



Rural Church Pastors Network

Offering hope, encouragement and counsel to those who serve in rural communities.

Report from Inaugural RCPN Events

On November 22nd & 23rd in Stettler and Lamont, rural pastors from across Alberta met together to launch and celebrate the inaugural meetings of the newly formed Rural Church Pastors Network. (RCPN)

The rural church pastors' network is designed as a delivery system bringing our vision to reality for pastors in rural communities. Our desire is to provide a forum for rural pastors to find hope, encouragement and access to peer support and mentoring as required.

In total, 28 pastors from four denominations (Alliance, Evangelical Free, Full Gospel & Lutheran) and two denominational coaches attended the events. Pastors came from as far north/west as Beaver Lodge, east from Provost, and south from Carseland.



The purpose of the gatherings was to celebrate the ministry of the rural church pastor and to introduce pastors to the ministry of the Rural Church Pastors Network, believed to be the first of its kind in Alberta. While initiated by several Alliance rural pastors, the network is open to all pastors who minister in rural environments

The 'Thrill of the Ride' events included a rich worship experience, a devotional thought focusing on the challenges of leadership, and testimonials of the 'joys of ministry' in rural contexts. Table discussions allowed pastors to share their pastoral experiences, joys and challenges. The results from a recent rural pastor survey were discussed with a view to establishing an understanding of the potential benefits of pastors becoming involved in the RCPN.

One finding in the survey found 63% of survey respondents desiring a mentoring relationship. One of the goals of the RCPN is to connect experienced rural pastors with those who desire a wise word and ongoing counsel along the way.

A ministry resource lending library was on hand along with a 'good book' give-away provided by one of the rural church pastors.

The events concluded with an extended time of prayer in triads. Each pastor also received, as a gift, a copy of the Pastor to Pastor CD set entitled 'What I Like About Being a Pastor'... two hours of good listening for the trip home!

All in all, the events were seen as a huge success with the gatherings being seasoned with heart felt laughter, ministry celebration, an acknowledgement of the challenges of ministering in a rural context, and great food and hospitality by the host churches!

For more information and to register as a ministry partner, visit the RCPN website at:

www.ruralchurchpastorsnetwork.com