

C A N A D I A N
Mennonite

October 2, 2006
Volume 10, Number 19



Cutting Saw Wood

**Suderman
reflects**

page 5

**Century
of service**

page 18

Interpreting CO experiences



Singing God's Tune

At *Canadian Mennonite*, we get several hundred news releases each month from groups of all kinds. Many are from worthy organizations, of course, and we select the more significant or interesting ones to pass on to you. But others are less worthy.

I received one such release last month which would have just been deleted except that it accidentally illustrated a passage from James that I have been studying. It was promoting a set of music CDs for children called "Name Your Tune" that is made-to-order for each child.

According to the release, "'Name Your Tune' is a fresh and new children's music compilation that is made-to-order and personalized for each child. Children will hear their name more than 80 times throughout 14 much-loved songs. The classic 'Old MacDonald had a farm...' becomes 'Little Hannah had a farm...'

"A former teacher and a mother to three-year-old Hannah, Candace understands the qualitative impact of music for children and explains that 'Name Your Tune' is all about making the kids feel special. [Actor] Eric McCormack certainly agreed. 'It just confirmed [his son's] belief that the entire world revolves around him. It's great fun!'"

This is the message the world sends, and it starts on us as young as possible. The entire world revolves around you and if it doesn't, you need to do whatever it takes to make it so.

James 3:13-18 tells us about two kinds of wisdom: wisdom from above and earthly wisdom. James 4:1-10 continues with two kinds of friendships: friendship with God and friendship with the world. In these verses, James lists 26 negative and 17 positive characteristics or consequences. He sets out a detailed road map so you know which way you're

going. "Look out for the signs!" says James. "Watch where you're headed." He gives us tools to examine ourselves and see if our words match our walk.

We can choose envy, boasting, lying and being driven by our cravings and pursuit of our pleasures. Or we can choose gentleness, being willing to yield, mercy, peacemaking, righteousness and purity. Even more, which wisdom and which friendship we are seeking affects our lives in all kinds of practical ways according to James.

Drawing near to God leads to drawing near to each other. Drawing away from God—by our selfishness for our own way or for more possessions and more pleasures—leads to the breakdown of ourselves, our community and our relationship with God.

Praise God, we are not left to face the world alone! "*But he gives all the more grace,*" we read in chapter 4. "*God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*" *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you....*"

God will draw near to you! God longs to be in an intimate, faithful relationship with us. We just have to ask. We are assured of this again within the first few verses of the letter. James 1:5 states, "*If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.*" We only need to ask in faith, with sincerity, and without hypocrisy—not when we are chasing earthly wisdom with our actions while our words ask for heavenly wisdom.

Martin Luther said, "The world does not need a definition of religion as much as it needs a demonstration." Let's let our actions speak with our words, and through that, build a friendship with God that keeps us living right.

—**Tim Miller Dyck**

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Canada

This Issue

October 2, 2006
Volume 10, Number 19



Page 8

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4 **UpClose**
Mary Harder obituary **4**
My life as a willow **4**

5 **Faith&Life**
God's People Now reflections **5**
Embracing community **7**

8 **Arts&Culture**
Making non-profits media-savvy **8**
Modern Times review **9**

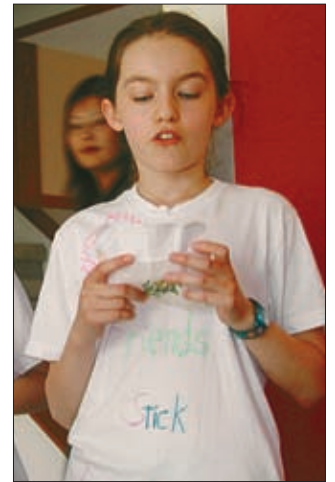
10 **InConversation**
Letters **10**
Cross-cultural stretching **11**
Lost and alone **12**

13 **WiderChurch**
Interpreting CO experiences **13**
Mennonite scholars in Iran **14**
Der Bote closing **15**

18 **LocalChurch**
A century of ministry **18**
Covenant turns 25 **22**
Transitions **24**

26 **TheChurches**
A dangerous world **27**

28 **ToMorrow**



Page 19



Page 16

Cover: Conscientious objectors cut logs for firewood (top photo). Conscientious objectors build a road near Jasper, Alta., in 1941 (bottom photo). For story about the upcoming CO conference in Winnipeg, see page 13. —Mennonite Heritage Centre photos

Waterloo, Ont.

