

## Alberta Church Draws Protesters

The Sunday Rev. John Van Sloten used the new mayor of Calgary, Alberta, as part of his sermon “text,” protesters who don’t like the mayor turned up on the sidewalk in front of the church.

Van Sloten, the pastor of New Hope Christian Reformed Church in Calgary, has a reputation for incorporating new media into his services and looking for God in contemporary culture.

“The Gospel According to Naheed Nenshi” began as a response to the mayor’s unusual leadership, Van Sloten said.

In October 2010, Nenshi became the first Muslim mayor of Calgary, or of any Canadian city. Nenshi, who doesn’t necessarily embody traits associated with a city known for its Stampede and cowboy nature, got more votes than the total votes cast in the previous election.

Van Sloten said, “God built into you and me as citizens . . . an insatiable yearning for wise, humble, real, authentic leadership,” he said, “a deep desire for somebody who has that powerful position but is selfless, who cares more about us, the city collectively, than he does about himself.” He sees those traits in Nenshi.

In his sermon, Van Sloten talked about what it means to be a better citizen, how God uses



BARB BRONSON

Protesters showed up at New Hope CRC when they heard the sermon was about the new mayor.

### IN MEMORIAM



#### Rev. John Vander Lugt

1926-2010

Rev. John Vander Lugt, 84, devout child of the Lord, accomplished storyteller, one-time school teacher, war veteran, and faithful minister of the Word, passed away on Dec. 19.

After serving in both the U.S. Army and Air Force, Vander Lugt taught school and then graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary to enter the gospel ministry in 1963.

He served Christian Reformed congregations in Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota before retiring in 1991. He then served ten congregations that were without a pastor.

Vander Lugt’s ministry was marked by a sincere concern for the well-being of his parishioners. His carefully selected illustrations enhanced the effectiveness of his sermons. His years as a school teacher continued to strengthen the educational side of his ministry.

Vander Lugt was predeceased by his first wife, Grada. He is survived by his wife Margaret, three children and their spouses, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

—Louis M. Tamminga

Further information on recently deceased ministers is available each year in the front pages of the Christian Reformed Church’s annual Yearbook.



A praise band leads worship at the Main Campus Chapel at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana.

ing sight and sound was challenging, but “we’ll take lessons learned and do it even better next time.”

For video of the worship service, please visit [www.thebanner.org](http://www.thebanner.org).

—Doug Evenhouse

those in leadership, and how God is truly a democratic God.

Church members were very positive about the service, Van Sloten said. Some spoke to the protesters.

Barb Bronson said protesters were comparing Nenshi to Hitler and Saddam Hussein. “I didn’t take what they were saying about Nenshi too seriously,” she said, “but I was glad we’re a city that people can peacefully protest in and say what is on our minds.”

—Rachel deKoning Kraay