

CANADIAN **Mennonite**

March 10, 2003
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These anxious days

What do you worry about? The children in my church were asked this question during the March 2 worship service. “Was your house cold this morning?” No, said the children. “Was your refrigerator empty?” No. “Do you have your own bed?” Yes. “So what do you worry about?”

The answers were unexpected: “being kidnapped,” “being stabbed” and “falling from the CN Tower.” These children may be warm and well cared for, but it’s still a scary world out there! While some of their responses are probably the product of too much television, children also reflect the anxiety of adults around them. There’s a lot to worry about these days: rising gas prices, conference cutbacks, West Nile virus—not to mention terrorism and war.

The children’s storyteller that Sunday talked about his parents coming to Canada as refugees from Russia. They had suffered unspeakable horrors; they had lost everything; they had to start over completely in a strange land. But they did have one very precious thing they wanted to pass on to their children—a sense of gratitude. “Always be grateful for what you have,” they said over and over. “And enjoy what has been given you.”

This powerful lesson came to my congregation on Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins. What a strange time to bring in transfiguration!

We in the church are already moving with Jesus toward his last days and ultimate execution, and suddenly we see him transformed in an extraordinary mountaintop meeting with two long-dead patriarchs. Peter wants to pin down the experience by creating a memorial site, but it’s not that kind of event. We are in an entirely different realm here, a realm where past and present meet, where reality is transformed, where all things are possible.

And this dazzling moment happens just as Jesus is entering

his darkest days. It gives one pause. Just for a moment, we who are preoccupied with Christ’s suffering and death, and with the torment of our world, are removed from our daily experience. We realize that Jesus’ earthly life is part of a much larger picture, that his approaching death will not be the end.

The vision of transfiguration gives us hope that even our sad world can be, will be, transformed. This moment of “intervention” is just what we need these days. It puts our worries into perspective, for we know that the grim progression of cause and effect is not all there is, and that death is not the last word.—**Margaret Loewen Reimer, managing editor**

Focus on schools

This issue has a special section on elementary and secondary schools, as well as various stories from Mennonite schools (see pages 22-25, 32). Religious/independent schools seem to be popular alternatives these days, making even more urgent their responsibility to provide an outstanding education. Part of that education is to help students tackle the tough issues of the day, including the political ones.

I continue to be amazed at how few history and politics courses our children are required to take in Canadian schools. While math is being “upgraded” out of all proportion, history hardly seems to be on the radar screen. Many students, my own children included, graduate from high school with an abysmal knowledge of Canada, never mind the rest of the world.

One of the protest signs at the February 15 rally in Toronto read: “War is God’s way of teaching Americans geography.” Not only Americans. Crises such as war compel us all to reach behind slogans and wrestle with the complexities of these situations. Our schools are invaluable resources for helping us to do that.—**MLR**

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Website preview

Get a preview of the next Canadian Mennonite before it comes in the mail. Selections are posted on our web site (www.canadianmennonite.org) on the Thursday before the date of the issue. This means you can check out the March 24 issue by March 20.

Cover: Students view the Pioneer Tower near Kitchener, Ontario. The tower, built in 1925, is a memorial to Mennonite pioneers who settled the area in the early 1800s. Rockway Mennonite Collegiate photo.

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Coaldale, Alta.

Former mission worker dies in Alberta

On January 21, God called home his faithful servant, Helen Willms Bergen. A former mission worker in Taiwan, she died of cancer at the age of 77.

Helen was born in Ladekopp, Russia, on May 25, 1925, just as her parents were preparing to emigrate to Canada. The family arrived in Winkler, Manitoba, later moving to Saskatchewan and finally settling in Coaldale. Helen worked hard as a caregiver to her siblings and hoed potatoes and beets. After grade nine, she quit school to help with the chores.

As an adult, she finished grade 12 and then went on to graduate from the Galt School of Nursing in Lethbridge. Her first assignment was in northern Manitoba.

In 1957, Helen accepted a position with the Commission on Overseas Mission as a nurse and nursing instructor at Mennonite Christian Hospital in Hualien, Taiwan. When there were enough Taiwanese professionals to operate the facility, she started a

public health service for the poorest of the poor in the mountains.

At Helen's memorial service, co-worker Sue Kehler gave a touching account of Helen's contributions to her family, the Taiwanese community and to her church. She had unlimited patience with children. She spent much time feeding malnourished infants—it was not unusual to see her at her desk marking student papers with a baby in tow.



Willms Bergen

On one of her visits to the mountains, she came upon a dingy hut. Inside was a man lying on a mat, suffering from tuberculosis; across the room an infant was wailing. Helen picked up the child, hugged it, washed its face and calmed

it. Then she attended to the man. She was also known to leave money at the homes.

During her illness, Taiwanese friends made the long trip to come and see her. Numerous messages from former colleagues were read at the memorial service. She was affectionately known as "the Mother of Mennonite Christian Hospital." The Taiwanese government recognized her contributions with medals and plaques. Adjacent to the newest wing is a pond named in her honour.

Helen returned to Canada in 1991, and in 1994 she married Peter Bergen. They spent many contented hours walking, gardening, vacuuming the Mennonite Central Committee store, reading. Peter was able to travel to Taiwan, and in September 2001 they saw Peter's former home in Ukraine. During a lunch I had with the couple, they laughed together and talked about each other's activities. What a neat way to spend one's golden years.—**Olga Epp**

Manitoba woman heads to Baghdad

As war appeared inevitable, a young Manitoba woman left for Iraq on February 1 for an indefinite stay.

Lisa Martens, 25, is a Christian Peacemaker Team member. She is based in Baghdad where she will meet with citizens and officials, and organize "non-violent witness" events with people who face dangers both from their government and from impending war.

On February 22 she wrote: "Today, catching up on some odds and ends—organizing for the next CPT delegation, writing an update for CPTnet.... I hung out with a young Iraqi woman this afternoon, and chatted with her in Spanish. She took four years of language school.... A lot of Iraqis are highly educated. She talked about her hopes that there would not be a war.

"In a few minutes I'll head to an Iraqi friend's house for my Arabic lesson."

Martens reported that a peace delegation was heading to the desert, not far from the border with Kuwait, for a four-day fast for peace.

"I will not be going with them," she said. "The reason is that I might want to have kids some day." The area near the border poses a risk because of depleted uranium from the Gulf War.

In an article in the Winnipeg Free Press just before she left, Martens was asked whether she believes George Bush or Saddam Hussein to be evil.

"I believe all people, including George Bush and Saddam Hussein, are children of God," she said. "They just happen to be capable of incredible violence." She believes that Hussein needs to step down, but that Bush's call for war is wrong.

"It's really scary," she was quoted as saying. "I think the way to deal with a dictator is not to kill more of his people."

Martens' parents, while admitting it's

frightening to watch their only daughter head off to a war zone, firmly support her decision.

"I was proud of her because I believe there has to be another way to solve conflict," said Barb Martens in the Free Press. "These people in Iraq have the same rights we do...these sons and daughters."

Martens can be reached by e-mail at: HBCLJ2000@yahoo.com.

CPT currently has six people in Iraq full time, as well as short-term delegations visiting the country.

The six CPTers "have made various contingency plans" in case of war, said Doug Pritchard, Canada coordinator for CPT. "They would like to be able to be present at institutions which civilian life in the hopes that might provide some additional protection.... It is very hard to predict what might be possible."—From releases

Winnipeg, Man.

Goulet works out of Montreal setting

Montreal might not be the first place one would go looking for Mennonites, but Mennonites have found a home and ministry there. Jean-Jacques Goulet is one Mennonite you will find in Montreal. He is the director of Outreach and Church Planting for Mennonite Church Canada, as well as co-pastor of Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal (alongside his wife, Lucille Marr).

The story of how Goulet became a Mennonite begins with his desire to become a Roman Catholic priest. Goulet was raised a devout Catholic in a bilingual French-Canadian family. However, his desire to pursue the priesthood was diverted when Goulet, like many of his generation, left the church in his teens in search of answers.

While searching, Goulet was returned to faith through a friend who was living in an intentional community of believers. Finding a community that embodied the New Testament church was part of “God leading me back,” says Goulet.

Through his own experience of living in Christian community at Plow Creek Fellowship, Goulet began to work in

Mennonite settings. He and Lucille directed a SALT unit (Serving and Learning Together, a Mennonite Central Committee program) in Kitchener for several years.

Now, 20 years later, they have moved to Montreal and are again working in a team ministry.

Although he now practises a faith quite different from the one he was raised in, Goulet’s family has respected his choices. His siblings have made their own faith journeys to Pentecostal and Roman Catholic congregations.

“My father who is deceased respected my denominational home. My mother, although still devoutly practising her Roman Catholic faith, feels comfortable worshipping in each one of her children’s church.”

Balancing the roles of pastor and MC Canada director is challenging, says



Goulet

Goulet, but a joyful spirit and devotional routine keep him centred and motivated. Goulet’s energy is evident to those around him.

Karen Amos, who works with the local voluntary service unit (supported by the Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal), has observed the welcoming spirit that Goulet and Marr bring to those around them, making “their place feel like a home away from home.”

Goulet is now focusing on helping congregations across the country to think of their own local outreach and how the church can continue to bring “healing and hope for those who look for meaning.” A recent example of Goulet’s initiative was the “Seeking the peace of the city” event where urban churches considered how they could become centres of relevance and outreach for the culture around them.

“It was especially exciting to see several young adults participate in this event, as well as the diversity of folks that came from across Canada,” said Goulet. “Watching how participants creatively grappled with tough issues of being church in the city was inspiring.”—**Allison Peters**

The writer is a student at Canadian Mennonite University.

Nevertheless: A word from Iraq

War does not have the final word. Such is my impression as our Christian Peacemaker Team delegation visits people and places in Baghdad.

While the brutal realities of violence become painfully evident as we learn about what happened in the last Gulf War, and listen to people talk about the current threat of war, the powerful images for me are of people whose very lives seem to say, “Nevertheless! Though war looms closer, nevertheless we will live!”

The first “nevertheless” came in the form of a Dominican priest who told us what he did during the Gulf War. As the bombs began to fall in January 1991, this priest decided that he would stay in the church compound and listen to what God wanted him to do.

He discovered that his task would be quite simple: he would make candles.

For the duration of the war, he spent his days melting down discarded candle wax and producing new candles that he distributed to families nearby.

Since electrical power had been cut off because of the bombing, a candle became a necessity during the nights of bombardment. Nevertheless. Though the bombs were falling, nevertheless a small light continued.

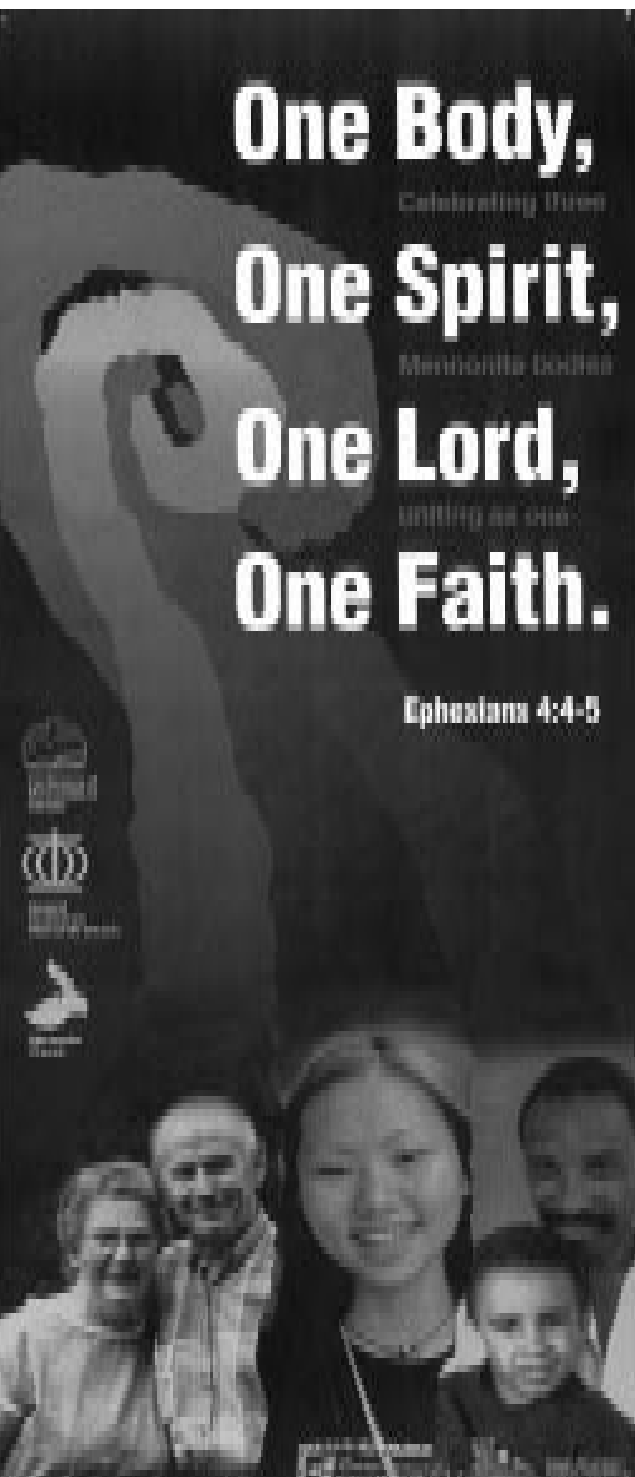
The second experience happened while driving through the bustling streets of Baghdad. We heard music and discovered that in the bus directly in front of us a live brass band was playing and children were dancing. Through the back window of the bus, you could see children bobbing up and down with smiles on their faces.

The bus was part of a wedding procession. Nevertheless. Though the future has become uncertain and full of fear, nevertheless this couple’s wedding commitment stands as a testimony of tremendous hope.

The third experience was a visit to a music hall in which over 200 people gathered to listen to traditional Iraqi “macam” music. The atmosphere in that basement hall was electric with laughing and warm greetings. The music consisted of a fiddle, flute, percussionists, and several singers. Nevertheless. Though much of life is at risk during these days, this joyful concert spoke of the determination of Iraqi culture. Threatening words are in great supply these days, as are words that bend and distort the truth of what is going on here in Iraq. Nevertheless, war will not have the last word.

In some place deep inside of me, I know that there is something mysteriously at work here to inspire candle-makers, marriage-makers and music-makers to stand as witnesses to a future with hope.—**Matthew Bailey-Dick**

The author, from Waterloo, Ontario, was part of the February 1-15 Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation to Iraq.



This poster celebrated the union of three Mennonite bodies in what became Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. A theological basis for that union was the missional church vision.

Missional: Prophetic and ecumenical

In the last issue, David Schroeder defined “missional” as witnessing in our stations of life. In this second part, he focuses on the prophetic and ecumenical ministries at the heart of the missional vision.

Proclaiming the gospel is a prophetic ministry. Jesus’ charge to the church to go out into the world and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-19) has a double focus. One is a prophetic message directed at those who do not know God in Christ. The other is a prophetic message directed at Christians who do not live by the Spirit of God.

To indicate to people what action can bring them fullness of life is a prophetic message. This is the message we can give people in our daily life in our stations and as we speak to issues in society. In each station, people need to experience liberation from that which leads to conflict and destruction; they need to know what to bind themselves to so as to experience the fullness of life God intended.

When Christians present clearly their belief that God created a moral order—that righteousness will exalt a

nation and sin will be its destruction—they are inviting people to choose life by honouring the will of God for their lives. Naming what is good and what is evil in our station is a prophetic witness to others in the same station. It indicates that they can be freed from the powers of darkness.

The prophetic witness clearly indicates that God intends for all people to have abundant life, that God seeks to free people from bondage and invites them to choose life.

