

# CANADIAN Mennonite

May 19, 2003  
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## Spring fund appeal

The following is from a letter recently mailed to persons who have sent donations to *Canadian Mennonite* in the past. Excerpts of the letter are reprinted here to invite financial support from all readers.

**G**reetings from the staff and board of *Canadian Mennonite*. Along with this annual spring fund appeal, let me share several recent highlights.

1. In early February, at the *Canadian Mennonite* annual meeting in Edmonton, several young adult playwrights expressed in a humorous and succinct way what this magazine is all about. (See April 21 issue, page 8.) Their drama featured a cast of characters in the fictitious town of Barley Grove. As "Ed and Edna" sat on their front porch browsing through the magazine, they chatted with neighbours such as "Gabe" and "Frieda."

Gabe, a dreamy character making feeble, off-key trumpet sounds, mused: "One of the remarkable things is that even an odd duck like me feels a part of things in the *Canadian Mennonite*. Everyone's allowed to offer their voice to the chorus. It reminds me of Sunday's sermon from I Corinthians 12," he commented as he read the passage about one body with many parts, each having its place.

In another scene, Frieda peered over her glasses as she sat on her porch knitting. "I've never ventured further than the places I can see from my porch," she said. "But sometimes I've wondered sitting here what things might be like off in the distant lands...Just when those thoughts start a-brewin' in my head, down falls *Canadian Mennonite* from Arnie Englebrecht's crop-dusting plane and I can read all about those brave Mennonites around the world..."

"I like that I'm connected to the people in these pages through a common belief," added Frieda. "It's like my knitting here—each loop is an individual and stands on its own, but they're connected by a common thread and to-

gether make up something better than themselves...a dishcloth—no, they make up something wonderful and blessed."

I couldn't have said it better myself! And, honestly, I didn't write the script.

2. In April, the Canadian Mennonite Executive Committee met with the Mennonite Church Canada General Board for a scheduled review of the funding formula that makes available a *Canadian Mennonite* subscription for all member households. (See page 17-18 this issue.) The formula calls for *Canadian Mennonite* to cover 40 percent of its costs through advertising, fund raising and some subscription sales, and for conferences to fund the remaining 60 percent of the costs—with MC Canada picking up half of this amount and the area conferences the other half.

In some ways, this was a challenging time to have a review, given recent budget cuts at MC Canada. And, yes, *Canadian Mennonite* was also affected. MC Canada eliminated a \$15,000 grant which we had used to fund a part-time correspondent working from conference offices in Winnipeg. That position will continue as we cut costs in other areas and as you continue your support through this fund appeal.

At the same time, even though the April review happened in the context of difficult financial times, the comprehensive circulation plan and funding formula were largely reaffirmed. As each of the conference partners shared their experience with the circulation plan, it became clear that *Canadian Mennonite* has become an important communication piece for many people in our churches.

You are an essential part of the plan which makes *Canadian Mennonite* widely available. Our fund raising goal for 2003 is \$60,000, which represents about 10 percent of this year's overall budget. Please give as you are able in order to keep Canadian Mennonite on a good financial footing for its increasingly important communication ministry.—**Ron Rempel, editor/publisher**

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

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# This Issue

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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](http://www.canadianmennonite.org)) on the Thursday before the date of the issue. This means you can check out the June 2 issue by May 29.

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Vancouver, B.C.

## New coordinators at Menno Simons Centre

Stacy Folk and Bob Delamar meet me in their suite in the basement of the Menno Simons Centre. New students are filing their way into the building for the summer term. Everyone is busy and slightly stressed.

Bob and Stacy are the Resident Coordinators of the Menno Simons Centre, a former convent turned residence for students attending the University of British Columbia, Regent College or the Vancouver Academy of Music. The Centre is not merely a place to live but a place to grow. It's a place to explore and challenge your faith while being introduced to university culture.

Stacy grew up in a United Church in Surrey and later began attending Panorama Community Church. Panorama is an evangelical, multi-denominational church founded by Mennonites, although the vast majority who attend aren't from Mennonite backgrounds. Every summer she ventured out to Keats Camp to refresh her spiritual life, and to have piles of fun.

Bob also enjoyed Keats—the poet. He named his punk band, Endymion, after a Keats poem. Through this band Bob met friends who had strong ties with the Mennonite church, although this was not his first encounter. Growing up in Chilliwack in a Pentecostal family, Bob interacted with Mennonites by attending Sardis Community Church and building friendships with Mennonite neighbours and schoolmates.

Bob and Stacy's paths crossed at Trinity Western University and Panorama church during their first year of studies. They married and taught English in Tokyo, Japan, for a year. Now Stacy has completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree while Bob is finishing his degree in Law this year.

At the recommendation of a friend they began to attend Point Grey Inter-



**Former Menno Simons Centre coordinators Jen and Mark Goerzen (left) turned over the keys of the Centre to Bob Delamar and Stacy Folk last summer**

Mennonite Fellowship, the church that formed the Menno Simons Centre 17 years ago. The church meets in the Centre's chapel and continues to support the Centre financially and through prayer and relationships with its students.

Uniting the intellectual and spir-

itual aspects of Christianity, the church appeals to those seeking truth through questions and discussion within a caring community. To Bob, this setting is reminiscent of his experience at L'Abri (French for "refuge") in Switzerland where religious and philosophical discussions were encouraged in a monastic-style community for young people. Bob was drawn to the similar goals set out by the Centre.

"The Menno Simons Centre is one of those places where university students can question everything and still feel comfortable in a church environment," Bob says.

Stacy's inspiration came from her desire to serve a church community, much like her counsellors did at camp. Both look forward to serving a community of Christians and working with students.—**Heather Pauls**

Edmonton, Alb.

### Ev's birthday party

An account of Ev's recent birthday reads like the script of a sitcom. It's outrageous, embarrassing and just too crazy to believe. But it actually happened.

On her 40th birthday, Ev Buhr, a member of First Mennonite Church here, arrived at her daycare job knowing the staff and children were up to something. Southview Childcare, located in the church basement, has developed a few birthday traditions over its 28-year history.

Ev knew, for example, that she would be presented with the "dead balloon," a deflated and shrivelled party item to wear as a necklace; her paper crown would have 40 points;



**A red-faced Ev buhr gets a birthday wish from a fireman.**

# The story of a Colombian church

*Rudy Baergen, Canadian mission worker in Colombia, recently encountered a congregation with a turbulent history.*

**T**he people in Pasto, Colombia, are known to be rather rigid and tradition-bound, and perhaps for that reason are the butt of “Newfie” jokes in Colombia. The first evangelical (Protestant) church was established in this region in 1934 by a missionary couple from the United States affiliated with a conservative group known as the Exclusive Brethren.

The male missionary died six years later, apparently poisoned in a home he visited. The woman, who eventually became a legend, continued the mission work, supported by her four daughters. The Exclusive Brethren found this gifted woman unfit to be doing mission work without a male companion and excommunicated her.

This crisis resulted in a division and the church’s beginning as an independent congregation. Another division occurred in 1960 when the neo-pentecostal movement arrived—the issue this time was “the use of hands,” clapping to the music in the worship service. The “enthusiasts” left.

Then about four years ago, a new pastor began to enforce an extremely oppressive interpretation of the place

of women in the church. All females were required to wear black veils over their faces and were not allowed any leadership roles. The conflict which resulted again divided the church. The pastor with about 200 members left the church, leaving the remnant demoralized.

Last November, I was invited to come work with the church. For most of the weekend, not a word was said about the recent crisis. Finally, on Sunday afternoon, they began to explain the situation, but first they wanted to know all about the Mennonite church and my personal theology.

It began to feel like an interview for a pastoral position! They were particularly concerned to break the cycle of divisions in their story. They wondered if I could come several more times and be the resource person for their annual Holy Week renewal services.

This meant speaking Thursday night, three times on Good Friday, three times on Saturday and two times on Easter Sunday! And these aren’t the 20-minute meditations we are used to—these sermons are several hours each!

After prayerful reflection and checking with colleagues, I was back in Pasto in February to work with ongoing difficulties. Since the church is independent, it has no authority to fall back on and no clear direction on how to get back on its feet. Dissension continues.

The topics given to me seemed deliberately remote, like “Who is a leader?” And “The presence of the Holy Spirit in leadership.” The idea came to me to use the topics as a springboard to get at the real issues—the old strategy of answering a different

question than was asked.

We began by considering an early church leader—Barnabas. The way in which Barnabas dealt with Paul was especially interesting for this group. We observed that while it was Paul’s experience with the Spirit that gave him his radical edge, the Spirit also

seemed to work with other leaders of the church, like Barnabas, to maintain unity, to emphasize a different dimension of the gospel proclamation, and even to control Paul.

What followed was very moving. We spent about five hours looking at how the Holy Spirit has been involved in the history of the congregation. Then it

became apparent that the moment had come to deal with the conflict head-on. It was moving to see the Spirit work its reconciliation among them.

I was impressed with their love for the church, their frankness and desire to find a way of working together. In the end, the different factions embraced and prayed together. A significant step in their healing had been taken although difficult issues remain.

The current leader wants to explore affiliation with the Mennonite Church of Colombia. (Three independent churches in Cali are also interested in becoming Mennonite.) One of our graduating seminary students would make a good pastor for this congregation—he is a relaxed person, confident in his own theological position but not needing to impose his agenda. The church is considering inviting him to be the Holy Week speaker and explore possibilities with him.

And he can handle the marathon Holy Week speaking much better than I!—**Rudy Baergen**

**The moment had come to deal with the conflict head-on. It was moving to see the Spirit work its reconciliation among them...In the end, the different factions embraced and prayed together.**

the smoke detector when the cake, complete with 40 candles and escorted by the birthday song, was served to her. Suddenly, alarms rang, lights flashed, children screamed, and the pastor and secretary upstairs nearly suffered heart attacks.

Fran Aarnoutse, daycare director, frantically called the city’s emergency response line to call off the fire trucks, but it was too late.

Sirens screaming, a big yellow truck pulled up to First Mennonite Church and five firefighters jumped into action.

“Forty candles, that’s a lot of heat,” said one, as another hopefully eyed the cake. After posing for pictures and congratulating Ev, they pulled off the lot, leaving behind a lot of laughter, good stories to tell, and a red-faced 40-year-old with a dead balloon around her neck.—**Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**

# Parenting: How do we get it right?

**P**arenting is one of the greatest challenges we are given in our lives. It provides exhilaration, bafflement, exasperation, anger, delight...depending on the time of day or phase of childhood. Parents find themselves thinking at times, “How did we ever get into this?”

Rearing children well is the wish of every parent, and yet we are often frustrated with our task and unsure how best to parent. Many parents lack confidence because of the proliferation of experts who tell us how to do things “right” according to the theories of the day. It starts with wondering whether children should sleep in their parents’ bed and extends to debates on discipline.

We know that it is wrong to be too authoritarian, and yet we have all seen the fruit of too much permissiveness. We often feel like we are on a horse without a saddle, threatening to fall off one side, and then the other.

Some will parent as they were parented, in much the same way that we eat what we were served as children. However, others see the pitfalls of their own upbringing and are determined to parent differently. “Success” in parenting still contains elements of mystery. Anyone who has read *Angela’s Ashes* marvels that such a deprived, downtrodden life could produce a seemingly whole, well adjusted adult.

Much observation has not given me confidence that I know which methods are “right.” I observe that many parenting styles seem to produce good outcomes. My comments here are primarily about young children.

## Foundation is love

The foundation of successful parenting is unconditional love, and giving this love must always take precedence over discipline. In fact, we can be confident that a child is well disciplined only when our primary relationship is one of unconditional love.

This is the love spoken of in I Corinthians 13. It is echoed in *The Simple Path* by Mother Teresa: “You have to love without expectation—to do something for love itself, not for what you might receive...true love is loving without conditions or expectations.”

This does not mean tolerating rude language, insensitive behaviour or bad manners. It means that I will continue to love you no matter what—no matter what you look like or what your grades are. The degree to which parents withhold love until their conditions are met is disturbing and sad. Some parents’ love is conditional on their children eating properly, and they withdraw their affection at every mealtime.

An important concept that parents must grasp is that each child has an “emotional tank,” and that a child behaves best when this tank is full. When a child’s emotional needs are being met through love, understanding and discipline, the tank is full.

One of the problems is that parents often feel emotionally exhausted and our own emotional tanks are not full. This is where a supportive marital relationship is invaluable. When spouses nurture each other and ensure that their emotional tanks are filled, they are indirectly nurturing their children.

“Children are like mirrors,” says Ross Campbell in *How to Really Love Your Child*. “If love is given to them, they reflect it. If none is given they have none to return. Unconditional





love is reflected unconditionally, and conditional love is reflected conditionally.”

We convey our love in four main ways: eye contact, focused attention, physical contact, and discipline. If there is one error I have seen parents make it is to overemphasize discipline, which is often equated with punishment.

Children reared with overemphasis on punishment will often be very compliant when young, but very difficult when they enter their teenage years. They will lack strong emotional bonds with their parents and also inner discipline. A well loved child feels secure, and this is reflected in cooperative behaviour.

#### Undivided attention

The first priority is to give our children our full and undivided attention. In our time-limited society it is easier to give them things, but there is no substitute for time.

Joan Chittister, in *Wisdom distilled from the daily*, talks about asking the prioress of her religious community to be excused from the Matins service and the evening curfew because she had no other time to write a term paper. The prioress looked piercingly at Chittister over her glasses. “My dear child,” she said slowly, “we have all the time there is.” Chittister added, “The fact is not that we don’t have time for important things in life. The fact is that we don’t take time for the important things in life.”

We have as much time for every activity of every day as we give priority to that activity. And our children deserve our highest priority. “Quality time” is a concept perpetrated by adults, not understood by children. There is simply no substitute for spending focused time with each child. It is time consuming, difficult to do consistently, and many times burdensome to parents who feel overworked and exhausted. But focused attention is the most important way of keeping a child’s emotional tank full.

One practical way of spending regular time together is to eat meals

together as a family. Meal times should be free of distractions and interruptions such as the television or telephone.

The average North American child spends approximately 25 hours per week watching television, and many have television sets and electronic games in their rooms. Many parents do not see the contradiction in trying to communicate the virtues of modesty, honesty, unselfishness and then allowing their children to view hours of entertainment in which these messages are trampled underfoot.

If you want to imbue your children with the values you hold dear, do not let your home be tyrannized by electronic media. This is one of the most important areas where parents need to exercise wise authority.

Focusing attention on your child involves two important actions: eye contact and physical contact. Eye contact is an important aspect of emotional nurturing, and reinforces active listening. It is important for parents to cultivate eye contact whenever they are speaking to their children, not only when they wish to make a strong point. When your children are misbehaving and seem to be craving attention, focus your attention and make eye contact. You’ll be surprised at the results.

Physical contact is not just hugging and kissing, although these are important. I’m talking about the touch on the shoulder, tousling the hair, gentle pokes in the ribs. We never outgrow our need for physical contact, and a child who is regularly embraced and touched by parents will feel that focused attention that is at the heart of showing your children you care deeply about them.

#### The meaning of discipline

During a vacation in Greece, my wife and I were hiking on the island of Patmos when we encountered a shepherd driving a flock of sheep down a lane. He had a staff and it was instructive to see how he used it. It was an instrument used to nudge, block movement and guide, but never to strike the sheep.

Many parents assume that discipline means punishment. They assume that love and discipline are separate entities. The *Oxford Dictionary* defines discipline as “the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behaviour.” This training involves guidance by example, modelling, verbal



**Each child has an ‘emotional tank,’ and a child behaves best when that tank is full.**

instruction, written instruction and so on.

The core of discipline is training and instruction. It is the image of the master craftsman who takes an apprentice. Over the years the craftsman offers himself as a model, provides guidelines, gives encouragement, points out errors, demonstrates skill, establishes standards. The discipline involves a personal association that makes it possible for the younger to be shaped by the older.

The heart of discipline, and the most biblical expression of authority, is careful attention that guides growth. The most important part of discipline is making a child feel loved; effective discipline is immeasurably easier in the context of unconditional love.

A crucial step in disciplining a child is to first ensure that she is understood. It does not mean capitulating to a child's demands or whims; it simply means listening before exerting your authority. When your child sees that you have considered her position and feelings, she will feel that she is being dealt with fairly and much resentment will be avoided.

Does not Christ do as much for us (Matthew 7:7-11)? The first question when a child misbehaves should not be, "How can I correct this behaviour?" but "What does this child need?" Much difficult behaviour improves when a child's emotional tank is full.

Punishment is a secondary part of discipline, and should be used sparingly. Punishment without a firm foundation of unconditional love and loving discipline (training) cannot but create a poor relationship and leads to defiance.

