

C A N A D I A N
Mennonite

October 17, 2005
Volume 9, Number 20

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Finding a way through illness

Six months ago, on our honeymoon, my wife and I went on a hike through one of the trails in Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park. It was a sunny, warm day in mid-April and we thought we would finish the trail loop in time for a late lunch.

We discovered that once we got under the thick forest cover, everything changed. The light dimmed, the temperature dropped and snow covered our path. It was like stepping back into winter.

At the centre of the trail, the snow was firm enough to support us. Everywhere else, it wasn't. The problem was there were just the faintest of marks on the snow giving hints to where the trail was. Every few steps, a spot that looked good, wasn't, and our feet would plunge through.

It was slow, exhausting going, especially with the uncertainty of never knowing when the snow was going to crumble beneath your feet. The only way we could find where the path lay was to walk it.

That same feeling is with me again. Three weeks ago, my wife had chest surgery. The surgery was more invasive than originally planned and recovery was slow. Then she had a very painful and unexplained build-up of fluid in her chest that had to be drained. We've since learned that this was caused by accidental damage to her lymph system during the first procedure. She is now facing a second major operation in the near future to try to correct that damage. It's been an uncertain, discouraging time.

We had a service of prayer and anointing for her in the

hospital chapel that was very meaningful for us. I'm hanging onto Scripture from Isaiah 43 shared with us then: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One, your Saviour.... You are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you...."

When you descend into the darkness, you sometimes need help to remember what the light looks like.

In his instructions to the sick, James tells them to call elders to pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. He is teaching us that the Body of Christ needs to draw close around those who are sick, letting personal suffering be shared and calling on God for healing.

Near the end of that hike, exhausted, we discovered that the way home was blocked by spring run-off. It was too painful to think of having to retrace all our steps. Then we found a log that had fallen over the rushing waters a short way down the river. Clutching onto each other, we inched

our way across and made it back.

We're looking for that log now. But even so, our identity as children of the loving God is not threatened by illness or death. We are the Lord's, and no claim on us is more important or more powerful than that one.

—Tim Miller Dyck

He is teaching us that the Body of Christ needs to draw close around those who are sick, letting personal suffering be shared and calling on God for healing.

Mission statement: Published by Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service, *Canadian Mennonite* serves primarily the people and churches of Mennonite Church Canada and its five area conferences.

Canadian Mennonite is a bi-weekly Anabaptist/ Mennonite periodical which seeks to promote covenantal relationships within the church (Hebrews 10:23-25). It provides channels for sharing accurate and fair information, faith profiles, inspirational/educational materials, news and analysis of issues facing the church.

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Contact head office for subscriptions and address changes. Order form on inside back cover. **Postmaster:** Send returns to head office. PAP Registration No. 09613. Agreement No. 40063104. We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program towards our mailing costs. ISSN 1480-042X **Website:** www.canadianmennonite.org

Canada

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Volume 9, Number 20



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Web site preview

Get a preview of the next Canadian Mennonite before it comes in the mail. Selections are posted on our web site at www.canadianmennonite.org on the Thursday before the issue date. So you can check out the October 31 issue by October 27.

Cover: What does the future hold for young Congolese? Children gaze through a broken window at the Mbandu Mennonite Brethren secondary school in Kikwit. For more stories and photos on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, see pages 16, 17 and 32. Photo by Ray Dirks

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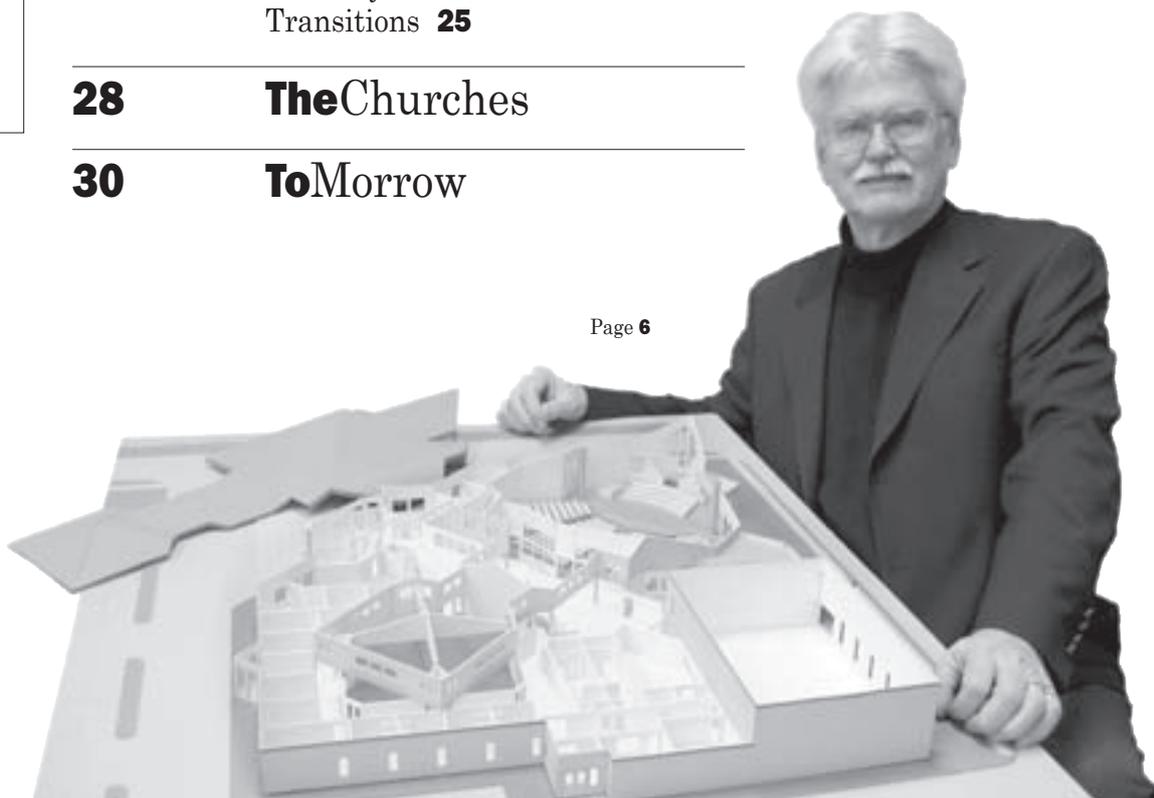
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Winnipeg

Delighting in youth

In her dynamic and charismatic way, Kathy Giesbrecht is able to make young people feel affirmed and valued. They love her, whether she is their youth pastor, camp pastor, retreat leader or just happens to be in the same room. Her laughter and her ability to listen fill them with warmth and the knowledge they are valued.

“When a congregation delights in their youth, that goes a long way towards youth feeling a part of, and included in, the church. This can be as simple as clapping,” says Giesbrecht, who recently resigned from her position as half-time associate pastor at Springstein (Man.) Mennonite Church, where she served for the past eight years. She is continuing her work as quarter-time youth pastor at the Winnipeg Chinese Mennonite Church.

Recently she took some time to reflect on her experiences in youth ministry.

“I was quite sick as a child. My mother prayed for me and committed me to God. That was the beginning of the journey,” says Giesbrecht. “I’ve always felt God was for me. I have an overwhelming sense of God loving me. It’s a gift.”

Giesbrecht’s response to God’s love has always been a compelling desire to serve him. Burrows Bethel, her home church in Winnipeg, encouraged and nurtured her as a junior high Sunday school teacher at 17. Here she discovered her love of working with young people. While attending Winnipeg Bible College she volunteered with kids clubs in the inner city and after graduation worked with Youth for Christ in Portage la Prairie, Man.

After a year of study at Providence Seminary, Giesbrecht worked for Youth for Christ in Winnipeg for seven years. “Those were very rich years.... They taught me all kinds of things about being the church. God is so much bigger than the church. God met

those kids in ways that really helped them. It enlarged my understanding of God’s commitment to people.

“I became more and more convinced, however, that the way for the church and for me to reach young people and their families was through congregations. The congregation is the locus or centre for outreach.”

A year at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary was like a “homecoming in a deeper way within the Mennonite community,” she says. “The theological studies deepened my thinking and faith convictions and my desire to serve in the context of a congregation.”

In her youth ministry, Giesbrecht has come to see that “the greatest gift a congregation gives their young people is a healthy congregation. When they learn to live together, sacrifice and serve together, this is ultimately what attracts them to the church. It really lays the responsibility for youth ministry upon everyone in the church. We all have to learn to forgive and live in right relationship,” she says.

“When asked what they enjoy most about church, my youth often say it’s the potlucks. It’s more than an eating event,” explains Giesbrecht. “It conveys a powerful sense of belonging and sharing together, which they don’t experience anywhere else. It’s a reminder to me of what is important.”

Giesbrecht values the youth ministry courses she has taken at Canadian Mennonite University. They have encouraged her to think of youth ministry in more proactive ways. “If a

‘Much of youth ministry happens outside the church building, unseen and therefore not always fully appreciated, except by the parents.’



Giesbrecht

community thinks ahead about issues and transitions, it can prepare and navigate, rather than wait on the other end of a crisis,” she says.

One of the ways in which Giesbrecht did this was by building a unit on human sexuality into the Sunday school curriculum. She drew in a variety of resources, including people within the congregation to tell their stories.

Youth ministry is mostly outside public view, Giesbrecht points out. “You don’t realize the amount of relational work a youth ministry team does. It can be the temptation of a congregation to measure the health of youth ministry by numbers in the youth group, but this is a false measuring stick because of the nature

of the group being served.”

“Much of youth ministry happens outside the church building, unseen and therefore not always fully appreciated, except by the parents,” she says.

Giesbrecht appreciates the “incredible support” of the congregations in which she has served. “We have raised thousands of dollars so our kids could go to youth conferences, mission trips and camp work. Only later in life do the youth fully realize that support was a deep expression of the congregation’s love for them.”

“I’m ready for a new season in my life,” says Giesbrecht. “To move aside would allow other things to grow and allows me to serve in other ways.” She plans to rest, do volunteer work for the larger church, and respond to invitations to preach and teach.

—Evelyn Rempel Petkau

Winnipeg

'If you want me to stay, I am willing to learn'

Winnipeg Chinese Mennonite Church is tucked away in the corner of a busy intersection in southwest Winnipeg. Set in from the busy traffic corridors, this small congregation creatively ministers to a busy cross-section of culture and diversity.

Albert Cheng, who has been involved with the church since its beginning in 1974, gave up his construction business, went to seminary, and in July began serving as pastor to this congregation. This was not an easy decision. Loneliness was one of his fears, but concern for the church overrode them.

"I closed down my company and started looking for a seminary where I could study," he says. "But then after surgery for cancer I started to worry that I was too old to study." He took heart in Psalm 138:8a ("The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me..."), and felt God's leading. He completed his master of divinity degree at Providence College.

"I told God if you want me to stay, I am willing to learn," Cheng says of his new pastoral role, claiming God's promise to Moses in Joshua, "I will be with you," as his own. "The two things I need to do are be faithful to his word and be faithful to my people."

Cheng saw the Winnipeg church through its early years, when they borrowed space from a Lutheran congregation. After a year-and-a-half of juggling worship service schedules, the Winnipeg Mandarin Church moved to the University of Manitoba campus.

When the congregation moved to the university campus they began weekly Bible study groups and the congregation grew to where between 70 percent and 80 percent were students.

"Most of them were from Hong Kong, several from Malaysia and a very few from Taiwan and Indonesia," Cheng says.

"Rev. Jonathan Chen, who had Mennonite connections from Taiwan, knew Jim and Margo Penner from

Bethel Mennonite Church, and so we moved into that church in 1976," Cheng recounts. "At that point we were still non-denominational, but our diverse backgrounds created problems, so we wanted to belong to one denomination. The Anabaptist faith attracted us to the General Conference Mennonite Church [precursor to Mennonite Church Canada] because most of our people came from Anabaptist groups like Baptist or Alliance."

Some of the familiarity with Mennonite churches grew out of their involvement with the Vietnamese boat people.

"We helped with a lot of translation for Mennonite churches," notes Cheng. "Some of the boat people became Christians, but they wanted to be baptized by a Mandarin pastor."

Since then, the church has purchased its present building and adjacent house on Riverwood Ave. Their international student ministry continues to grow. They welcome new students by picking them up from the airport and assisting them with housing and settling in, using the opportunity to invite them to their fellowship and to come to know Christ.

"Many of them return home after they finish their degree," Cheng notes. "We have that window of opportunity to disciple them."

This young adult group has a parallel structure to the church, with its own deacons, council and devotional leaders. In this way the church tries to



Photo by Evelyn Rempel Petkau

Albert Cheng, left, became Winnipeg Chinese Mennonite Church's new pastor this summer, after having been involved in the church since its inception more than 30 years ago. He is pictured with Kathy Giesbrecht, youth pastor.

equip new leaders who will carry the gospel and their leadership skills back to their home country.

"We do this because we want them to learn how to function as a Christian body," Cheng stresses. "Every [student] leader has a mentor."

Cheng sees an emerging challenge in the church's ministry to "local born children." In an effort to meet the needs of this emerging group of English-speaking, locally born and raised young people who have adopted much of Canadian culture, the church hired Kathy Giesbrecht two years ago as quarter-time youth pastor. She ministers to a dozen or so students ranging in age from Grade 8 to university.