We manifest in every station what we consider to be right and wrong, what we consider to be of value, what we consider to be of God. This is our primary prophetic witness. It is our invitation for others to share with us our faith in Christ. When we refuse to take unjust advantage of others and advocate for those who have no power to speak in their own defence, we are witnessing to the fact that God wills justice and righteousness. It is an invitation to others to seek justice.

There may be times when we need to break with the structures of society because they have become the basis for evil. Such civil disobedience is a witness to the moral order of God which takes precedence over human laws. It is an invitation to others to

serve God rather than human systems. Christians often have to invent alternative institutions and ways of doing things to serve people more adequately.

Early missionaries in India were probably not aware that they were breaking with the structures of society when they ate with the outcasts and presented a new way of life. Their witness brought liberation and hope to a rejected and oppressed people.

Similarly, when we break with the individualism of our time to make decisions that benefit the whole society, we give an invitation to others to join the community of faith as it seeks to serve all of humanity. A simple lifestyle that honours all people, animals, nature and the environment is an invitation to others to acknowledge that this is God's world and that we are called to be proper stewards of what God has granted us.

Prophetic church

The prophetic ministry also belongs to the entire church. Knowing that God has created a moral order and that all injustice will be judged of God, the church can sound a warning to those who are not treating other persons or nature justly.

The church is in a position to warn nations and corporations that if we sustain our high standard of living on the backs of other peoples, God will bring judgment on us. The church can shout loudly that war will not bring peace and that the domination of other peoples will be judged of God.

In our station as citizens, it is our responsibility to name what will bring salvation, peace and hope. It is our task to name what is right and wrong in the policies and practices of our nation, to address businesses and institutions on how best to serve the nation according to our understanding of God's word.

We are also citizens of the world. The gospel message is the same for all. The Law of Moses made it clear that the poor, the orphan and the widow, the stranger and the slave need to be considered before the nation could prosper. Our prophetic witness will include our advocacy for the poor.

God gave us freedom so we could be-

come responsible persons. That is, we were set free to make decisions about whom to serve. At Sinai, God gave the Torah (the law) which revealed what actions lead to life and what actions lead to death. Having been set free from bondage, the people could now choose life.

To sound a prophetic note we need to proclaim the gospel in such a way that it speaks to the woes of the world and its forgotten people. We need to be conversant with the plight of people fleeing from war zones, people in refugee camps, and the homeless on our streets. To advocate for them is part of our prophetic witness.

The witness must be one of warning and of invitation. It is meant to stop people in their tracks, to turn them around and to invite them to bind themselves to that which promises new life in God.

The work of Mennonite volunteers in war-torn countries and other areas of need is such a prophetic message. The work of Christian Peacemaker Teams in conflict areas of the world is such a message. The efforts of mission workers is such a witness to people all over the world. Multi-national corporations that want to serve in a Christ-like way could be such a witness as well.

Ecumenical witness

There is a prophetic ministry also to Christians. This applies especially where people no longer embody the spirit of Christ, where Christians are so compromised with the world that the witness to the reign of God is not clear, or where the church no longer responds to the prompting of God.

In the history of Israel, the prophet appeared when the king and priest no longer represented the will of God. The prophet was there to sensitize the people to the covenant they had made with God and to invite them to return to God and live.

The prophetic ministry of the church can best be seen in terms of loosing and binding (Matthew 16:13-20; 18:15-20 and John 20:23). In this process we help each other to be freed from captivities that give a lie to God's love and justice. We invite each other to bind ourselves to that which is of Christ and to that which builds up the Body of Christ. In binding and loosing we practise forgiveness, love and restoration, and encourage each other to love and good works.

Mennonites have a long history of seeking to survive as

The next step is to share more fully our insights into the gospel with other Christians. But dialogue is a two-way conversation. It means that we also have to be open to learn from other denominations.

a faith community, seeking to hold on to the faith and the traditions received. But now it is time to look outward. It is time to acknowledge that we are but a small segment of Christ's body in the world. We need a more global approach to witness.

In the past, whenever there was a new understanding of the gospel, a new group or denomination was formed. Each such group then sought to perpetuate itself with little heed to other understandings of the gospel. But the witness of the church in the world would be greatly enhanced if different denominations would be on speaking terms with each other, and would honour the insights into the gospel that each has received.

We have just gone through years of work to integrate two Mennonite groups in Canada and the United States. We are recognizing Mennonite churches around the world as partners through the Mennonite World Conference. There is dialogue with other Mennonite denominations, both conservative and evangelical. The objective is not to bring them all into one organization, but to strengthen the Anabaptist understanding of the gospel shared by all of them.

The next step is to share more fully our insights into the gospel with other Christians. For example, many people are open to the message of peace as never before. But dialogue is a two-way conversation. It means that we also have to be open to learn from other denominations. This dialogue is especially important on the international level. Each national church speaks out of a different context and has something to contribute to the rest of the world.

We need to dream about what a united Christian witness could mean. We would be able not only to speak to issues of war, famine and inequities between north and south, but we could influence governments and corporations to be more responsible all over the globe.

Witness to other faiths

The church today finds itself in a plurality of religions and will have to learn to dialogue with other faiths. It is impossible to simply avoid other faiths or treat them as if they had nothing to contribute to humankind. Some form of engagement needs to take place that is more than a one-directional.

If God is sovereign lord of the earth and its history, then God is involved in the lives of all people. Amos told the people of Israel that other nations too had their Exodus! We need to discern what is of God in the history of other peoples. For example, we know that many of the insights of aboriginal peoples in North America have their counterparts in the Christian faith. They claim that they have their own "Old Testament" to faith in Christ.

Jesus related to his Jewish tradition like we have to relate to our Anabaptist tradition. He identified with his received tradition. He proclaimed that he had come to fulfil the law and the prophets. At the same time he rejected some of that tradition as not being of God: "You have heard it said, 'You

shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'" He gave a new interpretation of the law when he said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5: 43-44). At other times he simply deepened people's understanding of the received tradition.

In the same way, Christians will find that of God in other faith traditions. They will also find that which they cannot accept because it is counter to their interpretation of God's revelation. At times, they will be able to give a deeper interpretation to the faith that others manifest.

The pattern of loosing and binding may help us to think of our relation to all people, regardless of faith or race. It allows us to affirm persons who do what is right even if they are not aware it is of God. In Philippians 4: 8, Paul says we are to think on whatever is honourable, just, pure, lovely, or worthy of praise. This is what happens when we relate to others in their stations. We affirm that which is of God in their actions and words. If we differ with them on other things, that is our prophetic witness to them.

All witness is prophetic. To non-Christians, our witness is a challenge to accept the deliverance from captivity that God offers. It is an invitation to choose life in Christ. To Christians, the prophetic word calls attention to areas in life that have not been placed under the lordship of Christ. It challenges them to seek deliverance from their bondage to the powers of darkness and to choose greater obedience to the will of God.

Whether in our station or in the corporate life of the church, we proclaim the message that God seeks to set people free from bondage and oppression, and that God invites people to choose life.—**David Schroeder**

The writer is a New Testament theologian and a member of Charleswood Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.



Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

Bluegrass group returns after 50 years

The former Lincoln County Peach Pickers were invited last May to be part of the entertainment at the first Springfest presented by the Niagara United Mennonite Church. The bluegrass gospel group was a hit, the highlight of the event. Building on this response, the group, more than 50 years after its inception, “re-invented” itself to become Peach Pickers 2002.

In the early 1950s, John Harder and Eric Goerz began singing and playing the guitar while in high school at Eden Christian College. Along with John Goertzen on the mandolin, they performed at community events and church functions throughout the region, and also played on radio.

A recent program pamphlet noted, “The original Lincoln County Peach Pickers were active in early Canadian country music radio broadcasting. Beginning in October 1952, they appeared on weekly broadcasts over CHVC Niagara Falls, CHML Hamilton, and on CBC affiliates across Canada.”

Their programs were a mix of gospel songs and what was then known as folk music. Today their musical style is known as bluegrass. After several

Publishing note

Egon Enns of Winnipeg has begun researching the history of Camp Assiniboia which opened in 1949. This is a follow-up to a booklet of stories and photos prepared for the camp’s 50th anniversary in 1999. One of the ways Enns hopes to collect data is through a “constituency workshop” where people will come together to reminisce, recalling important aspects of the camp’s history. It is hoped that similar research will be done for Camp Koinonia and Camp Moose Lake, the other camps of Mennonite Church Manitoba.—From MC Manitoba release



The Peach Pickers 2002. Front row, from left: John Harder, baritone vocals, omni chord; Eric Goerz, lead vocals, guitar. Back row: George Rout, resonator guitar (dobro); Al Teichroeb, bass vocals, mandolin, harmonica; Abe Koop, bass guitar; Karl Goerz, tenor vocals, banjo, guitar.

years of radio and live appearances, the group disbanded to devote themselves to family and full-time jobs. Now, almost 50 years later, Harder and Goerz have been joined by Eric’s son Karl, Al Teichroeb, George Rout and Abe Koop to comprise Peach Pickers 2002. Their new-found enthusiasm is reflected in their statement of “purpose, calling and intent” which is “To use our God-given talents in this particular style of music and sound, to the honour and glory of God, for the blessing of others, and for our own mutual enjoyment.” Further, Peach Pickers 2002 “promote as their standing ministry project the Mennonite Centre in Ukraine” located in Moloschansk. The centre helps this poverty-stricken community of approximately 6,000 people by providing day camps for children, a tea for the seniors, computer classes, a group for young mothers, several clinics and food assistance.

Last November, Peach Pickers 2002, together with The Rempels and Friends, another popular local group, performed a benefit concert hosted by Niagara United Mennonite Church which raised over \$10,000 for the Ukraine centre.

Peach Pickers 2002 have performed at a variety of functions, from outdoor concerts to Seniors’ Evenings, and are acquiring quite a following across all generations. Recently they performed at the Women in Service potluck at the Niagara church where over \$500 was raised for the centre.

The group is currently working on a recording with a tentative release date of May. The CD features 14 songs and profits are designated for the Mennonite Centre in Ukraine. Contacts are John Harder at (905) 468-3770 and Eric Goerz at (905) 356-4576.—Linda Dyck Friesen

Arts notes

Textile art exhibit

Three textile artists, including Karen Thiessen, are exhibiting their work at the Burlington Art Centre in Ontario in an event called "Wide Borders." The exhibit, which opened March 2, continues until April 1. A reception will be held on March 23 at 2:00 p.m. An artists' tour and talk will be held on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. (free admission). The gallery will also host an artists' workshop on March 24. Call (905) 632-7796 to register. The other two artists are Lynne Heller and Lorraine Roy.—From Art Centre release

Loeppky legacy

William Lyon Mackenzie Loeppky, a radio broadcaster and founder of an on-line literary magazine, died in Victoria, B.C., on November 4. Loeppky was born in 1927 in Laird, Saskatchewan, the grandson of a Mennonite store owner, Jacob Loeppky, who befriended Mackenzie King, later prime minister. King won a by-election in the Laird riding in 1926 and Jacob urged that his new grandson be named after him; King was so delighted he agreed to be the godfather. Loeppky was a broadcaster in Camrose, Alberta, as well as in northern B.C. He launched "Inditer.com" in 1994, an internet magazine for first-time authors which proved immensely popular.—From Globe and Mail, Dec. 30

Literacy evenings

Six Biblical literacy evenings will be held at Danforth Mennonite Church in Toronto beginning on May 1 at 7:00 p.m. The series will continue each Thursday to June 5.

Teaching sessions will be about an hour, followed by discussion. For more information, e-mail Robert Boardman: robert@stoneyard.net.—From release

Photo by Evelyn Rempel Petkau



Volunteers prepare a quilt panel for the "Prayer Garden" at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery in Winnipeg. More than 100 quilt blocks from Mennonite communities in various countries went into the "Prayer Garden" which will be part of the Mennonite World Conference assembly in Zimbabwe in August. The project was initiated by Ray Dirks, director of the Gallery. "I wanted something based in a long tradition that would fit our modern global church family," said Dirks. The "garden" comprises long panels of fabric which people can walk around, through and between, to the accompaniment of sounds. Winnipeg artist Agatha Doerksen is coordinating the many volunteers assembling the project in Winnipeg. After the Zimbabwe assembly, the "Prayer Garden" will be exhibited in Europe and North America.—From releases

Publishing notes

Food for Thought: Catholic Insights into the Modified Food Debate is a new book from Novalis publishers by John Perry. Perry is a Jesuit pastor and professor who edits a journal called "Ultimate Reality and Meaning: Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Understanding." In this book he looks at the debate around modified foods, relating it to broader issues of technology and ethics. He makes some startling connections between Catholic teaching on the eucharist and the current debate about food.

In Singing the Lord's Song in a Foreign Land: Reclaiming Faith in a New Culture (Novalis 2002), author Vivian Ligo uses her own story of immigration from the Philippines to Canada to explore the immigrant experience. Ligo, who teaches theology at St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto School of Theology, compares Old Testament stories of exile to current concerns. She writes for immigrants and those who work with them.—From Novalis releases

Hutterite Songs by Helen Martens explores the remarkable 400-year tradition of singing in the Hutterite tradition, from its 16th-century origins through its transmission by exclusively oral/aural means to the present. Published by Pandora Press, this 350-page book includes written illustrations of the songs and extensive bibliographical references. Martens, now retired, taught music at Conrad Grebel College for many years.—From Pandora release

Another new release from Pandora Press is the first volume of an autobiography by Robert S. Kreider. My Early Years traces a young Mennonite man's life in the United States in the 1920s to his leadership in Mennonite Central Committee relief work in Europe after World War II. His appraisals of the people who shaped his life are sensitive and often bittersweet. The 627-page book can be ordered from Pandora Press, e-mail: press@pandorapress.com, or phone (519) 578-2381.—Pandora release

Letters

Letters express the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of Canadian Mennonite or the church. We publish as many as space permits, unless they attack individuals or become too repetitious. Letters are edited for length and style. This section is meant to provide opportunity for discussion and discernment.

Touched by stories

We were deeply touched by two articles in Canadian Mennonite about TLC [tender loving care] expressed by churches towards their clergy: Bergthal Mennonite Church in Didsbury, Alberta (July 15, 2002, page 35) and Arnaud Mennonite Church in Manitoba (Feb. 10, page 4). May the tribe increase!—**Walter and Erna Braun, Winnipeg, Man.**

Appreciate different perspective

Thank you for an excellent paper. Living in the USA as a Canadian citizen, I appreciate the different perspective that your paper brings as I think about national and international issues in this context.—**Rod Hollinger-Janzen, Goshen, Ind.**

Pontius' Puddle



Why should we control 'far out' claims of the Spirit?

I was interested in Helmut Harder's article, "The Holy Spirit and Christian unity" (Jan. 27). His statement, "This is our way of controlling 'far out' claims about the work of the Holy Spirit" is a gentle treatment of what many experience in their denominations. The "far out" is in quotations likely because anything that the Mennonite establishment does not understand or has not experienced is considered that.

One needs only to read about the life of Jesus and his disciples and think how God demonstrated his power through them. If that same demonstration of power came through a present-day Mennonite, would he be deemed having "far out" claims? Many Mennonites have a deep hunger for God's Spirit but unfortunately they are often treated as having a type of spiritual leprosy. Just ask yourself how a fellow Mennonite would be treated after it became public that he or she exercises the spiritual gift of tongues.

Harder also states that Anabaptists "were passionate about identifying the will of God for the whole church. How else could one explain their missionary zeal and their willingness to die for their faith?" How can we truly consider ourselves Mennonite if we claim this rich spiritual heritage on one hand and on the other attempt to control "far out" claims of the work of the Holy Spirit that were taught and demonstrated by our Lord and his apostles?