You will get angry with your child, and this is not entirely negative. Anger is not the opposite of love—indifference is. However, it is very important that anger does not arise from unrealistic expectations. Loving firmness will on occasion allow for anger, but should not permit us to be loud, authoritarian or unpleasant.

I periodically see parents becoming angry when their young children do

not respond to first requests, some entirely out of keeping with a child's developmental level. Loving parents of a two-year old will be firm in limit-setting, but not in punishment. Love and affection do not foster permissiveness; lack of firmness and limit-setting do.

I realize that corporal punishment is a touchy subject. Many Christian parents have used Proverbs 13:24 ("He who spares the rod hates the child") to justify spanking or beating their children. The image of the rod as an instrument to impart blows is not the one intended by that verse.

Think of Psalm 23: "My rod and my staff they comfort me." Clearly one would not find comfort in being beaten. The Proverbs verse is meant to convey the image of a rod being used to guide and direct, not to beat.

So I am opposed to corporal punishment. I feel that beating, striking or hitting children is degrading and humiliating and should rarely, if ever, be used. What is particularly contradictory is for parents to use corporal punishment when punishing young children for hitting others. A further reason for not using it is that it is less effective than punishment based on consequences.

A cautionary note. Do not punish a child who is truly repentant—the best deterrent to repeating bad behaviour is a healthy conscience. Remember Psalm 103:13: "Just as a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." When we are sorry for our misdoings, our heavenly Father forgives us. We must do the same for our children.

Rearing a loving, well disciplined and creative child is a task that can only be accomplished with God's grace and help. We will often be uncertain that we are saying the right things, setting the right limits and disciplining effectively. However, a foundation of unconditional love establishes the right foundation for effective parenting.

I close with a prayer from Thomas Merton (*Thoughts in Solitude*): "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.... I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road.... I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."—

**Paul Thiessen**

*The writer is a pediatrician in Vancouver. The above is from a sermon he preached at the Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship.*

**The core of discipline is training and instruction... Discipline involves a personal association that makes it possible for the younger to be shaped by the older.**



## Experience African music, urges musician

**S**inging will be at the centre of worship at the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in August. Among worshippers will be an enthusiastic 80-year-old from Goshen, Indiana.

Mary K. Oyer has played a key role in broadening worship music among North American Mennonites. She urges people to attend the assembly in support of the Zimbabwe people.

"It is important to go to give us some feel for what they live with."

The assembly will have a choir with members from around the world to lead congregational singing. Prominent will be the music of Africa.

African music is full of symbolism and complex rhythms that call the body to move, says Oyer. One experiences so much more when the entire body is involved than "in learning from a book that is deaf and dumb," she quips.

"Studying African music enlarged greatly my understanding...and opened new ideas about worship," she says. If others find different music meaningful than we do, we shouldn't judge but rather find out why.

Oyer has studied African music for more than 30 years. She has spent time in 12 African countries. Every country has its own music and instruments. In some places, traditional African sounds are being reclaimed after decades of "trying to get it right" according to what Western missionaries taught.

"African music tells about the people," says Oyer. "There is improvisation in music and in life. Small patterns go round and round with no concept of prescribed length." African music "reflects a different sense of time without any sense of urgency." For Africans, she adds, the present is strong, the past is rich, and there is no future tense beyond a month or so.

The music of Africa is energetic. The

African Initiated Churches, especially, believe that the Holy Spirit comes when the body is in motion. Asian music is much more cerebral and reflective, notes Oyer. Westerners, who focus on harmony, tension and resolution, with less emphasis on rhythm, are somewhere in between.

Oyer will help lead a 26-day African tour with Zenebe Abebe, an Ethiopian now teaching at Goshen College. The tour, an immersion in African culture and history, will include Ethiopia and Kenya and the MWC assembly in Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, Oyer continues to conduct music seminars. In September, she will return to Taiwan to teach for a semester at a Presbyterian Theological College and Seminary.

Oyer "retired" in 1987 after a 42-year career as music professor at Goshen College, where she also taught visual arts. From 1989 to 1998, Oyer taught at Associated Mennonite



**Mary Oyer leads songs from the *Hymnal Sampler* which tested music for the current hymnal.**

Biblical Seminary. She played a key role in preparing the *Mennonite Hymnal* (1969) and *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (1987-89), as well as songbooks for MWC assemblies.—From MWC release by **Ferne Burkhardt**



**A quilting workshop at North Star Mennonite Church in Drake, Saskatchewan, became inter-generational when people from the community were invited to participate. The March 18 event was hosted by the women's Fellowship Circle of the church. The young mothers group asked Susan Neufeld, a volunteer at the Lanigan Gift and Thrift Store, to demonstrate blanket-making for Mennonite Central Committee. The participants cut patches from clothing and laid them out to make the tops and backs of the blankets. After sewing the pieces together, they tied knots to hold the layers together.—North Star release**

## New books from Cascadia

Several new books from Cascadia Publishing House (formerly Pandora Press U.S.) came to our attention just after the Spring listing of books and resources was compiled for the May 5 issue. They include the following:

• *Reflecting on Faith in a Post-Christian Time* by Daniel Liechty, 200pp., \$33.95. The author, a clinical social worker who teaches at Illinois State University in Normal, draws on Anabaptist thought to meet the spiritual needs of the current day.

• *Writing Peace: The Unheard Voices of Great War Mennonite Objectors* by Melanie Springer Mock, 348pp., \$35.95. Diaries of Mennonite COs from World War I reveal the trials these young men underwent and how their experiences led to greater political engagement by peace churches.

• *Peacemaking: Practicing at the Intersection of Law and Human Conflict* by Douglas E. Noll, 480pp., \$51.95. Philosophical views of human conflict form the background of this thorough examination of conflict resolution and mediation. The author is a California lawyer and educator.

• *Reaching Beyond the Mennonite Comfort Zone* by Will Schirmer,



172pp., \$21.95. A “newcomer” holds a mirror to the Mennonite church in order to provoke new thinking about how Mennonites can relate to those around them.

• *Border Crossing: A Spiritual Journey* by Katie Funk Wiebe, 214, \$22.95. A revised edition of Wiebe’s autobiographical exploration of aging, culture and faith.

• *Fifty Years, Fifty Stories: The Mennonite Mission in Somalia* by Omar Eby, 144pp., \$20.95. Text and photos trace the history of Eastern Mennonite Missions in Somalia.

### Publishing notes

Samuel Hofer, a former Hutterite from Saskatchewan, has published a number of cookbooks. Recent ones include expanded editions of *A Treasury of Soups, Borschts, Stews, and Chowders*, which includes recipes from many European traditions; and a third edition of *The Hutterite Community Cookbook*. Earlier collections are *A Feast of Perogies & Dumplings* (1998) and *A Passion for Sauerkraut* (2001). The books are available from Hofer Publishers in Saskatoon, phone (306) 242-8162.

Mary Emma Showalter Eby, author of the bestselling *Mennonite Community Cookbook*, died May 3 at the age of 90

in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Showalter Eby, who held a doctorate in home economics education, founded the home economics department at Eastern Mennonite College in 1946. She taught there until 1972. Before her teaching career began, she served for four years with Mennonite Central Committee in refugee camps in Egypt and at MCC headquarters in London, England. In 1950, she published the recipe book which has sold 450,000 copies and continues to sell about 5,000 copies a year (Herald Press). *Favorite Family Recipes*, a smaller paperback edition, has over 250,000 copies in print.—From Herald Press release



**Frances Klassen and Del Peters participated in the third annual Artisan’s Day hosted by the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan on April 26. In the past, this event has been held in rural centres like Osler and Waldheim; this was the first year it travelled to Saskatoon. People from around the province came to display their creativity. Abram Fehr of Warman brought his violins. Art Froese from Saskatoon crafts things out of weathered wood. And Frances Klassen of Eigenheim brought a table full of home-made dolls. “I didn’t make them all,” she pointed out. Some artisans had to be turned away because of space limitations.—Karin Fehderau.**



Photos by Karin Fehderau

## 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.

### Dialogue over differences helps cause of peace

I read with interest Susan Harrison's letter, "Peace activism not going far enough" (April 21, page 11). My interest in the peace movement dates to the early 80s, though my "activism" dates back only to January 18 of this year when I attended a workshop on the upcoming Iraq "war." We do need to get beyond what we are "against"

and start articulating what we are "for."

This change is happening. At a "teach-in" on April 27 at the same location as my first workshop we attended sessions on "organizing for peace," "media literacy," and "common ground argument," in which I presented a way of discussing ideological differences that will lead to greater understanding between different parties.

There are also web sites dedicated to alternatives to war which you can find by typing "peace stories" or "waging peace" into your web browser.

Personally, I am joining the ongoing dialogue between people who disagree on issues related to peace in the world. There is a great deal of common ground between those who appear to be completely at odds with each other.

For instance, I have seen both globalization advocates and critics agree that the current practice creates inequities that need to be addressed.

And Palestinians and Jews agree that the current situation is untenable.

These conversations lead to an increased appreciation for the humanity of the other side, and an increased ability to focus on our God-given task rather than fighting with the "evil" we perceive on the other side. The advantage of "dialogue" over allowing others their own "take" on what's happening, as Harrison suggests, is that we have much to offer each other.

By engaging in respectful dialogue we find ourselves moving forward to a better world, better informed, less angry and suspicious, and with a clear vision of what we are "for."—**Dave S. Pankratz, Winnipeg, Man.**

### Concerned about cultural assumptions

This is in response to a comment in Wally Schmidt's article about School of Discipleship students in South Africa

## Affirmative action

The church we attend is blessed with wonderful leadership. Our pastor stimulates, humours, inspires and challenges us. Even if the service gets a little long because of all the other good stuff, the sermon is worth the wait.

Thus, Mennonite-to-the-core that I am, I emerged from a recent sermon feeling good all over.

"Man," I non-inclusively remarked, "that was a great message."

"Did you tell Gordon that?" queried Marlene.

"Um, no," I stammered.

"Why not?"

"Well, you know, he, ah, probably knows he did well, and doesn't need anyone to state the obvious."

"Is that how you feel after you preach a sermon?"

"Not exactly."

"Then why should he?"

I got the message—and delivered my message to our pastor. Wow, I thought, I actually affirmed someone—with virtually no prompting other than a sharp verbal elbow to my emotional

ribs. Pumped up by the feeling of not only thinking but sharing a compliment with a brother in the faith, I decided to try doing so without any prompting whatsoever.

My opportunity came just a week later, as we were returning home from a concert.

"You know," said Marlene, "I'll never be a Beethoven."



"What's that?" I responded. My affirmation-sense was tingling.

"I'm a good accompanist and a good pianist, but I'll never be like Beethoven, and make a permanent musical mark."

"Please, God," I remember praying, "help

me to be emotionally intelligent—just for a minute." I cleared my throat and replied, "Has it ever occurred to you that Beethoven must have realized, at some point in his life, that he'd never be a spontaneous, delightfully fun person with whom everyone wanted to spend time?"

"What are you saying?" asked Marlene.

"I'm saying that at some point, Beethoven must have realized that he'd never be a Marlene."

Ka-ching! You could just hear that emotional cash register opening. Marlene gave me a big smile, an even bigger hug, and a heartfelt, "Thank you, Tim. That was sweet."

Of course, maintaining the momentum of this building-up-others-thing is draining. It's best, if you're a beginner in the field, to pace yourself and build up your strength. After all, as any good child of Menno will affirm, the life of faith, much like your average congregational meeting, is best seen as a marathon of hope!



(April 21, page 5).

The students seem to have learned quite a bit about themselves and how others live in different cultures. I support widening one's comfort zone; however, I have a concern about the comment: "Can't you just imagine Africans and Mennonites singing, clapping and dancing together by candlelight?"

What does that mean? That comment is not very appropriate, considering that there are more African Mennonites than North American Mennonites. That is similar to writing about Mennonites and Colombians doing something together, when the Colombian Mennonite Church is a strong witness in Colombia as well as to us in North America.

Mennonites can no longer be thought of as a group of people who come from Russia or Switzerland; they do not all have last names like Penner and Bender, so please, let us try to steer away from that mentality.—**Angelika Guenther Correa, Leamington, Ont.**

### Peace witness more than political posturing

The letter from Susan Kennel Harrison (April 21, page 11) suggesting that there is more exploring to do in expressions of Christ-centred peace pushes us in good directions.

Much of the peace church energy during the Iraq conflict was given to Vietnam-era activities—rallies, marches, vigils, slogans, and banners. Virtually all pointed to what we were against, simplistically reduced to

American and British political leadership.

If we are to regain a cutting-edge Christian voice in response to violence, we will need to redirect more energy at positive, hopeful and creative responses that don't wait for tanks to rumble and missiles to hiss across the sky. We will need to set ourselves free from political posturing, which limits our response.

Violence is an expression of fear. As people of peace, we need to have the courage to step through locked doors, and to offer, with all of our resources, "Peace be with you!"—**Ed Olfert, Prince Albert, Sask.**

### Native ministry has not 'passed'

Thank you to Johann Funk for his moving "Eulogy for the passing of the Native Ministries program" (April 21, page 13). Unfortunately, it is based on perceptions that are not entirely accurate. Funk is not the only individual to have expressed such mistaken perceptions.

The Native Ministry program of Mennonite Church Canada Witness has not "passed." It remains alive, though its form is in the process of transformation. We still have qualified and experienced staff and we still have a substantial budget.

While the strategies for Native Ministry are shifting, we have confidence that the future strategies and efforts will be blessed by God, as the past ministries have been.

Whether or not the church is

"floundering on the shoals of modernity" or unknowingly is naked as an "emperor without clothes," are important questions. I doubt, however, that the transformation of Native Ministry is the only or even the most appropriate vane to measure the challenge before us.

We would welcome counsel from persons of considerable experience, like Funk, to envision new possibilities for an effective Native ministry. (For example, see the letter by Sakoleta Widrick in the same issue.)—**Robert J. Suderman, executive secretary, Mennonite Church Canada Witness**

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### Pontius' Puddle



## Mission in China continues amid SARS crisis

**T**he fear of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) is affecting mission workers and churches in China. Some agencies are repatriating their personnel.

Mennonite Church Canada, with its partner Mennonite Mission Network, has 21 workers—12 adults and 9 children—in the two regions hardest hit by SARS: mainland China and Hong Kong. So far, these workers are planning to stay.

Cindy and Tim Buhler of Abbotsford, British Columbia, work in partnership with Mennonite churches in Hong Kong. Since the government closed schools because of SARS, they have been home-schooling their two daughters, reducing the time available for ministry. Sometimes the family feels cramped in its small apartment.

“You cannot just send the children into the basement or outside to play,” Tim Buhler said.

Although many public gatherings are cancelled, the Agape Mennonite Church is going ahead with its worship services as an act of faith. Worshipers are required to wash their hands thoroughly as they enter the building and don a mask.

“Our Easter Sunday Love Feast was prepared by church members at the church and served by the deacons and pastors, rather than setting all of the food out potluck style and letting everyone breathe on all of it,” said Susan Wade, a U.S. Mennonite mission worker in Hong Kong. “There’s an obvious positive spirit—and the face masks and creativity required to manage this seem to have even added some fun to our gatherings.”

Grace Mennonite church had made masks optional but provides them at the door and encourages everyone to wash their hands. Hope church leaves it up to individuals completely.

Agape has also cancelled some of its activities for children, but SARS has actually expanded its youth ministries. The youth group that usually meets only on Saturday has been meeting

three times weekly.

“Some of the group said they were bored being off school and asked if they could have extra meetings,” Buhler said.

Agape’s Helping Hands Centre continues to offer tutoring services to children.

“For safety reasons, most of our team members choose to wear masks while out on public transit and in crowded areas,” Buhler said. One Agape family quarantined itself as their daughter’s classmate became ill with SARS. Other families are living in apartment complexes where SARS has broken out.

“The biggest role the church can play at this time is to dispel unnecessary fear,” Buhler said.

The other Canadian on the Hong Kong Mennonite mission team is Shauna Klassen from Cornerstone Vineyard Community Fellowship in Winkler, Manitoba.

MC Canada Witness teachers with China Educational Exchange (CEE) haven’t experienced the shock waves rocking many parts of East Asia.

“We’re stuck out in the boonies in Sichuan here, and SARS hasn’t had much of an impact” said Todd Hanson. Todd and Jeanette with their two daughters are from Saskatchewan.

On April 5, the American government announced that all 72 Peace Corps teachers stationed in China, were to return to the United States.

After a CEE conference in Hong Kong this spring, the Hansons and several other teachers stayed at a guesthouse just across the street from the Metropole Hotel where several people contracted SARS.

“We checked out of the [guesthouse] a few days before the Chinese doctor who had SARS checked in to the Metropole,” Hanson said. “I hope that’s as close as we get to the disease.”