—Evelyn Rempel Petkau

What you build is who you are: Mennonite architects reflect on church design

Talk to any church architect, and you'll soon be discussing the mission of the church. The form of a building or worship space must relate to the functions that take place in that space—and those activities will reflect the church's vision of itself.

"The building creates the space you need to conduct the program you want," says Harold Funk of Winnipeg, whose architectural firm specializes in churches. Is a church called to host a daycare program? Will it be feeding and housing the homeless, or running a large Sunday school program? Is the congregation gifted in music, thus requiring keen attention to acoustics? "If you don't have [the proper design elements]," says Funk, "you can't run the program."

Mennonites in particular tend to be task-oriented people, says LeRoy Troyer, CEO of the Troyer Group of Mishawaka, Ind., whose firm has worked with some 300 congregations from a variety of denominations. The danger, he says, is that they will begin a building project with questions of design and budget, which might produce an attractive and affordable facility, but one that is ill suited to the congregation.

Instead, Troyer recommends that a mission or planning committee should lead the first steps of the process. "I would put it in big letters: MISSION-ORIENTED DESIGN," he says. This means concerted discernment involving everyone in the congregation.

Shared vision spurs ownership

"Working with a community is a lot more chaotic than working with just one person or just one family," says Anne Cutrell, an architectural intern in Denver who, as a student, designed a monastery. "[Still], you need to take into account the whole community. They need to listen to each other as much as listen to the designer. Listening to your neighbours, you can come to an understanding of your common values, your common interests."

One method Troyer has used in groups ranging in size from 10 to 500 is to have people write down comments, then share them in small groups. That keeps discussion from being dominated by more outspoken people. But no matter the process, Cutrell warns, "Not everyone is going to get what they want."

Clarifying the purpose, says Funk, can also energize congregations when it comes to the next challenge of a building or renovation project: the price tag. Whether for

"stewardship" reasons or because of tight finances, congregations will often favour the lowest price. "There's always a money crunch, and church groups seemingly can't find the money to build what they should build," he says. But a good discernment process "helps sharpen the vision, the enthusiasm.... Suddenly there is money for things you never thought of before."

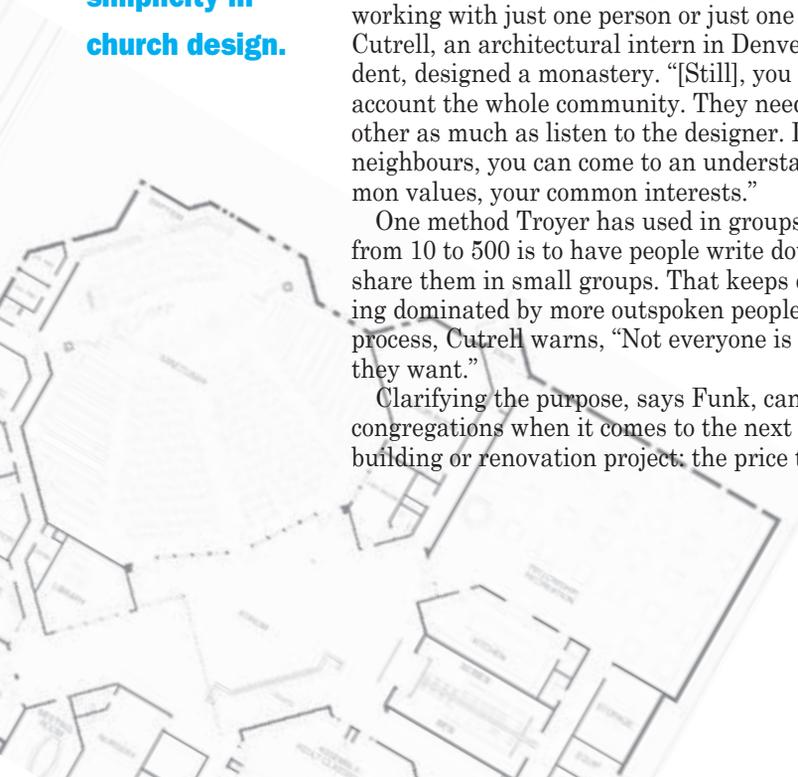
Troyer agrees the process can go far in developing ownership by church members. "By doing that, there's such a heavy commitment that unity will come, not only for the building but also for the program," he suggests, warning, though, that there is a fine line. While the temptation may be to cut corners and save money, churches shouldn't go to the other extreme either. "In too many churches, the building has become such a costly item that it has sapped all the energies for outreach or what they want to accomplish."

Troyer advises that the building and the budget—both expenses and income—should be drafted together. The budget should include everything for the new facility, including what

When you build, the architects say...

- Clarify the congregation's missional calling, then ask what facilities match that calling.
- Keep budgeting and vision tightly linked; ownership and resources will flow.
- Don't be driven by attractive features of other buildings.
- Don't be so frugal that your facility fails to match your vision.
- Don't be so elaborate that the building project drains energy for mission.

Many Mennonites drive nice cars and have nice homes, which undermines any arguments for austerity and simplicity in church design.





goes inside, such as computers, furniture and other furnishings. These are often overlooked, says Troyer. “Pretty soon the construction is only 60 to 70 percent of the project building.”

Another factor that can throw off a congregation’s building process is a wish to emulate creative architecture that it sees elsewhere. “I’m not necessarily saying that’s wrong, but on what basis are we borrowing something?” Troyer asks. “Because it looks good? Or are we going down deep to the mission of the church?”

Funk, a member of Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship in Winnipeg, agrees. “A lot of groups are driven by what others have done. They don’t bother to examine anything about themselves. And if the architect is not smart, those issues do not get addressed.”

Mennonite style of architecture?

Given each congregation’s unique mission and circumstances, Troyer, Funk and Cutrell refuse to identify a distinctly Mennonite style of architecture. In Anabaptist history, persecution compelled the forebears of today’s Mennonites to meet first in caves and barns, then in simple, unassuming buildings. The evolution of church buildings and church needs since then has spawned great diversity in the architectural landscape.

Sometimes this has meant great controversy and conflict. The introduction of steeples and stained glass in recent decades, for example, has often met resistance because some thought them to be incompatible with Mennonite values of simplicity and nonconformity.

Aesthetics and comfort are important, Troyer says, but there should be no hard and

fast rules of Mennonite architecture. “I’m not sure there should be a style, because then it becomes rigid,” he says. “We get put into a mould. And we don’t always have the same shape.”

He cites his congregation, Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, Ind., which installed stained-glass windows in its new meetinghouse in 1960, when they were in vogue. But a new sanctuary built in 1997 has clear windows. “There was an awareness that the mission of the church is not to isolate ourselves from the world, but to see out into the world,” Troyer says.

By contrast, he says that Parkview Mennonite Church in Kokomo, Ind., and Zion Mennonite Church of Souderton, Pa., both make good use of stained glass. The Parkview members created their windows, symbolizing the participation of the people in building their meeting place. Zion’s windows, he says, have “marvellous” religious symbolism.

It all comes back to identity and mission in the community. “A Mennonite church in a rural area would be different from one in an urban area,” says Cutrell, a member of First Mennonite in Denver. Likewise, a Mennonite congregation with a calling to inner city needs will have a different design than one that is trying to serve a professional community in a university town.

Troyer says research has determined that the ideal worship space is fan-shaped, about 165 degrees, and 60 feet deep. But that may need to be adjusted if the congregation wants optimum acoustics. “Good sound still wants a box,” Funk says.

Continued on page 8

Winnipeg architect Harold Funk displays a model of one of the many churches he has designed. Funk was architect of Winnipeg’s Bethel Mennonite Church.



[R]esearch has determined that the ideal worship space is fan-shaped, about 165 degrees, and 60 feet deep.

Build From page 7

A church building is not just for those who use it, however; it also communicates a message to those around it. While it is unclear how big of a role architecture plays in attracting newcomers, Funk says the potential cannot be dismissed. “We are automatically saying something to the surrounding community. By building a building, you are saying something to the outside, and we should not underestimate the impact.”

And that message cannot be divorced from the lifestyles of church members. Funk notes, for example, that many Mennonites drive nice cars and have nice homes, which undermines any arguments for austerity and simplicity in church design. Adds Troyer, “We ought to think of the life we have outside the walls of the church and how we relate to one another.”

—**Rich Preheim**

The author is a freelance writer in Elkhart, Ind. The article first appeared in the Summer 2005 issue of Leader, the quarterly magazine serving pastors and lay leaders of Mennonite churches in the United States and Canada. Used with permission.

Sichuan, China

What does a church look like?

Churches in China, like those around the world, come in a variety of shapes and sizes. In most large cities in China, churches are surprisingly European in design, some built more than 100 years ago by foreign missionaries resembling the cathedrals “back home.”

In many smaller cities and county towns, no church building existed before 1949. Now, growing congregations need a building of their own.

This brings a new challenge. What does a church look like? Some congregations want a building that sticks out from the rest. They choose designs that look like the older European churches. Some congregations have simple cement structures that look



Yanting, Sichuan church lacks the steeple it needs to convince local authorities it is a church.

much like the shops around them.

When local architects are asked to draw up blueprints, they are confused about the purpose of the building. One architect even argued with a pastor, saying, “This large room in the middle is not practical. It adds so much to the cost to have such a large room. The beams and rafters need to be built differently with such a large room. Why can’t you divide it into smaller rooms?”

Renovation of other buildings has also become a popular way for congregations to obtain their own worship area without huge expense. One congregation in rural Sichuan found a perfect use for an abandoned factory. They were able to buy the property and rundown buildings for a good price. They excitedly began renovations on the large work room, turning it into a very comfortable sanctuary. They replaced the roof tiles, poured a cement floor, fixed windows, and repainted inside and out.

The local government authorities supported the congregation by allowing them to register as a church. So for the first time in that county there was a church building. The congregation proudly hung the sign outside the gate only to be told by the government that they had to take it down again because their building didn’t look like a church.

After trying many ways to get around the problem, they came to an agreement that if the building had a steeple, the government would allow them to re-open as a church.

This is financially difficult for the congregation. Their resources are scarce and they had used up what they had to buy the property and renovate the sanctuary. They had hoped to also begin renovations on other parts of the building so that they could have an education wing for training classes.

China Educational Exchange, Mennonite Church Canada’s mission partner, helped to support a lay leadership training class in this county and found out about their building difficulties. The congregation has been given about \$4,400 to pay for blueprints to be drawn up and for a small renovation to make the factory “look like a church” in the eyes of the government and the community around it.

For the Christians already using this facility, it has become a house of God and a place of worship. To help more Chinese Christians with church buildings, visit

www.healingandhope.ca/china/.

—**Jeanette Hanson**

The author is a Mennonite Church Canada Witness worker in Nanchong, China, where she works with local churches and government agencies in cooperative social welfare projects.

Nazareth, Israel

New photo book portrays life in Jesus' time

Can anything good come from Nazareth? It is that famous question Nathaniel asked in an exchange with another disciple in the Gospel of John. Philip decided not to try to explain it to him. There was only one sure way to convince him. "Come and see," he said.

Ideally timed for Christmas gift giving, the publication of a stunning new book of photographs—with text by Pontius' Puddle comic strip artist Joel Kauffmann—is a first for the Galilee-based Nazareth Village centre. Entitled *The Nazareth Jesus Knew*, the book describes and portrays the developments at Nazareth Village—an ecumenical Christian re-creation of a Roman-era Jewish village that has many of the features and characteristics of Nazareth at the time when the young Jesus played and worked there.

The photographs and text follow the people and stories of Nazareth Village to date. Nosy sheep and pushy goats scamper about, a friendly donkey strains at a single-furrow wooden plow, and the sower in first-century clothing harvests wheat in the field just below the doorway of the old synagogue. There is an aura of mysterious history and the excitement of Jesus' world emerging from the weed beds and rock quarries that has now been captured on camera.

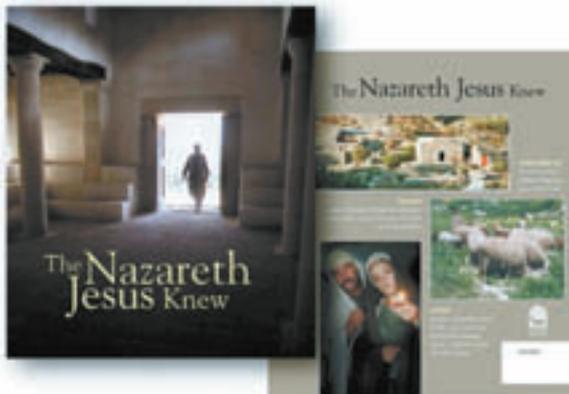
The Nazareth Jesus Knew is a close-up look at the world of the man who changed the world—"a man revered by Jews as a rabbi, by Muslims as a prophet, and by

billions of Christians world-wide like myself as saviour and lord," writes American Sherry Herschend, a long-time supporter of the project located just a few blocks from the site of what is believed to be Jesus' family home. Herschend has visited Nazareth Village many times from her home in the southern States, often bringing with her a group of friends and neighbours to see what is coming to pass in Nazareth.