May all of us be like the Bereans as Paul described them: "The people were more open-minded. They listened to the message with great eagerness and everyday they studied the scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true." The Anabaptist movement has so much to enrich the larger Christian church. Let us move forward with boldness and fearlessness to the goal that our Lord and Saviour has set out for us.—**Gary Dyck, St. Catharines, Ont.**

First responsibility is to our church programs

The wake-up call regarding para-church groups (Jan. 27, page 14) should surely also include the work of the Lord already entrusted to us. The appeals by mail and canvassers are appealing but we already have many opportunities to give within our own church community.

We use a simple screen, which is to check if our church is already addressing these issues. For most of them we are, either by the local, provincial or national church, or through Mennonite Central Committee or Mennonite World Conference. There are several organizations that address larger issues, such as Bible printing and translation.

We are grateful that the Lord has entrusted us with abundant ministries for giving, but giving to our church and its organizations is our first responsibility. Would the para-church organizations have as large a base to appeal to if there were not churches who faithfully preach, teach and nurture the faith? Do they lay the groundwork?

We know we have not been as faithful as we should be, but there may be another reason why these groups have come into existence. Certain people have difficulty working within the parameters and accountability of the church. They venture out on their own but still look to the church for support.

Try asking para-church solicitors if they would be willing to support the work of your church. Our experience is that they think the work is good but they say they cannot contribute to it. We reply that then we suppose it is okay that we do not contribute to their cause either.

Certainly we always need to be grateful for the community of faith to which Jesus has called us and through which he helps us be faithful.—**Henry and Helga Dueck, Leamington, Ont.**

What do we need to do without?

Having returned from a five-week learning/mission trip to Uganda and Sudan, I sat down to read the January 27 issue of Canadian Mennonite.

I had visited displaced Ugandans (because of rebel activity) and Sudanese refugees. I also visited the World Vision Children of War Rehabilitation Centre. Everywhere I went, the two realities that spoke loudest to me were hunger for God's presence and the longing for children to be able to go to school.

Uganda is in a state of spiritual revival but those whom God calls to minister must also have something in their hands to alleviate physical suffering. I witnessed many committed people bringing hope and healing, many of them entrepreneurial individuals and para-church groups. In light of this, I was encouraged to read the

letter about para-church groups being a wake-up call to the church (page 14).

Following that was the letter asking whether arts centres are an appropriate witness. I wonder if those of us who are already so privileged should allow ourselves more when so many of our brothers and sisters are crying out for the absolute basics in education. Is there a way to provide enrichment for our children while increasing our giving to the less fortunate? What do we need to do without? I realize the complexity of this question.

One response is to visit places such as Uganda, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe or other countries where the church is suffering. I was moved to see in Uganda a family with two adolescent children serving for three months in an MCC project. What a life-changing experience for the whole family.

We shouldn't only send our youth and seniors. I appeal to those of us in mid-life, especially those blessed with

prosperity, to take a month to go and learn/serve/love. Over and over, I was thanked for just coming to visit.

I am praying that this might happen with the Mennonite World Conference assembly in Zimbabwe—that North Americans will be willing to move out of their comfort zones to identify with suffering brothers and sisters. There is a blessing waiting for those who go.

The article on the Holy Spirit and Christian unity was very affirming as I had witnessed the unifying Spirit in Uganda. I worshipped with Episcopalians, Pentecostals, Mennonites, and charismatic Catholics, and experienced the freedom of the same Spirit moving among us.

Now I am in regular contact with Sudanese and Ugandans, and the way I choose to live my life has taken on added purpose. May I not forget or lose heart!—**Barbara Lehto, Kitchener, Ont.**

What about the lepers?

My counselling teacher once offered me an experience of exclusion. My classmates were instructed to form a circle and block me from joining. I was told to ask permission to be included. I hated the exclusion, and quickly sought an opening. To my relief, my second request met with an assent, and I swiftly stepped into the warmth of togetherness.

My teacher pointed out that I missed learning what comes from being outside of the group. I have since learned how such a vantage sharpens and broadens one's perspective, but I still prefer being inside the circle.

This came back to me recently as I meditated on the story of Jesus healing the leper in Mark 1: 40-45. Lepers were definitely outside their communities. Jesus' willingness to interact with them, touch them, heal them, treat them as persons, was astounding. My spiritual director sent me to the passage, encouraging me to ask myself about any "leprosy" that might be holding me back, and how I might take it to Jesus. I didn't like her questions and I didn't like the story. It was an effort to imagine myself in the role of leper. Looks like I'm still learning about the advantages of being on the outside.

The question of who's in and who's out

may be most pointed in families where we hope for belonging and acceptance. Perhaps you are wondering how to welcome the new son-in-law, especially if he comes from a different race or religion. Or how to respond to your granddaughter who says she's lesbian. Or how to deal with a parent whose addiction or abuse left a hurtful legacy. While I support healthy



Family Ties

Melissa Miller

boundaries for individuals and families, I also feel Jesus tug me to respond generously to the lepers around me.

My parents faced this hard question when my brother, newly separated from his wife, began living with another woman. My dad in particular struggled with how to respond to a situation that he saw as wrong on many levels. When my brother and his partner conceived a child, Dad's discomfort intensified, and he declared, "You are no longer welcome at my table." Such exclusion prevented my mother

from exercising her instinctive protection of her offspring. Long discussions between them followed, and I breathed a sigh of relief when Mom prevailed and relationships began to patch over dinners.

My parents were the first people my brother called to the hospital when his partner went into early labour, delivering a son who lived a few hours—a mystery of loss and tears and reconciliation that no one quite understood but accepted with gratitude.

I know it cost my Dad a lot to open his heart again to the son he felt had betrayed him. I know all of our family benefitted by my parents' willingness to let love stretch their principles to keep an open table.

Even knowing how much I don't like being on the outside, I still struggle with how to follow Jesus' example when I'm the one who wants to keep the group unpolluted. (Or is it to keep myself safe?) But it's right there in Mark 1, for all to see.

The writer, a counsellor and author, operates Family Ties. She is a part-time master of divinity student and a member of Charleswood Mennonite Church.

Aging serenely involves remembering

Melissa Miller, in her February 10 column, states, "Our inability to tell our stories separated us from our history and deadened our present. Our identity as a living, responsive and healthy family was diminished."

I find the following quote by Oliver Sacks very appropriate for healthy responses towards aging: "Ultimate serenity and security of the spirit in old age is only given to those who possess, or recall, the true past." As a neurolo-

gist, Sacks is saying that the ability to thrive and to get on with our lives, as the aging process challenges us, is by expressing continuity and a fullness towards our lives. This sense of fulfillment is often found in telling our story.

My interest is in the area of disability and the impact that aging has on it. I am 58 years old, disabled with cerebral palsy. I have been very active and highly motivated all my life. In the last several years, slowing down, pacing myself, conserving energy, and coping with a long-term disability is an increasing challenge.

As an "activist" with a disability, my dream is to empower others and myself to become more open toward sharing our journeys. As a result, I hope that persons with disabilities will continue to be active in the community, and learn to accept aging as a time to be both resourceful and proactive in one's approach to living life with quality.—**James R. Hunsberger, Waterloo, Ont.**

Questions about 'ecumenical fervour'

I smiled when I saw Helmut Harder alongside Boris Bobrinskoy on the cover of Canadian Mennonite (Jan. 27). I thought of the question a woman at our German Bible study had asked several weeks earlier: "Is it true that the Mennonites have joined the Catholics?"

Where would this 86-year-old have that idea from? I did think of Dan

Nighswander's bold's title in the September 23 issue, "Our future is ecumenical." (Yes, I wrote him a brief reply.)

Maybe I see that direction too negatively—it is my impression that the ecumenical movement is more a grasping at straws than working from strength. At least, that was my impression when I ministered in Germany.

I certainly thank Helmut for his participation, though I wonder at his sentence, "The ecumenical fervour of the Anabaptists was remarkable." I see it as "evangelical fervour." The rest of the paragraph supports this rewording.

I like Helmut's mention of peace and hospitality. I'd add evangelism to make it trinitarian.—**Dietrich Rempel, Abbotsford, B.C.**

Pledge to help solve financial crisis

I would like to support the thoughts expressed by Walter Quiring regarding Mennonite Church Canada's financial dilemma (Feb. 10, page 14). I also believe we have competent and dedicated staff who work diligently and often go beyond the call of duty to accomplish their tasks. To ask some of these people to leave would further compound the problem.

Many of us live very comfortable lifestyles and would benefit by sharing with others. I wish to be one of the 499 to help alleviate the debt so the work that is most necessary can go on. I encourage others to do so as well.—**Marina Lepp, Harrow, Ont.**

How to stay young

1. Disregard all nonessential numbers. These include age, weight and height.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. If you really need a grouch, there are probably family members that fill that need.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Just never let the brain idle.
4. Enjoy the simple things. Remember—when you were young, that's all you could afford. When you were in college, that's all that you could afford. When you are in retirement, that is all that you can afford!
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh so much that you can be tracked anywhere by your distinctive laughter.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life is ourselves.
7. Surround yourself with what you love—family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, the next county, or a foreign country, but forget the guilt trips!
10. At every opportunity, tell those you love that you love them. Remember: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.—Source unknown

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Abbotsford, B.C.

Mennonite Church B.C. works at 'refocusing'

The Hebrew word for "future" is *aharit*, which can be defined as "that which goes behind and before me." It is like rowing—although you are looking at where you have come from, you are moving to where you are going.

Aharit describes what participants experienced at the Mennonite Church British Columbia All Committee meeting on February 22 at Olivet Mennonite Church here. Led by consultant David Jackson, the 70 people were given a taste of a process called "refocusing," which is more than strategic planning.

"Refocusing is a discovery process, not a program," Jackson said, adding that it makes the assumption that God is already at work in the organization. The morning was spent looking at the life cycle of an organization: birth, growth, maturity, maintenance, decline and death. Each of these is characterized by certain developments. For example, the time between birth and growth sees the development of structure as the dreams that gave birth to the organization are clarified. The time between decline and death is characterized by polarization as the struggle for control results in questioning, blame and, ultimately, leaving. The ultimate goal of refocusing is to break the cycle so that an organization is constantly "rebirthing" itself, refocusing on its dreams and visions of what God intends for it.

The majority felt that MC British Columbia is currently between maintenance and decline. As people talked about that around their tables, some made a distinction between the churches themselves and the conference.

"I think we are healthier as churches than we think we are and we are sicker as a conference than we think we are," said Rudy Kehler, manager at Camp Squeah. Most around his table agreed.



Doing refocusing work at the B.C. All-Committee Meeting are, from left: Don Teichroeb, Yoshi Yoshiyuki, Mary Woelk and Laura Loewen.

"We need to keep rebirthing over and over," added Larry Schram, pastor at Kelowna Gospel Fellowship.

The afternoon was spent in a creative activity that helped the group look at its past. After mixing up the seating, "so you are sitting with people you didn't choose to sit with," Jackson explained, each table was asked to write down the significant events in the history of MC British Columbia.

What resulted was a time-line wall filled with yellow sheets of paper describing events like the formation of Bible schools, church planting and the influx of immigrants at different times.

It also included difficult times, like the tensions between the German and English language and culture, the closing of Mountainview Mennonite Church and the end of B.C. Mennonite Youth Organization.

What surprised Jackson was the number of events crowded in the earlier part of the conference's history rather than in recent memory.

"We are a people who like history," explained one participant. Another added that perhaps it's an indication

that MC British Columbia is stuck in the past, a sign of the nostalgia that develops in the "maintenance" period of an organization's cycle.

Jackson then asked the groups to replace the yellow sheets with pink sheets for events that caused pain. The wall soon became a mix of yellow and pink, with painful events more prevalent in the recent past. What had participants learned about God and their organization? asked Jackson. "I see that God has redeemed situations that were painful," said Werner Froese, pastor at Eden Church in Chilliwack, pointing to churches that had divided over language issues but that are now on friendly terms. Others also pointed to evidence of God's grace and forgiveness.

"Despite difficulties, we continue to seek vision," said Doug Epp, MC British Columbia moderator.

The afternoon ended with two questions: What would God affirm us for and what would God challenge us on? On the affirmation, participants said that God would the conference's openness, its heart for evangelism and desire to live out God's word, and its

Photo by Angelika Dawson

Morden, Man.

Manitoba delegates take time

On February 15, while thousands around the world marched for peace, delegates of Mennonite Church Manitoba met at the Morden Bergthaler Mennonite Church for the 56th annual sessions. Concerns about a budget shortfall and consequent program cuts were prominent on the agenda but did not overshadow concern for world events.

Delegates sidestepped the agenda to ensure that a resolution of support and encouragement reached MC Manitoba participants in the peace march. Later, delegates added three more resolutions reflecting their concern for victims of war, for political leaders, and for brothers and sisters in Mennonite Church USA.

Nelson Kraybill, president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, addressed the assembly during the weekend. Speaking on Romans 12:1-2, he inspired the 214 delegates to take on Paul's challenge "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice." Faithful living has to do with our daily lives, he said.

Kraybill challenged delegates, "to lay down your life for something that brings healing and hope.... Don't get caught up in the vortex of fear. Recognize that how the church behaves today has consequences for tomorrow." Delegates heard about several new initiatives. Norm Voth, director of Evangelism and Service Ministries, told of churches partnering for a church planting venture.

John Klassen, director of Leadership Ministries, introduced the new Evangelical Anabaptist Seminary Program

in Manitoba. Delegates endorsed MC Manitoba Board's ongoing participation in its development and a minimum \$1000 to the program per year.

"Equipping at Your Doorstep," is a new program that seeks to match the needs of congregations "with some of the tremendous resources we already have in our churches," through workshops and seminars, for example, said Bob Wiebe, director of Education Ministries. Staff and board members received affirmation from the delegates with a vote of more than 86 percent for a budget that reflects an 11.4 percent increase over last year's actual. But it came with a word of caution.

"I had reservation about the structure earlier but now I have confidence in the programs and confidence in the persons involved," said delegate Frank Isaak. "I encourage you to live out the vision and mission but don't lose the grass roots, the churches' involvement in the decision-making."

Delegates discussed the cancellation of Low German radio programming and the hospital chaplaincy program. Wort des Lebens, begun 46 years ago, aired 2,392 programs under 5 producers. Delegates encouraged MC Manitoba to make the programs available to Low German radio stations and individuals. Delegates were heartened that staff is looking at ways to continue a



Iglesia Jesus es el Camino, a Spanish-speaking church in Winnipeg, was accepted into MC Manitoba at its annual sessions in February.

modified chaplaincy program.

MC Manitoba grew by 143 births and 167 baptisms last year, and increased from 47 congregations to 48 with Iglesia Jesus es el Camino (Jesus is the Way Church), a Spanish speaking congregation in Winnipeg.

Bernie Tiessen of Whitewater Mennonite Church in Boissevain was elected as moderator.

"We need to build and strengthen our relationships with each other and our partnership with MC Canada," Tiessen told delegates. "The days of duplication are gone...."

One area that the Board will be giving attention to is Camps with Meaning.

"There is some urgency here, some loopholes and we need to look at the funding and facilities," said Tiessen.

Kraybill addressed delegates on Saturday with the words of Paul, "Don't be shaped by this world, be transformed."

"Every generation has to find its own way to grapple anew with what this means," said Kraybill. As we become wealthy, mobile, urban, professional people, the church is no longer the centre for our identity formation. He advised, "Be sensitive, patient and respectful, love one another, so together we can worship and welcome one another.... Renewal of the church won't come from building more fences."

Whitewater Mennonite Church in Boissevain extended the invitation for the 2004 sessions.—**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**

Refocusing *From page 14*

good intentions.

"But our intentions aren't enough," one participant said on the challenge side. Others added that God would challenge MC British Columbia to move out of its comfort zone, to work out its difficulties with MC Canada, and to be unconcerned with quantity

and focus on quality.

After a time of prayer, participants filled out evaluation forms which will help to determine if MC British Columbia will continue with this process in the coming year.