Photo by Andrew Wade

**Becky Butt and Sandy Lo lead worship at Grace Mennonite Church in Hong Kong where all worshippers are required to wash their hands and wear masks.**

CEE has decided not to ask workers to return to North America, as some other organizations have done.

“We are grateful that CEE workers are reacting in a calm manner. We have sent out information on SARS to CEE workers and are encouraging them to keep informed and to take safety precautions.”

Kathi and Rod Suderman, of Saskatchewan, are Witness workers who share administrative responsibilities for CEE in China. They have three children.

Curiously, Macau, a port to China, seems to have escaped SARS, report George and Tobia Vieth, Witness workers from Saskatchewan.—From MC Canada release by **Lynda Hollinger-Janzen with Dan Dyck**

Elkhart, Ind.

## Rempel appointed to AMBS position

**J**ohn Rempel, pastor, academic and current Mennonite Central Committee liaison to the United Nations, has been named assistant professor of theology and Anabaptist studies for Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. He will begin in August.

Rempel has been MCC liaison to the United Nations in New York



Rempel

since 1991. He was pastor of Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship from 1989-2000. He was ordained in Mennonite Conference Eastern Canada in 1982. From 1973-84 he was chaplain and adjunct professor at Conrad Grebel College in Ontario.

Rempel holds a Master of Divinity degree from Goshen Biblical Seminary and a Doctor of Theology degree from St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. His dissertation focused on Christology and the Lord's Supper in Anabaptism.

He is the author of *The Lord's Supper in Anabaptism* (Herald Press 1993), and co-edited *The Fragmenta-*

*tion of the Church and Its Unity in Peacemaking* (Eerdmans 2001). He wrote articles on communion and ordinances for *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, Volume 5 and was central in developing the *Minister's Manual* widely used in Mennonite Church Canada and USA.

"I anticipate being part of a community of scholars, both faculty and students, whose calling it is to think and pray on behalf of the church," Rempel says. "As a minister and MCC worker in New York City, I have been on the frontier of our church.... Now I look forward to bringing the people and ideas I have met here into contact with the larger Mennonite world."

"I am excited about the gifts John is bringing to AMBS," says Loren Johns, academic dean. "He is passionate about the church and has deep conviction about the importance and relevance of the Anabaptist story for the church today. His work in Christian spirituality, the worship practices of the church historically, and the understandings of Christian theology that inform and direct the life of the church today will serve our students—and the church—well."—AMBS release

Akron, Pa.

## MCC reducing budgets

**M**ennonite Central Committee (binational) cut expenditures by six percent last year, and all MCC departments have reduced budgets by the same amount for the coming year. The MCC executive committee met here April 11-12 to plan for the new year which began April 1.

Donations and other income are lower in the United States this year, mainly due to the slump in the economy. However, in recent months, donations have been higher than MCC projected last fall.

MCC staff in the Middle East are safe, reported MCC administrators. Many have received extra support from local friends and neighbours who have even offered space in their homes.

In all countries in the region, MCC has established advisory committees to help make decisions about safety. One participant in the Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program for young adults left Beirut and returned home, as suggested by the advisory committee in Lebanon.

Much of MCC's material aid, including blankets, relief kits, and medical supplies, is being distrib-

uted in Iraq by the Islamic Relief Agency. MCC plans to send a team to Iraq to assess future aid to Iraq.

Food aid, valued at \$2.4 million, has been shipped to countries such as Ethiopia, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. In Zambia the distribution has worked well, but political instability in Zimbabwe has stalled grain shipments for months. Willie Reimer and Tesfatsion Dallelew, MCC administrators, travelled to Africa in February.

"We saw a lot of long lines for maize meal and for fuel," Reimer reported about Zimbabwe. The Brethren in Christ Church distributes the aid there.

"We'll continue to work in that situation, however slowly," said Reimer, because the need continues. A short-term MCC worker is going to Zimbabwe to help coordinate logistics there.

Larry Miller, Mennonite World Conference (MWC) executive director, and consultant Herman Bontrager spoke about MWC plans and the upcoming MWC assembly in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.—MCC release

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Winnipeg, Man.

## Global concern about war's impact

**M**ennonites around the world have been stating publicly their opposition to war in Iraq, as well as their concerns about the war's long-term effects. Mennonite workers report considerable public opposition to the war in the countries where they serve.

In Spain, two polls show opposition to the war at just over 90 percent, according to Dennis and Connie Byler, serving there with Mennonite Church Canada Witness and Mennonite Mission Network (USA).

"This bodes ill for the present government, with its pro-war stance," Dennis said. "As the country gears up for municipal elections this summer, there has been a massive shift of voter intent away from President Aznar's Popular Party, and their headquarters in just about every city have been vandalized by angry mobs shouting, 'No a la Guerra' [No to war]."

The Colombian president's support of the war is quite unpopular, according to mission workers Rudy and Helen Baergen.

"One poll I saw indicated around 65 percent opposed to the U.S. action," Rudy said. "*El Tiempo*, which is usually quite supportive of President Uribe, has run several biting editorials."

Others in Latin America have responded similarly.

"The noisy Chacabuco Park in Santiago, Chile, welcomed its first peace protest in a decade," said Jodi Read, who works with 5&2 Multiplying for All, an education and social service program. She is supported by MCC and is an associate with the Mission Network.

Read and Baptist pastor, Cristian Cabrera, organized an ecumenical event that drew 20 people for a public testimony for peace.

Members of the Mennonite church in Trenque Lauquen, Argentina, published a letter calling "all Christians, members of other religions and human beings of good will in Trenque Lauquen to pray, educate and work for peace." The letter was sent to Argentinean media and was printed

on posters. The executive committee of the Argentine Mennonite Church also prepared a statement.

The Peace & Justice Project of the Honduran Mennonite Church issued this statement: "We lament profoundly the decisions taken by the government of Honduras with regard to this worldwide crisis." The letter, signed by project director Ondina Murillo, said, "Since our country is one that most suffers hunger in Central America, we can imagine the crude reality of the Iraqis in this time of war."

Meanwhile, Mennonites in Africa are concerned that the war will exacerbate "already tenuous relations between Christians and Muslims."

The Council of Eastern Africa Mennonite Churches sent a letter to U.S. president George Bush on February 15 stating: "We have convened in Tanzania, a country that has tasted the bitter fruit of Osama bin Laden's

terrorism, as has neighbouring Kenya.... There is profound concern that Muslim militancy in response to war may overwhelm some of the Christian communities and destabilize secularist national governments, as in Ethiopia."

A Mennonite worker in Afghanistan reports hearing "two totally different views of the current conflict" from Voice of America and the BBC.

Dennis Byler is concerned about what effects Bush's persona as a Christian will have on people's openness to the gospel in Spain and elsewhere in Europe.

"They find it very difficult to understand what kind of personal piety, so publicly proclaimed, can be compatible with the imperialistic violence of [Bush's] international politics," Byler said. Linking religious faith with acceptance of warfare and the death penalty is one reason it is "so difficult for evangelical Christianity to make headway in Spain," he said.—From joint MC Canada Witness and Mission Network release by **Tony Krabill**

Amman, Jordan

## Church in Jordan aids Iraqi refugees

**F**or the 305,000 Iraqis living in Jordan, dignity is hard to come by. "Saddam has already taken most of our dignity," said an Iraqi refugee. The Iraqis left for economic or political reasons, but their difficulties did not disappear.

Iraqi refugees cannot legally work in Jordan or acquire residence permits. Until recently, their children were unable to attend public schools. Refugees also pay higher prices for services—nearly double for health care.

Even if they regularly receive funds from family members abroad, many refugees live in poverty, according to Selim Sayagh, bishop of the Latin Catholic Church in Jordan.

"Those who knock on our door, we try to help," he says.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) supports the church's efforts, including medical, educational and travel assistance for Iraqi refugees. MCC also contributes to a church project that supplies milk products to children and pregnant mothers.

Ghada Najjar runs a project that helps provide employment for needy families here. Members of 70 families—about half of them Iraqi—craft olive wood rosaries which are sold in Jordan and other countries.

Najjar says working with Iraqi refugees is always educational and emotional. "I know how much they suffered in their own country," she says, "and I know how much they suffer here."

The church has started a school for Iraqi students, staffed by teachers from Iraq. Although the refugees can now enrol in public schools here, about 150 still attend the church school.

Iraqi refugees are contemplating whether a return to their homeland is feasible, but they are uncertain.

"It is too soon to tell," says Najjar. "They will return when they are sure Saddam is gone, and if they are sure they can regain what they have lost."

"All of them have relatives in Iraq," says Sayagh, "and that is why they are very, very concerned about the situation."—MCC release by **Edward Miller**

Vancouver, B.C.

## B.C. Mennonites debate war and peacemaking

**H**ow have Anabaptists lived out the gospel in times of conflict? Isn't it more important to bring the gospel to the Iraqi people than to send buckets of soap, towels and toenail clippers?

A panel including two professors, a pastor and a peace worker addressed these questions and others at a discussion here on war, peace and conflict on April 27. Thirty-seven people attended the event.

"It depends on how you understand the gospel," said Gay Lynn Voth, who teaches at Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford. Historically, Anabaptists have responded to worldly problems in at least three ways: retreat to monasticism in the manner of Michael Sattler; active engagement with society in the manner of Pilgram Marpeck; and revolution in the manner of the Muensterites.

We need to flex our "peacemaking muscles" and listen respectfully, she said.

Proclamation is important; however, the presentation of the gospel fails if it is divorced from personal relationships with people, said Dan Unrau, pastor at Frasersview Church (Mennonite Brethren) in Richmond. Others emphasized that being a compassionate presence in time of need is essential to relationships.

"I find myself frozen.... I certainly don't like George Bush's answer," said Unrau when asked how to stop Saddam Hussein. Jesus came to bring us an answer to conflict, a "third way," he said. This comment led to an energetic discussion about what a third way could look like.

Elsie Wiebe Klingler told stories and showed photographs of people in Iraq. She visited the country a year ago as part of a Mennonite Central Committee team investigating the suffering imposed by a decade of economic sanctions against Iraq. Wiebe Klingler is MCC B.C.'s coordinator of peace education, domestic violence and sexual abuse programs.

One woman asked why people in the peace movement tend to "sanitize" Hussein and "villify" George W. Bush.

Wiebe Klingler said too often the debate is oversimplified. The media teach people to see only two options—pro-Hussein or pro-Bush.

"The evil actions of Saddam Hussein do need to be accounted for and stopped," she said, "and there we need to consider options other than waging war on an already devastated nation."

John Dyck, who teaches at Trinity Western University, considered the political interests western nations have in Iraq and the Middle East. At 4,000 years old, Iraq's civilization is

among the oldest in the world. Will young nations be successful in erecting western models of democracy in that nation?

"Some Iraqis are offended at the thought," said Dyck.

Angela Neufeld, a member of MCC B.C.'s peace committee, led the group in a time of worship. As part of a closing blessing, several members of the group came forward with items to pack in relief kits for Iraq.—Joint release of MCC B.C., Colombia Bible College and Frasersview church

Aylmer, Ont.

## Beloved Old Colony leader dies

**A**pproximately 3,000 people gathered here on March 1 for the funeral of Cornelius Enns, widely-beloved *Ältester* (elder or bishop) in the Old Colony Mennonite Church. Among them were Old Colony leaders from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Officiating was Johan Wiebe, retired *Ältester* of the Manitoba church who had ordained Enns 15 years earlier.

Enns, 64, was born in Mexico where he served as a teacher in an Old Colony school. In 1977, he and his family moved to Canada. In 1988, the church elected him as minister, and in 1989 as *Ältester*. His preaching and his leadership reflected a warm love for people, a deep faith in Christ, and much general wisdom. He had been suffering from arthritis, diabetes and other health ailments.

Enns recognized that the church here had to be different from the church in Mexico. He emphasized young people's meetings, Bible study and personal faith. His catechism classes, which involved approximately 200 baptism candidates each year, were greatly appreciated. He would tell people that the date of their baptism, a sign of spiritual rebirth, should be as important as their birthdays.

Enns also initiated a joint leadership. With a membership of nearly 5,000 adults in congregations between Windsor and St. Catharines, Enns felt that the four western congregations (Wheatley, Kingsville, Dresden, and

Blenheim) should have their own *Ältester*. Peter Friesen serves those churches, while Enns attended to the five congregations from Aylmer eastward. Ministers serve on a rotating basis, meeting together monthly. The church has 12 ministers, in addition to the two *Ältester*.

Enns also supported the church's seven private schools. Started in the 1980s, their enrolment is approximately 1,000. They use the Christian Light curriculum produced by a conservative Mennonite group in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The schools go from kindergarten to grade 12, although the high school is not accredited.

On March 29, four weeks after Enns' funeral, Johan Wiebe of Manitoba presided over an election for a new *Ältester*. The people's clear choice was Herman Bergen, a man with a similar orientation. Like Enns, Bergen is open to interacting with other churches and supportive of Mennonite Central Committee. At the last MCC Ontario meeting, Bergen expressed his gratitude for the assistance Mennonites from Mexico have received from MCC.

The newcomers, many of whom were members of Old Colony churches in Mexico, do not automatically become members of the Ontario church. Some show little interest. Old Colony leaders here see those newcomers as an important part of the church's calling.—**Bill Janzen**

Winnipeg, Man.

## General Board takes steps to ensure financial stability

**A**t its April 24-26 meetings, the Mennonite Church Canada General Board took steps to guide the recovery of financial stability and membership trust.

Agenda items included monitoring financial performance, meeting with the external auditor, reviewing executive staff needs, reviewing the *Canadian Mennonite* subscription formula, and looking at funding to Canadian Mennonite University.

The General Board agreed to have the Financial Policy and Audit Committee (FPAC) review monthly statements and report these to the board on the 15th of each month. In addition, the board ordered an immediate review of MC Canada's Finance Department to assess staff and skills required.

An independent consultant will work with the FPAC and general secretary Dan Nighswander on this review. Results will be available for the MC Canada assembly in July "if at all possible."

The board met with Aaron Penner, representing auditors KPMG, to discuss actions that might be helpful as the 2003-04 budget is finalized. Penner commented on the increase in complexity of MC Canada's operations and how this has affected finances. (For reports on the financial crisis, see March 24 and April 7 issues, and May 5, page 32.)

The General Board spent over half a day analyzing executive staff needs in light of reduced program. A major review of all MC Canada structures was previously scheduled for 2004 and that will include an assessment of executive staff needs.

The board recognizes that executive staff work loads are high because of program changes determined at the March Leadership Assembly. Executive staff now has more direct supervision as they oversee programs in transition and attempt to prevent critical pieces of program from falling through the cracks.

The board also acknowledged that

stability in leadership is important during a time of significant change. Councils had already called for continuation of executive staff at full time levels, and the General Board agreed that any adjustments will be made in consultation with the councils. In the meantime, Dan Nighswander will work with executive staff, in consultation with Councils, to adjust executive job descriptions in the short term to accommodate the changes that have taken place.

The board completed a review of Nighswander's work, initiated after

the March Leadership Assembly. They received a statement from Nighswander acknowledging actions he could have taken to avert the financial crisis and identifying corrective actions he has taken to address the turmoil.

In a unanimously approved statement, the General Board thanked Nighswander "for his continuing work in response to the Board's direction from the Leadership Assembly, and assures him of the General Board's

Continued on page 18

Altona, Man.

### MC Canada meets with Manitoba members

**I** am extremely shaken. What can restore my faith in what the conference is doing?" asked Marlene Wiebe at a May 1 meeting here with Mennonite Church Canada staff and General Board.

Restoring confidence is what MC Canada is seeking to do in discussions with constituent churches. At the May 1 meeting, MC Canada representatives met with its Manitoba constituency. Nearly every church from southern Manitoba was represented.

The evening meeting, held at the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, was an opportunity for MC Canada to explain recent budget and staffing cutbacks (see May 5, page 32), and for members to ask questions and express emotions.

In thoughtfully worded responses, church representatives expressed sadness and anger, particularly with the process.

"I felt a part of the the building up of the conference but not the taking down. We were not given an opportunity to realize the magnitude of what needed to happen," said Wiebe. Others also felt that churches were not apprised soon enough of the need for assistance nor given the opportunity for input into the decisions.

Several urged MC Canada to make time for discussion at the assembly this summer.

"I hope the assembly will throw open the discussion now that we have to rethink our vision," said Gordon Driedger, pastor at Altona Mennonite Church. "The sense of ownership and commitment by the constituent churches will be greater than if others tell us where we are going."

Driedger said his church raised over \$2,000 for MC Canada in response to recent events.

John P. Klassen, director of Leadership Ministries for MC Manitoba, noted MC Canada's action has had an impact on each of its partners.

"We are feeling it in powerful ways and have to begin dealing with it. I wish there could have been more discussion between partners as well."