Her enthusiasm for what she has seen, and her dedication to Jesus' story and teachings, led her to undertake the funding of this elaborate publishing project—to be able to show others just what Nazareth has to offer. "Nazareth Village is a labour of love with Christ at the centre," she wrote. "And now we want to share it with the whole world."

The Nazareth Jesus Knew can be ordered from Nazareth Village by e-mail: info@nazarethvillage.com. The soft cover edition retails for \$19.95, while hardcover copies sell for \$35 (both plus shipping and handling). All proceeds go to support the ongoing mission of Nazareth Village.

—From the October 2005 issue of *MennoLetter from Jerusalem*



Fall Musings

In the Grand Scheme of things
Does it really matter, God?

Does it matter that on a brilliant fall day
I touch an icy remnant when the sun is
already warm on my back?

Does it matter that I glance back
To see a silver trail leave the grass
To travel a U-turn on the sidewalk
back into the grass?

Does it matter that sparkling dews cover
golf course greens,
Capturing a rainbow of colours
Before evaporating in the sun's warmth?

Does it matter that brilliant butterflies
Alight along my path
Their muted browns giving way to
striking patterns of orange
and black accents with
dazzling white spots?



Oh, yes it matters.
You stopped.
"I made you look!"

For slugs, while hoping for easy travel,
Soon realize that shelter, moisture and food
Are provided in dense forested lawns.
And sparkling dews protect from frost
And give one form of drink
to grasses and plants.
The butterflies, a beauty to behold,
Often have their little flaws,
And yet I care for them,
Their short lives soon done.

How much more I care for you.
Learn from the slug, dew and butterfly.

Where is the safety you seek?
The beauty whereby you are fed?
The treasure in all I have created
Even those whose flaws threaten
to hide the beauty lovingly given?

So does it really matter
in the Grand Scheme of things?
Oh, yes. You paused, were still and learned of Me,
And say, "I know you are God."

—Irene Crosland

The poet/artist is the wife of Pastor Bob Crosland of To-field (Alta.) Mennonite Church and the daughter of artist Henry Goerzen of Didsbury Bergthal Mennonite Church.

Toronto

CD series offers hope for the dying

Launched earlier this month in Toronto, a groundbreaking new CD series provides spiritual support and comfort for those facing life-challenging illnesses and their caregivers.

Canadian Christian performer, songwriter and music educator Bev Foster designed the series she calls *Room 217* to minister to those journeying through life's final transition. *Room 217* is named after the room where Foster's father died surrounded by family singing well-loved songs—inspiring the artist to create the series of contemplative CDs that she believes will “bring healing and hope to end-of-life situations.”

“This is music that speaks deeply to the human spirit,” says Foster, a worship leader who has performed around the world. “I believe it can draw people into God's presence; it may be



the tune, it might be the words of the song. For some listeners, it might introduce them to God for the first time.”

In addition to Foster's soothing voice and delicate touch on the piano, the three different CDs that comprise the series—*Spirit Wings*, *Gentle Waters* and *Celtic Whisperings*—feature such gifted artists as James Isaacs on oboe, whistles and English horn; Wendy Solomon on cello; and Sharlene Wallace on harp.

The series is already receiving acclaim.

In September, *Spirit Wings* was nominated for a 2005 Canadian Gospel Music Association Covenant Award.

“Music does accompany us along life's journey,” says Foster. “For the Christian, music offers us an opportunity to connect with God and his comforting love. My sense is that we need to provide music that will uniquely and sensitively escort us

through life's transitions. I want *Room 217* to lead the way.”

Room 217 CDs are available for sale at www.room217.ca or by calling 1-888-884-6343.

—*Room 217* release

News brief

MCC releases new Christmas Giving Catalog

In Mugumu, Tanzania, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) supports a free HIV/AIDS testing and counselling centre, which also provides support groups, income-generation training and home-based care for people with AIDS. The centre is one of 11 programs featured in MCC's 2005 *Christmas Giving Catalog*, a colourful booklet describing ways to help our global neighbours during this holiday season. In Mugumu, a donation of \$12 can purchase 10 rapid HIV tests. The 2005 *Christmas Giving Catalog* is available online at www.mcc.org/ christmas and from every MCC office. —MCC release

Waterloo, Ont.

MPN hires resource advocate coordinator

Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN) has appointed Kathy Weaver Wenger to the newly created position of resource advocate coordinator. The responsibility of this position is to promote congregational resources through a network of conference-based resource advocates.

Initially, the focus will be on working with conference leaders to select one representative from each area conference in both Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA to attend a launch and training event for the new *Gather Round* Sunday school



Wenger

curriculum. The event will be held Feb. 10 to 12 at the Gilmory retreat centre in Pittsburgh, Pa.

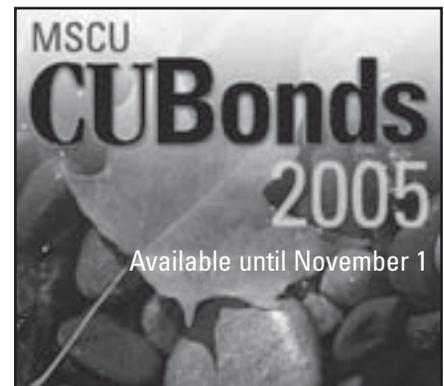
Over the long term, the resource advocates will promote a broader range of resources, not only those produced by MPN, but also those from other Mennonite agencies.

The vision for the conference-based resource advocates is that they become living, breathing, walking and talking representatives of the *Equipping* packet that all congregations receive.

Wenger brings to her position experience as a pastor in Virginia and as director of a congregational resource centre at Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary. She also taught previously at Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite High School.

Her half-time position with MPN began in September.

—MPN release



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Brother Deng, a farmer from Nanchong, China, is no relation to the more famous political leader Deng Xiaoping, although they did grow up within miles of each other.

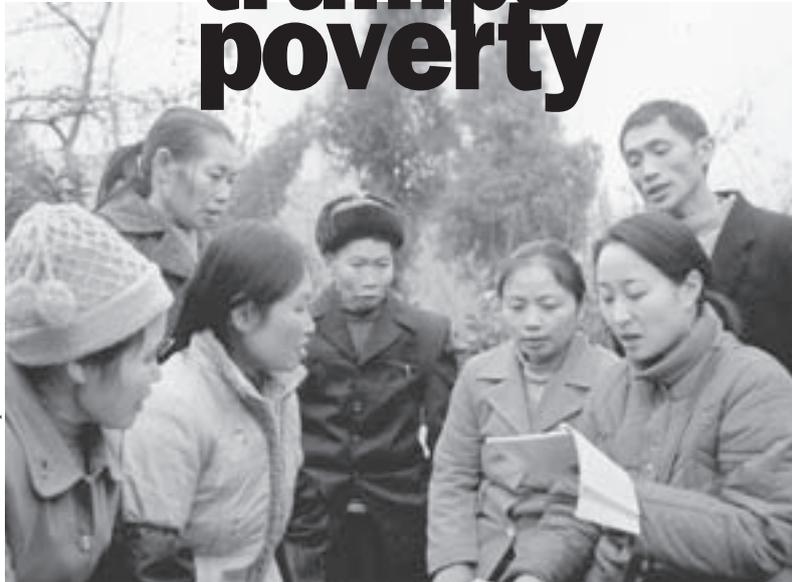
That is where the similarity ends. Deng the farmer did not leave home, did not leave his rural roots and did not become famous. He continues as a subsistence farmer, eking out a living on land capable of providing food for his family, but not large enough to provide cash for school fees for his two children, medical expenses, or any extras for his family.

For this he is praised by his wife and the rural Christian congregation that he shepherds.

But he is also ridiculed by his neighbours. In Sichuan Province, most rural men of Deng's age and ability have left to find work in the cities, usually in the far away coastal and southern areas. The lucky ones find work that provides not only for their own needs, but also gives them some extra to send home to the families they see every year or two. This is true of families in Deng's congregation.

A few years ago he tried to leave. His two children had dropped out of school and he needed money. The local congregation of about 100 Christians gathered in front of him in tears, begging him to stay. They connected with the city church in Nanchong, trying to find some help. The two children were enrolled in an Inter-Mennonite China Educational Exchange (CEE) student sponsorship program—a program that sends almost 200 children to school. A local Christian lent Deng 2,000 yuan

Need for Bible training trumps poverty



MC Canada Witness photo

Two of the pictured young women (first and third from left) quit their jobs in the city to return to their home congregation to help with the massive Christmas celebrations that Brother Deng's house church puts on every year as an outreach into their community. They will return to look for jobs after the busy spring harvest/planting season.

(about \$280).

Deng used the money to buy a dryer for sweet potatoes and then sold the sweet potato starch, which is commonly used in Sichuan cuisine. From the money he earned, he bought chickens, ducks and geese. Along the way he paid back the initial loan and bought a small cow to help till the fields. He still lives a simple farming life, but his family is content and happy.

I asked him what kind of help his congregation needed, expecting him to ask for more of the type of help he got. His answer was quite different.

"We need more Bible training," Deng replied. "We need more lay leadership courses. This is vital for the health of the church.... There are people travelling around preaching things that aren't in the Bible. Cults are prevalent. Some come with lots of

money from Canada or the U.S., and they lead people astray. Swindlers with some biblical knowledge target rural congregations and cheat people of their meagre resources.... It is difficult for people to know the truth."

Mennonite workers in China have heard this echoed from many pastors and lay leaders. Training classes are desperately needed. The number of Christians has skyrocketed in the past 20 years, but a lack of training and discipleship has caused many problems. In the countryside, people easily fall into a religious practice that incorporates many religions and superstitions. In cities, there are now two generations of people who have grown up with absolutely no religious background. New Christians struggle with the basics of their faith.

Mennonite Church

Canada Witness partner CEE has been supporting lay leadership training classes by providing money for travel and food, as well as for trained Chinese pastors and seminary professors to teach and develop curriculum. Bus tickets, photocopying, and a little meat and a few vegetables to add to the rice and noodles students bring from home are sometimes all that stand in the way of a church offering a lay leadership training course.

This is where we, from far away, can stand together with our Chinese brothers and sisters and help them meet this need. We can help to give talented, committed young leaders like them the training they need to provide effective, loving, biblical Christian leadership.

—**Jeanette Hanson**

Letters

Confession has a place depending on its use

My suggestion that our Confession be scrapped (“Hymnal confessions instead of Confession of Faith,” June 27, page 15) has brought me a lot of feedback, most of it positive. It seems I’ve tapped a reservoir of concerns about our Confession. My concerns are practical ones.

Victor Doerksen is right when he says that the Confession could have a place in our congregations, depending on how it is used (“Confession of Faith has a place in Mennonite churches,” Aug. 22, page 12). If it is used to begin a conversation about what a life of faith and practice might be like, it

This section is a forum for discussion and discernment. Letters express the opinion of the writer only, not necessarily the position of Canadian Mennonite, any of the five area churches or Mennonite Church Canada. Letters should address issues rather than criticizing individuals and include the writer’s contact information. We will send copies of letters discussing other parties to the named individuals or organizations to provide the opportunity for a response. Letters can be sent to letters@canadianmennonite.org or to “Letter to the Editor,” Canadian Mennonite, 490 Dutton Drive, Unit C5, Waterloo, ON N2L 6H7.

would be a positive use. If used to stifle questions, to squelch conversations, and to seek out those who are “at variance” with the Confession, it would seem to me to be a misuse.

Much is made in the introduction to the Confession about how this document will help in our conversations with other Christians, as well as Muslims, Jews or people of other faiths. Article 1 is about God, and that we worship the one and only God. In

Article 2, we find the statement that “we worship Jesus.” My main concern is how those we are in conversation with about Christianity will read the statement “we worship Jesus.” Would all Christians agree with this? Would it tend to support the views of some Jews and Muslims that we are not monotheists at all, but that we worship at least two gods?

It was wonderful to read the item of Mennonite encouragement to

Dead Horse Creek in a moment of grace

I grew up on the banks of Dead Horse Creek in the heart of southern Manitoba Menno-land. I am proud—in the non-boastful Anabaptist sort of way—to call that place along the creek my home.

Dead Horse Creek did not always have that name. And waterways have a way of beckoning to the past. Often escaping plows, bulldozers and developers, they are corridors in space and time—the rhythm of what was.

I imagine Manitoba’s original inhabitants sitting beside Dead Horse Creek, back in the days of Genesis perhaps, when it was newly named. I wonder which were their favourite spots. I wonder if my grandfather, who settled there, ever wondered about those who had gone before.

The thought that my home was once someone else’s beloved homeland seems important. It holds some sort of possibility—in simplest terms, the possibility of sharing.

Talk about land, indigenous people and history gets many Mennonites riled up in a big hurry. I’ve heard all manner of anti-native rhetoric, pro-Mennonite defensiveness and implications that quick-fix salvation will erase the past, solve the problems and, presumably, absolve us of any responsibility beyond preaching our convenient answers.

But what if we could have the dis-

ussion about Aboriginal Peoples, Mennonites and land in a space entirely free of guilt and defensiveness, putting aside all questions of who is to blame, who is justified and who is not. What if we just looked—in that moment of infinite grace—at what can be done right here and now to bring healing, liberation and fairness? This is not to ignore the past, but simply to understand it apart from assessment of blame.