—**Angelika Dawson**

Edmonton, Alta.

Waging peace a family affair in Edmonton

Edmonton Mennonites marched with thousands of others in the February 15 peace march. The international Day of Action took place in countries around the world as millions expressed their concerns about the threats of war with Iraq. Holyrood Mennonite and Lendrum Mennonite Brethren were represented, along with over two dozen marchers from First Mennonite. For many it was their first protest. The march was organized by the Edmonton Interfaith Coalition Against War and Racism. At times the crowd stretched five blocks. Some of the children from First Mennonite carried signs they had made. Seven-year-old Alicia Proud-foot's sign read "Give peace to the people and animals." Taryn Haluza-DeLay, 5, read her sign to a reporter: "Don't kill Iraqis—Love." She answered questions while her brother chanted, "Peace, not war." (See back cover.) As their father, I defended exposing young children to such a serious mat-



Photo by Randy Haluza-DeLay

Many Mennonites joined the peace marchers in Edmonton on February 15.

ter: "Iraqi children are exposed to far worse. And this gives my kids a sense of acting on things we believe. We act by praying at night, and we act by

walking today."

As the group gathered for the march, several talked with an elderly Palestinian woman. For 20 years she had opposed Saddam Hussein, she said. Now, to keep another evil from happening, she is calling for peace, causing some to accuse her of supporting Hussein.

"I don't like being put in that situation," she said. "He is bad and must go, but this is not the way to do it. Too many people will die. They have already been dying [because of sanctions]," she added.

Reactions to the peace march were mixed among church members. Heather Bergen said she had never protested publicly and was glad for an organized gathering of church members. But noting some nasty-worded signs, she questioned whether such a march could bring the peace her faith called for. Ruth Wallace of Holyrood Mennonite said there was debate in her church about the usefulness of a peace march.

A teen from the youth group pointed out that fighting a war is not pretty. And someone pointed out that the signs cannot be worse than a ravaged land and dismembered citizens. Great effort goes into waging war and similar effort should go into waging peace.—**Randy Haluza-DeLay**

Myth #3

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Baghdad, Iraq

MCC positioning relief supplies for Iraqis

In Baghdad, 23-year-old Laila and her family are busy reorganizing their house. They are stocking up on cooking oil and canned goods, and storing fuel in expectation of electricity and gas cuts.

With war clouds darkening the horizon, Iraqis are finalizing contingency plans. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society, umbrella agency for all non-governmental organizations working in Iraq, has requested that international organizations provide emergency items in preparation for what could be an enormous humanitarian crisis.

Five Mennonite Central Committee containers of relief kits, blankets and comforters, valued at \$1.1 million, have arrived in Jordan, which borders Iraq. The supplies will either be sent to Iraq or used to aid Iraqis fleeing into Jordan in event of a war.

Working with partner agencies CARE and the Islamic Relief Agency, MCC has also purchased 200 tents, 3,000 blankets and 120 portable water tanks in Iraq and Jordan, valued at \$77,000. The tanks will be used to supply water to hospitals and vulnerable groups. MCC also just sent two containers of canned beef, valued at \$205,000, to Jordan. Again, the meat will either be sent to Iraq or used to aid Iraqi refugees.

Menno Wiebe, MCC co-representative for Iraq, noted that warehoused items like these will continue to be needed in economically shattered Iraq even if a war is averted.

During the crisis in Kosovo several



Photo by Jake Buhler

Sarah Buhler and Charlie Clark joined dozens of Mennonites who walked for peace in Saskatoon this winter. Peace walks on January 25 and February 22, organized by the Saskatoon Coalition for Peace, drew more than 1,500 people from all walks of life. Both began with workshops on the issues surrounding the Iraqi crisis.

years ago, MCC relief buckets were the most desired of all the hygiene kits provided, said Steve Weaver, a consultant with Church World Service, now working part-time with MCC in Jordan.

“The buckets are ingenious,” Weaver said. “Not only do they deliver needed items such as soap and bandages, but the emptied buckets are then incredibly useful for hauling and storing water.”

According to a leaked United Nations document, in event of war in Iraq

inevitable “damage to the electricity network will result in collateral reductions in capacity in all sectors, particularly water and sanitation as well as health.”

UN agencies have said that there could be 100,000 direct casualties in the event of war, with half a million Iraqis requiring medical treatment. More than 900,000 people could be forced from their homes, on the move without food, water or shelter.

Laila and her family have the financial means to ensure water and food supplies, but many Iraqis have no resources. Fifteen million out of Iraq’s 25 million people fully depend on the government food ration, according to the UN.

MCC is this year providing 28,000 school kits to students and is coordinating the All Our Children project that will supply vital medicines to Iraqi children. The first shipment of these medicines was delivered in February.—MCC release by **Edward Miller**

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Strasbourg, France

World conference sets up contingency plans for assembly

Mennonite World Conference is proceeding with plans for its world assembly in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in August 2003.

Larry Miller, executive secretary, and Ray Brubacher, associate secretary for events and administration, were in Africa from February 5-20, together with MTS Travel staff, to assess recent developments in Zimbabwe and to consider contingency plans for the global gathering.

"The Africa 2003 theme calls us to 'share gifts in suffering and in joy.' Reasons to think that Bulawayo is the most appropriate place to do precisely that are increasing, not diminishing," they reported on their return.

The crisis in Zimbabwe is deepening. The harvest, which begins in March, is unlikely to be good and food aid is not yet in place. There are numer-

ous reports that the governing party, realizing that its survival is at stake, is trying to negotiate change. Most people are predicting that a transition will be peaceful, but human rights violations continue.

Daily life in Bulawayo, however, appears to have changed little since the MWC Executive Committee met there six months ago. Getting staple foods, fuel and medicine is more difficult now but the MWC Bulawayo staff and the Brethren in Christ Church in Zimbabwe are putting together appropriate solutions for the world gathering.

While economic hardship has resulted in an increase in petty crime, people are generally safer walking the streets of Bulawayo than in many cities in North America, Europe or elsewhere, observed the MWC executives.

The invitation from the Brethren in

Christ Church in Zimbabwe "remains firm, broad and deep.... As the crisis deepens, their faith and trust in God seems also to deepen," said the report filed by Miller and Brubacher.

Support from other denominations in Zimbabwe is growing stronger. They speak of the potential of this world gathering to strengthen the church in Zimbabwe and witness to the community. At the same time, they encourage developing contingency plans.

Mennonite World Conference has reserved several facilities in the Johannesburg, South Africa, area as a possible back-up site for the assembly. This location would permit the Zimbabwe church to continue as host.

MWC officers will reassess the situation when they meet in March. Assembly-goers are encouraged to make travel plans that take them to Bulawayo via Johannesburg in case the contingency plans need to be implemented.—MWC release by **Ferne Burkhardt**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ethiopia assures safety for Christians

Evangelical churches in Ethiopia have been assured the freedom to worship and to evangelize. Local governments have ordered the protection of Christians in areas where attacks have occurred against evangelicals, including Meserete Kristos (Mennonite) churches.

Government officials recently apologized to evangelical leaders for what happened on December 29 in Mekele. Radio broadcasts warned the public that similar incidents will not be tolerated in the future.

"It is for the first time that I hear of such a radical move from officials," said Bedru Hussein, a Bible teacher here and vice-president of Mennonite World Conference (MWC). He added that the local government had offered a building to a missionary for youth work before the December incident.

These unprecedented actions came in response to the evangelical churches' appeal for safety.

The December attacks occurred after a crowd gathered around the stadium in Mekele where evangelicals were

concluding a conference. Police were not able to control the stone-throwing mob. Several churches had doors and windows smashed. The canvas cover of a Mennonite meeting area was burned, along with Bibles, hymnbooks, choir gowns and electronic equipment. The congregation continues to worship in the same place under a new canvas. Muslims did not start the December riot, say Christians and officials. Rather, a fanatical group within the Coptic Orthodox was responsible. Reports from Mennonite leaders say that Negussie Alula, the Mekele member who was beaten in the December clash, is "limping and serving the Lord again." Ababayehu Dessalegne, the Maichew leader falsely accused of killing someone, is expected to be released soon since local witnesses now say a police officer was responsible for the murder.

The government's effort to maximize security is also intended to attract tourists. Travel in the Tigrie region in the north should be no problem, said Hussein.—MWC release

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Credit union building larger head office

Mennonite Savings and Credit Union (MSCU) is relocating its head office to Huron Business Park in Kitchener this summer. The move is to give more administrative space to the rapidly growing credit union.

With 14,000 members, MSCU membership has grown by an average of five percent per year over the past five years. Assets under administration have grown by 11.8 percent per year, recently reaching \$430 million. In 2002, the Credit Union saw growth in administered assets increase to 15.7 percent.

MSCU's head office provides services to six branches, a partial service office in Aylmer, and telephone, internet and courier services to members who live at a distance. The six full-service branches are located in Elmira, Kitchener, Leamington, Milverton, New Hamburg and Waterloo. MSCU has a total of 85 employees.

"The process of expanding existing space or seeking a suitable alternative to relocate head office started more than two years ago," said Nick Driedger, chief executive officer. Since moving into the current 8,000-square-foot site on Frobisher Drive in Waterloo in 1994, staff has increased from 12 employees to 33.

The Frobisher site was intended to meet MSCU's needs for 15 to 20 years, but "after only 9 years and several rounds of renovations, we are now clearly overcrowded," said Driedger. The new 26,000-square-foot facility can accommodate more than double the current staff—growth that MSCU expects to occur in the next 10 years. Beyond that, the site has room for further expansion.

Mennonite Savings and Credit Union (Ontario) Ltd. is a closed-bond credit union founded in 1964 to provide financial mutual aid for members of Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches. Its corporate motto is: "Building on a tradition of serving each other." MSCU also promotes socially responsible investing and support of charities and community initiatives.

MSCU is the ninth largest of 302 credit unions in Ontario and 35th largest out of 669 credit unions in Canada. It handles 20 percent of all agricultural lending done by credit unions in Ontario. It is owned and governed by its members through its board of directors, currently chaired by Kaye Rempel.—From MSCU release



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Akron, Pa.

Agencies provide crisis workers

As Americans scramble to buy duct tape and plastic, two Mennonite service agencies are taking the "be ready" message of the federal security alert system in a slightly different direction.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and Mennonite Health Services (MHS) are jointly developing a registry of volunteers prepared to respond to emotional needs following natural disasters or intentional disasters such as September 11.

These crisis support workers are being trained by MDS to provide support for individuals in Anabaptist congregations and their communities.

"I think the institutional connection is very important in a crisis," said crisis support worker Ed Barkman. "There is an understanding [among churches] that there are some people here who have an expertise in sorting out chaos." MHS president Rick Stiffney realized the need for coordination between MHS and MDS after learning about the strain that September 11 placed on the few trained crisis responders available to MDS during the Restoring Hope Project in New York City and Washington D.C.

MDS uses crisis responders in the aftermath of natural disasters, but intentional disasters are stretching its response capabilities.

"September 11 raised the expectations of MDS," said executive coordinator Tom Smucker. "Our constituents are beginning to understand that disaster response is more than chain saws, mud buckets and sand bagging."

"MHS and MDS are a natural partnership," said Smucker. "MHS has inroads to the health service community that are invaluable when recruiting volunteers for crisis support." MHS is a network of more than 60 health and human service organizations, many of which employ professionals in crisis support work.

The first crisis support worker training, led by Smucker and MDS community workers Joe Steiner and Paul Unruh, was held in West Virginia February 13-14. The event added 13 names to the MDS/MHS crisis support worker registry.—MDS/MHS release by **Ted Houser**

Montreal, Que.

MCC adds staff to Quebec program

Mennonite Central Committee Canada has hired Annie Brosseau to fill the growing needs of its program in Montreal. Brosseau will serve as Quebec co-representative with her husband Jean-Victor, who has filled the position since 1996.

Brosseau will coordinate MCC's Summerbridge and Harmony programs, as well as the MCC Quebec resource centre.

"We have a generation of youth who want to understand more about their faith," says Brosseau. "Summerbridge and Harmony allow them to grow in their Anabaptist heritage. We want to help them along the path as they find new and exciting ways of expressing that faith."

Summerbridge is for young adults of diverse cultural backgrounds who attend a Mennonite or Brethren in Christ church. Volunteers serve in their home communities for 10 to 17

weeks. The program offers the opportunity to strengthen relationships with home congregations and develop leadership skills through community work experience.

Harmony, a Montreal-based, cross-cultural program for French-speaking youth ages 18-24, takes its name from its core requirement—nine hours of music rehearsal and training each week. In addition to the daily duties of living together, participants work in the community, study theological issues and develop their spiritual lives. "Both programs help to bind people together," says Brosseau. "Summerbridge participants get to know their supporting community by working

with, and for, their congregations. Harmony builds community as well but through music, which has a unique way of drawing people to one another."

Brosseau spent 13 years as editor of the Mennonite Brethren French periodical *Le Lien* (The Link) prior to her appointment to MCC Quebec.

Le Lien is for French Mennonite Brethren churches in Canada, Congo, Burkina Faso, France, Haiti and the French Mennonite network.—MCC Canada release



Brosseau

Winnipeg, Man.

Mennonite Men and MDS in first joint project

Even when there are no disasters to clean up, plenty of work needs to be done, according to Harold Neufeldt, who volunteers two to three months each year with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS).

A few years ago, Neufeldt, a landscape architect in Vancouver, was looking for a project on the West Coast where he could help. He contacted Mennonite Men, a program of Mennonite Church Canada and USA because he knew they gave grants to new churches needing help with their buildings. Director Jim Gingerich told him about Los Angeles Faith Chapel.

This fit well with a partnership MDS and Mennonite Men had formed in March 2002. They agreed to pursue projects in which MDS provides a construction manager and labour, while Mennonite Men provides funds, labour and, in cooperation with the local congregation, lodging and food. The congregation also provides labour. The Faith Chapel project became the first joint project.

Eddie Neufeld, who chairs MDS in California, assessed the needs at Faith Chapel. He and Neufeldt arranged to have MDS volunteers come in January to work on the building.

Seven men came from British Colum-

bia, joining volunteers from four states from January 2-23. The volunteers added a fire-suppression system, rebuilt rotten exterior walls, installed windows, added a handicap-accessible restroom and painted walls.

Faith Chapel has a ministry to homeless people. The church manages three shelters, a day care, a computer classroom, and a Sunday meal and clothing distribution for homeless people. Pastor Chuwang Pam and most of the church's 30 or so members are from Nigeria. Neufeldt says that working with people of different cultures requires listening to what people really need.

Volunteers also had contact with the homeless residents who helped them prepare meals. The volunteers slept in the shelters.

Each day the volunteers took time for devotional reading and on Sundays they joined the congregation in worship. The services include lively, African music and passionate prayers, said Neufeldt. There is more work to be done and Neufeldt hopes to go back this summer with volunteers.

Another joint venture is currently underway at Seeds of Life Community Church in Altona, Manitoba.—From Mennonite Church Canada/MC USA release by **Gordon Houser**

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Winnipeg, Man.

MCC supports aboriginal court ruling

Mennonite Central Committee supports the Federal Court of Canada's decision to remove the federal government from the financial affairs for the Pikangikum First Nations in northwestern Ontario. Last November, Justice John O'Keefe ruled that the move by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Robert Nault, to place the affairs of Pikangikum under third party management were "patently unreasonable" and "a breach of the duty of procedural fairness."

"This ruling is important because it now means that the federal government needs to return the affairs of the community back to its own leaders," said Robert Miller of MCC's Aboriginal Neighbours program. "Love thy neighbour is at the core of Jesus' message.... Our government needs to start acting more like a neighbour and less like an oppressor."