Jack Suderman, MC Canada staff, responded, "We have acted with all our partnerships in a way I would have preferred not to. This wasn't the plan about how we would be partners." He acknowledged that even though church planting was understood as a regional responsibility to which the national church would lend its support, area conferences would be significantly affected by the cuts.

MC Canada had a similar dialogue in Winnipeg on May 8 at Sterling Mennonite Church and plans to visit other area conferences to continue the discussion.—**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**



**Board** From page 17

confidence in him as General Secretary of Mennonite Church Canada.”

### Subscription formula

Three hours of the meeting were given to conversations with the Executive of the Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service Board which publishes the *Canadian Mennonite*.

Canadian Mennonite derives 40 percent of its funding through advertising revenues and fundraising. Of the remaining 60 percent, half comes from MC Canada and the remaining half is shared by the five area conferences, pro-rated by membership figures in each conference.

All area conference moderators affirmed the value of *Canadian Mennonite* and the subscription support for all members wishing to receive the magazine. Three area conferences (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Saskatchewan, and Alberta) are committed to contributing their full share of the costs, according to the subscription support formula. Two (Mennonite Church British Columbia and Manitoba) are reviewing how they can best support the publication in the coming year.

Ron Rempel, editor/publisher, also reported on initiatives he is exploring to better involve the various ethnic groups in MC Canada.

Jake Harms, co-chair of the Canadian Mennonite University board, and other CMU representatives met with the General Board to discuss its funding cutback. They wondered whether the cutback reflects a changing relationship of CMU to MC Canada, whether the board would reconsider the cutback, and whether the lost funding might be re-instated in the future.

Moderator Henry Krause noted that the cuts to CMU, while significant, were less dramatic than reductions in some other program areas, highlighting the complete elimination of Christian Service Ministries. He spoke of the relationship between MC Canada and CMU as being “new,” in contrast to Harms’ language of “distancing.”

While no decisions about future funding were made, the CMU board

and the General Board agreed to continue to clarify the nature of CMU’s relationship to MC Canada and its implications for future funding.

### Other business

Andrew Reesor-McDowell (Ontario) was appointed member at large to the General Board and board representative to Mennonite World Conference. Clare Schlegel (Ontario) is nominated to take over from Bruno Friesen (Alberta) as treasurer and chair of the FPAC. John Wiebe (Manitoba) and Ingrid Peters Fransen (Manitoba) fill the remaining positions on FPAC.

Plans for St. Catharines 2003 were reviewed. Plans for a binational assembly in 2005 remain in discussion.

Board members spent some time reflecting on what they’ve heard from the MC Canada church family regard-

ing the cutbacks. People continue to ask “what happened” and “what are you doing to prevent this from happening again.” Staff reported that meetings are scheduled in several regions to address these questions on a more personal level, in addition to ongoing communication through *Canadian Mennonite* and other venues.

There are feelings of both lament and opportunity—lament over lost ministries and an opportunity to re-focus priorities. MC Canada continues to identify activities critical to a national church in partnership with area conferences, schools, binational bodies (Mennonite Publishing Network and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary), and other partners, such as MC USA/Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Central Committee.—MC Canada release by **Dan Dyck**

## General Board attends to relationships in wake of cuts

**R**ebuilding trust was a priority for Mennonite Church Canada General Board members as they met in Winnipeg nearly two months after drastic cutbacks in March.

Since taking those actions, the Board heard from staff, partners such as Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), constituency churches and individuals. In their April 24-26 meetings, board members listened carefully and shared encouragement as staff reported on the “very difficult” process of implementing changes.

“It has been very important to staff to receive affirmation from the board...knowing that you care,” said Pam Peters-Pries, executive director of Support Services.

Jack Suderman, executive director of Christian Witness, reported, “Our partnerships were greatly affected at many levels: at CMU, within congregations, among volunteers, Mennonite Mission Network, native communities and international partners. A common complaint was that the actions were ‘very unilateral’ and not a good way to be in partnership. There have been pretty strong responses to this with no easy answers.”

Board member Jeremy Bergen commented that it is important not to move on too quickly.

“We need to recognize the loss and address it. For example, to my age group—graduate students and young adults, many of whom are not too connected with the church—the Christian Service Ministry cut was very difficult. There was a sense that things in Canada were cut but not overseas. And there were some feelings of alienation because of this.”

One strong response came from a delegation of eight CMU board members and staff, led by Jake Harms. While they empathized with the painful financial decisions that had to be made, they were distressed not only over cuts “beyond our fair share,” and how the timing affected their own planning, but even more over what these decisions signal for the future.

Did they imply “a program shift in favour of other ministries?” asked Harms. Does the unilateral decision signal an “erosion of ownership” for CMU in the church-college partnership? This action raised concerns

**Continued on page 19**

**Fred Stoller (right) helps Yu Gwang Song and Ri Song Jo of North Korea help can meat for Mennonite Central Committee in Ohio last October. Ri and Yu were part of an agricultural delegation that travelled in the United States last fall, sponsored by MCC and the American Friends Service Committee. In March, MCC shipped 105 metric tons (132,744 cans) of beef, turkey and pork to North Korea. The shipment, valued at \$567,720, was to arrive in early May. The meat will go to orphanages and children's centres, as well as to pregnant and nursing mothers. The youngest generation has suffered most from North Korea's food shortages which peaked in the mid-1990s.—From MCC release**



MCC photo by Wendell Schlenger

**Relationship** *From page 18*

about how to maintain relationships with the church constituency and with MC Canada.

Harms asked for an explanation of how cuts had been made, expressed hope that funding might be reconsidered for the long term, and that clarification of the relationship be undertaken.

Henry Krause, moderator, promised to send documents related to the decision-making process and assured CMU that the board is committed to “fostering our relationship with you.”

He also acknowledged, “We made agonizing choices at Leadership Assembly about where to make the cuts.... We asked ourselves which partners could best carry the load.”

“None of the partners were present,” noted Ruth Friesen, chair of Formation Council. “All were treated equally.”

Another spoke of his regret that “we weren’t able to treat our partners with the respect they deserved” because the decisions had to be made in crisis.

“The change or shift in relationship which you spoke about is a concern for me as a pastor,” said Krause, noting the need for leadership training. “As the church we need CMU and CMU needs us.” However, he also acknowledged that “we are in a different place,” with the church college now an inter-Mennonite university.—**Leona Dueck Penner**

## CANADIAN Mennonite

### EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Canadian Mennonite is seeking an editor/publisher for its biweekly periodical based in Waterloo, Ontario.

Canadian Mennonite serves as a primary communication vehicle within Mennonite Church Canada and its five area conferences. Owned and operated by Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service, Canadian Mennonite works in a covenant relationship of trust with the church, seeking to provide fair and accurate information, faith profiles, inspirational articles, news, and analysis of issues facing the Mennonite church. Canadian Mennonite is guided by the church’s confession of faith and thereby seeks the welfare and vitality of the church with the practice of editorial freedom.

The editor/publisher is accountable to a representative board, guides and directs the magazine, provides a vision and strategy for growth, and generally has responsibility for the publication.

Applicants should be self-motivated and have: strong administrative, relational, communication and listening skills; publishing knowledge; a journalism degree or related experience; computer competence. The ideal candidate will be a member of a Mennonite church and have wider denominational knowledge.

Interested persons may direct inquiries and submit resumes by contacting the Search Committee by June 15:

Henry Neufeld, chair  
Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service  
Phone: 604-946-3961 E-mail: hneufeld@telus.net

Rosthern, Sask.

## Students experience life of refugees

Imagine being forced out of your home, separated from your family, your possessions stolen or destroyed, and not knowing if you can ever return.

For refugees around the world, these experiences are part of life. For 61 students at Rosthern Junior College, these experiences became part of a single day.

The “refugee experience” of April 2 were sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan and based on the program “In exile for a while.” The program simulates the refugee experience using young people as refugees and adult volunteers as military and camp personnel.

Glenna Regier, RJC’s spiritual life coordinator, wanted the students to gain a first-hand knowledge of what a refugee faces.

“I also hoped that they would be able to look at war and world conflict situations in a different way—to realize that such situations cause drastic changes and disruptions in many people’s lives,” she said.

The day began at 6:45 a.m. with the students each receiving a new identity. Kaylene Heinrichs, a grade 11 student, became a 12-year-old malnourished

girl, travelling alone as she had been separated from her mother and sisters.

“I think I was better off being a kid,” she said. “I didn’t get harassed as much as some of the other refugees.”

The group’s goal was to reach the safety of a refugee camp on the border of their country. Along the way they were ambushed by rebel bandits who forced them to the ground, yelled at them, roughed up some of them and searched their belongings, stealing or destroying the provisions they were carrying.

They travelled through a field filled with land mines, with a dynamite charge going off to simulate real mines. Once they reached the camp, they had to wait forever to register, always wary of what was going to happen. Many were faced with forms they could not read or staff who did not speak their language.

They had to wait even longer to eat, and were given only a small amount of rice and lentils, a portion which serves real refugees for a full day.



**Refugee Nathan Enns clutches his belongings and registration papers as he receives his meagre allowance of food.**

“I felt like I had no power; I felt helpless,” said Phillip Harder, a grade 11 student. “It’s like you have no rights at all and their main goal is to abuse you, to take everything away from you.”

Both Heinrichs and Harder agreed that you become very self-centred in the process.

“It’s selfish in a way,” said Harder, “but you learn instinctively to protect what’s yours.”

The simulation was hugely successful, said Elaine Harder, refugee program coordinator for MCC Saskatchewan.

“During the students’ debriefing, they reflected on how it feels to be hungry, to not feel safe, to feel violated and insecure. I believe it helped them to understand that the world is not always a safe place, that people are forced out of their homes, and that food is not always in abundance.”—

**Mavis Nystrom**



**Mackenzie Fast and Jeff Koenig register at the refugee camp.**



Winnipeg, Man.

## Congregations reach out to community children

The missional church seeks to be engaged “around the world and across the street.” Several Mennonite Church Manitoba congregations are involved “across the street” with children in after-school and neighbourhood programs.

Tanelle Wirzba, pastor of family ministries at Steinbach Mennonite Church, said that their after-school program, in addition to reaching out to children, opens the door to relationships with the parents.

“It allows us to have an idea of what is going on in the lives of these people—the things they are struggling with, marriage break-ups, lack of money.” Taking time to listen to parents has become an important component.

Wirzba directs “Play 2003,” the one-hour after-school program. On Tuesday, a bus brings about 20 students from an elementary school to the church gym for a healthy snack, crafts and hockey or other physical activities.

On Wednesday, the same bus brings children from another school. Important interaction often happens when the parents pick up the children.

Sterling Mennonite Fellowship in Winnipeg has run its “Tuesday After School Program” for eight years.

“Ninety to ninety-five percent of the children who come don’t attend church anywhere,” said Terry Dueck, associate pastor and director of the program. “This is an opportunity for them to hear about God’s love.” The first half hour is street hockey, floor hockey, or crafts, followed by a guest speaker, puppet plays or an object lesson and snack.

Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg has a “Neighbourhood Club” on Tuesday evenings and “The Homework Room” two days a week. The Homework Room is run out of the neighbourhood elementary school where about 12 volunteers from the church tutor grades 3-6 students. Loni Bender, associate pastor, directs the programs.

The Neighbourhood Club gives opportunity for kids in this low-income, ethnically-mixed neighbourhood to play floor hockey or participate in drama, arts and crafts, or a service project. This year they were faced with a growing number of senior high students.

“We need to become more intentional in providing an alternative component for this age group next year,” said Bender. This year they worked on a debate on peace and war.

The children’s enthusiasm, the appreciation of parents and the



Photo by Terry Dueck

**Neighbourhood children enjoy the After School Program hosted by Sterling Mennonite Fellowship in Winnipeg.**

community, as well as the faithful volunteers and cookie-bakers indicate that these programs will continue.

Among the highlights are the children’s prayer requests at snack time at Steinbach Mennonite. “It’s amazing what they come up with,” said Wirzba.

Recently the students at Bethel’s Neighbourhood Club wrote a drama and presented it at a morning worship service.

“This was a highlight for me,” said Bender. “These are not the kind of kids who come to church, so it was especially moving to see one of the toughest girls singing ‘God is a good God.’”

The students also raised funds with a pancake lunch after church. They have raised \$6,200 to send 35 children to camp this summer.

“Last year we sent 24 to camp. We plan to have a good follow-up program,” said Bender.

Sterling’s wind-up in June brings out 80 to 100 people, said Dueck. The program connects with families that wouldn’t otherwise come to church and exposes the children to Bible stories. This past year they talked about Christianity with an inquiring Muslim mother.

“For some parents it has been huge for them to even walk through the church door,” said Wirzba.—**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**

### Global studies acclaimed

**Harrisonburg, Va.**—A recent report by the Association of International Educators features Eastern Mennonite University’s commitment to global education. The “Internationalizing the campus” report highlights six U.S. schools that integrate international studies with campus life. EMU made cross-cultural study a graduation requirement in 1982 and was recently ranked sixth in the U.S. for the percentage of students (67 percent) that participates in off-campus study programs. EMU offers semester-long cross-cultural seminars as part of its “Global village” curriculum. This spring, students travelled to Austria and Central America.—From EMU release

Leamington, Ont.

## Martens portrays grim picture in Hebron

**O**n March 30, a large group gathered at North Leamington United Mennonite Church to hear member Barbara Martens speak about her recent three-week assignment in Hebron. Martens is a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT).

Since 1995, CPT has maintained a presence in Hebron, standing with Palestinian residents and Israeli peace groups in nonviolent opposition to Israeli military occupation—bombings, home demolitions, land confiscation and violations of peace agreements.

These terms became real to us as we watched Martens' slides and listened to her description of the scenes she witnessed. We saw through her eyes the everyday plight of the Palestinians in Hebron.

We learned that in spite of the large Palestinian population in the city, (130,000 compared to 400 Jewish settlers), nearly 3,000 Palestinian homes have been destroyed and at least that many shops closed since 2000.

In this crippled city, residents travel fearfully down nearly deserted streets, past piles of rubble. Often they are faced with roadblocks.

One of the principal tasks of the CPT members is to accompany children to school. Children sometimes travel along the flat rooftops, leaping from one building to another to meet at a central apartment. Many times the children are challenged by Israeli soldiers or tanks and end up being sent home. Sometimes the schools are inaccessible because a main thoroughfare has been designated for Israeli use only.

A sign in the CPT apartment says: "The children of Palestine are stronger than the occupation."

Many productive olive groves and vineyards in the West Bank have been destroyed. Bulldozers have demolished homes, and 80 earth dams guarded by armed forces block the roads. Only Israelis may use the bypass roads. The destruction is devastating for Palestinian families, some of whom have cultivated the same land for 800 years. Demolition is often explained as



**Martens**

punishment for uprising. There is no court of appeal.

Curfew is in effect most of the time. Martens saw only two full days when people were able to move freely, with soldiers checking IDs. While a curfew is in effect, residents cannot worship,

visit, leave their homes to buy food, or go to work—consequently unemployment among men in Hebron stands at 70 percent. Those who have broken curfew have been beaten and their IDs taken away.

In summing up this bleak situation, Barbara shared three hopeful observations: 1) Some of the Israeli soldiers are unhappy with their role; at least 1,000 of them have refused to serve in the occupied areas.

2) Israeli women protesters in Jerusalem known as "Women in Black" are openly demanding an end to the siege, along with other Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations. 3) The hope and courage seen in the eyes of the Hebron children inspire adults to continue to work for an end to the occupation.—**Hilda Enns**

Winnipeg, Man.

## Mandarin ministry receives grants

**T**oronto Chinese Mennonite Church will hire a pastor for its new Mandarin ministry with grants of \$25,000 from Mennonite Church Canada's Churches Planting Churches (formerly City on a Hill) and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. The MC Canada funding was part of last year's budget.

Jameson Sung, pastor of the church, says in recent years Canada has seen an influx of Mandarin immigrants from mainland China.

"A lot of them settle in our community, and as immigrants they look for various kinds of help," he said. The Toronto Chinese church has helped these immigrants find such things as lodging, employment and furniture. The current church members are Cantonese people from Hong Kong with an entirely different background.

This new reality prompted the church to set up a Mandarin ministry.

"We are very excited," said Sung. "We have a mentoring gathering of 100-120 every two weeks." About 20 attend a

Mandarin worship service and Sunday school.

"We try to build a ministry that's solely for their own language—we are not trying to integrate them. It's a wide gap culturally between the two groups." Bible study and Sunday worship began in January 2002, discipleship classes in February 2003. A children's ministry is planned to begin in May, and a youth ministry next January.