What does it mean for us immigrant Mennonites that our homes and churches

New Order Voice

Will Braun



are on ill-gotten land? Are we as a church willing to deal with this issue? Are we willing to trust that in the circle of God’s gentle grace and redemption there is a safe space in which we can seek to untangle ourselves from an ungodly legacy?

Colonialism is one of the darkest chapters in history. The church has been complicit in the violent encroachment on so much of the world. And this colonial settlement was dependent on a fundamental arrogance—a sense that we were somehow superior (harder working, closer to God, more advanced), and that

we deserved what we were “discovering.”

One could argue whether or not Mennonites settling in Canada (such as my grandparents) were complicit per se. One could hardly argue, though, that we did not benefit from a chain of events that worked out much better for us than for this country’s Aboriginal Peoples.

It is time for a new chapter in Mennonite history. Not one of how generously we help the poor (colonialized) people near and far. Nor one about what industrious stewards we have been with the land “God has given us.” But a humble and glorious chapter of confession, peace-building and sharing with the world’s Aboriginal Peoples. A story of redemption. A story of a people not beholden to guilt or disempowerment or the charity mentality.

I am told that local aboriginals called Dead Horse Creek *Pinancewaywining*. But they did not consider it theirs. We could start by joining aboriginal people in acknowledging the land does not belong to us, but to the Creator God. Then—assuming that there are options other than getting back on the boat, blaming the First Nations, or stagnating in guilt—we could figure out what it would look like in real terms to share God’s land, resources, opportunity and beauty.

Will Braun served three years as the energy justice coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba, working closely with aboriginal and Mennonite people. He is also editor of Geez magazine (www.GeezMagazine.org).

the Muslim peace movement in the Philippines (“Muslim peace movement looks for Mennonite support,” Sept. 5, page 16). I note that the persons involved emphasize being Christ-like and practical work. I’m sure that these Muslims would be deeply puzzled to learn that we “worship Jesus.” After all, for Muslims there is no reality but God; there is only God.

—**Jim Suderman, Winnipeg**

Katrina proves futility of attempting to control weather

The picture of the fallen stop sign on the cover of the Sept. 19 issue says it all about mankind’s pitiful, futile attempts to influence the course of global warming or cooling. How easily we forget the inestimable power of God and his creation.

—**Clyde Ovens, Calgary**

Pontius’ Puddle



Corrections

Don and Tanya Steinmann served as directors of Camp Valaqua for four summers. Incorrect information was included in the Aug. 22 article “Changes coming at Camp Valaqua” on page 34. In the same issue (“Churches hold VBS without troupe,” page 34), it was incorrectly reported that Edmonton’s First Mennonite Church did not run a Vacation Bible School this summer; in fact, the church youth group did run program. *Canadian Mennonite* apologizes for the errors.

The curse of the cloth

The professionalization of church leadership is a curse. Those of us on the cloth side of that ungodly distinction between “clergy” and “laity” need a slap upside the cranium with a six-inch-thick pulpit Bible from time to time, to call us back to the servant leadership called for by Jesus and modelled by the apostles.

It is generally the case that over time spiritual leadership degenerates in the following manner: Servant-spiritual leadership is effective and becomes honoured. This leads to a copycat professional-religious leadership, resulting in spiritual unemployment for the people of God and the unionization of those who enjoy clergy perks to pay the bills and stroke the ego. The sheep feed the shepherds: What is wrong with this picture?

From ancient Israel, when true prophets confronted false ones for only taking care of themselves (Ezekiel 34), to the early church, where much is said regarding those who seek to make a buck and a name through the marketing and programming of Jesus (II Peter 2), this trend is as frequently repeated as a Hollywood marriage.

Church history spews forth examples of this leadership spiral. Church renewal in the 16th century was spurred on by

the corruption of church leaders who separated God from the people, creating a clerical class for themselves with nice robes while speaking a language the people couldn’t understand.

Menno Simons reflected that he “loved the world, and the world him” too much while a priest in Holland. It takes much Spirit-prodding and courage to slay the professional monster, for this degenerating pattern has a strange way of sweeping us away in the euphoria and dulling our senses while we play the role

Outside the box

Phil Wagler



of reverend to the masses, who somehow perceive us as “holier than they.”

Sadly this professionalization is creeping back. Neil Cole, in his book *Organic Church*, writes, “We have developed an entire generation of dependent consumers waiting for their leaders to spoon feed them the Bible verse of the week, rather than an army of kingdom agents ready to transform our culture with the power of the Gospel.” Ouch.

Though not intentional, we your

shepherds have allowed an unbiblical dissection of the body to creep back into the ranks. With two theological degrees and a third leadership development program under my belt (and more planned), I may very well discover that as time passes I love the world and the world me, and begin to perform religious duties, instead of equipping the saints. I may even happily comply with the sheep’s desire for a shepherd who follows them, instead of one who leads behind the Great Shepherd.

So pray for us, your leaders. We are as prone to abandon radical discipleship as you are; we can get selfish, become Normal (see “Leaving Normal,” Sept. 19, page 13), and get civilized. But there is a fire in our bones, a yearning for more, a thirst to see you and this land become more like Jesus. After all, it was Jesus who has called us to this and we want to do it his way, not ours—or even yours. So please release us to be who the Lord of the harvest has called us to be on your behalf: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers—men and women who know and love God, and who will love, equip and release you as kingdom agents.

Phil Wagler, after having his dream of a professional hockey career ended by reality, has gone outside his box to serve Christ, now labouring as the leading servant (pastor) of Zurich Mennonite Church, Ont.

Langley, B.C.

MC B.C. votes for “full and active” membership with a local-only option

By an overwhelming margin (114 to 13), Mennonite Church B.C. delegates decided at a special Oct. 1 meeting that their conference should remain “a full and active area conference member of MC Canada,” but each MC B.C. church “would be given freedom to connect and be involved in ministry at whatever level each feels called to do.”

These levels would be either joint MC B.C. and MC Canada church membership or MC B.C. membership only. An amendment that included just the first part of the resolution was just as strongly defeated.

The meeting concluded an 18-month discernment process by the MC B.C. Ad Hoc Committee, which received its mandate in March 2004, to look at several issues of concern and bring its recommendations to the delegate body.

A number of churches and individuals had wondered if the discernment process would result in some B.C. churches choosing to disassociate with MC B.C., or deciding to remain “provincially active only,” so that they would not have to be at variance with other churches in MC Canada.

Although the Ad Hoc Committee’s mandate included a variety of issues, much of the early discussion at the meeting focused on acceptance of homosexuality within the church, which has been a sensitive point for many in B.C. At issue for some has been being in full fellowship with an MC Eastern Canada congregation—Toronto United Mennonite Church (TUMC). A concern identified by the Ad Hoc Committee at the delegate session was TUMC’s stated position that “sexual intimacy

should be reserved for a covenanted relationship defined as a permanent, committed, loving, faithful, monogamous relationship between two adults” (although TUMC did not agree as a congregation as to whether same-sex relationships, cohabitation or only heterosexual marriage should be considered a “covenanted relationship”).

‘It grieves me to say we as a church don’t have the authority to expel the ungodly. The church is running around like sheep without a leader.’

Strong voices in B.C. have maintained that TUMC’s policy is clearly at variance with the Mennonite Church’s Saskatoon 1986 statement on human sexuality, which affirms sexual relationships only between a man and a woman united in marriage. “It grieves me to say we as a church don’t have the authority to expel the ungodly,” said one delegate. “The church is running around like sheep without a leader.”

Others disagreed. “This report conveys a hard and unyielding message that only we know the truth. It fosters a judgmental spirit with those who disagree with us,” a delegate said. “I am so glad I don’t have the burden of being a judge in the court of heaven. Nor do I have the privilege of being the prosecutor,” said another.

Three other Ad Hoc Committee resolutions were also affirmed by delegates.

By a vote of 61 to 46, it was decided that “a new committee to give future leadership on faith and life questions within MC B.C.” is needed. Dissenters expressed the view that another committee was not necessary, as MC B.C. already has a Church Ministries Committee which could take on this task, and that it is already difficult to find people to serve on committees.

‘This report conveys a hard and unyielding message that only we know the truth. It fosters a judgmental spirit with those who disagree with us.’

In an effort to shift focus from the at times difficult discernment process, a large majority of delegates voted to encourage “all churches in MC B.C. [to] get involved in the work of the Steering Committee so that MC B.C. can move ahead as we discern the vision and mission that God is giving us.”

In a prepared statement, the Ad Hoc Committee said, “It is our prayer... [that] MC B.C. will be able to shift its focus from this controversial issue and instead look to the future with anticipation as a unified body.... The Steering Committee will be able to help us do that and so it is important that all congregations commit to supporting them in that work.”

Again by a large majority, delegates affirmed continuing talks among MC B.C., *Canadian Mennonite’s* board and the magazine’s other church partners, to move toward a mutually acceptable partnership agreement. Previous concerns had been raised about issues of content and editorial policy. The Ad Hoc Committee felt that these had largely been addressed and it felt good about the way the magazine is speaking to issues in the church.

Noting that Christians have been blessed to be a blessing, Walter Bergen, chair of the Steering Committee now in charge of guiding the future direction of MC B.C., asked in closing, “Are the best days of MC B.C. behind us or before us?” In answer, he said, “By God’s grace, our best days are yet before us.”

—**Amy Dueckman**

Winnipeg

Canadian named as MDS Gulf Coast coordinator

Gerald Klassen of Burns Lake, B.C., has been named the Gulf Coast coordinator by Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) for the MDS volunteer response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the southern U.S.

The decision to hire a full-time coordinator is directly related to the magnitude of the disaster. Thousands of evacuees do not have a place to call home.

"The task is huge," says MDS executive coordinator Kevin King from New Orleans. "We need to focus our resources on getting people out of shelters and back into their homes."

In anticipation of an unprecedented number of project locations in the Gulf Coast region, MDS is also seeking project directors, construction foremen, crew leaders, cooks and office managers, with full training provided in Canada. As Gulf Coast coordinator, Klassen will be positioned in the Gulf Coast region to provide these projects and their volunteers with additional support from the binational office that oversees MDS operations.

"Having someone nearby to walk with our directors may well encourage others, new to MDS, to step up to the plate and give leadership to a project," says Klassen.

Klassen brings a tremendous amount of experience to the role. In addition to his own service as a volunteer, he has trained incoming project directors. In the past 14 years alone, Klassen and his wife Doreen have volunteered 42 months with MDS.

As project directors the Klassens have served up to seven months at a time, working directly with clients and providing MDS volunteers with opportunities to serve. In the off months between projects, the Klassens returned home to run their construction company in Burns Lake.

"Jerry and Doreen have huge hearts of compassion," says King. "They love to see the church reaching out to be a healing balm in the midst of disaster."

The Klassens became hooked on MDS after spending a month framing and shingling homes in Watsonville,

Calif. "It is so much more than building houses," says Klassen. "It is building hope in people's lives."

Hope is what is needed in the Gulf Coast right now, according to King, who says some people "see this hurricane [Katrina] as God's judgment on the 'Big Easy.'" And hope is being provided.

"While we were living as evacuees in Houston, Tex., we experienced the generosity of so many churches," says Blanka Mackay of Iglesia Amor Viviente, a Gulf States Mennonite Conference church in Metairie, La. "Now that I am back

here, we suddenly feel guilty our house [only suffered] minor damage. We have two rooms in our house, so now we have a young family and a young married couple living with us.

Continued on page 18



Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers put a tarp on the Hurricane Katrina-damaged roof where the Garifuna (Fla.) Evangelical Church worships at the home of Uvencio and Luiza Arzu.

MDS photo



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A forgotten emergency:

War's aftermath leaves Congolese Mennonites feeling abandoned

Today in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC—formerly Zaire), tens of thousands of Mennonites are struggling to rebuild their lives after years of civil war that destroyed the infrastructure of their country and left about four million people dead and another two million displaced.

Worse still, Mennonites in the DRC are facing this crisis—described by Oxfam as “a forgotten emergency”—pretty much on their own, essentially ignored by the international community to the extent that few people are even aware of their plight.

As a result, our Congolese Mennonite brothers and sisters feel abandoned and uncared for not only by the rest of the world, but even by those who first brought them the gospel of peace, said Congolese expatriate Pakisa Tshimika of Fresno, Calif., speaking to several dozen people at a recent information and discussion evening in Winnipeg. Tshimika was in the DRC earlier this year on a personal trip to visit his family and home village. (See “Heartbreak in Kajiji” sidebar on the BackPage.)

“If numbers counted,” said Tshimika, “the current war and its consequences” should be making front page news around the world and filling church bulletins, so that people wouldn’t stop talking about it until the atrocities ended. He expressed hope that those who

learned what was happening in the DRC would “help to provide the leverage locally” to get the story out.

“Our journey revealed many different assets of the Congolese,” he emphasized. “[They are] a nation of very resilient people [with] a strong will to live no matter what the circumstances.... They continue to hope with confidence that better days are ahead.”

Yet in the midst of these resilient people Tshimika and his entourage also found a country where millions have died due to the war, many of preventable diseases, including most of his family and many of his friends. At least 37 percent of DRC residents—



A Mennonite high school student looks pensively out a window at the Ecole Belle Vue in Kajiji, Democratic Republic of Congo..

approximately 18.5 million people—have no access to formal health care, and 16 million have critical food needs.