Miller said the court decision should help move both sides closer to equality. "This decision should start to tear away the bricks from the walls that divide us and move us toward more sharing of resources," he said. Miller, who provides community development assistance for Pikangikum, says approximately \$750,000 of partner funding for suicide prevention programs became unavailable when A.D. Morrison and Associates, a company in London, Ontario, was given the responsibility of administering the financial affairs of the community. Under third party management, government funding is centralized to pay only essential medical and education costs. Nault placed Pikangikum under third-party management in December 2000, citing a significant increase in social problems. Federally imposed third party intervention is usually reserved

for financial mismanagement. Nault's decision was made despite audits that showed a budgetary surplus for the Pikangikum.—MCC release by **Jonathan Tiessen**

Courts can't mend relationships

There is a wide perception that court rulings made in favour of aboriginal complainants should contribute to healing native/non-native relations in this country. I share this view.

However, looking at the recent case between Pikangikum and the Department of Indian Affairs, it would seem that the court's concern is more about procedural fairness than trying to address the problem of relationship between the two. Reading the court transcript, it became clear that the judge ruled in favour of Pikangikum because the Minister of Indian Affairs did not follow procedural guidelines.

The courts do not so much help define respectful relationships between native and non-native peoples as set out rules for that relationship. Thus, if we are looking to the courts to help "tear down the walls that divide us," we must understand that their contributions are limited.

On a personal note, it was a blessing to my heart to see that native peoples can find a glimmer of hope in terms of justice (fragmented as it is). It is my hope and prayer that this case has a direct bearing on the legitimacy of other federal initiatives, specifically the First Nations Governance Act and the Specific Claims Act.—**Donovan Jacobs**

The writer is constituency education facilitator for Mennonite Church Canada Native Ministry. As of this writing, the Department of Indian Affairs has not complied with the court's ruling and Pikangikum has to return to court yet again to seek fair treatment.

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Goshen, Ind.

Military mom and pacifist prof find common ground

The story began last November with an impassioned letter to the local paper by a soldier's mother who was fed up with the "local pacifist rhetoric" and the lack of support she felt for her son.

"I would ask all of you to stop and consider what your harsh words in the paper mean to a soldier who is sitting in a remote location reading his hometown newspaper and seeing such a painful lack of support for our troops. While you enjoy your holiday season, please have some compassion for those of us who won't be together for the holidays. We would prefer your prayers rather than your criticism" (Goshen News, Nov. 7).

In her peace courses at the local Mennonite school, Goshen College, Carolyn Schrock-Shenk assigns her students the exercise of listening to "the other"—someone with opposite views to theirs. Carolyn said, "I read the letter and I just knew what I had to do." Next day, Carolyn phoned letter writer Dana Schmucker, inviting her to meet over coffee so she could understand more fully why the pacifist letters were so painful to her and to hear more about Nick, Dana's son serving in Afghanistan. Carolyn told Dana she would not try to convince her of her point of view. Dana agreed to meet. Nearly half of the two-hour meeting was spent getting to know each other. Then Carolyn asked Dana how she experienced the anti-war movement as a military mom. Carolyn quickly realized that anti-war protests need to

make the point that opposition to war is actually a support of American troops abroad, not just a support of Iraqi civilians.

After recognizing that they are both mothers of sons, that they share religious connections and both want peace for the world, the women decided to write a joint letter to the local paper. They wrote about their different views on this war, their commonalities and how talking with each other has "stripped away layers of assumptions and stereotypes."

"What we both know, at a very deep level, is that we want Nick, and the others like him, to come home safely... We believe that our God of love is present with each one, all the time, no matter where they are or which side of a war they are on...."

"We will continue to respond to the current situation in ways that we feel called to respond, but we will do so with some differences since our meetings. It is our hope that by writing this letter, we can encourage others to see that it is possible to 'agree to disagree' without disrespect or malice...."

In the letter, Dana pledged to respect those who want to prevent this war. "I would ask them to remember our



Goshen College photo

Carolyn Schrock-Shenk (left) talks about war and peace with Dana Schmucker.

sons and daughters who are trying to do the right thing and who are risking their lives to do so. I believe our troops need to know that we love them and support them, whether or not we support the war in which they are fighting...."

Carolyn pledged to continue to oppose the impending war "with a new awareness of how much pain and fear and love military members and their families experience.... I understand more deeply that, at bottom, we want so many of the same things: peace, security, a world of promise for our children." The letter appeared in the November 24 Goshen News).

The response both women received from the community has "only been positive." One community member, Diane Hertzler, followed up with a letter of her own, referring to their joint work as the "most important letter of the year."

As Carolyn recently planned another local protest, she asked Dana to what she would think about a sign that read: "Support our troops, oppose this war." Dana said it wouldn't offend her, or Nick, at all.—From Goshen College release

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Elementary & Secondary Education

Independent schools thriving in B.C.

Schools in British Columbia are struggling to manage programs with limited funds. Public schools are in the second year of a contract that awarded a 2.5 percent salary increase in each of three years but funded only the first year. While independent schools are not bound by the same contract, they face budgetary restrictions as well, receiving only 50 percent of the government funding given to public schools and no funding for capital projects.

In addition, B.C. schools are facing enrolment shortfalls. K-12 public schools have decreased by about 15,000 students since 1998. Last year, there were 52,579 students in grade 12; this year, only 37,607 students started kindergarten.

Independent schools, including Mennonite Educational Institute (MEI) in Abbotsford, experienced a flat enrolment during the past two years but, despite all expectations, have grown by 4.4 percent this year. These schools have about 9 percent of all K-12 students in the province.

When asked to explain this growth, Alastair Glegg, a University of Victoria education professor, suggested, "Canada has experienced not only an increasingly diverse pattern of immigration but also a willingness on the part of the public to accept this diversity as a positive and legitimate element of society." The largest growth appears to be among evangelical Protestant schools. Glegg suggests that evangelical families have been alienated by recent trends in public schools, such as the move away from traditional

Christmas festivals and disagreements over such issues as divorce, abortion and homosexuality.

Lee Hollar, director of the Society of Christian Schools, says that some parents are reacting to a teaching profession they believe is insensitive to their values. An example of this is the recent court battle in which the B.C. College of Teachers challenged the ability of Trinity Western University, a Christian school, to train tolerant teachers because of its biblical stance against homosexual practice. (Trinity Western won the case.)

MEI, the province's largest independent school, currently has over 1,500 students in three schools, and is expanding to include a Middle School in 2004. Peter Froese, MEI superintendent, says, "It is clear that the public wants more choice for their children in the educational process. Families are making the sacrifice of paying significant tuition costs because they value an education where faith is integrated into a full educational experience."—MEI release

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MCI completes first phase of campaign

Mennonite Collegiate Institute (MCI) in Gretna, Manitoba, is in the middle of its "Reaching the Next Generation" campaign. To date, the school has received \$1.72 million. This will allow the MCI to complete the First Phase of the campaign:

- Maintain site and program excellence.
- Retire the outstanding building debt from the residence project.
- Acquire new computers to allow staff and students to remain at the forefront of expanding technology.
- Purchase new vans and a highway coach for safer and more efficient student transportation.
- Repair the school roof, install a new gym floor, refurbish a chemistry lab, and accomplish other school improvements.

The Second Phase of the campaign, totalling \$2.6 million, focuses on the Endowment Fund and the Performing Arts Centre.

MCI believes that constituency students should not be kept from attending for

financial reasons and spends \$50,000 a year supporting students. An Endowment Fund of half a million dollars will provide continued financial support for these students.

The Performing Arts Centre at an estimated cost of \$2.1 million will be a "state-of-the-art" music/drama facility acoustically designed for the natural voice. With ample stage and back stage areas, it will be suited for choral performances and drama productions. An intimate theatre for 450 people is envisioned. This centre will be a resource for students and community groups.

An important component of the Performing Arts Centre will be the Heritage Viewing Gallery. The gallery will feature the history of MCI, Gretna and Altona, and the heritage of Southern Manitoba.

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John and Bonnie Buhler (centre) hand over a cheque for \$500,000 to MCI principal Paul Kroeker for the Performing Arts Centre. It is the largest gift in the history of the school. John owns Buhler Industries and generously supports health care and education in Manitoba. At right is Reg Klassen, development director.

toba, this centre will attract performing groups from the region and beyond. This theatre will provide an environment where young people can explore their gifts and a place where the region's rich musical heritage can continue to flourish.—From MCI release

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News briefs

U.S. decision brings abortion back on stage

The issue of abortion returned to the main stage in the United States on February 26 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that anti-abortion protesters cannot be barred from blocking entrances to abortion clinics. They cannot be arrested under racketeering and extortion laws previously used by police. The ruling may challenge abortion laws that have been in place in the U.S. since 1973. The decision alarmed abortion-rights groups who fear that the decision may be regarded as a licence to commit violence at clinics. Other supporters of abortion argued that the decision protects the rights of all protesters, including anti-war activists. In some Canadian provinces, the courts have allowed police to impose "buffer zones" outside clinics where

protesters cannot go. Similar laws have been struck down in the U.S. as impinging on freedom of speech. Some think the current U.S. government may challenge the 1973 decision to legalize abortion. Recently Republicans introduced a bill to ban some forms of abortion.—From Globe and Mail, Feb. 27

EFC promotes traditional marriage

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) has been active in trying to preserve the recognition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman. In February, the EFC intervened in a B.C. court case and presented a brief to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights in Ottawa. "For Christians marriage is a religious practice and has great religious significance. It is deeply offensive to Christians and many of the other religions in

Canada to redefine marriage," says Janet Epp Buckingham, general legal counsel for the EFC. In October 2001, the B.C. Supreme Court upheld the traditional definition of marriage. This case was an appeal of that decision. Equality for gays and lesbians can be achieved through legal institutions other than marriage, argued EFC. "The different and uniqueness of marriage should be recognized in law and public policy." The Canada Family Action Coalition also defended traditional definitions of marriage in its presentation to the Standing Committee. "Marriage is rooted in natural law and the biological reality of the union of two genders—male and female exclusively," said the coalition. "The recent phenomenon of trying to equate other forms of relationships to marriage is a detriment to society and shows disregard for social justice." The committee will make a recommendation to Parliament in April.—From reports

Abbotsford, B.C.

Our buildings reflect who we are

We learn about our past through material that historians assemble. Agricultural historians study farming methods and changes; church historians trace the development of a faith community. Rudy Friesen, a Winnipeg architect, sees the history of Mennonites through the buildings our ancestors constructed. In an illustrated lecture for the Mennonite Historical Society of B.C. in February, Friesen described the stages in Russian Mennonite architecture from 1789 to the present, focusing on church, home, business, education and health facility. Our buildings, he contends, reflect who we are as a people, and mirror the values, times and resources of the

people who built them. Examining the buildings allows us to touch the lives of our ancestors. Friesen noted that Mennonite architecture, like Mennonite views on many issues, evolve due to tensions between the old and the new, between the conservative and the progressive. The first stage (1789-1835) saw Mennonites adapt styles from Prussia to the Russian Steppe. The house-barn combination and simple churches with square windows were typical of this era. The villages, for safety reasons, were compact and usually had a single street, with houses similar to each other. In the second period (1835-1880) standards were established to enforce stability and conformity; house and

barn dimensions were predetermined. Religious differences started to emerge with the influence of German Pietists and the beginnings of Russification. The church and the school were placed in the centre of the village. Churches began to show subtle ornamentation and gateposts appeared. The symmetry of the villages was maintained. The third phase (1880-1914) reflected the newfound prosperity of Russian Mennonites, said Friesen. Architecture began to display creativity, sophistication and diversity. Some colony youth studied in Europe, and some estate and factory owners had architecturally designed homes. Gothic style and tinted windows began to appear in churches and some had ceiling frescoes. The Melitopol church had a bell tower with a cross on top of it. Buildings of this period moved beyond usefulness to an appreciation for the aesthetic. "These buildings spoke loudly and with the language of pride...the message was 'these Mennonites have arrived and plan to stay,'" said Friesen. The next phase (1914-1999) was one of decomposition and disintegration, said Friesen. The Russian revolution, collectivization, and two world wars resulted in the deterioration of buildings. "The Soviets nationalized many of the buildings and then lacked the resources to maintain them," said Friesen. Rebirth and revival describe the current era. Ukraine recognizes the historic contribution of the Mennonites, and North American Mennonites and Ukrainians are joining in new building projects. Some Canadian families are funding the restoration of Mennonite buildings in Ukraine, such as the Mennonite Centre in Halbstadt and the Mennonite Family Centre in Zaporozhe. Buildings are for people. What will the architectural historians say about our Canadian Mennonite buildings? What is the impact of moving from simple, functional buildings to high cost, technologically sophisticated homes and churches?—**Henry Neufeld**

Waterloo, Ont.

Paetkau installed as Grebel president

Over 300 people joined the Conrad Grebel University College community to install Henry Paetkau as the college's sixth president on February 9. Special guests included David Johnston, University of Waterloo president, and David Brubacher, Minister to Conference of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. In Brubacher's charge to Paetkau, he spoke of the surfer's instinct to "catch a wave," and emphasized the importance of institutions that are providing a new generation of leaders. In his response, Paetkau said, "My calling and commitment is to lead the College with wisdom from God as it strives to live out its vision and mission." He also encouraged students to "ride the wave" of life's ups and downs with a faith that enables them to find balance on those waves. Members of Grace Mennonite Church in St. Catharines came to hear a choral piece they commissioned for the occasion. (Paetkau was pastor of the Grace church for many years.) "Wisdom is Glorious" by music professor Leonard Enns

is based on Proverbs 6:20-23. The work was performed by the Conrad Grebel Chapel Choir. Paetkau is not a newcomer to Grebel. He completed his masters degree in History in 1977 under the supervision



Paetkau delivers a ringing address at his installation on February 9.

of Frank H. Epp (second Grebel president). He also served on the college Board of Governors for eight years. Paetkau has been a long-time leader in the Mennonite Church, serving as a pastor for 22 years in Ontario and most recently as Denominational Minister of Mennonite Church Canada.—From Grebel release by **Jennifer Konkle**

Saskatoon, Sask.

Four recognized by Saskatchewan historical society

At its annual meeting on February 7, the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan honoured four individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities: Gerhard Hiebert, Abram Janzen, Arnold Schroeder and John J. Janzen.

Each man received a spoken tribute from a relative or friend. Both Hiebert and Schroeder have passed away and their certificates of recognition were presented to family members.

Hiebert spent over a decade working to reduce the Reiseschuld (travel debt for Mennonite immigrants from Russia) that David Toews had signed for in the 1920s.

In some cases, farmers had to pay with wheat. The job was difficult but Hiebert persisted and by 1946 all the passages were paid. Hiebert also helped to establish a hospital in Waldheim.

Abram Janzen volunteered his time with the Renfrew School Division to find teachers. When the needs of the community outgrew the building, he

organized the construction of two more schools. He also helped to begin Sunday School among the Old Colony Mennonites in Eigenheim, Saskatchewan. Schroeder's gift to the Mennonite community was his genealogical work on several Mennonite families. He passed away in 2000. John Janzen was applauded for, among other things, his work in summer camps and teaching at Winter Bible Schools for teens. "He was faithful in always helping out where it was needed," noted Ruth Friesen who gave the tribute.

The Historical Society is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The society continues to honour people who have made a difference among



Photo by Karin Fehderau

Abram Janzen, left, receives a certificate of recognition from Leonard Doell of the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Mennonites.—**Karin Fehderau**

Saskatoon, Sask.

Musical evening focuses on children in Africa

Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan recently kicked off a week of awareness-raising to draw attention to MCC's Generations at Risk project. The project raises money for African children touched by the AIDS epidemic. The opening fundraiser, held at Wildwood Mennonite Church on February

9, could have been billed as a "Coffeehouse with conviction." The evening involved soulful singing interspersed with passionate storytelling.

