Conference in the Middle of Nowhere

Field of dreams becomes a reality.

Pastor Corey Randell was called to Chauvin, Alberta: population 350; seemingly in the middle of nowhere.

Instead of backing down from his call, Corey had a vision that there should be a conference in this place. But how? Where? "The town had no hotels and almost no resources for such a thing."

... "You're going to hold it in the ball diamonds. It's for the youth and young adults," Corey heard.

He dared to share his idea with a couple of other youth pastors whom he met, and they responded with enthusiasm.

Tentatively he spoke with the church board, to hear a woman say "Go ahead. Six years ago another came to our women's group with the same idea."

The church offered some seed money, and plans and prayers melded together. It was amazing how people got involved. They donated rental generators and portable construction light standards, construction trailers, and snow fencing to designate the various areas. They fixed up the old kitchen that was on-site ... and the event came to life.

Two hundred people showed up. Many brought their young families. Everyone worked to make it a success. And within a month of the conference every bill was paid.

Corey says, "There's been a change in our community. The Spirit of God broke down barriers, new relationships formed, and they are still forming. Our community told us how pleased they were with the positive effect the *Middle of Nowhere Conference* had on the community, the kids, and the area. People became engaged through the Lord's vision."

Tentatively the question was raised whether to do it again. At the meeting the response was heartening. Many were ready to give it a try.

At the time of writing his story, "the ball diamonds and generators and trailers have been donated again. The fire department has volunteered to organize the kitchen. Hot water for showers will be provided by the community and others are bringing vacuum trucks to haul the gray water. Plans are in full swing for a second community conference in Chauvin – the Middle of Nowhere Conference, 2010."

*For a more complete telling of Corey's story and pictures of the first conference see
[http://www.circle-m.ca/rural-ministry-
stories/stories_web/middle_of_nowhere_conference.html](http://www.circle-m.ca/rural-ministry-stories/stories_web/middle_of_nowhere_conference.html).*