"So far we have enough budget to support the ministries," said Sung, "but to hire a pastor is a big chunk of money." With \$5,000 from MC Eastern Canada and \$20,000 from MC Canada, the church will be able to hire a pastor to help the Mandarin ministry grow into a self-supporting congregation.

The Toronto Chinese church, itself only a few years old, is now a thriving congregation with a strong missional vision to become "a meeting place of the community, and not just the Chinese community."—MC Canada release by

**Daniel Rempel**

Waterloo, Ont.

## Grebel graduates encouraged to use their gifts

**O**ver 60 undergraduates and 3 Master of Theological Studies (MTS) students at Conrad Grebel University College received recognition at the college's 23rd convocation ceremony on April 13. While Bachelors degrees are conferred by the University of Waterloo, the MTS degree is granted by Grebel.

Carol Ann Weaver, music professor, gave the convocation address, entitled "Active listening—soundings from Samuel, Mary, Africa and home." She wove together traditions of listening and healing from the Bible, South Africa and Amish-Mennonite culture. She encouraged students to listen for the spirit and allow it to move through them as they are called to be healers and leaders.

Jana Schmidt was chosen by her fellow graduates as valedictorian.

"Now that you have an education, what are you going to do with it?" she asked. Schmidt's call for students to



**Norma Lelless (left), Joél Schmidt, and Susan Allison-Jones celebrate graduation from the Master of Theological Studies program at Conrad Grebel University College.**

use the gifts they have been given was echoed by others throughout the convocation service.

Graduating with MTS Degrees were Susan Allison-Jones, Norma Lelless, and Joél Schmidt. Allison-Jones will be working in Botswana with Mennonite

Church Canada Witness, while Schmidt will continue as pastor at First Mennonite Church in Kitchener, Ontario.

Lelless, who is a hospital chaplain, remarked that she will "never take another course" after almost 50 years of going to school. Schmidt, speaking on behalf of the MTS graduates, continued the theme of accountability. He observed that perhaps we don't need to build the kingdom, but rather be ready to receive the kingdom.

In the winter semester, the college taught 1,200 University of Waterloo students in 41 courses. In addition, 40 students were enrolled in graduate theological studies at the college.—  
From Grebel release

“**A**MBS is a place to understand more about Scripture and more about yourself. It is a place to really come to grips with what you believe and, more importantly, why you believe.”

— David Elkins, student from Springfield, Ohio, in the Master of Divinity program

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Steinbach, Man.

## Librarian has collected valuable resources

**E**lizabeth Abrahams is involved in a ministry that spans the ages and needs of many in her church. For 27 years she has built up a resource in her church for children, Sunday school teachers, parents, care groups, pastors, and those simply seeking a good book to read.

When she became the first elected librarian in Steinbach Mennonite Church in 1975, the library consisted of a small bookcase. Today the library has a place of prominence off the foyer and is home to over 5,000 books.

"There is a real feeling of ownership," said Abrahams, who retired from teaching in 1992. "I still think I have a few years to go in this position but I need to learn to step back and allow others to step in."

She continues to enjoy the work. Her responsibilities include choosing and purchasing books, making a pocket, card and spine label for each new book, and entering it in the access book, the computer and onto a shelf list. She keeps the library neat and repairs books.

She also assists readers who are looking for Bible study helps or working on specific topics, and takes care of overdue books.

"One of my favourite things is proofreading," said Abrahams who reads each new book. "I try to be very open to what others want when selecting books."

The most popular books are fiction. Pastors, Sunday school teachers, parents and care groups also look to the library for study helps, devotional material and books on specific topics. Abrahams has noticed that books on issues are becoming increasingly sought after. She is delighted that even Bible college students will come to the library for resources.

One of Abrahams' greatest joys and challenges is "serving the little people," the preschoolers and primary school children who use the library. The down side of this is keeping the books and videos in good repair.

"Repairing is my least favourite



Abrahams helps an eager reader.

thing to do," she said.

Abrahams has noticed an increase in the use of videos, particularly among children. She is concerned that it is taking the place of reading.

Another challenge is dealing with space limitations which means deciding which books need to be removed in order to make room for new books.

"The fact that I love reading makes this work so enjoyable," said Abrahams. "It's one area I feel I can serve the church." —**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**

Calgary, Alta.

## Good Christian literature important

**I** think it might be eight years now—wait—has it really been that long?"

Brenda Tiessen-Wiens laughed as she tried to recall how long she has served as librarian at Foothills Mennonite Church here.

"I like books and enjoy reading, so part of why I do this is for my own interest. I also think it is very important to have good Christian literature available."

The job of church librarian involves a significant amount of behind-the-scenes work. Tasks range from purchasing and cataloguing resources, working within challenging budgets, informing people of what is available, setting up book

tables at congregational events, sorting through donated materials, and making the library appealing.

Librarians work to keep up with current resources and to understand the needs and interests of their congregations. Congregational events and worship themes often provide obvious, but easily overlooked, opportunities to showcase library materials.

"The job is as small or large as what the librarian has time for," Tiessen-Wiens noted. "There's about 20 minutes of shelving work to do every Sunday. About two or three times a year... I put in a significant amount of time, probably 10-16 hours."

A special bonus for Tiessen-Wiens has been the opportunity to share the work with Janelle Dueck, a teenager she

connected with through the congregation's mentorship program.

"Janelle started helping me when she was in junior high. She's been the assistant librarian. We go shopping for books together and Janelle knows how the library works."

When asked what she likes about the work, Janelle, currently in grade 11, said, "I enjoy shopping and I like books."

The library work has provided significant satisfaction for Tiessen-Wiens.

"Children are the big readers," she said. "I like to talk with them in the library and encourage them.... Our library has some great books that children and parents or grandparents can enjoy together."

It's also been satisfying to see visitors browse through the books and occasionally sign things out.

"Foothills actually has quite a generous book budget; we've got some very good resources," she said, noting specifically the Believers Church Bible Commentary series as an excellent, highly readable resource reflecting an Anabaptist heritage.

"People likely wouldn't purchase these on their own, and this way they can still have access to them."

The Foothills library is located in an upstairs room, which provides a challenge in promoting material. —**Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**



*Practical  
ministry  
portraits*

Kitchener, Ont.

## Women's speaker redefines hospitality

Is the art of hospitality at risk in our fast-paced, complex lives? What can we learn from Jesus about showing and receiving hospitality?

These questions were discussed at the Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (WMCEC) enrichment day on April 26 at the Kitchener Mennonite Brethren Church.

Wanda Roth Amstutz, co-pastor at Grace Mennonite Church in St.

Catharines, gave presentations on the theme, "Hospitality Jesus style." The Ontario native returned in 2001 after several years of ministry with her husband, Doug, in Scottdale, Pennsylvania.

Roth Amstutz grew up in a small congregation where she knew everybody's name and everybody knew hers. Sharing Sunday dinner in someone's home was common, but things have changed, and we risk losing the gift of

hospitality, she noted.

"We need to rethink our definition of hospitality," she said. "Jesus was seldom a host in [our] traditional style. He didn't have a place for hosting." Jesus offered welcome, safety, non-judgmental space, and dared to include people on the edge, she observed.

Playing the role of Mary who poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet, Roth Amstutz demonstrated how Jesus received hospitality in a "stunning event." He sacrificed control, accepted vulnerability and risked misunderstanding.

"Hospitality is a state of being, an attitude, rather than a role," she said. Jesus' style of hospitality had "a transforming effect" on those who received it or offered it to him. In extending hospitality, we too take risks but we also can experience strengthened relationships.

Both sessions gave participants the opportunity to respond in small groups. The afternoon program concluded with a communion service.

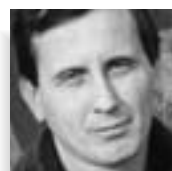
In business sessions, Anna Mary Brubacher from Leamington, WMCEC coordinator, announced that the 2002 budget was met. A \$3,000 gift to Umtata, a South African women's organization, will help send a delegate to a women's theology conference in conjunction with the Mennonite World Conference assembly.

Re-appointed were treasurer Susan Berg of St. Catharines and program coordinator Esther Snider of Atwood.

Brubacher invited inquiries regarding Canadian Women in Mission funds available to women seminary students and announced that proceeds from Campbell soup labels would go to Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and United Mennonite Educational Institute.

Reports from 35 groups with a total of 541 members indicated that women continue to care for the needy around the world. Among the many items they made were more than 1,200 comforters and quilts, and 857 health and school kits for Mennonite Central Committee.

The WMCEC fall workshop will be held on October 18 at North Leamington Mennonite Church.—**Ferne Burkhardt**



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Saskatoon, Sask.

## Trip to Belize encourages self-examination

**T**wenty people from Cornerstone Church Mennonite said good-bye to the cold weather for 13 days in February. Our destination was Belize and our goal was to spread love and encouragement to the people there. Our team agreed that we received far more than we gave.

We flew into Cancun, Mexico, and climbed onto a rickety old school bus for the 10-hour drive. We were greeted in Belize by tarantulas and scorpions and unimaginable humidity. Belize is a very beautiful country, with lush jungle, but it doesn't hold a candle to the generosity of its people.

We were overwhelmed by how welcoming everyone was. People who have nothing by North American standards hold their belongings with open hands. People with the bare minimum gladly share with those who need it more. It challenged each of us to evaluate our lives, to question why we have been so blessed. Could it be that God has given us much because he expects us to do much with it?

The majority of our time was spent with children. At schools we led chapels, made balloon animals, and

helped in classrooms. On Sundays we taught Sunday school. The culture in Belize is different from ours, but it was refreshing to remember that we all worship the same God, sing the same songs and read the same Bible. Although we may look different, we are brothers and sisters.

We also spent one day at an orphanage called King's Children's Home. One woman runs the home of sixty children. It was a hard day, but the most rewarding for many of us. The faces of those children will stay with us.

Our trip to Belize impacted us deeply. God opened our eyes to a world very different from ours, and to a



**The Cornerstone youth group who travelled to Belize. Front row, from left: Alana Jansen, Jenna Regehr, Kirsten Pereluk, Allie Siemens, Carissa Friesen, Vivian Zacharias, Dale Regehr, Tanya Lemke, Jana Friesen. Back row: Ashley Neufeld, Sheelah Janzen, Kristin Ann Clark, Kristan Baran, David Peters, Tim Derksen, Debbie Regehr, Priscilla Reid, Russ Reid, Maegan Reid, Mitchell Janzen.**

people who love and depend on God in a way that challenged us. We are all grateful for the opportunity.—From a report by **Kristin Clark**

Coaldale, Alta.

## Coaldale church honours Janzen

**O**n the first Sunday in April, Coaldale Mennonite Church honoured Peter and Margaret Janzen for 25 years of dedicated service.



**Members of the Janzen family helped Peter and Margaret celebrate 25 years of lay ministry. From left: Sandra, Henry, Margaret, Bethany, Peter, Rebecca and Ernest.**

The auditorium was beautifully decorated in a spring motif, featuring tulips and pussy willows.

The motto for the occasion was, "The Lord bless and keep you." Musical and other tributes honoured the couple. The choir's rendition of "Master the tempest is raging" evoked childhood memories of suffering and turmoil in the Soviet Union.

Peter dedicated his life to the Lord during the war. He felt it was by the grace of God that his life was spared and this gratitude created

an intense desire to serve God. He was ordained as a lay minister on January 29, 1978.

For 10 years, he taught in the Saturday German school which ran from November to March. He also taught Sunday school to the same students and has been involved in teaching classes for 40 years. In addition, he has been active in choir work.

Peter speaks frequently in the German service and serves as guest speaker in surrounding congregations. Together with Margaret, he visits the sick, and elderly. They are also involved with recent arrivals from Mexico. They welcome newcomers to the church often extending an invitation for coffee or a delicious meal.

Peter and Margaret have four children: Ernest and Henry of Coaldale, Werner of Dawson Creek, and Helen Enns of Winnipeg.—**Olga Epp**



Saskatoon, Sask.

## Saskatchewan women celebrate 60 years

This year's Enrichment Day of Saskatchewan Women in Mission, held April 12 at First Mennonite Church here, included 60th anniversary celebrations of the organization. Interest was high, indicated by the approximately 200 women in attendance.

Esther Patkau, out-going president, led the business session in the morning. The afternoon was devoted to the anniversary celebration, guided by Tina Williams, in-coming president.

The Magdalena Ladies Aid of Hanley set the stage with a skit—both hilarious and sobering—on the past, present and future of women's mission groups. The Cornerstone Willing Helpers led the memorial service.

A panel, including Agnes Ewert, Eileen Ewert and Jenny Bartsch, spoke about their involvement. Agnes, still an active member at age 96, inspired us with her enthusiasm and love for missions and service.



Photo by Sandra Krantz

**Esther Patkau (left) passes the leadership of Saskatchewan Women in Mission to Tina Williams.**

Naomi Unger, recently returned from a Mennonite Central Committee assignment in Africa, spoke on the topic, "She has done a good thing." She cited the poor widow in the temple who gave her "all" and the woman who anointed Jesus with perfume, both nameless, as women whom Jesus praised for their devotion, love, sacrificial giving and service.

Esther Patkau presented a history of Saskatchewan Women in Mission. The first group organized in Rosthern in 1907. At the Canadian Conference in Langham in 1943, the women met separately to form a women's conference.

Marie Bartel, Justina Epp and Anna Willms formed the first executive. The first conference was held October 17, 1943 at First Mennonite Church in Saskatoon: 14 women's groups were represented by 73 delegates. The theme was "service" and half the offering (\$28.52) was given to wartime relief in England and half to foreign missions.

Since then, more than 80 women's groups have been organized across the province for the purpose of service. The women have supported MCC relief projects by sewing blankets, quilts and layettes, making homemade soap, and volunteering in thrift stores. They have supported missionaries. (In 1973, of the 66 Canadian missionaries serving overseas, 44 were women.)

Over the 60 years, the pattern of service has changed, but the motive to serve continues. Formerly poor in material goods and finances, the women had a vision to dedicate their skills and abilities to the Lord, and that vision continues.—**Helen Kornelson**



**Anna, from Cameroon, is one of the artisans visited by a Ten Thousand Villages tour group which travelled to Niger, Burkina Faso and Cameroon in February. Participants learned about the processes used to create products such as baskets, musical instruments, jewelry and textiles. Ten Thousand Villages is a fair trade organization which provides income for artisans in more than 30 countries. Items are sold in more than 150 stores across North America. In March, another tour visited artisans in India and Nepal.—From Ten Thousand Villages release**

Elkhart, Ind.

## Seminary lectures wrestle with hate

**A**s Christians we prefer to think about the power of love. However, David Augsburger wants us to consider the redemptive, transformative potential of hate.

Augsburger urged listeners at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Theological Lectureship series in February to "break the silence" by exploring different forms of hate.

"We've got to talk about the nature of hate...not to seek to repress it more and have it come back to join us again in new and terrifying ways, but to call it to the surface where it can be seen and known," Augsburger said.

He based the lectures, titled "The pain and pleasure of hate: From antipathy to empathy," on a book he is writing in which he will discuss different types of hatred. Augsburger is a professor of pastoral care and counselling at Fuller Theological

Seminary in Pasadena, California, and has authored 20 books.

Augsburger focused on the "transforming moment" when empathy and compassion break through and a person becomes able to separate the act from the perpetrator, moving from a subjective to an objective vision of the hated other. He said that genuine healing could begin to happen when a person enters the perspective of another and realizes that "that human there is this human here."

Acknowledging the difficulty of finding language to talk about hate, Augsburger also examined the link between hatred and justice. He invited his listeners to consider the concept of "just hatred," a term he defined as "hatred for deliberate injustice, intentional



**Augsburger**

violence or violation of people."

"We have to hate cleanly in order to love clearly," he said, suggesting that objective hate can serve a productive role in our relationships to each other and to God. He used Psalm 139 to illustrate the Psalmist's just hatred, passion for justice and surrender of his "shadow side" to God.

"Perhaps in reading the Psalms we come close to loving God with all our heart—scary as the dark side of it is; all our soul—puzzling as the shadow side is; all our strength—some of which is strength of rage as well as strength of affection; and with all our mind."

Several respondents raised concerns that the term "just hate" resembled too closely "just war," and suggested alternatives such as "transformative passion" and "just rage."

Daniel Schipani, AMBS professor of pastoral care and counselling, said that Augsburger brought his listeners to a better understanding of the multifaceted character of hatred by reframing the discussion of it.

"He also deepened our understanding of the dynamics of transformation that make empathy, compassion and forgiveness possible," Schipani said.—From AMBS release by **Annette Brill**

**Petty**

Francistown, Botswana

## Youth in Botswana help peers avoid AIDS

**C**hristian youth in this city have created a place for peers to get accurate information about AIDS and avoid risky behaviour. Botswana's infection rate is the highest in the world—nearly 39 percent of the population has HIV/AIDS.