"It was such an emotional evening," said Lois Berg.

Since children are the target in this MCC project, it was fitting that Kim Thiessen performed music from her recent recording, "To such as these: Songs and lullabies for children of the world." Thiessen explained how her church, Foothills Mennonite in Calgary, encouraged her to make a CD of children's music and how Faith and Life Recording Studios in Winnipeg agreed to donate studio time for recording.

In turn, Thiessen is giving all proceeds of the CD to the MCC project.

Brenda Wagner from Akron, Pennsylvania, continued the children's theme with her stories from Africa. Her voice at times breaking with emotion, she

moved hearts with her stories of children facing seemingly insurmountable odds and winning.

Jadrian Guenther didn't have much to say. Sitting quietly on his father's lap, the watchful two-year-old didn't need to. He lives in a secure world. And that, say people like Wagner and Thiessen, is the point of the project—to give children in Africa a more secure and hopeful future.—**Karin Fehderau**



Photo by Karin Fehderau

Jadrian Guenther of Osler listens to music at the MCC fundraiser.



Lethbridge, Alta.

Lethbridge church celebrates 25 years

Lethbridge Mennonite Church celebrated its 25th anniversary on February 22-23, together with friends from Coaldale Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church Alberta. The congregation was born from the vision of the Coaldale “mother church” in 1978.

Guided by the theme, “Celebrating the life of the church,” members and friends gathered on a snowy Saturday evening for a festive banquet and evening of music, story-telling, viewing pictures, and even a trivia quiz.

Ernie Sawatsky presented his history of the congregation, “A Church

is Born; 1978-2003.” Curt Wiebe and Julie Rempel, both currently at the Welcome Inn in Hamilton, Ontario, sang two songs they had written for the anniversary. A presentation using computerized visuals refreshed our memories of people and events. Thankfulness for God’s blessings permeated the evening.

On Sunday morning, Jim Shantz, new conference minister for MC Alberta, brought words of encouragement. Leona Dick, Ernie Engbrecht and Joanne Moyer talked about what the congregation meant to them.

Former pastors each shared a highlight of their time. Nick Dyck sent an

e-mail while Ernie Sawatsky, Fred Unruh, and Ruth Preston Schilk shared highlights in person. The first pastor, Arthur Regier, is deceased.

The children of the congregation joined in the celebrations. A litany of praise culminated in a commitment to the way of Jesus who promised, “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

A special offering was taken to help cover costs of shipping Spanish theological books to the Anabaptist Resource Centre in Santiago, Chile. The Lethbridge congregation is helping Omar and Ester Cortes-Gaibur, Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers there, with that endeavour.—

From reports by **Fred Unruh and Ruth Preston-Schilk**



Photo by Jake Nickel

David Waltner-Toews (centre) joins Vern Ratzlaff in speaking to the children at Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon on February 16. Waltner-Toews, who is from Kitchener, Ontario, spent the weekend with the congregation, reading from his poetry and speaking about writing. “Poetry is my prayer,” he said. Poetry is not only a voice to speak the unspeakable but to bring these things into consciousness. He wrote his first poem as a punishment in grade five. To his surprise, his teacher liked it so well she had it read on local radio. “How does what we are doing affect the world in which we are doing it?” he asked. His point was that we live in an integrated world and solutions cannot be imposed from outside.—From report by Jake Nickel

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Chilliwack, B.C.

A special place for single moms

It's mid-morning and the foyer at Sardis Community Church here has been transformed into a meeting place. Women play cards around a small table while others sort through donated children's clothing. Everyone takes an opportunity to admire the two newborns who are sleeping through the admiration.

Down the stairs, rooms are teeming with preschool children playing at sand tables, hammering nails, riding trikes, or reading books. It's a scene that has been played out nearly every Wednesday morning for 16 years.

Sardis DoorWay is a ministry for single moms with preschool children. It was started by 10 volunteers, including Elsie Goerzen who gives leadership to the program. It is more than a babysitting service. It provides a licensed preschool service as well as a literacy program for children.

It also gives mothers some time on their own or the chance to visit with other mothers. Workshops are offered on topics such as women's health or making a will. Moms get lunch and are invited to stay for Bible study. Aside from Elsie, there are three volunteers who have been with the program from the beginning: Marianne Harder coordinates the Moms Program, Karen Rempel is Preschool coordinator, and Irmi Teichrob coordinates Food Services.

"I was motivated by that scripture that says 'to those to whom much is given, much will be required,'" Elsie says as she considers why she began the ministry.

As a nurse she had seen a need in her community. She visited North Vancouver's Open Door ministry and applied of their structures. After 16 years, not much has changed—it is still a volunteer-based ministry with the same structure as when it began. Even the population it serves has not changed much.

"We've seen women from all situations here," Elsie says, "from the young widow whose husband was killed in a logging accident to the woman who has a long history of poverty and disadvantage. There are also many women who

have experienced abuse."

But no matter what the circumstances that bring them here, the women clearly feel that this is a place where they feel accepted and loved. As we meet around the lunch table, several women comment on how the volunteers have cared for them in many ways.

"The relationships are really important," says Mona, one of the women. "These people have seen me through hell and back—after 13 years they haven't told me to go away yet!"

"The kids love it too," says Corinne who was recently married but asked if she could continue to come because she relies so much on the support. I have a special needs child and he loves to come." After lunch we head to the lounge for Bible study time. Most women stay. "It's pretty cool," says Mona. "At first I really hesitated, you know, because I didn't want to be preached at. But it's not preaching or anything; it's communication. It's good!"

Carrie Hinterberger leads the Bible study and tries to have it parallel the teaching that the children receive in their preschool time. Today it is the difference between secrets and surprises, showing children how to be aware of the way in which abusers try to trick them into keeping secrets. The conversation is frank and it is obvious that the women feel safe here, that they can share from their lives, challenge each other, and care for one another. As they close, they offer prayers for women who have not stayed and praise for the milestones that they have reached.

As Elsie Goerzen reflects on the ministry, she shares a comment made by



Volunteer Henry Rempel builds things with the children at Sardis DoorWay.

Photo by Angelika Dawson

one of the volunteers: "I thought we were here to help and save and now I've found out that we're being helped and saved together."

Elsie is grateful for a supportive church and community. The church does not charge rent and supports the program with financial gifts and a food closet. Community agencies work well together and share resources. Volunteers come from all denominations and walks of life.

And as much as the ministry has helped single mothers, Elsie realizes that Sardis DoorWay has touched her deeply as well.

"It's been a life-changing experience," she says. "Being a part of Sardis DoorWay has changed my life from having simple answers to having fewer answers. I've learned so much about courage. I've learned how God sees steps of faith so differently than we do.... God knows where our women come from. It's very freeing to not have to look for certain changes in behaviour to prove that what you're doing is effective."

Elsie thinks of Sardis DoorWay as exactly that—a doorway through which women can come and experience the hand of Jesus, "the Way."

"We do what we can to show God's love to the whole person and leave the rest to God."—**Angelika Dawson**

School notes

Letter from Nairobi

The following is from a March 2 letter from Werner and Adelia Neufeld Wiens, currently teaching in Nairobi, Kenya.

Just this past Friday marked two years since we opened an e-mail from Rosslyn Academy entitled "Invitation." Who could have imagined all that we have experienced since that time! Our lives have been so enriched and blessed.

The end of January was our school's time for Cultural Field Studies. This was another great experience in our household. Caleb and a group of Grade 10s went eastward into Taita territory. They spent time performing for school groups and mixing with students while staying in a school dormitory.

Adelia and I went into Maasai territory. We spent time with a community at Olepolos. There is a young couple there from Steinbach, Manitoba (Jer and Jen Janzen) who work in church leadership and community health. They hosted our group for two days while we worked on a service project with the community and the other two days we did home stays with the Maasai people.

This was a stretching experience indeed, not only because of the language barrier. Getting used to people sitting to watch you eat, having nothing but a forest for your toilet, mud/dung floors and walls, and flies everywhere, just like you see on advertisements for Child Care International—crawling all over the children's faces and up their nostrils. I don't know if I have ever seen so many flies. But the hospitality of the people was humbling indeed.

We were with a wonderful group of Grade 11 and 12 students. They went on their own homestays, and tried to organize a game of soccer with the community kids. The week after the high school trip, I took my Grade 7s on their own

Cultural Field Studies experience. We went to Elsamere which is a conservation area funded by a trust set up to recognize the Andersons from the movie "Born Free." This was also a wonderful three-day experience.

Upon our return to school, our Grade 7 teachers led our students in another Interdisciplinary Unit that ran for the entire week. Needless to say, when that week was over, I simply crashed. All this in the first four weeks back at school after Christmas break.

Caleb and Ellen continue to do well. They have good friends. They are staying on top of their schoolwork. Caleb's basketball season is coming to a close this week. He has two more games, and if they can win them, they will finish off their league undefeated. He has been part of an incredible team.

Ellen often talks of someday giving teaching a try. She will have the opportunity during fourth term to work as a teacher's aide in the art classroom for a 45-minute period every day. She is really looking forward to that. Adelia is busy planning for the Spiritual Emphasis week. She has a team coming in from the States to work with our students. I am in the middle of putting together a drama evening for the end of March. It has been fun to get back into this part of life that I have so enjoyed in the past.

Goshen hosts debate on Iraq

Goshen, Ind.—On February 19, Goshen College students had a chance to talk with two men who shape U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. "You have every right to hear from us what Washington is doing, that we don't have all the answers and that we share some of the same doubts with you," said Thomas Fingar,

State Department representative who supervises transnational issues such as arms transfers and weapons of mass destruction. The other speaker was Marc J. Sievers from the bureau of Near Eastern affairs. Fingar demonstrated the complexity of the Middle East political situation in which the U.S. is maneuvering. One audience member said, "We don't see Washington listening to the people. We think this is Bush's war." Both men acknowledge that there is clear opposition to the war and encouraged anti-war activists to continue their efforts. "I can't tell you how this factors into the president's decision, but it must," said Sievers. Fingar assured questioners that the U.S. would not deliberately go after Iraqi water and food supplies. While one person said he appreciated being reminded of the complexities of the issue, others were frustrated by the lack of any "convincing statement as to why we are seeking war with Iraq" and the

lack of alternatives to military solutions. The discussion was hosted by the college's Yoder Public Affairs Lecture Series and the League of Women Voters.—Goshen College

Agency appointment

Elkhart, Ind.—Cheryl Zehr Walker of Bluffton, Ohio, began February 1 as associate director of the Mennonite Education Agency of Mennonite Church USA. This agency was formed last August from the former Mennonite Board of Education of the Mennonite Church and Higher Education Council of the General Conference Mennonite Church. Walker has worked in media relations, publications and video production. She has been chair of The Mennonite board since 1998. She is a graduate of Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario. The Education Agency coordinates Mennonite Church USA schools.—From agency release



Eighty men came to throw rocks and push brooms in the 20th annual Mennonite Men's Curling Bonspiel in Didsbury, Alberta, February 14-15. This year featured 20 rinks and well over 20 varieties of pie made by women from the Bergthal Mennonite Church, which hosts the event. Participants covered an impressive range of ages and abilities, with a lot of good-natured ribbing and serious concentration. For the past few years, Herman Epp has been in charge of organization. His wife, Irene, and daughters Kim and Kelly worked in the kitchen while son-in-law Randy Klassen helped with organizational details. A Pool champs were the team of Paul Bergen, Vince Friesen, Bruce Baergen and Lowell Thiessen.—From report by Donita Wiebe-Neufeld

People & Events

Akron, Pa.—Among the volunteers beginning assignments with Mennonite Central Committee are three couples who will serve as country representatives overseas. Holly and John Blosser Yoder of Wellman, Iowa, will coordinate programs in Ethiopia for four years. They previously served with MCC in Zambia and Lesotho. Mark Epp and Cathy Wismer of Henderson, Nebraska, will serve for three years in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Lowel and Ruth Jantzi of Bronx, New York, are in Vietnam for five years where Lowel previously served.

Akron, Pa.—Tom Smucker, executive coordinator of Mennonite Disaster Service, will not be extending his term beyond April 2004. Smucker made the announcement at the February 7-8 annual meeting of MDS in Arthur, Illinois. A search committee, chaired by MDS board member Abe Ens, will begin its work in May. MDS hopes to introduce the new executive coordinator at the 2004 all-unit meeting in Abbotsford, B.C.—MDS release

Washington, D.C.—Ricardo Esquivia, an Afro-Colombian Mennonite, was one of three panelists at a February 13 briefing on Capitol Hill on the impact of U.S. military aid on Afro-Colombian communities. The briefing was sponsored by a member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Esquivia is director of Justapaz, the peace and justice agency of the Mennonite Church in Colombia. Speakers outlined the desperate conditions facing their community. Esquivia outlined his government's militaristic policies which are supported by the U.S., resulting in greater displacement of Colombian citizens. He also spoke about the groups organizing for peace.—MCC U.S. release

Washington, D.C.—On February 5, J. Daryl Byler began a fast on behalf of Iraq and his government. As director of the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office, he says that his advocacy work on Iraq "has felt like bumping against immovable 'principalities and powers' that are acting out of fear and defying reasoned appeals." Byler is committed to subsisting on juice and water until the crisis with Iraq is averted, war begins, or until March 16 (40 days). Each day, Byler is faxing a letter to U.S. president George Bush. To see the letters and updates, go to www.mcc.org/peace/fast.—From MCC U.S. release

Transitions

Births

Armitage—to Mary Jane and Tim, Trinity Mennonite, Calgary, a son, Thomas Charles, Jan. 7.

Chang—to Julie and Peter, Avon Mennonite, Stratford, Ont., a daughter, Brianna Nicole Yee-On, Jan. 5.

Derksen—to Lavonne and Ron, Rosthern Mennonite, Sask., a son, Andrew Ryan, Jan. 13.

Dueck—to Lee-Ann and Gene, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Cameron James, Dec. 22.

Fisher—to Diane and Bryan, Valleyview Mennonite, London, Ont., a daughter, Jessica Ruthanne, Feb. 14.

Flores Trujillo—to Roxana and Lester, Trinity Mennonite, Calgary, a son, Diego Angel, Dec. 1.

Hutchinson—to Louise and Mark, Tavistock Mennonite, Ont., twin sons, Peter Frederick and Charles David, Feb. 2.

Hiuser—to Jen (MacBride) and Josh, Erb St. Mennonite, Waterloo, Ont., a daughter, Michaela Alisa, Dec. 12.

Krueger—to Jodi and John, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter Abby Lauren, Jan. 15.

Martens—to Michelle and

Theo, Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite, Glenbush, Sask., a son, Thomas Arthur, Jan. 24.

Neilson—to Jennifer (Yantzi) and Steven, Avon Mennonite, Stratford, Ont., a son, Thomas John, Dec. 13.

Park—to Young Jee Na and Young Ho, Valleyview Mennonite, London, Ont., a daughter, Yireh, Jan. 31.

Pauls Wohlgenut—to Wendy and Joel, Valleyview Mennonite, London, Ont., a daughter Katrina Jane, Feb. 4.

Schartner-Hansen—to Monica and Rob, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Jeremy Derek, Jan. 30.

Schmitt—to Judy and Dave, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., Kelsey Maddison, Oct. 12.

Thiessen—to Angie and Willy, Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg, twin sons, Dominick Elijah and Matthew Josiah, Feb. 6.

Thiessen—to Karla and Wally, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Amber Pearl Martha, Dec. 13.

Tiessen—to Cheryl and Chris, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Troy Alexander, Jan. 21.

Tuomi—to Margie and Kevin, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Henry Tiessen, June 19.

Welte—to Hilary and Erin, Trinity Mennonite, Calgary, a daughter, Josephine Chailey Gene, Feb. 6.

Wettlaufer—to Erika and Scott, Tavistock Mennonite, Ont., a son, Joshua William, Feb. 15.