Tshimika, the associate executive secretary of Mennonite World Conference, also encountered among those he met a deep sense of isolation and a feeling that the rest of the world doesn’t care.

“How is it,” he agonized, “that even my own denomination [the Mennonite Brethren Church] back in North America recognizes that the church membership [in the DRC] is the largest within our family of faith and yet the situation in [the DRC] has never been considered a priority?”

The DRC has the second largest number of Mennonite, Mennonite Brethren and related church members in the world, surpassed only by the United States, according to Mennonite World Conference figures.

Tshimika’s report and plea were affirmed by others at the meeting. Ray Dirks, a professional artist and photographer who accompanied Tshimika to the DRC, showed photographs that documented both the strength and desperate circumstances of Congolese Mennonites. (See “People of peace in a land of war” sidebar on page 17.)

Representatives of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission and its member organizations (including Mennonite Church Canada), Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Mennonite Mission Health Association and others with recent contact with the DRC shared some of the projects currently underway to foster relationships with Congolese churches and provide assistance. Several spoke of the difficulty finding personnel to fill program needs.

A Congolese student studying reconciliation at Canadian Mennonite University urged that peace work be a priority.

“Our churches need to hear the hard edge, the anger, we’ve heard here



Pakisa Tshimika of the I this year.



Tshimika is pictured in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, earlier

A people of peace in a land of war

I have worked in many African countries since landing in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 1983, but it will always be the closest to my heart. I will forever remember that first day there—the derelict terminal, the machine guns, the lurking soldiers, the seeming chaos along the streets heading into Kinshasa, the capital. But still we fell in love with the city, as have many other missionaries. Why? Because of its people, because of our ordinary brothers and sisters in Mennonite churches.

The DRC still has an extra measure of chaos that I have not experienced in quite the same way anywhere else. Yet churches thrive in hard times. Stories of Mennonites wanting to be peacemakers and stories of Christians wanting to be Mennonite in order to identify with a peace church are not difficult to find. The wish to be people of peace in a land of war inspired me on my return trip to the DRC earlier this year with Pakisa Tshimika.

Pakisa was an inspirational leader, listener and conciliator. He travelled the country with an urgent passion and righteous anger, but still with great calmness and love, willing to speak and listen to each and

every person who came to our door.

We need to support Pakisa, rejoicing that leaders of such quality and commitment have come out of our sister churches in central Africa.

We also need to pray for and support our brothers and sisters in the DRC. We need to respond to tragedies close to home, but please do not let such accessible, well publicized disasters like Hurricane Katrina cause our brothers and sisters in the DRC to fall even further off our radar screens.

—Ray Dirks

How you can help:

“Let us demonstrate to our brothers and sisters in the Congolese Mennonite churches that they are not alone,” urges Janet Plenert, executive director, International Ministries, Mennonite Church Canada Witness.

To do that, you can:

Learn about the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the roots of the conflict there. Visit www.mennonitechurch.ca and search for “Democratic Republic of Congo,” or call Mennonite Church Canada at 1-866-888-6785.

Pray for MC Canada Witness’s work with three Congolese Mennonite denominations and Mennonite Mission Network (a mission agency of MC USA). These bodies form the new Partnership Council of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, working together to meet the needs and goals discerned by the Congolese Mennonite churches. Pray also for healing to come to the DRC.

Give. MC Canada has pledged approximately \$30,000 to help churches in the DRC. Send cheques to: Mennonite Church Canada, 600 Shaftsbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4, Attention: Congo.

Volunteer with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to be an observer in the DRC’s first democratic elections in 45 years, next spring. Contact Esther O’Hara by e-mail at geo@mcc.org, or by phone at 717-859-1151. Financial contributions for this project can be made at any MCC office.

tonight,” commented Terry Sawatsky, who has worked in the DRC with MCC. “We have failed our brothers and sisters.... This is a big thing, [which needs to be addressed in a big way]. Yet,” he concluded, “in the midst of all their suffering, [the Mennonite church there is] sending missionaries to Angola!”

—Leona Dueck Penner with contributions from Dora Dueck, *MB Herald*

Small stories of hope amidst struggle can be found in the lives of courageous, decent, ordinary Congolese, including these smiling orphaned children who are being cared for by others.



Photos by Ray Dirks

Canadian *From page 15*

What a joy. We share food. My son is not a believer, but now he comes over and he is seeing what being a Christian is all about.”

Volunteers continue to serve at Gulfport, Miss., Bayou La Batre/Mobile, Ala., and Des Allemands/Houma, La., for the foreseeable future.



Klassen

Canadians have opened their hearts, pocketbooks and their time to contribute to the Gulf Coast response by MDS. More than \$500,000 has been donated so far, with another \$5 million coming

Cleanup work is expected to last for many months before any significant rebuilding can begin. Ongoing investigations also now include New Orleans and other areas further west hit by Hurricane Rita.

from Americans. With MDS coordination, Canadian volunteers from B.C. and Ontario are now serving in Bayou La Batre and Des Allemands.

Normal short-term volunteer scheduling will begin when the project sites are more established.

—From MDS releases

Winnipeg

Fulfill yourself by serving the wider church

Do you know someone eager to release their gifts and talents for the work of the wider church? Or would you yourself be willing to serve?

If so, Mennonite Church Canada's Nominating Committee wants to hear from you. The committee is seeking persons to serve on the General Board, Christian Formation Council, Christian Witness Council and

Support Services Council beginning in 2006.

In addition, gifted servants are also being sought to assist on the Financial Policy and Audit Committee, Program (assembly planning) Committee, *Canadian Mennonite* Publishing Services Board, Canadian Mennonite University Council, Mennonite Central Committee (Canada) Board, Mennonite Foundation of Canada Board, Mennonite Publishing Network Board, Christian Peacemaker Teams Board, and other organizations.

The Nominating Committee invites submissions of persons in each area conference who have gifts of leadership for serving the national church body. Forward your suggestions to nominations@mennonitechurch.ca by Nov. 1.

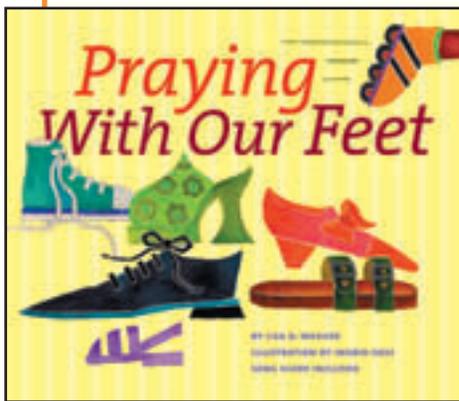
While the responsibilities of leadership service are dryly spelled out in MC Canada's bylaws, it is not the tasks of getting through meeting agendas or making big picture decisions that stick out in the minds of servants.

Dori Zerbe Cornelsen serves on the Christian Witness Council. "It has been a place to see how the unity of our church works in bringing together people from across Canada, not all of whom share the same 'faith language,' but understanding the deep faith of everyone around the table and learning from that," she says.

Ed Janzen chairs the Support Services Council. He finds a discerning community among the people who serve the wider church. "When conflicts arise, as they have between B.C. and Ontario, God is able to use these doors to help us understand each other," he says. "Sharing our struggles and understandings helps us to respect each other, and this is spiritual growth."

Tim Wiebe-Neufeld pastors at Edmonton First Mennonite Church and serves on the Nominating Committee. He invites prayers as the committee meets in November to review submissions and discern persons for each vacancy. "I see God at work in the discernment process of our committee, and in the response of people we contact," he says. "The call to serve in a position is something people consider seriously and prayerfully."

—MC Canada release by **Dan Dyck**



Praying with Our Feet

Lisa D. Weaver

A group of friends get together to go on a special walk. They want to remind their neighbors that war doesn't bring peace in our world. They know that Jesus wants us to love everyone. Jesus even wants us to love our enemies, who are just like us in many ways! The walkers wear shoes of all sizes, colors, and

shapes. They're praying with their feet, walking with the God of Peace.

Includes a score of the song "Praying with Our Feet" by the author and an afterword for adults by Tonya Ramer Wenger.

"My Mom and Dad. My aunt and my baby cousin. My minister. My 150-year-old neighbor. And me. Walking for peace, wiggling our toes, standing in the light of God."—*from* Praying with Our Feet

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CBC photo



Columbia Bible College (CBC) students and staff were among the first volunteers with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) from Canada to help in the U.S. Gulf Coast region following Hurricane Katrina. MDS B.C. chair Leonard Klassen, back row left, is pictured with the Columbia team that spent a week in Des Allemands, La., removing debris, repairing and re-roofing damaged homes for elderly and disabled residents who did not have homeowner insurance.

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FOCUS

Travel

Take a tour of seven Russian Mennonite colonies

Ben and Erna Falk, former Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) workers in Siberia (1993-94 and 1996), were invited to participate in the 100th anniversary celebration in Neudachino on June 25.

Invitations had been received by the Falks to visit Siberia for the celebra-

TourMagination invites Mennonites to visit their Russian heritage next summer. The two-week tour includes stops at seven Mennonite colonies, including Neudachino, that recently celebrated its centennial.

tion from their friends in the village, but when a very official letter from the Department of Education and the Regional Government—written in official Russian language, imprinted with a seal and a stamp—came to their home inviting them to be present, they knew that they should prepare to go.

The centennial program consisted of music, the presentation of awards and speeches. It was the speeches by government dignitaries that surprised everyone the most and really set the tone for the day, the Falks relate.

The provincial director of all villages in the Novosibirsk Oblast apologized for

the treatment Neudachino had experienced over the many years of the previous rule. The audience was practically shocked into stunned silence as he admitted that “the government of the day had finally come to realize that the reason this village was a model village, and so successful over the many years, despite the roadblocks and hardships, was because it was founded by people of faith.... They came to live here so that they could continue to worship that higher being. This has obviously, been the reason for its decency, sense of law and order, progressiveness and tidiness. We beg to apologize for not working with you, and wish you every success for the future. Do not leave us



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for we need you.”

Following these speeches, the Falks—whose Mennonite ancestry originated in Russia—were invited to come onto the stage. They congratulated the village and focused on the blessings that are in store for those who commit their lives to God and follow him. The Falks concluded by quoting II Corinthians 7:14: “For God promises to forgive, heal and allow prosperity when people commit their lives to him.”

TourMagination invites you to join Ben and Erna Falk on a tour to Moscow, Siberia and St. Petersburg from May 26 to June 9, 2006. The tour first visits Moscow and ends in St. Petersburg, but will visit seven Mennonite colonies in between.

The people are very hospitable and desire a visit from North Americans. They request our prayers for them in the far-off land of Siberia so that they will remain faithful to the task that God has called them. They commit to pray for us as well.

Please contact TourMagination at 1-800-565-0451 or email office@tourmagination.com for a brochure.
—TourMagination release

‘Living stones’ part of Holy Land tour

Most tours that go to the Holy Land take in the ancient archeological sites—the ancient stones. But Gordon Matties, professor of Biblical Studies at Canadian Mennonite University, believes that is not enough. His tours allow visitors to meet the “living stones” in Palestine—local Christians and others who live in the region.

“My tours are characteristically not like those planned by most tour agencies,” he says. “I take people to places where most groups do not go. I also include as many meetings with people who live there as I can.”

In past tours Matties has arranged meetings with an Israeli lawyer who works on behalf of Palestinian families whose houses have been demolished, an Israeli settler from a West Bank

settlement, a Messianic Jewish believer, and many Palestinian Christians and Muslims.

Says Matties, “I am interested in reading the Bible in the context of both the historical geography of the land and the human communities that continue to struggle to live together, even as they did in Jesus’ time.”

Cost of the tour will be about \$4,000, including airfare, accommodations and transportation in the region. For more information, visit the CMU website at www.cmu.ca.

Hosts sought for travel directory

The editors of the 2006-08 edition of the *Mennonite Your Way Directory* are seeking hosts willing to accommodate travellers in their homes.

The directory is a listing of more than 1,600 Mennonite, Brethren and other Christian homes willing to offer hospitality and fellowship to travellers in more than 40 countries on a donation basis.

Through Nov. 1, *MYW* is registering those who wish to be listed as hosts in the upcoming 30th anniversary edition, which will be available in early 2006. New hosts, along with current or past participants, are asked to register.

Listings may be submitted securely at www.mennoniteyourway.com. Hosts may also request forms by writing MYW, 80 W. Sylvan Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060-3315, USA; by calling 847-949-6179; or by e-mailing myw@mywdirectory.com.

—From *Mennonite Weekly Review*

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- LUTHERAN HOLY LAND TOUR (April 19-29)
- MOSCOW, SIBERIA and ST. PETERSBURG (May 26 - June 9)
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- WEST PRUSSIAN MENNONITE HERITAGE (June 25 - July 5)
- ENGLAND and SCOTLAND (June 28 - July 10)
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- SEVEN CHURCHES of REVELATION (September 15-26)
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Vancouver

Elders and Mennonites share a meal together

It had been a long drive from Edmonton to Vancouver so the elders of the Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw Nation in Port Hardy, B.C., were grateful for a rest stop and a home-cooked meal. The meal came courtesy of the women's group at First United Mennonite Church in Vancouver, who offered a typical Mennonite meal of *Kotletten* (meat balls), potatoes, cooked vegetables, salad and homemade *Zwieback* (buns).