The centre began as a dream of an interchurch youth group called *Bopaganang Basha* "Youth building up together." Participants, from age 15 to 25, say that local youth are facing a critical time. Unemployment, failure to continue in school and boredom are factors that cause many youth to become discouraged and get involved in unhealthy behaviour, such as drug abuse and sexual promiscuity.

Bopaganang Basha Youth Resource Center opened its doors last September. The centre is supported by Mennonite Central Committee and government departments within Botswana.

"This is a good place," said Moemedi Serumola, 21, who visits the centre

regularly. "I am currently unemployed, and it occupies my time so that I don't go around getting into trouble."

Four full-time young adults run the centre. They receive a monthly stipend through the MCC Generations at Risk fund for AIDS programs. The centre's goal is to see the rate of new HIV infections among youth in their city drop over the next two years.

Youth who visit the centre find all sorts of activities: chess and board games, cards, volleyball. Posters and pamphlets provide information about AIDS, teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted illnesses. Reading materials from a Christian perspective challenge youth to take responsibility for their lives, make wise choices and resist peer pressure. Visitors can also watch educational videos. Peer counselors are available to talk about problems.

Through MCC and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, two staff will receive training, one a year-long course in AIDS counselling and management, and one in computer training.—AIMM release by

**Tim Bertsche**

Rose Bay, Nova Scotia

## Volunteer represents God's presence in court room

**V**erena Hoffman keeps a lot of "stuff" in her car because she doesn't always know where the Holy Spirit will lead.

Since her immigration to Canada from Switzerland in 1985 and retirement from teaching in 1992, Hoffman has been the caretaker of a ranch in northern British Columbia, a caregiver to the mother-in-law of a pastor in California, and the manager of a restaurant in Ireland.

This past winter, she spent two months working at New Hope House near Atlanta, Georgia, with Service Opportunities for Older People (SOOP), a joint program of Mennonite Central Committee Canada, Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Association of Retired Persons.

Hoffman heard about SOOP in 1999 through friends and wrote MCC. The information sat in her car for nearly three years before she filled out the application form.

"I was filled with a deep joy and that's when you know it's the right thing."

Within a few weeks, Hoffman was on her way. New Hope House provides lodging, along with social and spiritual support, for families of inmates on death row. Volunteers maintain the facilities or attend trials.

Hoffman chose to spend her time in the courtroom where she witnessed the trials of two young men. The first was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole, the second to death row.

"I think it is a terrible thing to cage and confine any of God's creatures, especially people," says Hoffman. "How is it possible that we can kill each other?" She compares her emotion to a ton of bricks suffocating her spirit, which is why she fled to the outdoors.

"There in the sun, in the fresh air, I asked God what he wanted me to do. The answer was clear: light. So I went back and settled myself behind the defendant for the rest of the trial, calling on God-Christ and his word. [I was] willing to be his channel."

When the verdicts were read,



Hoffman

Hoffman says her world stood still. But in the following days, it dawned on her that God's ways are not our ways.

"God's working cannot be comprehended and measured by any human mind," she says.

Hoffman is now back in her winter home in Rose Bay, Nova Scotia. She knows her presence in the courtroom didn't change the verdict of the jury, but that doesn't mean her efforts were in vain.

"I don't think we should always expect direct results.... I don't know what goes on in the hearts of other people, but there's not the slightest doubt in my mind that God's presence was in that courtroom."—MCC Canada release

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Cambridge, Ont.

## Fairview Home celebrates 60 years

**D**uring the worship service to mark the 60th anniversary of Fairview Mennonite Home here on April 27, the white-haired worship leader caught people's attention when he mentioned that he had danced on the Fairview stage!

This was just one item in the interesting story of the home, related by Tim Kennel, current executive director. In 1994, the long-term development project at Fairview was approved by the provincial government, but an election the following year brought in a government that rescinded that commitment. The board increased its efforts and the project

came under a new program that included the federal government.

Kennel told the local member of parliament that he would dance for joy if the project was approved. The two of them eventually danced a polka when the project was completed in 1999.

Kennel, who began working at the home in 1983, portrayed a journey filled with hills and valleys. In 1905, Mennonites envisioned a home for seniors and formed a committee. The committee studied the project and then disbanded. Later another committee formed and also disbanded. The vision flickered but never died out.

In 1943, the Braeside Lodge was officially opened and the vision became a reality. In 1956, a new home and the first of the cottages were built on Langs Drive, while 1978 saw the opening of the Fairview apartment building and the Elderly Persons' Centre.

Forty additional units were added with the purchase of the Preston

School apartments in 1981. The Fairview Court building, across the road from Preston Mennonite Church, added 28 units for independent living in 1999.

In her meditation, Fairview pastor Audrey Mierau Bechtel referred to the "heroes who did not quit when times were difficult" listed in Hebrews. She invited people to follow their example by persevering and keeping their eyes fixed on God.

Kennel paid tribute to "the awe-inspiring commitment" of the people who have made Fairview home what it is. He assured us that celebrations of this kind will continue as "we look forward to other new beginnings, new ground breaking services, and many more anniversaries where we can celebrate our rich legacy of care." One such celebration is a barbecue on June 21.

The Fairview Choir of over 30 voices, under the direction of Janice Snider, and accompanied on the piano by Carolyn Snider, greatly enriched the worship. About 175 people attended the service.—**Bertha Landers**

Waterloo, Ont.

## Credit union reports growth

In 2002, the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union grew by 3 percent to 13,915 members, and assets reached \$373.7 million, a growth of 13.3 percent.

These were some of the financial highlights presented at the 39th annual meeting, held at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church on March 25. More than 250 members of the MSCU attended the meeting.

Barb Smith-Morrison, pastor of the church, opened with a meditation based on Paul's challenge to the Corinthians to press on to the goal. Kaye Rempel, MSCU board chair, led the meeting.

Total assets reached \$428.6 million last year. The net loan growth was \$37.1 million while the net investment growth was \$41.6 million. Members welcomed Brenda Schultz and Bob Janzen to the board of directors and re-elected Brent Zorgdrager and Ernie Regehr. Laverne Martin was re-elected to the credit committee.—From MSCU release

Prince Albert, Sask.

## The party on the rock

**O**ne day this winter, in a ravine among scrubby trees, we partied. We partied on top of a huge boulder, large enough for seven husky men and a fire to roast wieners.

Two of the men, Raymond and Don, were released offenders, living in the community. Two others, Jason and Mike, were incarcerated offenders on day parole with special permission to be out with an escort. The other three were from Grace Mennonite Church here.

Jason and Mike had never been on snowmobiles, and after brief instructions they were off. We had to turn Mike upright and help Jason over a small hump where he had become stuck, but then off we roared on a flock of machines to find the rock.

Once there, Mike offered fire-building skills, Raymond handed out cigarettes to the smokers, Jason passed around drinks. Don brought bannock, baked that morning. We

joked and laughed and ate. Then someone suggested singing, and soon we were engaged in a three-part round of "Fire is burning."

A few hours later, back to the yard. By this time, the two novice snowmobilers realized that their machines were the oldest and slowest. Could they try faster ones? With considerable trepidation, permission was granted and off they raced, returning wide-eyed with excitement. Mike told of not being able to catch his breath because of the wind pressure. Over coffee around the kitchen table, the stories grew larger.

"...and the wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. They will neither harm nor destroy on my holy mountain."—**Ed Olfert**

*The writer is pastor of Grace Mennonite Church in Prince Albert. The parties on the rock are organized by volunteers with Person to Person, a prison ministry. Some volunteers relate to released or paroled offenders with activities such as ice fishing, camping trips and work with Mennonite Disaster Service.*

Rosthern, Sask.

## Thrift store honours 90-year-old volunteer

**V**olunteers are invaluable to the Rosthern Clothes Basket, a Mennonite Central Committee thrift store.

"We depend on them completely," says manager Judy Guigon, one of only two paid staff. Guigon estimates that approximately 100 people volunteer at the Clothes Basket.

One of those volunteers was honoured with a tea on February 6 to celebrate her 90th birthday. Paula Dyck was joined by over 60 people who wished her well and thanked her for her years of service.

Dyck began her volunteer career in 1981 when she and her husband, John R. Dyck, returned from MCC service in Jordan. At the request of Melita Hildebrandt, the manager at the time,

Paula started sewing doll clothes.

Over the years she has sewn aprons, pot holders, oven mitts, girls' sundresses and shopping bags. Often the items leave the shelves faster than

Paula can sew them! She is pleased now to have Kay Friesen and Liesbeth Neufeldt assist her.

As well as her sewing projects at home, Dyck served in the store as a pricer for many years. She ended this activity last September, believing that she was "wise enough to know when it's time to quit."

Luckily for the Clothes Basket, it is not yet time to quit

the at-home projects. Dyck is often at her sewing machine all day.

"This work fulfils me," she says. "It helps me to feel like I'm making a contribution." And so she is.—**Mavis Nystrom**



**Paula Dyck at her sewing machine, making items to be sold at the local thrift store.**

Abbotsford, B.C.

## B.C. churches join to celebrate Holy Week

**C**hurches in Vancouver and the Fraser Valley joined to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in services that combined the talents of several congregations.

In Vancouver, members from Sherbrooke Mennonite, First United Mennonite, Culloden Mennonite Brethren and Vancouver MB Church prepared a musical entitled "He's Alive." It was presented at John Oliver Secondary School, free of charge on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Hundreds of people made up the choir, children's choir, orchestra and drama group, all directed by Fredd Ekkert from Vancouver MB Church.

Preparation for the event began far in advance, with each church preparing thousands of fliers to hand-deliver to their communities. The churches covered the cost of the event and provided Bibles for anyone who wanted one to take home after the event. Hosts were also available to talk to people and everyone was invited to attend services at the churches. Both evenings were very well attended.

In Abbotsford, a joint service was held on Good Friday at Emmanuel Mennonite Church. Readings, prayers, drama and a string ensemble made up the service. Leadership was given by members from several congregations.

The drama was an original production written by Alayne Cheny who attends Emmanuel. The drama focused on the reaction of Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and the Roman soldier to the crucifixion of Jesus.

The string ensemble, under the leadership of Barb Nickel, provided a moving mix of classical music and spirituals before the worship and accompanied the worship team during the service. The offering was designated to the Evangelism and Church Development Committee for church planting projects.—**Angelika Dawson**

**Waters Mennonite Church's request for relief kits for Iraq brought a surprising response from the Sudbury, Ontario, region. Word spread quickly through a multi-faith e-mail newsletter and a new church sign. More publicity came through a radio interview and articles in two local newspapers. Boxes arrived from Baptist, United and Catholic churches, women's institutes and many individuals. David Nicol, the pastor, delivered 50 relief kits to the Mennonite Central Committee office in Kitchener recently. Kits are still arriving and donations of over \$650 have been passed on to MCC.—From church release**





## People & Events

**Kitchener, Ont.**—The Kitchener-Waterloo Mennonite Slo-Pitch League now offers a web site ([www.geocities.com/mennoniteslopitch/](http://www.geocities.com/mennoniteslopitch/)) where the schedules, latest scores and league standings are available. Also accessible are league contact information, rules and team pictures. Mark Griffioen of the Erb St. Mennonite Church team coordinates the web site. John Enns is the league convener.—From Slo-pitch league release

## School notes

### EMU commencement

**Harrisonburg, Va.**—Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) celebrated its 85th commencement on April 27 with a record class of 400 students receiving degrees. Presiding was Joseph L. Lapp, who is completing a 16-year tenure as president. In his commencement address, Albert N. Keim helped to celebrate the 30th anniversary of EMU's "global village" program in which students study and travel in another culture. A number of students wore green ribbons signifying their graduation pledge to a lifestyle that promotes social and environmental integrity. Ten graduates wore blue and gold "Cords of Distinction" awarded for their positive influence on EMU and its

**President-elect Loren Swartzendruber (left) and outgoing president Joseph Lapp assist Swartzendruber's daughter, Angela, with her cap prior to commencement at EMU.**



community.—From EMU release

### Peace contest winner

**Waterloo, Ont.**—The annual C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest attracted several excellent speeches at Conrad Grebel University College on April 14. First place was awarded to Emily Schaming who spoke on violence in the media, opening with the line, "I cheered when they shot him. What's the big deal?" Schaming, who is graduating with a major in Religious Studies and an option in Peace and Conflict Studies, is currently youth worker at Preston Mennonite Church. Charlotte Jacklein placed second with her speech on language and war/peace. Third place went to Sandra Dyck who spoke on peacemaking today. The winner goes on to compete binationally. The contest is for students enrolled at Mennonite and Brethren in Christ colleges.—From Grebel release

### Courses at CMU

**Winnipeg, Man.**—Canadian Mennonite University is offering two courses for church leaders this spring. "Pastoral care and counselling of youth" will be taught by Roland D. Martinson from May 26-30. This course can be taken for university or seminary credit.



**Four generations of the Enns family celebrated the birth of Liam Jacob Enns in Ontario at Eastertime. From left is Jacob Enns of Vineland, Robert Enns of Waterloo, and Edward Enns of Burlington. Liam was born on March 29.**

June 6-13 is a seminary course on "War and peace in the Bible," taught by Willard Swartley of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. For details, see the CMU web site ([www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca)) or contact John J. Friesen at (204) 487-3300.—From CMU release

### Leichty to Goshen College

**Goshen, Ind.**—Joseph Leichty, scholar and peace worker in Ireland for 23 years, has been named Goshen College

Plowshares associate professor of peace, justice and conflict studies. This is a five-year position funded by the Lilly

Plowshares Collaboration Grant. He begins in July. Leichty is currently graduate program coordinator and lecturer in Reconciliation Studies at Trinity College's campus in Belfast. He has written extensively on sectarianism and Irish history. He is an associate with Mennonite Mission Network. "It feels like a time when there are new possibilities in relation to peace studies and it



**Leichty**

will be exciting to be part of that," Leichty said.—From Goshen release

## Transitions

### Births

**Adrian**—to Sheila (Kehler) and Edwin, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Kristin Alicia Joy, April 13.

**Derksen-Hiebert**—to Loral and Chris, Waterloo North Mennonite, Ont., a son, Stefan Milagro, March 31.

**Dueck**—to Viv and Rich, Rosenfeld Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Alyssa Rae, April 4.

**Erb**—to Lisa and Rod, Maple View Mennonite, Wellesley, Ont., a daughter, Emma Catherine, March 25.

**Fast**—to Kim and Jonathan, Charleswood Mennonite, Winnipeg, a son, Adam Isaiah, Sept. 4, 2002.

**Fast**—to Marnie Gerster and Paul, Waterloo North Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Grace Christiane, April 22.

**Friesen**—to Roxanne and Brian, Rosenfeld Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a son, Owen Alexander, Feb. 27.

**Krahn**—to Rhonda and Ed, Abbotsford Mennonite



Fellowship, B.C., a daughter, Avrey Lyn, Jan. 7.  
**Leis**—to Cheryl Nafziger and David, Waterloo North Mennonite, Ont., a son, Adrien John, April 7.  
**Nelson**—to Selena and Michael, Charleswood Mennonite, Winnipeg, a son, David Friesen Henryk, Jan. 11.  
**Penner**—to Connie and Jack, Coaldale Mennonite, Alta., a daughter, Kate Elizabeth, March 29.  
**Roth**—to Sheri and Rod, Wellesley Mennonite, Ont., a son, Kyle Maurice, April 24.  
**Somkhong-Neang**—to Sau Somkhong and Venny Neang, North Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Braydyn, March 23.  
**Snyder**—to Ben and Kim, Bloomingdale Mennonite, Ont., a son, Nathan Benjamin, May 5.  
**Schwartzentruber**—to

Darren and Tammy, East Zorra Mennonite, Ont., a son, Scott John Edward, April 25.  
**Weaver**—to Denise and Val, Rosemary Mennonite, Alta., a daughter, Brenna Paige Teena, April 6.  
**Weber**—to Mike and Kay, Poole Mennonite, Poole Mennonite, Ont., a son, Craig Kenneth, March 29.  
**Wiebe**—to Dorthy and James, Grace Mennonite, Winkler, Man., a daughter, Sabina Gene Aiko, April 4.

### Marriages

**Bahr-Kuepfer**—Leo and Ruth, Poole Mennonite, Ont., May 3.  
**Esau-Warkentin**—Donald and Linda, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., May 3.  
**Malloy-Bauman**—Jeremy (Woodside Bible Fellowship, Elmira, Ont.) and Janice (Hawkesville Mennonite, Ont.) at Woodside, April 12.