Wilkie—to Heather and Colin, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Tristan Faith Rempel, Nov. 21.

Willis—to Sheila and Geoff of Cairns, Australia, Whitewater Mennonite, Boissevain, Man., a son, Trevor John, Feb. 4.

Marriages

Bergen-Peterson—Jake (Rosthern Mennonite, Sask.) and Delphine (Evangelical Free), in Big River, Sask., Nov. 9.

Carman-Martin—James and Sherri, Tavistock Mennonite,

Ont., Feb. 15.

Dyck-Dueck—Diedrich and Alice (Eigenheim Mennonite, Sask.), Rosthern Mennonite, Sask., Feb. 5.

Friesen-Penner—Henry and Annie, First United Mennonite, Vancouver, Jan. 25.

Friesen-Wade—Ben and Pat, Sargent Mennonite, Winnipeg, Feb. 22.

Nielsen-Friesen—Dan and Kathryn, First Mennonite, Edmonton, at Camp Valaqua, Sept. 1.

Deaths

Baker—Jean Dorothy, 85, Avon Mennonite, Stratford, Ont., Dec. 26.

Bartel—Helene (Peters), 102, Clearbrook Mennonite, Abbotsford, B.C., Feb. 2.

Bergen—Jesse, 1 year (daughter of Nettie and Henry), Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., Nov. 13.

Boettger—Lucille, 57, Salem Mennonite, Tofield, Alta., Dec. 23.

Brietzke—Vernie, 98, Salem Mennonite, Tofield, Alta., Jan. 6.

Doerksen—Neta, 79, First United Mennonite, Vancouver, Jan. 20.

Dyck—Helen (Neudorf), 88, Rosthern Mennonite, Sask., Feb. 10.

Dyck—Margaret, 92, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Dec. 16.

Ens—Peter I., 92, Cornerstone Church Mennonite, Saskatoon, Dec. 16.

Gingrich—Elizabeth, 82, Hawkesville Mennonite, Ont., Jan. 11.

Goertzen—Agatha, 91, Rosthern Mennonite, Sask., Feb. 7.

Klassen—Katharina, 95, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., Jan. 30.

Rempel—Isaac, 75, Rosthern Mennonite, Sask., Jan. 14.

Thiessen—William Earl, 79, Zoar Mennonite, Langham, Sask., Feb. 19.

Canadian Mennonite welcomes transitions announcements within four months of the event. When sending by e-mail, please identify congregation (name and location).

Mennonite Church Canada

Pastors in Korea ask for prayer

On February 23, leaders of the Jesus Village Church in Korea issued the following open letter to Mennonite churches around the world:

"Over the past several weeks, you have undoubtedly heard much talk about Korea in the news. A lot of attention has been focused on North Korea's threat to resume the production of nuclear weapons.

"As an Anabaptist Church, living in the midst of this Korean tension, we are appealing to Anabaptist-Mennonite Churches around the world to join us in prayer for peace and reconciliation. We invite you to pray for presidents Roh

Moo-hyun of South Korea and Kim Jong Il of North Korea. Pray for other world leaders who may influence this situation for peace. And pray for Jesus Village Church and all the churches of Korea that God would use us to help bring about his will in a highly militarized context.

"We join you in praying, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"

The letter is signed by "AHN Dong-kyu, CHA Sung-do, NAHM Sang-uhk, WIENS Erwin and Marian."—MC Canada release

Prayer requests

• Pray for Esther Wenger and her family as they grieve the loss of Malcolm Wenger. The Wengers worked with the Northern Cheyenne in Mon-

tana for more than 20 years, and also served under Native Ministries in Manitoba in the 1980s.

• Pray for Elma Peters and family as they grieve the loss of Dan Peters. The couple served with the Commission on Overseas Mission in Mexico for decades. More recently, Dan was pastor of the Wingham Mennonite Church in Elm Creek, Manitoba.—MC Canada

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Leadership training for multicultural group

On March 1, 65 persons from Hmong, Laotian, Korean and Chinese congregations in MC Eastern Canada met at

Steinmann Mennonite Church to study Anabaptist Mennonite history and thought with instructor Maurice Martin.

This was the first in a series of multicultural leadership training events planned by Pastoral Leadership Training Commission in partnership with Mennonite Church Canada (Formation) and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). The curriculum is from the Pastoral Studies Distance Education program of AMBS, usually taught by correspondence.

Martin gave his lectures in English, followed by discussion in the various languages represented, led by persons from within each group. In the succeeding 12 weeks, participants will complete the 10 lessons in their own language groupings. The course will conclude on May 24 with a plenary session.

Resources for difficult times

These are difficult times for leadership in Mennonite Church Canada. Budget realities are generating intensive debates in our offices and in the congregations, with questions like: What are the most appropriate roles for a national church body? Is denominational identity important in a post-modern world? Does the missional church perspective help us understand the financial redistribution taking place among congregations, area conferences, and Mennonite Church Canada?

These questions are not easy, especially when answers are sought in a context of financial urgency and time-lines that abort conversation and consultation.

Two resources have helped me put our process into focus. Walter Brueggemann in *Interpretation and Obedience* identifies three things that are critical for God's people in times of crisis: 1) We need to re-affirm our identity as God's people; 2) we must struggle to maintain the freedom for imagination; 3) we must nurture our capacity to be hopeful. Identity, imagination, and hope: significant antidotes to the

temptations to despair that arise from financial difficulties.

The second resource comes from research done by Robert Webber (*The Younger Evangelicals*). Drawing on extensive interviews with emerging leaders in the church, Webber identifies four elements that will influence the way this young generation will lead.

First, the younger leaders will keep the church focused on its God-given mission, and keep mission focused on the establishment and nurture of the church as a reconciling community in the world. Second, these leaders will engage in profound theological reflection in order to nourish their, and the church's, understanding of who God is and what God is doing in the world. They will not sacrifice content for marketability.

Third, they will emphasize the continuing need for spiritual formation and the disciplines that help us understand the potential of our humanity under the power of the Spirit. Intimacy with God through prayer, and ethical lives consistent with gospel will be integral to their leadership style.

Fourth, for the younger leaders the

From our leaders

engagement between gospel and culture will be vital. Spirituality will not isolate, but will encourage the church to engage the culture with the claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Missional engagement, theological reflection, nourishing spiritual disciplines, and cultural relevance: these are antidotes to the temptations to short-circuit integrity due to budgetary pressures.

We are struggling to understand crisis as opportunity. It is not easy. We thank God for the wisdom and counsel given us by so many in our congregations. We pray that together we can continue to be hopeful, imaginative, contextual, relevant, spiritual, and profoundly theological. Such peoplehood characteristics will shape our dynamic identity as God's people.

Robert J. Suderman, Executive Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada Witness



The program is a response to the desire of these multicultural groups for more leadership training suitable to their situation.

Fundraising dinner in April

“Guess who’s catering a fundraising dinner?” is the question posed by the Mission and Service Commission. The answer: Hmong, Korean and Laotian congregations of MC Eastern Canada. The event will be held on April 12, 5:30 p.m. at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church in conjunction with the spring delegate sessions.

The dinner will include church planting stories by Community Stouffville, Markham Chinese and others. Registrations are due by April 3, phone (519) 650-3806 or e-mail: bev@mcec.on.ca.

Pastors licensed and ‘re-called’

On February 23, St. Catharines United Mennonite Church licensed assistant pastor Randy Dueck for ministry. Muriel Bechtel of MC Eastern Canada conducted the service.

Wellesley Mennonite Church undertook a thorough review recently of its long-time pastor, Ray Martin. Martin has been at Wellesley for 15 years and his term was nearing an end. A survey of members was followed by a congregational meeting on January 12 to hear Martin’s vision for the church.

Congregational response was unanimous that Martin should continue full time. Martin accepted the congregation’s invitation to another five-year contract.

Mennonite Church

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Elections at annual sessions

At the annual MC Manitoba sessions in February, delegates elected Bernie Tiessen for a three-year term as moderator.

He has served on the Board of Directors for two years, representing the Western Cluster. Ruth Falk of Crystal City Mennonite Church will complete Tiessen’s term on the board (one year).

Albert Durksen of North Kildonan Mennonite Church was re-elected for a second three-year term to the board. Albert Loeppky of Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler was elected for a three-year term. Continuing on the board are Armin Ens, Robert Martens, Bob Pauls, Hugo Peters, and Ruth Wiens.

MC Manitoba also elected people to represent them on various related organizations: Val Pankratz of Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship will serve a second three-year term on the Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba board; Marvin Dyck of Emmanuel Mennonite Church and Anna Schroeder of Grace Mennonite in Brandon will also represent MC Manitoba on the MCC board.

Ed Klassen and Brian Petkau of Carman Mennonite, Tina Hildebrand of Crystal City and Peter Harms of Steinbach Mennonite will represent MC Manitoba on the Eden Health Care Services board. Ben Funk of Steinbach Mennonite will serve for a second term on the Mennonite Disaster Service board. Delegates and Board of Directors acknowledged the contributions of outgoing staff this past year: Sig Polle, director of Leadership ministries; Vic Kliewer, executive director; Trudy Heinrichs, director of Wort des Lebens radio program; and Willie Gunther, coordinator of the Hospital Chaplaincy program. Long time camp managers—Ed and Kathy Bergman of Camp Koinonia and Don and Christine Epp of Camp Moose Lake—will be resigning this year.

“We want to acknowledge these people who have served us very faithfully, and we will miss them,” said Lois Edmunds who led in a litany of commissioning.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Buy coffee from your youth

Any coffee drinkers out there? If so, then run to your nearest teenager.

This summer, up to 100 Saskatchewan youth and sponsors are going to the Mennonite Church Canada assembly in St. Catharines, Ontario. The youth are selling Fair Trade coffee to raise money for the trip.

“We are purchasing it through Levelground Trading,” said Anna Rehan, MC Saskatchewan Youth Minister. It’s the same company that MCC buys their coffee from. Levelground is on Vancouver Island.

The youth will be travelling by bus and staying in hotels along the way. Each youth group will decide how much they want to raise and how much of the cost will come from their own pockets.

Mennonite Church Alberta

Good Friday services planned in Alberta

Planning for Good Friday Inter-Mennonite worship services is well underway in both of Alberta’s major cities. Mennonites in Calgary and Edmonton look forward to these annual services as significant times of fellowship and worship together.

In Calgary, Doug Klassen, pastor of Foothills Mennonite Church, is taking a major leadership role in planning worship. The venue for the Calgary service has changed year to year, according to availability and cost. This year, the service will be held at the Foothills Alliance Church, which has offered a very fair rental arrangement.

The Edmonton service, organized this year by the Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church, will again be held at

the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Northwest conference celebrates 100 years

A celebration to commemorate 100 years of God’s faithfulness to the Northwest Mennonite Conference (formerly Alberta/Saskatchewan Conference) is planned for July 25-27 at the new West Zion Mennonite Church near Carstairs. The program will include activities for children and young people, a bus tour of the sites of the first churches, drama, lots of intergenerational music, displays and an emphasis on the future. Of course, there will be lots of good food and fellowship.

For more information contact: Richard Harder of Carstairs, phone (403) 337-3834; e-mail: raharder@telusplanet.net.—From West Zion Church release

Mennonite Church British Columbia

Mennonite Church British Columbia

planning two events

B.C. Mennonite Women in Mission is planning two major events this year. The annual Inspirational Day is planned for April 27 at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford. The theme is “Beside still waters: The journey of prayer” with guest speaker Marilyn Houser Hamm.

In October, the Women’s retreat will focus on “The Christian journey; the rhythm of the garden” with guest speakers Angelika Dawson and Benita Warkentin. The retreat will be held at Camp Squeah, October 17-19. Women are encouraged to come and bring their friends. For more information, contact Veronica Thiessen at (604) 823 6101.

Employment Opportunities



**MCC BC
PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR FOR
THRIFT STORES**

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is the relief and development arm of the Mennonite Church in North America (see www.mcc.org for more details). This position is responsible to the Executive Director and provides support in the operation and expansion of all the Thrift Stores in BC, strengthening both the business and ministry aspects. All MCC workers are expected to demonstrate a commitment to personal Christian faith, active church membership, and non-violent peacemaking. The specific qualifications for this position include an understanding of MCC and our constituency, a love for volunteers, experience recruiting and training volunteers and staff, and strong organizational, communications and mediation skills. There is also the need for experience in marketing, retail planning, and business management, preferably in a Thrift Store or non-profit setting.

To apply please send a cover letter and resume to:

**Personnel Department – Thrift Shop Coordinator Position
Mennonite Central Committee British Columbia
Box 2038, 31414 Marshall Road, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8
Fax: (604) 850-8734 E-mail to: wbremner@mccbc.com**

Apply before April 9, 2003 to ensure consideration.

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate anticipates full and part time

TEACHING POSITIONS

in Science, Chemistry, English, French and Physical Education for the 2003-2004 school year. Interested applicants should forward questions / resumes:

**c/o The Principal, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate
110 Doon Road, Kitchener, ON N2G 3C8
E-mail: principal@rockway.on.ca**

Menno-Hof is accepting applications for

**Volunteer Host/Hostess
(plus light housekeeping)**

Opportunity to share your faith in the Anabaptist tradition with people from around the world! Menno-Hof provides a lovely completely furnished apartment, with all expenses paid plus a monthly stipend. Position available May 8, 2003. For more information contact:

**Joseph Yoder
Box 701 Shipshewana, IN 46565
(260) 768-4117; mennohof@tjn.net**

LEAD PASTOR

Milverton Mennonite Fellowship is a rural congregation on the edge of Milverton, about 20 minutes north of Stratford, ON.

Join our team ministry as team leader in leading our congregation of varying ages. Ministry focus places high value on: worship, being spirit led, prayer, prophecy, equipping and releasing lay persons, missions. Opportunity for an experienced pastor with team leadership abilities.

Information available upon request, e-mail: milvmenn@perth.net
Reply in confidence to:

**Pastoral Search Committee
Milverton Mennonite Fellowship
Box 323 Milverton, ON N0K 1M0**

Is God calling you to use your leadership abilities, management skills and two or more years of cross-cultural experience to serve others through MCC?

This year MCC needs people to provide leadership to MCC programs in Europe and West Africa and to programs in Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Angola and Rwanda/Burundi. In 2004, MCC will need leaders in Nicaragua, Uganda, Lebanon, Kenya, Russia/Ukraine, the Philippines and Washington, DC. Also in 2004, MCC will need a director for its Visitor Exchange Program.

Plan ahead. Apply now. Contact:

**Charmayne Brubaker, Human Resources,
(717) 859-1151, odb@mcc.org**

or your nearest MCC office for job descriptions and more information about these upcoming MCC leadership openings. Application review begins March 2003.



**TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES**



Ten Thousand Villages, a program of Mennonite Central Committee Canada, is accepting applications for the following

RETAIL STORE MANAGER POSITIONS:

362 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, commencing April 1st, 2003. Application closing date is March 15th, 2003.

8318 Fairmount Drive, Calgary, Alberta, commencing April 23rd, 2003. Application closing date is March 31st, 2003.

The successful candidates's resume will demonstrate proven experience and training in retailing, managerial ability, inventory control, and commitment to Ten Thousand Villages' mission & alternative/fair trade practices.

We offer a salary and benefit package. Please submit resumes including retail management experience to:

**Lucille Harms Toews
Ten Thousand Villages Canada
65B Heritage Drive
New Hamburg, ON N3A 2J3
Phone: (519) 662-1879 Fax: (519) 662-3755
Email: personnel@villages.ca**

Peace Mennonite Church Lead Pastor

Peace Mennonite Church, located in Richmond, B.C., invites applications for a full-time salaried position as Lead Pastor beginning September 1, 2003. Peace Mennonite Church is an urban congregation of 200 members. We are seeking an individual who will provide strong spiritual leadership in the areas of pastoral care, outreach ministry and family life. The successful candidate will relate well to all generations and be gifted in preaching and worship.