"This is the kind of meal we often ate during hard times when we didn't have a lot," said Selma Sawatzky, one of the women helping in the kitchen.

The evening meal and fellowship time was coordinated by Darryl Klassen, Aboriginal Neighbours Program coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) B.C. MCC has had a long history in Port Hardy and Klassen felt the meal would be a good opportunity for the two communities to connect.

After the meal, the group sat in a circle and shared songs in English and Kwakwala. Chief Paddy Walkus offered his thanks to MCC for its history with the people of Gwa'Sala-Nakwaxda'xw and the way in which they have built relationships there.

"This is how MCC works—not coming in to say, 'Here we are helping the poor Indian,' to make themselves look good, but to come to us and help us, give us integrity," Walkus said. "So many of our kids hold their heads up now, proud of their culture."

Klassen was quick to note that the relationship has been reciprocal. "I just want you to know that it's been a two-way street," he said.

The evening ended with a song, written by one of the elders:
*Come unto me, the Lord Jesus said
 I am the way the truth and the life
 I bid you enter in, he has saved
 Jesus said, come unto me.*

—MCC B.C. release
 by **Angelika Dawson**



MCC B.C. photo

Chief Paddy Walkus addresses the circle of friends gathered at First United Mennonite Church in Vancouver for a meal, stories and song.

Carman, Man.

60-year-old vision still flourishing

Carman Mennonite Church pulled every chair out from storage to provide seating for all those who had come to join the congregation in celebrating 60 years on Sept. 11. The weekend celebration included time for reminiscing, visiting and worshipping together.

On Friday evening, former pastor Marv Friesen, presently of Welcome Inn in Hamilton, Ont., and his wife Brenda were welcomed back during an informal evening of coffee and visiting.

Anniversary celebrations continued on Sunday with Pastor Bob Pauls and Friesen leading worship. After a communal dinner more formal reminiscing and sharing took place. One of the highlights was the coming together of women who, decades earlier, had sung in the girls choir under the direction of



Photos by Evelyn Rempel Petkau

Current pastors and former Carman Mennonite Church pastors are pictured with the anniversary banner. From left to right: Kelli Downey, associate/youth pastor; Jarrod Chamberlin, former associate/youth pastor; Bob Pauls, present pastor; and Ed Hughes, former interim pastor.

Agnes Giesbrecht.

Over the past 60 years the congregation has grown from a small number of families to more than 200 in regular attendance. The early



Marie Stoesz, the sole founding member of Carman Mennonite Church, was presented with roses at the church's 60th anniversary service.

group of Mennonite farmers who were relatively new to the area faced economic struggles and a community that, in 1945, was suspicious of this Anabaptist group.

Sixty years later, the congregants expressed gratitude for the vision of those who went ahead "to establish a local Mennonite church that would provide a sanctuary in which the Mennonites of the area could meet to worship God and to have fellowship with one another."

This early group had the foresight to quickly move towards English language services, which made the church more open to the wider community.

Today, the church, firmly committed to its Anabaptist heritage, continues to explore ways of making its doors open to all. Its members are active in every aspect of the community, including the business, social service and volunteer sectors.

—**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**



Hunta Mennonite Church photo

Bob and Ester Landis hosted the annual Hunta (Ont.) Mennonite Church picnic at their deer farm on Aug. 21. The picnic has been held for more than 30 years; more than 100 attended this year's event. Not even the odd thunderstorm could dampen participants' spirits, although most of the adults chose to stay in the barn and chat, rather than brave the elements for the outdoor games.



A new building is going up for Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary, Alberta, thanks to help from JoinHands.



A new building

Because of your gifts, congregations such as Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary, Alberta, receive needed funds for church buildings. Through the JoinHands (formerly Tenth Man) church-building program, you can support the mission of new Mennonite congregations in the United States, Canada and around the world.

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Kitchener, Ont.

Rockway church celebrates move to new location

After 45 years of sharing facilities with a Mennonite high school, Rockway Mennonite Church has moved to a new location and a new shared arrangement.

On Sept. 11, the Rockway congregation celebrated its first worship service in its newly renovated sanctuary at Zion United Church in Kitchener. The Zion congregation continues to meet in the main sanctuary of the historic 19th-century building. Rockway is leasing the large “round room,” built in 1916, as well as a church office, Sunday school rooms and a nursery. Shared space with Zion includes a fellowship hall, kitchen and gymnasium.

Rockway members volunteered many hours over the summer getting the facility prepared.

The opening service was a celebration of a beautiful new space and new beginnings. Pastor Scott Brubaker-Zehr noted the importance of place for a community, but urged the congregation not to forget the source of their blessings, building on Moses’ reminder to the Hebrew people that they are pilgrims living by the grace of God. Just as the Hebrews occupied “goodly cities which you did not build, and houses full of good things which you did not fill” (Deuteronomy 6), so Rockway Mennonite is blessed with a home that it neither built nor owns.

Rockway Mennonite began as a daughter congregation of Kitchener’s First Mennonite Church in 1960, meeting in the “old barn” of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, and later in the school library and the multi-purpose/dining area of the school.

The Rockway congregation said goodbye to its old location during the four Sundays in June, focusing each Sunday on one decade of its tenure at the school. Records from the first



Photos by Paul Janzen



Rockway Mennonite Church members gathered on Sept. 11 for the first service in their new facility. Rockway Mennonite is now sharing a historic church building in Kitchener, Ont., with Zion United Church.

school. Plans for a joint building with Conrad Grebel College came to naught and a facilities committee, led by Ella Pauls, began to seek other options.

The Zion and Rockway congregations approved the cooperative arrangement this past spring, with considerable excitement on both sides. Zion’s small congregation was looking for ways to share its large building, and Rockway was glad to continue in a joint arrangement.

Representatives visited each other’s congregations to introduce members to their respective groups. Of special interest was the fact that Zion, before joining the United Church of Canada in 1968, was an Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) church that had links to the Mennonite Church.

“Rockway is excited about being able to share space with another congregation in Kitchener’s downtown, and is looking forward to developing ties across denominational lines,” said a member of the Rockway Church Council. “The round sanctuary also has great potential for concerts and other community events.”

Rockway’s pastor noted that the church is looking forward to “a more visible community presence and to new growth in a variety of ways.”

—Margaret Loewen Reimer

decade revealed that members had mixed feelings about meeting in “a less-than-churchlike setting,” but the arrangement was considered temporary! John Snyder, who led the congregation for 25 years, established a tradition of lay leadership.

The ’70s and ’80s brought growth and change, as people from Russian Mennonite and other backgrounds joined the congregation. Rockway Mennonite joined the Conference of Mennonites in Canada (now Mennonite Church Canada) in 1975. The ’80s brought a more structured program, including the creation of a ministry council.

In recent years, the congregation felt it was time to move out of the



Morden Mennonite Church installed their new pastors—Harold and Dianne Hildebrand-Schlegel—on Sept. 11. He will serve as lead pastor and she as associate pastor of Christian formation. The couple, who come to Morden from St. Jacobs, Ont., via Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., will be working together with the church's youth minister, Denny Martens. The Hildebrand-Schlegels have three children—Sophie, Isaac and Solomon—and their pet dog. During the service, founding member H. H. Pauls shared some Scripture with the couple after checking himself out of the hospital to be at this special occasion.

Transitions

Births/Adoptions

Albrecht—to Carolyn and Tim, Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont., a son, Aaron Jacob, Sept. 23.
Derksen—to Michelle Hildebrand and Don Derksen, Fort Garry Mennonite, Winnipeg, a son, Julius James, Sept. 19.
Friesen—to Donna and Herb, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., a daughter, Teresa Crystal, Aug. 30.
Friesen Bergen—to Lisa Friesen and Glenn Bergen, Hope Mennonite, Winnipeg, a daughter, Ida Jeanne, Sept. 12.
Giesbrecht—to Gina (Dueck) and Jayson, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a son, Aaron Matthew, Aug. 22.
Janzen—to Jeanette and Nathan, Eigenheim

Mennonite, Rosthern, Sask., a son, Evan Jacob, Aug. 5.
Peacey—to Tammy (nee Laskowski) and Bob of Winnipeg, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., a son, Wade Austin, Sept. 27.
Penner—adopted by Deanna and John, Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, a daughter, Aliya Xuehui (b. Oct. 4, 2004), June 13.
Peters—to Jennifer and Kevin, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., a son, Myles Raine, Sept. 23.
Peters—adopted by Ken and Maria, Burns Lake First Mennonite, B.C., a daughter, Sophia Raphaela (b. May 29, 2003, in Haiti).
Wall—to Debbie and Greg, Warman Mennonite, Sask., a son, Ethan Nathaniel, Sept. 18.
Phillips—to Christina Smith and Max Phillips, Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon, a daughter, Jacinta Ariel, Aug.

10.
Unger—to Carla and Kurt, Glenlea Mennonite, Man., a son, Benjamin Charles, Aug. 2.
Wiebe—to Sandra Wiebe and David Dyck, Hope Mennonite, Winnipeg, a daughter, Greta Leanne, Aug. 18.
Wieler—to Margita and Norman, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Kendra Melissa, Sept. 25.

Marriages

Crowe-Isaac—Kevin and Esther, Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon, Sept. 10.
Klassen-Thevenot—Michael and Misty, Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, Aug. 20.
Moerman-Willms—Justin and Naphtalie, Coaldale Mennonite, Alta., June 18.
Noeth-Martens—Randy and Nancy (Hanley Mennonite, Sask.), at Frenchman Butte, Sask., Sept. 10.

Schultz-Krajicek—Mark and Henrietta, Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont., Sept. 17.
Sivertson-Patkau—Chad and Joanne (Hanley Mennonite, Sask.), in Saskatoon, July 1.
Tanguay-Willms—Rob and Jennifer, Coaldale Mennonite, Alta., Aug. 20.

Deaths

Bechtel—Hilda (nee Wagler), 86, Mannheim Mennonite, Ont., Sept. 11.
Buller—Kay, 91, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., Sept. 29.
Dueck—Anna, 85, Burns Lake First Mennonite, B.C., Sept. 18.
Dyck—Mary P., 85, Whitewater Mennonite, Boissevain, Man., Sept. 18.
Friesen—Sara (nee Thiessen), 74, Coaldale Mennonite, Alta., Sept. 9.
Holst—Clarence, 78, St. Agatha Mennonite, Ont., July 12.
Kehler—Edwin P., 89, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Sept. 9.
Penner—Mary, 97, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Sept. 17.
Ruby—Vernon, 70, East Zorra Mennonite, Tavistock, Ont., Sept. 22.
Schroeder—John, 75, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., Aug. 10.
Strueby—Cora, 21, Hope Mennonite Fellowship, North Battleford, Sask., Aug. 30.

Baptisms

Hanover Mennonite, Ont.—Emily Martin, at Riverstone Retreat Centre, July 24.

Canadian Mennonite welcomes Transitions announcements within four months of the event. Please send all Transitions announcements by e-mail to transitions@canadianmennonite.org, including the congregation name and location. When sending death notices, please include birth date and last name at birth if available.

Employment opportunities

FULL-TIME LEAD PASTOR

Coaldale Mennonite Church invites applications for a full-time Lead Pastor. This individual would be expected to be the Spiritual leader to a multi-generational congregation of about 300 members.

The successful candidate will be part of a Pastoral Team comprised of a Youth Pastor and Lay Ministers, and should be gifted in preaching, discipling, visitation and administration. An emphasis on evangelism and in caring for and relating to people, in both the congregation and the community, is an asset. Previous pastoral experience and education in our Evangelical Mennonite Anabaptist tradition is important.

Please forward your note of inquiry and/or resume to:

Search Committee
c/o Coaldale Mennonite Church
2316-17 Street, Coaldale, AB T1M 1G3
E-mail: cmchurch@telusplanet.net

FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR

Holyrood Mennonite Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is seeking a full-time senior pastor. The tentative starting date is January 1, 2006.

We are members of Mennonite Church Alberta and Mennonite Church Canada. Average attendance is 80-100 in a congregation diverse in cultures, ages and walks of life. See www.holyroodmennonite.ca for further information about the congregation. Interested applicants, please contact:

Chair of Pastoral Committee, Guenther Toews
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St. Albert, AB T8N 6H8
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ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Springstein Mennonite Church in Springstein, Man., invites applications for a half-time Associate Pastor whose primary focus is on Youth and Young Adult ministry.

We are a semi-rural congregation located 15 minutes from the city of Winnipeg with a Sunday morning attendance of approximately 100. Join our ministry team, which includes a 2/3 time Lead Pastor, and give leadership to an energetic and committed congregation. Responsibilities to commence as soon as possible.

Please direct inquiries to:

Pastoral Search Committee
c/o Sheila Rempel
Springstein Mennonite Church
Box 38, Springstein, MB R0G 2N0
Email: rempel_cars@hotmail.com

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We are seeking a Senior Administration position in Student Development for Spring 2006. For a full list of qualifications, job description, and contact information, please consult our website at: www.columbiabc.edu.