**Wall-Froese**—Curt and Melissa, Grace Mennonite, Winkler, Man., May 3.

### Deaths

**Ediger**—Esther, 81, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., April 16.  
**Janzen**—Larry, 55, Rosthern Mennonite, Sask., April 5.  
**Klassen**—Kathe, 77, Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg, April 28.  
**Kroeker**—Jacob, 98, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., April 26.  
**Neufeld**—Jake, 81, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., April 12.  
**Neustaedter**—Helena (Peters), 92, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., April 27.  
**Toews**—Elizabeth, 91, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., May 6.  
**Sawatzky**—Anne, 87, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.,

April 10.  
**Ulrich**—Helene, 92, North Kildonan Mennonite, Winnipeg, April 26.  
**Wiebe**—Henry S., 84, Fort Garry Mennonite, Winnipeg, April 24.

### Baptisms

**Hawkesville Mennonite, Ont.**—Kim Dunne, Brandon Kraemer, Shawn Martin, April 20.  
**Home Street Mennonite, Winnipeg**—Joel Peters-Fransen, Jan. 19. Gabrielle Marie Plenert, May 4.  
**Waterloo North Mennonite, Ont.**—Elinor Snell, April 27.

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

Kitchener, Ont.

## Asian churches cater fundraising dinner

**W**hy go out for a delicious buffet when the buffet can come to your church? After the spring session of Mennonite Church

Eastern Canada, 150 people enjoyed a meal of Asian foods, heard encouraging church planting stories, and participated in “Pentecost style” hymns sung in four

languages at once—English, Hmong, Lao and Korean.

The Kitchener Grace Lao and First Hmong Mennonites churches raise funds for their ministries by catering meals, and the London and Toronto

Korean groups gladly joined in. Korean paper cranes of hope decorated each place setting. The Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church hosted the event.

Peter Vang, elder of First Hmong, shared the story of his congregation’s beginnings. This year the dinner had more of an “at home” feeling and the dialogue was more comfortable.

The dinner raised about \$650 for each of the four catering congregations.—**Mary Mae Schwartzentruber**



**Dinner guests from the Toronto New Life Mennonite Church, recently arrived from Colombia, admire the paper cranes folded by the family of Bock Ki Kim of Toronto.**



**Vang**

## Mennonite Church Canada

### Assembly worship resource available

A worship resource for the assembly in July will be available soon for Mennonite Church Canada congregations. The resource serves as a guide for congregations worshipping in spirit with delegates of the annual assembly, held this year in St. Catharines, Ontario. Some congregations use the materials on the day that delegates report back to congregations on the assembly.

This year's materials are being prepared by Wanda Roth Amstutz. Wanda and her husband Doug are co-pastors at Grace Mennonite Church in St. Catharines, and are also worship coordinators for the assembly.

The resources are expected to be distributed in the June

issue of Equipping Canada and will be available on the MC Canada web site at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/) events.

## Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

### Mission newsletter available online

A longstanding mission newsletter of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, *Share the Light*, is now available online at the MC Eastern Canada web site: [www.mcec.on.ca](http://www.mcec.on.ca). Persons who want e-mail notice when a new issue comes out can send their e-mail address to [bev@mcec.on.ca](mailto:bev@mcec.on.ca).

The April-June issue includes stories of missional initiatives by churches, profiles of mission workers and refugees, and prayer requests. Some examples:

- The recent church planting initiative of Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church, started some 20 years ago, involves Mandarin-speaking immigrants. Earlier initiatives included providing worship in both Cantonese and English, and establishing the Markham Chinese Mennonite Church.

- Harrow (Ontario)

Mennonite Church took its faith to the Harrow Fair last spring, an event drawing about 30,000 people over four days. The church's tent, situated next to an army recruitment booth, provided for some interesting conversations about peace. This fall, the church plans to once again "take our faith to the fair."

- Youth from Toronto

Mennonite New Life Church play an important role in leading worship, which includes a hour of singing at the beginning of each service. The youth are from Nicaragua,

Guatemala, El Salvador and Colombia. This year they are studying worship and spirituality through music and Bible study. They are also raising money to send two youth to the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Zimbabwe.

## Mennonite Church Manitoba

### Equipping conference expanded this fall

"Some exciting leadership educational opportunities are being planned for this fall," said John P. Klassen, director of Leadership Ministries for MC Manitoba.

The annual Equipping Conference is being enlarged to include the agenda of the Ministers' and Deacons' Conference. This joint "equipping" event will take place on October 4 at the Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church.

## Being a leader isn't easy

The heading of this column, "From our leaders," can be fairly overwhelming. Being in leadership, whether in a congregation, conference or work place, can be particularly challenging during times of cutbacks, discontent or broken relationships.

Yet even in these times (maybe especially then) leaders are asked to be faithful in leadership. Paul, in Romans 12:6-8, challenges us: "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly...if leadership, with diligence" (NASB).

In the recent "AMBS Window" (April 7 issue) Nelson Kraybill shared a marvellous article on leadership that resonated with my thinking. "Effective leaders steer decision making processes, state clearly where they stand and maintain communication with all parts of the group (especially when there is conflict)," he said.

My inclination and the tendency of many leaders is to try to steer clear of

conflict, to limit confrontation, to go into hiding when people challenge our decisions. Our temptation is to rationalize and justify rather than leading with diligence. In this era of "political spin," it's so much easier to produce "news releases" than to "maintain communication."

Often the problem is legitimately "not our fault." We just happened to be in leadership at the time of challenging circumstances. At other times, we need to acknowledge our errors or poor choices. However, in either case, we show leadership by maintaining communication with all whom we are called to lead.

People feel hurt and angry, and have lost trust in us or our institution—and they need to be heard. Communication in these circumstances has as much to do with sensitive listening and honest dialogue as with explaining what happened.

Communication involves both listening and dispensing information. Whenever possible, this is best done face to face. E-mails or letters allow us to express views but do not let us feel the pain of the other.

## From our leaders

The challenge I've faced, both as a pastor and now as a conference minister, is to be available to those who are unhappy with decisions that emerge within the body in which I'm called to provide leadership, whether or not they result from my shortcomings. While leadership requires being responsible for directions taken and stating clearly where I stand, I also need to take time to be among the people, listen non-defensively to differing positions, engage in healing dialogue, and assist in rebuilding that which is broken.

It's a challenge many of you who are leaders face as well. It's why persons are so often invited to pray for their leaders. Leading isn't easy!



John P. Klassen, director of Leadership Ministries, Mennonite Church Manitoba

The day will be designed for pastors, lay leaders and anyone involved in church ministry. "We are hoping that each congregation will be well represented," said Klassen.

"We'll meet together for an opening time of worship and inspiration and then persons will have the opportunity to choose from a wide assortment of workshops...on leadership, education, missions and outreach, stewardship and other church ministries."

Leadership Ministries is also offering a one-day preaching workshop this fall. John H. Neufeld, who has taught preaching for more than 15 years, will lead the Saturday workshop. Persons can choose from three options: October 25 at Springfield Heights Mennonite Church (Winnipeg), November 1 at Grace Mennonite Church (Brandon), or November 8 at Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

The preaching workshop is designed especially for new pastors, lay preachers (with or without an official position) and persons who would like to consider sharing a sermon. It can also be a refresher for any pastor.

#### Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Young people from Zion Mennonite Church in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, recently put together a Mennonite Central Committee



**Carla Fehr, left, and Flora Wiebe pack relief kits.**

relief kit for Iraq. Noticing how simple it was, they challenged the congregation to do the same. If every 10 people (approximate number of youth) put together a kit, that would result in about 12 kits.

The youth, along with youth worker Marlis Funk, anticipated not more than 10 kits in response. But the church surprised them. That total came in at 22 kits. Then the local Pioneer Co-op heard of the project and contributed money for two more kits, bringing the total to 24.

"We had a lot of fun packing the kits," noted Funk. Zion Mennonite has about 200 members.

#### Mennonite Church Alberta

### Record spring snow disrupts church activities

Spring snow falls are not unusual in Alberta, but the amounts and the lateness of the white stuff this year have been enough to raise eyebrows. On April 26-27, record snowfalls of over 70 centimetres in some areas made driving treacherous and altered many plans.

In Calgary, Trinity Mennonite cancelled its Saturday evening worship because the parking lot was impassable. Foothills Mennonite cancelled its work day plans, and Pineridge Christian Fellowship had no Sunday service. Sunday morning worship at Bergthal Mennonite in Didsbury was cancelled because of heavy snow and poor visibility.

Edmonton and Tofield areas received the bulk of their snow the following weekend. The Lethbridge area has received cold, wet weather but has not been hit as hard as those further north. While the much needed moisture is filling dug-outs and ensuring green pastures for the spring, farmers with young livestock are struggling to provide enough shelter and fight

illness caused by the strange weather conditions.

#### Mennonite Church Mennonite Church British Columbia

### Delegates sessions slated for June

The Mennonite Church British Columbia annual sessions will be held at Cedar Valley Mennonite Church in Mission on June 6-7. The sessions will begin with the Leaders Elders and Deacons (LEAD) conference on Friday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The cost for this day is \$15 and includes lunch.

Guest speaker for the day is Paul Wartman, president of Columbia Bible College. A worship celebration is planned for Friday evening and the annual sessions will begin Saturday morning with registration starting at 8:00 a.m. For more information contact the MC British Columbia office at (604) 850-6658.

### Paddle-a-thon another success

Over 30 people participated in the fifth annual Camp Squeah Paddle-a-thon, spending two days paddling down the Fraser River to raise \$38,000 for the Squeah Bursary fund. The flotilla consisted of three sea



**Christine Dahl (front) and Carolyn Pon (back) share a kayak.**

kayaks, five canoes, two large freighter canoes and one safety boat provided by Fraser River Raft Expeditions of Yale, B.C.

More than 70 young people are a part of the summer staff each year and many are returning students who

appreciate the financial assistance provided by the bursary.

Prizes were awarded to paddlers for both serious efforts and less serious ones. A dry-pack was awarded to a father and son team who ended up in the river not less than an hour into the event. Every paddler went home with a T-shirt. But only one, Balmore Valesquez, went home with a brand new canoe.

For more information and photos of the event or for information about Camp Squeah's summer program visit the website at [www.campsqueah.bc.ca](http://www.campsqueah.bc.ca).

#### Mennonite Church USA

### Directory available online

The recently completed online companion piece to the Mennonite Church USA Directory will help constituents to connect with each other more quickly than ever before, as they find information updates on the web.

The online directory, available at <http://directory.mennoniteusa.org>, is tied to the denominational database where changes are updated regularly. And it provides a companion resource to the printed version which will be published every several years.

Providing the online version fulfills a longtime dream of Karen Bachman, information technology technician for the Executive Board and Mennonite Mission Network. She managed the development of this new resource in conjunction with Russ Neufeld, online directory architect.

The directory includes security measures. For example, e-mail links and addresses are made invisible to devices that search the web for addresses to include in "spam" and marketing databases.—From MC USA release.



**Employment Opportunities**

Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg is seeking a

**LEADING PASTOR**

In addition to preaching, our Leading Pastor, working with our two Associate Pastors, will be involved in giving inspirational leadership to the congregation, its ministries and its outreach. The Leading Pastor also takes an administrative leadership role with the Pastoral Team and other staff, and reports to the Church Council.

Bethel is a large church, with typical Sunday attendance of approximately 500, spanning all generations. Bethel is a member of Mennonite Church Canada. In addition to the youth, young adult, seniors, and care group activities, Bethel has substantial neighbourhood outreach programs.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit a covering letter and resume by June 30th to:

**Pastoral Search Committee  
Bethel Mennonite Church  
870 Carter Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3M 2E2  
E-mail: office@bethelmennonite.ca  
(please use MS Word format)**

Douglas Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba

**YOUTH MINISTER**

Douglas Mennonite Church is a congregation of approximately 425 baptized members and 200 children and youth. We are seeking a full time youth minister to provide leadership for our junior and senior youth ministry. Our desired starting date is August 2003. For a job description, congregational information form or to submit a résumé please contact John Klassen or Pat Funk by May 31, 2003.

**John P. Klassen, Director of Leadership Ministries  
Mennonite Church Manitoba  
200 - 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.  
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1  
E-mail: jklassen@mennochurch.mb.ca**

or

**Pat Funk, Search Committee Chair  
79 Thurlby Road  
Winnipeg, MB R2G 2V3  
(204) 668-1272  
E-mail: jakeandpat@shaw.ca**

Perkasie Mennonite Church, Perkasie, Pennsylvania, a theologically progressive congregation with average attendance of 80-100, seeks

**HALF-TIME PASTOR**

to join pastoral ministry team. Perkasie Mennonite values and encourages use of everyone's gifts and incorporates a wide variety of music and arts into its worship services. Strong Anabaptist beliefs and peace and justice issues are important to the congregation.

We seek an energetic, warm, welcoming person with good communication skills who feels God's call to ministry. Primary responsibilities will include administration work, pastoral care, and preaching. Send resumes to

**Virgil Miller, Search Committee  
Perkasie Mennonite Church  
320 West Chestnut St., Perkasie, PA 18944**



**NIAGARA CHRISTIAN COLLEGIATE  
TEACHING POSITIONS**

Niagara Christian Collegiate is an international, Christian school celebrating over 70 years of ministry. Due to continued growth, NCC is seeking candidates committed to excellence in Christian education for the following teaching positions in the Middle School (grade 7/8) and High School (grade 9-12):

- French**
- English**
- Math**
- Accounting/Economics**
- History**

Interested applicants may send resumes to:

**Steve R. Sider, Head of Schools  
Niagara Christian Collegiate  
2619 Niagara Parkway  
Fort Erie, ON L2A 5M4  
Fax: 905-871-9260  
E-mail: ncc@niagaracc.com**

Information on the school can be found at: [www.niagaracc.com](http://www.niagaracc.com)

**Tabor Home Society invites applications for  
DIRECTOR OF CARE**

Tabor Home is a 121 bed non-profit residential facility in Abbotsford, B.C. sponsored by area Mennonite Brethren churches and affiliated with the Fraser Health Authority.

Position requires:

- Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing
- Additional preparation in Gerontology
- Minimum three years recent related supervisory experience in a geriatric health care setting, preferably long term care
- Commitment to promoting and providing spiritual, values-based care services to the elderly

Please send resumes to :

**Human Resources Manager  
Tabor Home Society  
31944 Sunrise Crescent, Abbotsford, BC V2T 1N5  
Phone: (604) 859-8715 E-mail: l.bortucene@taborhome.org**

**FULL TIME YOUTH PASTOR**

wanted for Kola Evangelical Mennonite Conference Church. The Kola EMC church is located in a small farming community on the western edge of Manitoba, approximately 20 minutes west of Virden. The congregation size is approximately 150 with a youth group of around 25. The church is made up of people of every age with many young families.

There is a possibility of this position being extended to include some associate ministry work. The successful applicant must be willing to agree to the EMC Confession of Faith and be willing to use these guidelines when instructing/teaching. View this document at [www.emconf.ca](http://www.emconf.ca)

Bible School training for Youth Leadership will be given preferential consideration. The deadline to receive applications for this position is June 30, 2003.

Please prayerfully consider this position and if you feel the Lord nudging you to get more info, please contact:

**Len or Lori Koop at (204) 845-2130  
E-mail: lkoop@mts.net; Fax: (204) 845-2098  
Harold or Cheryl Friesen at (306) 646-4545**

Fairview Mennonite Home, a Continuing Care Retirement Community located in Cambridge, Ontario, is seeking a 0.5 FTE

**HOME PASTOR**

This position, which becomes available in the summer of 2003, requires an individual with a previous background in chaplaincy, congregational ministry, long term care and/or counseling. Interested applicants are invited to forward their résumé by May 30, 2003 to:

**The Home Pastor Search Committee  
Fairview Mennonite Home  
515 Langs Drive  
Cambridge, ON N3H 5E4**



**MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
ONTARIO**

invites application for the position of

**ABORIGINAL NEIGHBOURS PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

This position requires a person with a commitment to Christian faith, active church membership and non-violent peacemaking. MCC is seeking an individual to work at Restorative Justice as well as education and advocacy in partnership with Aboriginal communities and organizations.

Position is .6 FTE. Deadline: June 16, 2003. Position available immediately. Resumes and cover letter to:

**Cath Woolner, Mennonite Central Committee  
50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1  
Phone: (519) 745-8458  
E-mail: cathw@mennonitecc.on.ca**



**EDITOR/PUBLISHER**

Canadian Mennonite is seeking an editor/publisher for its biweekly periodical based in Waterloo, Ontario.

Canadian Mennonite serves as a primary communication vehicle within Mennonite Church Canada and its five area conferences. Owned and operated by Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service, Canadian Mennonite works in a covenant relationship of trust with the church, seeking to provide fair and accurate information, faith profiles, inspirational articles, news, and analysis of issues facing the Mennonite church. Canadian Mennonite is guided by the church's confession of faith and thereby seeks the welfare and vitality of the church with the practice of editorial freedom.

