

Christian Schools Canada 5th Leadership Conference Edmonton, AB

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GOD PRINTS: Stories of Leadership

Introducing Our Keynote Speakers



Rev. Cecil Van Niejenhuis was pastor of First Christian Reformed Church, Edmonton, Alberta. Recently he has been hired to fill a position in the Pastor/Church Relations denominational office of the Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan following the retirement of Rev. Duane Visser.

Cecil Van Niejenhuis finds it odd to be sitting in the sanctuary and listening as the pastor gives the sermon on Sunday mornings because he is the one who stood in the pulpit and preached just about every weekend for nearly 30 years at a series of CRC congregations across Canada. "Learning to sit in a pew and be a member of a congregation is a bit different," he says.

But he doesn't regret his decision to leave the full-time pastorate to serve in the Pastor/Church Relations office of the Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "This has been a good move for me," says Van Niejenhuis. "I feel that there has been a good stretching."

Pastor/Church Relations is the office that works with churches and pastors who are having difficulties. But it also holds workshops and other sessions to prevent problems from occurring. In addition, it helps pair ministers with churches looking for a pastor.



Dr. Dan Reinhardt is the Founder and Director of the CREST Leadership Program, an innovative leadership development program whose mission is "Impacting the hearts of mid-life leaders to fulfill their compelling dreams." Established in 2002, CREST has trained over 150 leaders through its various programs, including pastors, lay persons, business owners, and executive teams of major Canadian charities: Focus on the Family, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Compassion Canada, 100 Huntley Street, Opportunity International, Compassion

Canada and Christian Business Ministries Canada.

Born in Portland, Oregon in 1954, Dan lived in Calgary, Alberta until age 5 when his family moved to India where his parents taught at the South India Biblical Seminary for 22 years. Dan returned to the U.S.A. to attend Vennard College in Iowa and graduated in 1977. Dan married Anne Harris in 1975 and after Vennard they attended the American Institute of Holy Land Studies where Dan received his M.A.

Dan became Associate Pastor at Hillcrest Evangelical Church, Medicine Hat, Alberta in 1979. After 12 years he was served as Senior Pastor for 10 more years. In those 22 years the church grew from an average attendance of 250 to 1200. Dan was accepted to the Beeson Pastor Program at Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky for the 1998-99 session and received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Asbury Seminary in 2001. This experience launched Dan into his present ministry. In 2002 Dan moved his family to Calgary, Alberta where he launched the CREST Leadership Program.