Our new pastor will have extensive theological training in a Mennonite/Anabaptist perspective and be guided by the Mennonite Confession of Faith.

Applications should be received by April 15th, 2003. Interviews will begin in February and will continue until the position is successfully filled. Write or call for a Congregational Information Form. Send your letter of application, resume and three references to:

**David McAlary
Peace Mennonite Church
11571 Daniels Rd.
Richmond, BC V6X 1M7
Phone: (604) 278-0111 Fax: (604) 273-2678**

PASTOR

Aberdeen Evangelical Mennonite Church, a small, urban congregation located in an inner-city neighborhood in Winnipeg, Manitoba, requires a pastor. This is a .75 position. Applicants should bring strong abilities in pastoral care, nurture and education. Preferred start date is the summer or fall of 2003.

Please direct inquiries and resumes to:

Marilyn Funk, Chair
Aberdeen Search Committee
1049 Dumas Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3T 1W1
(204) 475-8044

Announcement

The Hoffnungsfelder Churches; Glenbush, Rabbit Lake and Mayfair (including former Bournemouth and Mullinger) invite all former members and friends to a **75th anniversary celebration** to be held, the Lord willing, on **July 26 & 27**.

"How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people."
(Psalm 116 : 12-14)

R.S.V.P. Corrie Martens
Box 57 Rabbit Lake, SK S0M 2L0

For more information Phone (306) 824-2081
E-mail: glenbushpostoffice95@yahoo.com

Former members and friends are invited to celebrate

Rosthern Mennonite Church
Centennial Home Coming, July 4th - July 6th 2003
Worship-Stories-Activities-Food
Phone: (306) 232-5577; FAX: (306) 232-5484
(RSVP by May 15th)

For further info e-mail: rud.fro@sk.sympatico.ca



Residence Director

Canadian Mennonite University is seeking an individual or couple to live on campus and serve as Residence Director(s) starting in August 2003. As part of the Student Life team you will provide leadership to a vibrant Christian residential community of students. A 10-month position provides for flexible summer hours. The successful applicant will be expected to have a commitment to the church and the mission of Canadian Mennonite University.

Contact
Marilyn Peters Midiewer at
(204) 487-3300 or
midiewer@cmu.ca by
March 25.

500 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
www.cmu.ca



Head Office

Commercial and Agricultural Lender

The prime responsibility includes assisting the branches with completion of Commercial Credit Reviews, Short Form Reviews and Agricultural Credit Reviews. Support for the Branch Managers and Branch Lenders is also required.

The successful candidate will have:

- 3 years experience in commercial and agricultural lending
- a university business degree or equivalent work experience
- experience in personal management, accounting, and a service-to-people setting (are an asset)
- experience with computer software relevant to commercial and agricultural lending
- an understanding of, and commitment to, Christian stewardship and mutual aid

Interested persons should send their resume by March 31, 2003 to:

Pam McCartney, Human Resources Manager
Mennonite Savings and Credit Union
155 Prohaska Dr., Suite F120
Waterloo, ON N2V 2E1
tel: (519) 773-5328 or 1-888-472-6728
fax: (519) 746-1045
email address: pmccartney@mscu.com

Announcement

The Engaged Workshop

An evening and day to focus on marriage for engaged and recently married couples.



Hawkesville Mennonite Church, Hawkesville, Ontario
Friday March 21 - Saturday March 22, 2003

Milverton Mennonite Fellowship, Milverton, Ontario
Friday April 25 - Saturday April 26, 2003

COST: \$50 / couple (includes Saturday lunch)
For more information contact: Delmar & Mary Bender
(519) 656-2256

Kelowna, B.C.

Weekend course on music and worship

A Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) Portable on "Thinking about music in worship" held at First Mennonite Church here featured a Sunday morning healing service accompanied by worship music and chants. Participants at the February 22-23 event included members of local Baptist and Anglican churches.

Dietrich Bartel, music professor at CMU, gave presentations on "What is worship?" and "The place of music in worship" on Saturday. The morning began with a Taize prayer service; the afternoon included rehearsal of music for the Sunday morning service.

Limiting worship music to praise is not good enough, said Bartel to the course participants. The elements of teaching and admonition are also part of a proper worship experience. The place of music in the worship service is not as performance but as part of the proclamation, the fellowship and the response of the congregation, he emphasized. Rehearsing a chanted version of Psalm 41 was a new experience for most, as it was for the Sunday congregation. Prayers for healing and the laying on of hands were also accompanied by appropriate music.

At a coffee hour following the service, there was a warm response to Dietrich Bartel's heartfelt participation in the life of the congregation.

CMU Portables are weekend teaching experiences in congregations led by CMU professors. —From congregational release

Holy land internship offered this summer

Winnipeg, Man.—Mennonite Church Canada Witness and Mennonite Mission Network (MC USA) are offering an opportunity to travel and learn in the Middle East. The Holy Land Summer Internship is open to all, including students seeking academic credit.

Participants will live with Palestinians and Israelis during their stay, and get to know the geography and history of the region. They will learn about the setting and cultural context of the Scriptures, and about the traditions of Judaism, Islam, and the early Christians. They will also visit Mennonite workers.

"The internship experience will provide an opportunity to walk alongside and learn from Mennonite workers in Israel and Palestine engaged in a variety of Christian service and peacemaking efforts," said Gordon Janzen, Witness Partnership facilitator for the Middle East.

John Lapp, Mission Network liaison, added, "They'll also engage with local residents in discussions about the current political and social situation with people on all sides of the issues."

Robert and Lois Witmer of Cambridge, Ontario, former international workers, are volunteer coordinators. They will oversee day-to-day activities and assist with individual placements. Glenn Witmer will provide local leadership for the program.

The internship will run from May to August, and is open to those 20 years of age or over. Participants are responsible for their own costs. Deadline for applications is April 15. Call Gordon Janzen at 1-866-888-6785 or e-mail: gjanzen@mennonitechurch.ca.—From MC Canada/Mission Network release

Workshop to explore family heritage

Waterloo, Ont.—A full-day workshop on March 22 will explore Mennonite history and how it relates to your family. Topics include conducting family interviews, writing family stories, beginning a genealogy and doing research at libraries. The event will be held at Luther Village in Waterloo.

Register by March 15 by phoning (519) 747-5139 or e-mail: info@photomemory.on.ca. The workshop is presented by the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario in conjunction with Photographic Memory Historical Retrospectives.—Historical society release

Bowman offers storytelling course

Baden, Ont.—Dorothy Bowman is offering her "Introduction to Biblical Storytelling" course on two occasions this spring: on three Monday evenings (April 21, 28 and May 5), or three Wednesday evenings (May 14, 21, 28).

This is an interactive learning experience for anyone interested in storytelling and the Bible. The course is taught at the Second Story Workshop in Baden.

Bowman, a professional storyteller since 1986, takes her programs to churches, schools, festivals and private groups. Churches can use her as a guest presenter in worship or other events.

She has storytelling presentations for churches on Lent, peace and celebrating creation.

Call Bowman at (519) 634-8779 to register for her spring course or to request her presentations.—From releases

Calendar

British Columbia

March 29: Camp Squeah Fundraiser Coffeehouse at First Mennonite Church, Vancouver. Call Angelika Dawson at (604) 870-0494.

April 12, 13: Abendmusik Lenten Vespers at Emmanuel Reformed Church, Abbotsford (12), Knox United, Vancouver (13), 8:00 p.m.

April 18-20: Graduation weekend at Columbia Bible College, Abbotsford.

April 26-27: Camp Squeah Paddle-a-thon. Call 1-800-380-2267.

April 27: B.C. Women in Mission Inspirational Day at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford. Speaker: Marilyn Houser Hamm on prayer.

April 29: Columbia Bible College golf tournament.

May 18: "Singing down life's road," Mennonite music for special occasions at Central Heights Church, Abbotsford, 3:00 p.m. Tickets: Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

June 6-7: LEAD conference and Mennonite Church British Columbia annual sessions at Cedar Valley Mennonite Church, Mission.

Alberta

April 18: Edmonton Inter-Mennonite Good Friday service at Myer Horowitz Theatre, 10:30 a.m.

April 18: Calgary Inter-Mennonite Good Friday service at Foothills Alliance Church, 10:00 a.m. Contact Doug Klassen at (403) 289-7172.

April 26: Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta annual meeting at Mennonite Brethren Church, Gem, followed by fundraising banquet. Speakers: Jessie and Larry Kehler. Call (403) 378-4372, e-mail: mary@eidnet.org.

May 10: Work day at Camp Valaqua. Call (403) 637-2510 for details.

May 24-25: Songfest at Bergthal Mennonite Church, Didsbury. Mass choir conductor: David Regier Sawatzky.

June 14: Open house at Camp Valaqua. Call (403) 637-2510.

July 25-27: 100th anniversary celebrations of Northwest Mennonite Conference at West Zion Mennonite, Carstairs.

July 26-27: Bergthal Mennonite Church, Didsbury, celebrates 100 years.

Saskatchewan

March 21: MCC Saskatchewan special delegate meeting in MCC Warehouse (45th St., Saskatoon), 7:00 p.m.

March 22: Workshop on supporting a survivor of sexual abuse at Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

March 23: Youth worship (SMYO) at Osler Mennonite.

March 28: Open house at Rosthern Junior College.

April 2: MEDA Breakfast at Circle Dr. Grainfields, Saskatoon, 7:30 a.m.

April 4-5: Songfest at First Mennonite, Saskatoon. Concert Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

April 11-12: Youth Hungerfest at Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon.

April 11, 12: Rosthern Junior College Dinner Theatre.

April 12: Women in Mission Enrichment Day at First Mennonite, Saskatoon.

May 2: Joint concert and fundraising banquet with Rosthern Junior College and Canadian Mennonite University, Osler Mennonite Church.

May 4: Station Singers concert at Station Arts Centre, Rosthern, 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

May 7: MEDA Breakfast at Circle Dr. Grainfields, Saskatoon, 7:30 a.m.

May 11: Spring concert and art show at Rosthern Junior College, 2:30 p.m.

May 31: Prairie Falcon Motorcycle Rally for MCC.

June 4: MEDA Breakfast at Circle Dr. Grainfields, Saskatoon, 7:30 a.m.

June 13-14: MCC Relief Sale in Saskatoon.

June 19-22: Rosthern Junior College musical (19-21) and graduation (22).

July 4-6: Rosthern Mennonite Church centennial celebration.

July 26-27: 75th anniversary of Hoffnungsfelder churches. Call (306) 824-2081.

August 9-10: 100th anniversary celebration at Hague Mennonite Church.

Manitoba

March 22: Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools Spring Banquet at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Call 261-9637.

April 4-6: Manitoba Mennonite Marriage Encounter weekend in Winnipeg. Phone (204) 757-4705.

April 5: Retreat for persons with mental illness at First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Contact MCC Manitoba at (204) 261-6381.

April 13: North Kildonan Mennonite Church Quartet spring concert, 7:00 p.m.

May 1: Concert of Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary School Bedson at Westwood Community Church, 7:00 p.m.

May 8: Spring Concert of Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary School Agassiz at Bethel Mennonite Church, 7:00 p.m.

May 25: Celebration 2003 for MC Manitoba churches at Convention Centre, Winnipeg.

May 25: Concert with Faith and Life Male Choir and Women's Chorus at Bethel Mennonite, Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.

May 26-28: Plus 55 Retreat at Camp Moose Lake with speaker Peter Wiebe. Call (204) 896-1616.

May 30-June 1: Birding Retreat at Camp Moose Lake. Call (204) 896-1616.

June 2-4: Plus 55 Retreat at Camp Koinonia with speaker Menno Janzen. Call 896-1616.

Ontario

March 15: Fundraisers for MCC meat canning at Calvary United Church, St. Jacobs, 8:00 a.m. (call 745-8458), and Kitchener MB Church, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Peter Dyck.

March 16: Peace vigil at Waterloo North Mennonite Church, 6:30 p.m. Activities for children.

March 17-19: Regional meeting of Mennonite Camping Association at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp.

March 19-22: "Godspell" performed by Conrad Grebel University College students at Registry Theatre, Kitchener, 8:00 p.m. Call (519) 885-0220.

March 21-22: Engaged Workshop at Hawksville Mennonite Church. Call (519) 656-2256.

March 22: Menno Singers all-day hymn sing fundraiser at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 22: Fundraising dinner and auction for Fraser Lake Camp at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church, Markham.

March 22: Exploring Mennonite heritage workshop at Luther Village, Waterloo, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (519) 747-5139.

March 23: Five-on-the-Floor and Rouge River Connection benefit for Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, at Rouge Valley Mennonite, 3:00 p.m.

March 25: Mennonite Savings and Credit Union annual meeting at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, 7:30 p.m.

March 26: Day of Quiet Prayer at Bethany Mennonite Church, Virgil.

March 28, 29: Grade 7-9 drama at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate: "Macbeth: A Cautionary Kids' Tale..."

March 29: Mennonite Aid Union annual meeting at Waterloo North Mennonite Church, 8:30 a.m.

March 30: Dedication of new addition at Erb St. Mennonite Church, Waterloo, 3:00 p.m.

March 30: Five-on-the-Floor benefit for Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, at First Mennonite, Vineland, 2:00 p.m.

April 4-6: Spiritual quilting retreat at Camp Ganadaoweh, Ayr, with Marilyn Rudy-Froese. Call (519) 576-6719.

April 5: Gospel Sing benefit for new Milverton-Rockway bus at First Baptist Church, Waterloo, 7:30 p.m.

April 7: Promotion dinner

for Ontario Mennonite Relief Sale at Bingeman Park Lodge, Kitchener. Call (519) 745-8458.

April 7, 9: Mortgage seminars sponsored by Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, Crosshill Mennonite (7), Hillcrest Mennonite, (9) 7:30 p.m.. Call 1-888-672-6728.

April 11-12: Mennonite Church Eastern Canada Spring session at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate.

April 16: Pax Christi Chorale performs Bach's St. John Passion at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, Toronto, 8:00 p.m. Call (416) 494-7889.

April 21-25: MCC meat canning, University of Guelph.

April 25: Day of Quiet Prayer at Tavistock Mennonite.

April 25: Envirathon/Serva-

thon at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate.

April 25-26: Engaged Workshop at Milverton Mennonite Fellowship. Call (519) 656-2256.

April 25, 26: Menno Singers and Mennonite Mass Choir perform Mendelssohn's Elijah at Benton St. Baptist Church, Kitchener, 8:00 p.m.

April 26: Women of MCEC Enrichment Day at Kitchener Mennonite Brethren Church, 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Speaker: Wanda Roth Amstutz.

May 16-19: Alumni Weekend at Fraser Lake Camp.

May 21: Day of Quiet Prayer at Blenheim Retreat Centre, New Dundee.

May 31: Ontario Mennonite Relief Sale, New Hamburg.

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The way of love



Photo by Randy Haluza-DeLay



Above, Ethan Haluza-DeLay, age 4, marches for peace in Edmonton with a sign that he made. At left he is joined by his sister Taryn, age 5. See page 16.

**The way of love is not
a subtle argument.**

**The door there
is devastation.**

**Birds make great sky-circles
of their freedom.
How do they learn it?**

**They fall, and falling,
they're given wings.**

**There is a community of the spirit.
Join it, and feel the delight
of walking in the noisy street,
and being the noise.**

**Drink all your passion,
and be a disgrace.**

**Close both eyes
to see with the other eye.**

**Open your hands,
if you want to be held.**

Sit down in this circle.

**The grief-armies assemble,
but I'm not going with them.**

**From the writings of Rumi, a 13th century Af-
ghan poet. Submitted by Lisa Martens from
Baghdad (see page 4).**