Please forward resume to the attention of Dr. Paul Wartman. Resumes will be received until October 31, 2005; the post will be open until position is filled. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed in the first instance to Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

MCC Manitoba is inviting applications for the position of
MATERIAL RESOURCES/ACTIVITY CENTRE COORDINATOR

for the Winnipeg warehouse. As a part of the Resource Generation Team, this position takes responsibility for generating the Winnipeg material resources response to international relief efforts, including volunteer management, material procurement and fulfilling resource commitments. This position also participates actively in providing educational options for groups and individuals interested in MCC's work. This is a full-time position, available on a salaried or voluntary service basis, beginning January 3, 2006.

All MCC workers are required to have a Christian faith, be actively involved in a Christian church, and have a personal commitment to non-violence and peacemaking.

Please forward applications to:

Janelle Siemens: jms@mennonitecc.ca or
Sol Janzen: sjj@mennonitecc.ca
Phone: 204-261-6381

MDS NEEDS YOU

In addition to current needs in Florida and California, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have created an urgent need to develop additional Anabaptist leaders from across Canada – individuals and couples – to serve throughout the year, especially between May and September, for the next several years.

We are looking for:

Project Directors, people with previous MDS project experience, preferably in some leadership role.

Construction Foremen and Crew Leaders, people with experience ranging from contractors to construction helpers.

Training for these positions will be provided in a Canadian location, likely in November, with travel costs provided. Travel to and from projects, room and board, and a stipend after initial period at projects are also provided. We are seeking a service commitment of two- to three-month terms per year.

We also require **cooks** and **office managers**, who are often spouses of people in the above positions.

Please prayerfully consider these opportunities to serve those in need in the name of Christ. Call or e-mail:

Lois Nickel
Toll Free: 1-866-261-1274
E-mail: lnickel@mds.mennonite.net

CAMP DIRECTOR

Camp Valaqua is a Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA) camp that is located about 1 hour north-west of Calgary, Alberta. The Camp Director is a full-time, year round position that reports to the MCA Camp Committee. The Camp Director is responsible to develop and manage the Camp program and to cooperate with other MCA programs. Applicants must have at least 3 years of applicable experience in administration/leadership and be able to work independently. The Camp Director must be dedicated to Christian faith and ministry, and support MCA's faith and constitution. To apply or to obtain a more detailed job description, please contact:

Paul Neufeldt
11018 - 83rd Ave, Edmonton, AB T6G 0T7
Phone: 780-901-1219
E-mail: neufeldt@ualberta.ca.

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate invites applications for the half-time position of

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Responsibilities: To lead in the development of a fundraising network that strengthens the relationship between the school and its community of supporters. The Director will establish a solid funding base, allowing the school to finance its building project and ensure future sustainability of its program.

For further details, check our website: www.westgate.mb.ca

Application Deadline: November 18, 2005.
 Qualified applicants should forward resumes:

Principal, Westgate Mennonite Collegiate
86 West Gate, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2E1
Fax: 204-786-1651
Email: westgate@westgate.mb.ca



Canadian Mennonite University is seeking a dynamic leader to serve as our

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

We are looking for someone who:

- Is passionate about the mission of the church and of CMU.
- Is energetic, positive and action-oriented.
- Has solid organizational and communication skills.
- Is experienced and trained in development.
- Knows the Canadian Mennonite church constituencies, but also likes to work with the wider Christian world.
- Can work with donors, alumni, direct mail, capital planning, planned giving, special events and foundations.

If this sounds like you, please send a resume to:

Canadian Mennonite University
Attn: Susan Warkentin, Director of Human Resources
500 Shaftesbury Blvd. Winnipeg, Canada, R3P 2N2
E-mail: swarkentin@cmu.ca

Akron, Pa.

MCC commits \$2 million to Gulf Coast relief

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has committed nearly \$2 million as an initial response to recent hurricanes across the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. The majority of the funds—nearly \$1.4 million—will go to churches in and around the hurricane-affected areas that are taking the lead in responding in the hurricane aftermath.

Through local churches, MCC will be supporting a variety of initiatives, including hiring local community workers who will assist evacuees in finding housing and support. Others will be hired to assist in hurricane-damaged communities where the people remained but need help with government forms and finding support.

MCC will offer resources for pastors of churches damaged or destroyed during the hurricane to meet the needs of their congregational members, many of whom are now evacuees. Long-term efforts will address the issues of injustice and racism surrounding the disaster.

Financial donations to MCC can be made online at www.mcc.org/katrina or by calling any MCC office.

MCC is also working in partnership with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), which is conducting cleanup, rebuilding and restoration efforts throughout the disaster area. The MCC response includes more than \$600,000 in material aid that has already been delivered to the region at the request of MDS and local churches.

—MCC release

Available

Caregiver Available for children or seniors in Winnipeg, MB in the North Kildonan/downtown area. Available Monday to Friday during the day. Seeking part time or full time hours. Willing to do light housekeeping. Wage is negotiable. Resume and references are available. Current criminal records check and child abuse registry check are complete. A great deal of experience working with children including those with cognitive and physical special needs. Willing to work with special needs children or seniors. Contact Heidi Friesen at 204- 663-5175.

Housing

Four-bedroom house for rent in Wolseley area of Winnipeg. Available January 1, 2006. Phone 204-779-6559.

Advertising Copy Due Dates

Nov. 14

Focus on Music
 Copy due: Nov. 1

Nov. 28

Focus on Missions
 Copy due: Nov. 15

Mennonite Church Canada

October Equipping highlights

The October issue of *Equipping* is again brimming with many fine resources, which are now available at your church offices. These include:

- A richly-varied "Speakers Bureau" list of many MC Canada staff and Witness workers on North American ministry who are available for your church to draw on;
- A Resource Centre update highlighting Advent and Christmas material, including a Christmas pageant and at-home worship ideas, prayers and activities;
- A "Moment of Celebration" story from Korea; and,
- Inspiring letters from MC Canada leaders reflecting on issues such as widening the circle of our faith communities by Dan Nighswander; learnings from an illness by Sven Eriksson; and thoughts on moving Godward together by Dave Bergen.

Prayer requests

- Victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans where Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and several Mennonite churches in the region are deeply involved in responding to the needs of the many displaced people.
- Victims of the lesser known Typhoon Nabi in Japan. Gerald and Rie Neufeld, Witness workers in Japan, write of major flooding in Miyazaki, with water reaching to the roofs of some houses, and 110,000 people evacuated.
- The China Learning Tour, led by Al Rempel, MC Canada staff person, from Oct. 11 to 27.
- The La Mesa School run by the Colombian Mennonite Church, which is celebrating

its 50th anniversary later this month along with the grand opening of an addition that has just been completed on the neighbouring property.

- A youth and young adult group from Vancouver led by Samson Lo, director of Multi-Cultural Ministry, that participated in an exchange visit to churches in Calgary, where they learned and shared about the kinds of issues minority groups face. Pray for these young people and give thanks to God for their deep desire and passion for the church.

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

"More than enough" theme of session

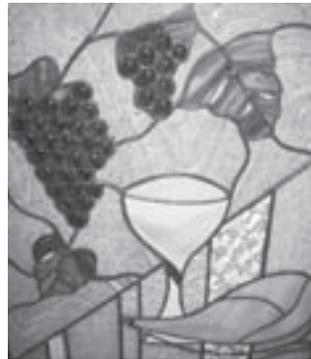
The Stratford cluster of MC Eastern Canada is hosting the fall delegate session on Oct. 29 at East Zorra Mennonite Church. The theme for the day is, "More than enough," inspired by the feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1-15), where, in spite of the uncertainty of feeding a huge crowd, God's abundance was released and there was more than enough.

An important part of the day's agenda will be discerning the new ministry framework of MC Eastern Canada and acknowledging staff transitions. David Brubacher is completing his six years as minister to conference and is being replaced by David Martin, whose new title will be executive minister.

—Barb Draper

'New wine' artwork touring churches

The stained glass artwork "New Wine" was commissioned for the MC Eastern Canada spring conference as part of the staff presentation by various MC Eastern Canada commissions. It was created



as a visual symbol to recognize the restructuring process and was based on the theme of the conference, "New wine, new wineskins." As the stained glass artwork is travelling to the various congregations of MC Eastern Canada, they are invited to use it as part of their worship.

—Barb Draper

Sound equipment sought by church

Petitcodiac Mennonite Church of New Brunswick is looking to buy used sound equipment. They are looking specifically for a wireless microphone, but are interested in other equipment that may be for sale. If your congregation is selling off old equipment, please contact Pastor Werner De Jong at pmnenno@nbnet.nb.ca.

—Barb Draper

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Camp numbers steady in 2005

Camps with Meaning welcomed 1,267 campers at Assiniboia, Koinonia and Moose Lake this summer, down eight from last year. A particularly young staff experienced the challenge of service, community living and ministry, notes Bob Wiebe, director of Education Ministries.

Laura Thiessen developed the Bible curriculum,

"Finding the way," and led the team of Bible instructors. Campers and staff learned how Scripture, prayer, the person and example of Jesus, and community can help them navigate life's many choices and follow the path Jesus set.

A total of 301 staff gave of their time and energies this summer, with 246 coming from MC Manitoba churches. Forty-two young people participated in the Counsellors in Training program. More than 400 of the campers were from MC Manitoba churches.

For more information about answered prayers, challenges, new programs and plans, attend one of the three celebration banquets: Oct. 29 at Whitewater Mennonite Church in Boissevain, Nov. 5 at Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church, and Nov. 6 at Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Pastoral transitions

A total of six MC Saskatchewan churches are being affected by pastoral changes. Most congregations have found replacements for pastors who have retired or resigned. Two churches are still in the process of finding new leadership.

Warman Mennonite has welcomed Jay and Colleen Hinds as the new pastoral couple after Henry Block retired. Colleen works at the Mennonite Central Committee office in Saskatoon.

At Horse Lake Mennonite Church, Walter E. Jantzen has retired after 33 years of ministry.

Laird Mennonite Church said goodbye to Barb and Wilmer Froese; Benno Klassen has stepped in as an interim supply pastor.

Craig Hollands has left

Carrot River Mennonite Church. Ed Cornelson will be providing leadership in the congregation as interim pastor beginning Oct. 15.

Craig Friesen has resigned from Rosthern Mennonite Church. A replacement has not been found.

Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon will welcome Ken Bechtel as intentional interim pastor following Vern Ratzlaff's retirement in December.

Mennonite Church Alberta

Newcomers centre wins not-for-profit award

On Sept. 12, Edmonton's Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (MCN) was presented the Gold Laurel Award for its Bright Futures program, which works with refugee families to improve literacy and parenting skills, and to help them cope with the many issues of adapting to Canadian life.

The award is one of three—gold, silver, and bronze—given annually to not-for-profit organizations in Edmonton exhibiting creativity and innovation in their work. MCN has won the gold award three of the last four years.

This year, 64 programs were nominated for the awards, with MCN coming out on top. The awards are sponsored by the Duncan and Craig law firm.

Pastoral changes at Springridge Mennonite

Jerry Buhler, pastor at Springridge Mennonite Church in Pincher Creek, has given notice to the congregation that he will be concluding his time as pastor at the end of January 2006. Buhler has served the congregation as pastor for 18 years.

16 years of praise in Edmonton

Edmonton Chinese Mennonite Church celebrated their 16th

anniversary at a September worship service. The congregation acknowledged that, although they are a poor church with many health problems, they have many reasons to praise God.

They were thankful to God for support from their advisory and building committees, the ministerial council and the conference, and especially for the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Many members shared their faith stories and how they have received healing through faith. Many of the testimonies were translated simultaneously into English, Cantonese or Mandarin.

Heavy rains postpone Valaqua renovations

A roof stripping bee, planned for the lodge at Camp Valaqua on Sept. 10, had to be cancelled because of heavy rains.

Replacement of the old shakes with new metal roofing was to be completed in the first week of October, weather permitting, and ready to handle this year's snow load without leaking.

Of the estimated cost of \$50,000, \$35,000 is already paid off, with \$15,000 still required.

Mennonite Church British Columbia

Trees play part in two B.C. celebrations

Trees were a common theme when two B.C. churches celebrated anniversaries in September.

Eden Mennonite in Chilliwack celebrated its 60th anniversary from Sept. 9 to 11. Conference minister Henry Kliewer spoke at Friday's devotional, giving the rings of a tree trunk as an illustration of the church's journey. The rings represent the many generations of those who have been part of the Eden community in the past, said Kliewer, who added that rings are needed for the church to grow into the

future. On Sept. 11, Eden continued celebrating with its fall start-up, including an outdoor worship with Pastor Kerry Palmer followed by a barbecue lunch and roller hockey game.

The planting of an oak tree commemorated the 25th anniversary of Mennonite Church of Vernon the weekend of Sept. 23 to 25. Former attendees came from all across Canada to join in the celebrations, remembering the time in 1980 when a dedicated group of locals in the Vernon area decided to start a Mennonite congregation and first worshipped in a small brown church on 27th Street. Today, the congregation worships in a building on Silver Star Road, a location acquired in 1993 to house the more than 90 members who regularly attend. Bob Cowan is the new pastor.

Seniors worship cross-culturally

Twenty-three members of Emmanuel Mennonite Church (EMC) Seniors Fellowship of Abbotsford experienced a cross-cultural worship service on Oct. 25 when they visited White Rock Mennonite Christian Fellowship on their seventh anniversary.