The editor/publisher is accountable to a representative board, guides and directs the magazine, provides a vision and strategy for growth, and generally has responsibility for the publication.

Applicants should be self-motivated and have: strong administrative, relational, communication and listening skills; publishing knowledge; a journalism degree or related experience; computer competence. The ideal candidate will be a member of a Mennonite church and have wider denominational knowledge.

Interested persons may direct inquiries and submit resumes by contacting the search committee by June 15:

**Henry Neufeld, Chair  
Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service  
Phone: (604) 946-3961  
E-mail: hneufeld@telus.net**

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Menno Home Intermediate Care Facility invites applications for the new position of Office Manager.

Responsibilities include:

- Administration of payroll/benefits programs
- Interpretation and application of the collective agreement
- Office assistance to Administrator & Director of Care
- Supervision of office staff

Position requires high-level communication skills, supervisory and H.R. experience, and relevant education/training.

Menno Home has 196 beds and is located in beautiful Abbotsford, BC. For more information, contact the Administrator:

**32910 Brundige Ave., Abbotsford, BC V2S 1N2  
Phone: (604) 853-2411 E-mail: a.enns@mennohome.org**

Goshen College Biology Department is seeking a

**BIOLOGIST**

for a full time position, which will be divided, approximately half teaching and half as the "Lindsey Fellow". Responsibilities of the Lindsey Fellow include being the Director of the Environmental Studies Program, supervising field research at the Merry Lea Environmental Center, and coordinating collegiate program development at Merry Lea. The teaching responsibilities will include three courses per year, out of the following possibilities: a non-majors biology course, Introduction to Environmental Studies, Zoology, Botany, Marine Biology and Ecology. Ph.D. required, and teaching experience is preferred.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; interviews will not begin before May 5. To apply, visit the specific position announcement on the Goshen College web page

**www.goshen.edu/employment.**

Women and minority persons are encouraged to apply. Goshen College, an affirmative action employer, is committed to Christian beliefs and values as interpreted by the Mennonite Church. Administrative and teaching faculty members are expected to share this commitment.

Cornerstone Church - Mennonite, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**SENIOR PASTOR**

We are a growing multi-generational urban congregation of 400, worshipping in a modern facility. Our congregation enjoys contemporary worship and has ministries for all ages.

The successful applicant will be a strong communicator of God's Word and have the vision and ability to lead and guide our progressive pastoral team. Enthusiasm and high energy are valuable assets.

The starting date is September 1, 2003. Salary and benefits conform to denominational guidelines. Please send resume to:

**Pastoral Search, Cornerstone Church  
315 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7K 7Z5  
Only candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.**

Continued on page 38

## Eden benefit focuses on unusual family

**Winkler, Man.**—Eden Health Care Services is holding a benefit evening on June 19 entitled "Under one roof: celebrating family." It will feature speaker David (Doc) Schroeder and his family members who form an inter-generational household.

Included in the presentation is the family music group called "House of Doc." The event is at Grace Mennonite Church here at 7:00 p.m. The offering will support Eden programs. Call (204) 325-5355 for more information.—Eden Foundation release

## Golf tournament to support work in Ukraine

**Winnipeg, Man.**—Supporters of Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba will host a golf tournament on July 16 at Quarry Oaks to support MCC's

work in Ukraine. The day will include contests, including a hole-in-one competition to win a car, novelty events and a supper of kjielkje (noodles) and farmer sausage.

MCC provides grants to six small-loan funds in Ukraine, one of which has now registered as a credit union. MCC also works increasingly with neglected children. Last year MCC helped to purchase a combine for a farm that supports an orphanage.

Registration deadline for the tournament is June 30. For details, contact Ed Epp at (204) 897-4542, Henry Kroeger at 667-6593 or Jona Leppky at 896-4680.—MCC Manitoba release

## Calendar

### British Columbia

**June 5-7:** First Nations and First Settlers in Fraser Valley conference at University College of the Fraser Valley.  
**June 6-7:** LEAD conference

and Mennonite Church B.C. annual sessions at Cedar Valley Mennonite Church, Mission.

**September 12-13:** MCC B.C. Festival and Relief Sale at Tradex, Abbotsford.

**September 14:** MCC B.C. Festival of Praise at Central Heights Mennonite Brethren Church, 2:30 p.m.

**September 27:** MCC B.C. Fall Fair at Civic Centre, Prince George.

**October 6-8:** Pastor/spouse retreat. Contact MC B.C. for details.

**October 17-19:** Women in Mission retreat at Camp Squeah with speakers Angelika Dawson and Benita Warkentin.

**November 1:** MCC B.C. annual meeting.

**November 7-9:** Scrapbooking retreat at Camp Squeah. Contact Christa Lynn Nikkel, e-mail: nikkel@telus.net.

### Alberta

**June 3-5:** Pastors retreat at

Camp Valaqua.

**June 7:** Camp Valaqua Hike-a-thon. Call (403) 637-2510.

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

**June 20-21:** MCC Relief Sale in Didsbury.

**June 28-29:** Springridge Mennonite Church 75th anniversary, Pincher Creek. Call (403) 627-4130, e-mail: ljanzen@telusplanet.net.

**July 12:** Golf tournament for MCC in Coaldale.

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

**July 26-27:** Bergthal Mennonite Church, Didsbury, 100th anniversary. Call (403) 337-2223 or 335-9421.

### Saskatchewan

**May 31:** Prairie Falcon Motorcycle Rally for MCC.

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

**June 7:** Youth Farm Ride-a-thon (horseback).

**June 7:** Shekinah Bike-a-thon.

## Employment Opportunities



Conrad Grebel University College is accepting applications for a full-time

### ACCOUNTANT

The Accountant is responsible for all aspects of the financial planning and reporting for the College and, as a member of the administrative team, reports directly to the President. The successful candidate will have completed, or nearly completed, a recognized professional accounting program (CGA, CMA), demonstrate proven competency in using accounting software, possess excellent administrative and communication skills, and be sympathetic to the Anabaptist-Mennonite values of the College.

Conrad Grebel University College is the residential and teaching college of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada offering programs of study at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. CGUC is affiliated with, and located on the campus of, the University of Waterloo. Salary and benefits are similar to those of the University.

The position is available in September 2003. Applications are being accepted until June 15, 2003 and should be directed to:

**The President, Conrad Grebel University College**  
140 Westmount Road N., Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6  
(519) 885-0220 x237  
E-mail: cgcpres@uwaterloo.ca

## For Rent

Furnished 3-bedroom house for rent in Winnipeg -- from Aug. 1/03 - July 31/04. Desirable area close to all amenities. \$1050/mo. + utilities. Call Julie/Paul @ (519)894-4242, e-mail pdoerk@mbci.mb.ca.

Bachelor Apartment available May 1 in Toronto. Quiet neighbourhood, five minute walk from subway, laundry facilities included. Call Tim at (416) 265-4621 or email: timreimer@on.aibn.com.

## Announcement

**Graysville Mennonite Church** invites former members and friends to the

### "YEAR OF JUBILEE" 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday October 11, 2003  
Afternoon registration  
6:00 - Supper, Music, Program

Sunday October 12, 2003  
10:00 - Worship Service, Lunch  
PM Memories, Voluntary Program, Faspa

**Phone: (204) 828-3359**  
**E-mail: gmchurch@cici.mb.ca**  
**Graysville Mennonite Church**  
Box 31, Graysville, MB R0G 0T0



**June 8-10:** Pastor's retreat at Shekinah with Ken Bechtel.

**June 13-14:** MCC Relief Sale in Saskatoon.

**June 17-20:** AMBS course with James Reimer at First Mennonite, Saskatoon.

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

**July 4-6:** Rosthern Mennonite Church centennial celebration.

**July 5:** Canadian Foodgrains Bank sale in Hague.

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

**August 9-10:** 100th anniversary at Hague Mennonite Church. Call (306) 225-4550, e-mail: dave.duane@sk.sympatico.ca.

**September 5-7:** Junior high retreat.

### Manitoba

**May 23, 30:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate spring concerts at Bethel Mennonite Church, 7:30 p.m. Senior 2-4 (23), Grade 7-Senior 1 (30).

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

**May 31:** Graduation at Menno Simons College, University of Winnipeg.

**June 2-4:** Plus 55 Retreat at Camp Koinonia with speaker Menno Janzen. Call (204) 896-1616.

**June 8:** Eden Foundation/Big Brothers Big Sisters Charity Golf Tournament, Winkler, 1:30 p.m. Call (204) 325-5355.

**June 13-14:** Winnipeg MCC Festival and Relief Sale at Canadian Mennonite University.

**June 13-15:** Baseball tournament at Camp Assiniboia.

**June 14:** Farewell banquet for John H. Unger, Canadian Mennonite University, 6:30 p.m. Call (204) 487-3300.

**June 19:** Benefit evening for Eden Health Care Services with David Schroeder and House of Doc music group, Grace Mennonite Church, Winkler, 7:00 p.m.

**June 21-22:** Bike the Whiteshell for MCC.

**June 23:** Graduation of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate

at Bethel Mennonite Church.

**June 26:** CMU President's Golf Tournament at Breezy Bend. Call Curt Warkentin at (204) 487-3300, e-mail: cwarkentin@cmu.ca.

**June 28:** Camp Koinonia golf tournament at Winkler Golf Course, 8:30 a.m.

**July 5:** Cycle Spruce Woods for MCC.

**July 10:** Eden Foundation "Ironman" golf marathon. Call (204) 325-5355.

**July 16:** Fundraising golf tournament for MCC at Quarry Oaks Golf Course.

**July 20:** Memorial stone placement at Lena Mennonite Church site. Call (204) 885-2425.

**September 20:** Morris MCC Relief Sale.

**September 26-27:** Brandon MCC Relief Sale.

**October 4:** Equipping Conference with Ministers and Deacons Conference at Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

**October 17-18:** Women in Mission fall retreat at Camp Assiniboia. Speaker: Kathy Giesbrecht.

**October 25:** Preaching workshop at Springfield Heights Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.

**November 1, 8:** Preaching workshops at Grace Mennonite Church, Brandon (1) and Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite Church (8).

### Ontario

**May 25:** Spring concert at United Mennonite Educational Institute, Leamington.

**May 27-30:** Quilts for the World at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church.

**May 31:** Ontario Mennonite Relief Sale, New Hamburg.

**June 6:** Spring concert at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener.

**June 6-7:** MennoFolk at Hidden Acres Camp. Call (519) 650-3806, e-mail: markdh@mcec.on.ca.

**June 7:** Mennonite Community Sale in Leamington.

**June 7:** Preston Mennonite Church community garage sale, bake sale, coffee shop.

7:00 a.m. to noon. Proceeds will send kids to camp

**June 10:** Chicken barbecue fundraiser at Hidden Acres Camp, 5:30. Music by "Unworthy." Bring mug. Call (519) 625-8602.

**June 14:** Ontario Mennonite Historical Society annual meeting at First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, 2:00 p.m. Theme: "New Mennonites in Ontario: the growth of multicultural congregations."

**June 15:** Jubilee homecoming at North Leamington United Mennonite Church.

**June 17:** 60th anniversary celebration barbeque at Fairview Mennonite Home, Cambridge. Call 653-5719 for tickets.

**June 19:** MEDA breakfast at

Stone Crock, St. Jacobs, with David Brubacher, 7:30 a.m.

**June 21:** Day of Quiet Prayer at Valleyview Mennonite Church, London.

**June 21:** Graduation at United Mennonite Educational Institute, Leamington.

**June 21:** Graduation at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener.

**June 28:** Aylmer Auction for Relief at Aylmer Fairgrounds.

**July 9-13:** Mennonite Church Canada assembly at Brock University, St. Catharines.

### Other countries

**August 11-17:** Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

## Subscriber services Mennonite

### How to subscribe:

- Individuals who are part of Mennonite Church Canada or one of its five area conferences can ask to be placed on their congregation's group subscription list. The subscription is paid by the conferences.
- Others who wish to order a subscription can use this form. See contact information below.  
Rates: \$31.00 for one year (includes \$2.03 GST); \$50.00 (Can.) to U.S.; \$69.50 (Can.) for overseas.

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### Subscription changes:

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

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	Kathy Mennonite 999 Menno St. WINNIPEG MB X0X 0X0	

- Subscription changes are not considered Transitions notices. (Please send Transitions to the editor.)
- Changes will be made immediately but may take 4-6 weeks to take effect because of printing schedules.

### Contact information:

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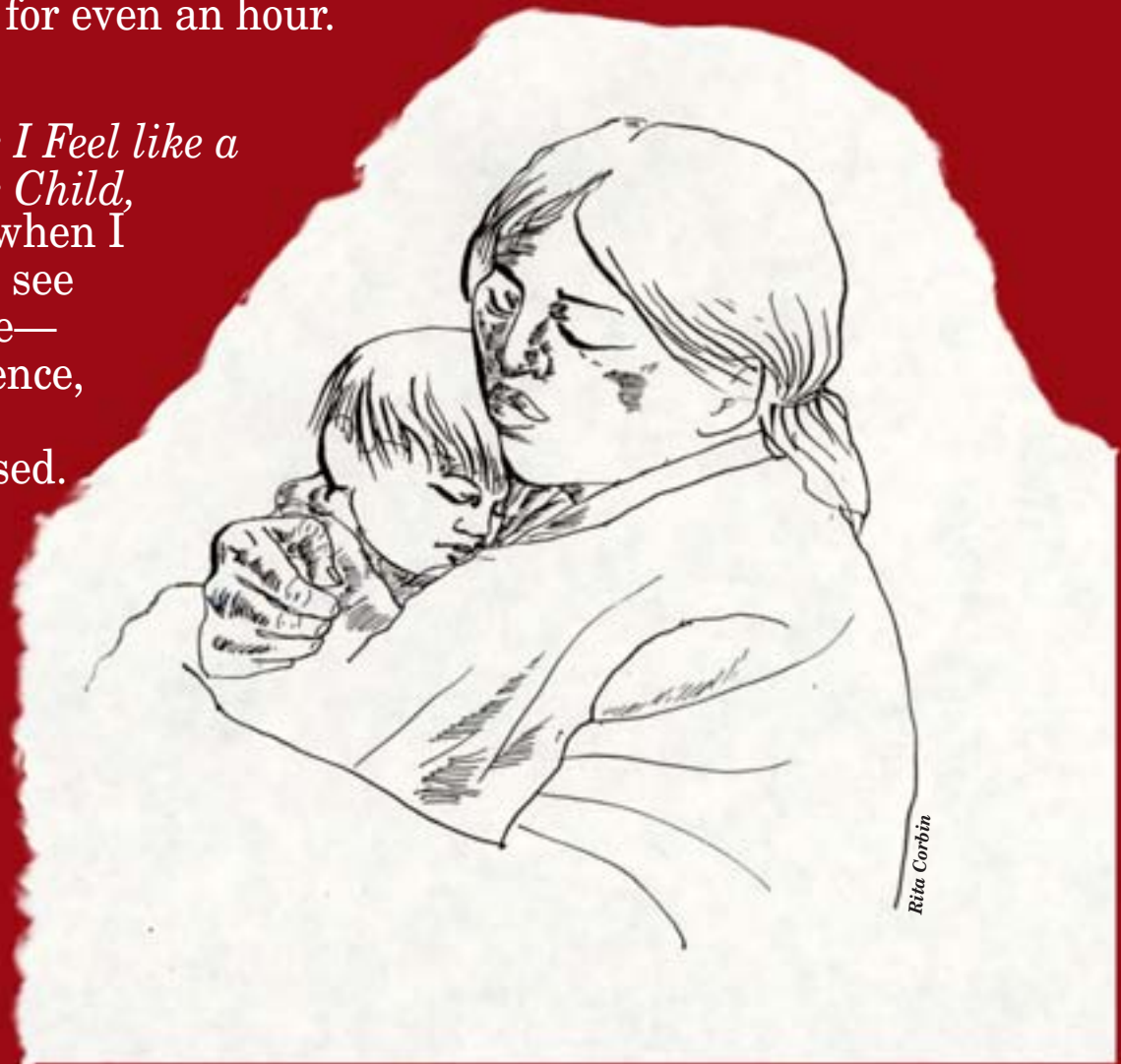
# Lullaby

by Ann Hostetler

I rock you and sing to you,  
little one who will not go to sleep.  
Your hungry gaze, direct  
and unsmiling, meets mine.

I work through all the songs I know  
as they occur to me: *Summertime*,  
*Today while the Blossoms*, *Oh Nobody*  
*Knows the Trouble I've Seen* trying  
to get you to give up your hold  
on the world for even an hour.

*Sometimes I Feel like a  
Motherless Child*,  
especially when I  
realize you see  
through me—  
my impatience,  
my need  
to be released.



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(Tulfor, PA: Cascadia Publishing House/DreamSeeker Books, 2002).