Although the service was in Mandarin Chinese with no translation, the Emmanuel group experienced worship through music, listening and observing. The service included music by adult and children's choirs, testimonies and a sermon by Pastor Timothy Liang.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed fellowship together at a light meal, provided by the White Rock hosts, with contributions from the Emmanuel seniors.

The EMC seniors were taken up with the enthusiasm of the Mandarin group and commented later that, despite the language difference, the White Rock members were "so accepting, so welcoming."

White Rock Mennonite Christian Fellowship began as a house fellowship in 1998 under the leadership of Harold

and Katherine Lue, with encouragement from Peter and Sue Kehler, former missionaries to Taiwan. The White Rock congregation now worships in a Baptist church, with a weekly attendance of 40 to 50, mostly young families.

Unless otherwise credited, the articles in TheChurches pages were written by: Leona Dueck Penner (MC Canada), Maurice Martin (Eastern Canada), Evelyn Rempel Petkau (Manitoba), Karin Fehderau (Saskatchewan), Donita Wiebe-Neufeld (Alberta) and Amy Dueckman (British Columbia). See page 2 for contact information.

News brief

MCC workers moved by faith of evacuees

After fleeing Hurricane Katrina, members of Amor Viviente, a Metairie, La., congregation, came together to worship in borrowed space at Houston Mennonite Church. Nancy Rivera, regional assistant for the MCC Central States Southern Tier office in Edinburg, Tex., said she was struck by how even those who had lost their homes were able to think of others. "They didn't so much focus on just them, but on the wider community," she said. "They were worried about the community, how to help the community and how to help their neighbours." Members of the congregation are asking for prayers from the wider church as they begin to return to their community and work to uncover a vision for their response to the devastation and displacement. —MCC release

Advertising Copy Due Dates

Nov. 14
Focus on Music
Copy due: Nov. 1
Nov. 28
Focus on Missions
Copy due: Nov. 15

Rosemary celebrating 75th anniversary

Rosemary, Alta.—On Nov. 5 and 6, Rosemary Mennonite Church is celebrating 75 years of ministry.

If you have ever—as a child, youth or adult—attended, or been part of, Rosemary Mennonite Church, this weekend is for you.

We are also looking for memories for which we can praise God and bring glory to him; as well, we wish to pay tribute to our pioneer grandparents and our parents who made it possible for them and their families to experience Christian fellowship.

Please write a few sentences—150 words maximum—about a memory or two you have had of your time in Rosemary. If possible, give dates and names of people. As well, include the names of your parents, grandparents and other people from Rosemary who touched your life, and, most importantly, how Jesus touched your life during your time here.

Send your reminiscences by e-mail: rosemc@eidnet.org; by fax: 403-378-3690; or by mail: George J. Baerg, Box 224, Rosemary, AB T0J 2W0.

—Rosemary Mennonite Church release

Ten Thousand Villages coming to Thompson

Thompson, Man.—As in past years, Thompson United Mennonite Church's basement will be transformed for a week in mid-November from a Sunday school into a travelling Ten Thousand Villages outlet.

Located 750 kilometres north of Winnipeg, Thompson residents do not have the opportunity of having a Ten Thousand Villages store

in their community, so the Thompson church has been bringing the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) store's fair trade items to town for a much-anticipated sale for nearly 20 years now.

This year's sale will take place from Nov. 12 to 19.

—**Dale Shantz**

Peace Mennonite turns 25 next month

Richmond, B.C.—Peace Mennonite Church (PMC) celebrates its 25th anniversary Nov. 5 and 6. All who have attended PMC are most warmly welcomed to join with us as we celebrate.

During the Nov. 6 morning worship service, former pastors Palmer Becker and Sven Eriksson will speak on the theme, "Our family tree: Deep roots, fruitful branches." In the afternoon, Darryll Johnson from Regent College will speak during the ordination of Pastor Tim Kuepfer.

As a special giving project, PMC is raising money for Living Waters Church in Thailand. Our goal is \$25,000, which we will send via Mennonite Church Canada to the Thai congregation as a gesture of gratitude for all the good gifts God has given PMC over the past 25 years.

—**Gerry Sportack**



Toronto to host Christmas festival

Toronto—Discover beautiful gifts and home decor products handcrafted by skilled artisans in 30 countries at this year's Ten Thousand Villages' Mennonite Christmas Festival.

Gifts include pottery, jewelry, baskets, hand-loomed textiles, musical instruments, hand-knotted Persian and tribal carpets, and much more. Visit this exciting international marketplace of fairly traded handicrafts and experience the joy of purchasing gifts that give twice!

The three-day Christmas Festival runs from Nov. 25 to 28 at Harbourfront, 235 Queens Quay West, Toronto. Doors open Nov. 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. The show continues on Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and finishes up on Nov. 27 from noon to 5 p.m.

Calendar

British Columbia

Nov. 18-20: Senior Youth IMPACT Retreat at Camp Squeah.

Nov. 27: Advent/Christmas Music Fest for MC B.C. churches at Langley Mennonite Fellowship, 2:30 p.m., followed by *faspa* and fellowship. For more information, call Trudy Goertzen at 604-596-9202 or Amy Dueckman at 604-854-3735.

Alberta

Nov. 5-6: Rosemary Mennonite Church 75th anniversary celebrations. Banquet and hymn sing (5); worship service, lunch and fellowship time (6). For more information, or to reserve banquet tickets, call 403-378-4933 or e-mail: rosemc@eidnet.org.

Nov. 25-26: Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta fall workshop at Bergthal Mennonite Church, Didsbury. Theme: "Rise and decline of Bible schools in Alberta." Speaker: Bruce Gunter. For more information, call Henry Goerzen at 403-335-8414.

Saskatchewan

Nov. 3-5, 19, 26, 29: Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sales—Hope Mennonite Church, North Battleford (3-5); Bethany Mennonite Church, Lost River (19); Rosthern Mennonite Church (26, 1 to 4 p.m.); Bethany Manor, Saskatoon (29).

Nov. 4-5: MCC annual meeting at Family Worship Centre, Yorkton.

Nov. 4-6: RJC visioning meeting with Jeff Steckley.

Nov. 4-6: Quilting retreat at Shekinah.

Nov. 7-8: "Personal financial management for families" workshop with Jim Brown of Mennonite Foundation, Osler Mennonite Church.

Nov. 12: Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan's Genealogy Day at Bethany Manor, 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 3-4: Handel's *Messiah*, Bethany College, Hepburn.

Dec. 10, 17: Buncha' Guys concerts—Knox United Church, Saskatoon (10); Shekinah Retreat Centre (17).

Dec. 11: RJC Christmas concert.

Jan. 13-15: Refreshing Winds retreat at Shekinah. Theme: "Worshipping through music," with a focus on the new *Hymnal* supplement.

Manitoba

Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Nov. 6: Camps with Meaning celebration banquets. Kathy Giesbrecht will speak on "Finding the way." Whitewater Mennonite Church, Boissevain

(29, 6 p.m.); Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church (5, 6 p.m.); Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg (6, 5 p.m.). For tickets, call 204-895-2267.

Nov. 1: Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, Winnipeg, annual general meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 4-6: Quilting retreat at Camp Koinonia. Call 895-2267 or e-mail camps@mennochurch.mb.ca to register.

Nov. 4-6: Quilting retreat at Camp Moose Lake. To register, call 895-2267 or e-mail camps@mennochurch.mb.ca.

Nov. 9-10: John and Margaret Friesen Lecture at CMU: "Recovering a heritage: The Mennonite Experience in Poland and Russia." Presenter: Peter Klassen, professor emeritus of history, California State University.

Nov. 11-13: Quilting retreat at Camp Moose Lake. To register, call 895-2267 or e-mail camps@mennochurch.mb.ca.

Nov. 12: Loren Hiebert and Rosemary Siemens CD release concert with guests An Even Seven, 7:30 p.m., Buhler Hall, MCI, Gretna.

Nov. 18: House of Doc concert, 8 p.m., Buhler Hall, MCI, Gretna.

Nov. 18-20: Canadian Mennonite education leaders gathering at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg. Theme: "Church and church school: Committed partners or a company of strangers?"

Nov. 19: CMU alumni recital featuring Xin Want, soprano, and Leanne Regehr, piano; 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 18: North Kildonan Mennonite Church Quartet Christmas concert, at the church, 7 p.m.

Jan. 13-15: Young adult retreat at Camp Koinonia: "Get engaged!...With the church!"

Jan. 20-22: MMYO junior youth retreat at Camp Koinonia.

Feb. 3-5: MMYO senior youth retreat at Camp Koinonia.

Feb. 10-12: MMYO junior youth retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

Feb. 24: Leadership seminar at Gretna Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

Feb. 24-25: Annual delegate session at Mennonite Collegiate Institute, hosted by Gretna Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

March 3-5: Families, friends and persons with a disability retreat at Camp Assiniboia.

March 10-12: MMYO junior youth retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

May 29-31: Plus 55 retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

June 5-7: Plus 55 retreat at Camp Koinonia.

Ontario

Oct. 24, 25, Nov. 1, 2: Mennonite Savings and Credit Union regional meetings.

Erb St. Mennonite Church, Waterloo (24); Wellesley Mennonite Church (25); Elmira Mennonite Church (1); Faith Mennonite Church, Leamington (2). Registration at 7:30 p.m., meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Oct. 25-29: Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale, a sale of traditional and contemporary international handicrafts to benefit artisans from developing countries. Aylmer Old Town Hall (upper floor), 38 John Street South, Aylmer, Ont.

Oct. 28-30: Silver Lake Mennonite Camp fall work weekend. Call 519-747-0627 for details.

Nov. 2-5: 19th annual Ten Thousand Villages Festival Sale at Vineland United Mennonite Church. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (2,3,4); 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (5). Tea room open each day.

Nov. 5: Silver Lake Mennonite Camp annual meeting and fish fry at Kitchener-Waterloo Mennonite Church, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Call 519-747-0627 for more information.

Nov. 25-27: Ten Thousand Villages' Mennonite Christmas Festival, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto—6 to 10 p.m. (25); 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (26); noon to 5 p.m. (27).

Nov. 26: 10th annual urban Mennonite bazaar, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Welcome Inn Community Centre, Hamilton. For more information, call 905-525-5824.

U.S.A.

Jan. 23-27: AMBS pastors week, Elkhart, Ind.

March 9-15: MWC mini-assembly, U.S. Center for World Missions, Pasadena, Calif.

June 1-3: "Holding fast to our faith: Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective 10 years later" conference, AMBS, Elkhart, Ind.

Please send **Calendar** events by e-mail to: calendar@canadianmennonite.org.

News brief

Relief shipment to benefit over 9,000

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is sending a \$17,900 shipment of food, clothing, school supplies, blankets, soap, sewing materials, medical supplies and other items to Rwanda. These items will be distributed by the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda to widows, orphans, former prisoners and people living with AIDS. MCC estimates that the shipment will directly benefit more than 9,000 people.

Subscriber services



How to subscribe:

- Individuals who are part of Mennonite Church Canada or one of its five area conferences can ask to be placed on their congregation's group subscription list. The subscription is paid by the conferences.
- Others who wish to order a subscription can use this form. See contact information below.
Rates: \$32.50 for one year (includes \$2.13 GST); \$52.50 (Can.) to U.S.; \$73.00 (Can.) for overseas.

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Subscription changes:

- When submitting a change of address or cancellation, please use the subscription number:

Subscription number **Expiry date**

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Kathy Mennonite
999 Menno St.
WINNIPEG MB X0X 0X0

- Subscription changes are not considered Transitions notices. (Please send Transitions to the editor.)

3. Changes will be made immediately but may take 4-6 weeks to take effect because of printing schedules.

Contact information:

Canadian Mennonite, 490 Dutton Drive, Unit C5, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 6H7

Phone: (519) 884-3810 Toll-free: 1-800-378-2524 ext.221

Fax: (519) 884-3331 E-mail: office@canadianmennonite.org

As a child, I remember that our little village did not need the military to protect it....

A mother worries over her two children in the Kanzombe clinic. The smaller of the two children has malaria. Kanzombe is a Mennonite Brethren medical centre near Kikwit, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kajiji, Democratic Republic of Congo—In Kajiji, my own village, we found crowded schools and students without access to books or basic school supplies. We found only three sewing machines for 120 students in a girls training school where they are supposed to learn about home economics and sewing....

Walking through the hospital we discovered a little boy sitting in his mother's lap outside the pediatrics ward. He was suffering from severe malnutrition, and yet the hospital could not afford to buy milk to feed children like him. It does not make any difference how the country arrived where it was. People created in God's image were dying unnecessarily and the living were feeling isolated and abandoned....

As a child, I remember that our little village did not need the military to protect it.... We now found soldiers roaming the countryside even though this region was not affected directly by the war. These soldiers were actually little children carrying guns. I wonder how government leaders could do such a thing to my people....

Now I am...still pondering on what we saw, heard, smelled, touched, and trying to figure out the best way to respond. Like the African drum, I still hear the voice calling me toward a dance that will bring peace and reconciliation, hope for the future for school children, basic medicine to hospitals, and good governance principles by all in power....

—**Pakisa Tshimika**

The complete version of Pakisa Tshimika's report, "When numbers no longer count: Journey to Democratic Republic of Congo," can be read at www.mmhhope.org.

'Like the African drum, I still hear the voice calling me toward a dance that will bring peace and reconciliation...'



heartbreak in Kajiji