Son recalls mother's years of Christian service

Marie Petrovna Tiessen was born Nov. 8, 1913, in the Mennonite colony of Schoenfeld, South Russia. She described her early childhood on the family's large estate as idyllic.

In August 1914 everything began to change, however. Her oldest brother, Jacob, was conscripted to go to the Caucasus on the Turkish front with the ambulance corps. Three years later, the Tsar was overthrown and the Russian revolution had begun. In 1924, the Tiessen family first stepped onto Canadian soil.

Arriving by boxcar in Waterloo, Ont., the family was dispersed among the many Swiss Mennonite farms of Waterloo County. In the spring of 1924, Tiessen, together with all her family, moved to Essex County in southwestern Ontario. Active in the newly established Mennonite Church on Oak Street, Leamington, she began, at 14, to teach Sunday School—which she would do continuously for the next 68 years.

Feeling a responsibility to contribute to the family's livelihood, Tiessen left school and, at the age of 16, began working at the H.J. Heinz factory in Leamington. At 29, in the middle of the Second World War, she resumed her schooling at the Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna. She later attended "Normal School" at the University of Toronto and became a teacher.

In the spring of 1950, Tiessen got a letter from John Harder, postmarked Arnaud, Man. His intent was clear and to the point. Widowed three years earlier, he needed a mother for his three "lovely" daughters and a wife for himself. Several letters were exchanged and in July of that year Mary Tiessen—immigrant, factory worker, student and teacher—became Mary Harder.

Die Frauen Missions Verein (Women

in Mission) was important to Harder and she assumed leadership roles in her congregational group as well as the Ontario, Canadian and North American women's conferences during the 1960s and '70s.

In the early 1970s, she began to display overseas arts and crafts in churches to help out Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

In 1971, Harder participated in a small delegation to Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, to meet with churchwomen there. The next year, when she and her husband sold the family store in Arnaud, she became the founding president of the Christian Benefit Shops in St. Catharines, Ont., which, in addition to providing low-cost merchandise to the poorer areas of town, has raised tens of thousands of dollars for MCC—the very organization which had fed her family in Russia so many years before.

Harder was also a long-time correspondent for *Der Bote*; in her later years she served on the paper's board of directors.

Trying to sum up nearly 93 years of my mother's life journey and character, I was taken with a couple of verses in Galatians 5: *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.... If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."*

When I visited my mother just before Mother's Day, she took my hand as I got up to leave and said, "When you come back and I'm not here anymore, know that I am still with you and we will meet each other again."

Mary Harder passed away on July 25 in Waterloo.

—Adapted from an obituary by **V. Peter Harder**, Ottawa



Harder



Janzen

My life as a willow

The willow tree is a fitting image for my long journey to ministry. My roots sink deep into the ground, representing both family and faith. Roots of tradition are so entwined that they are sometimes difficult to separate. Stories of the Ukraine shaped my life and thinking.

I claimed the faith of my parents as my own. Classes at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, Bethel College and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) clarified Mennonite Anabaptist history and theology. They became an integral part of my life.

Willows often are found beside a water source; my source is God. There have been some desert times, but spiritual disciplines have been nurturing.

There are treasured branches of church life. A profound experience was in the Rwandan refugee camp in 1994.

Other branches are the good years of my first career as a medical technologist teaching microbiology and parasitology in Congo and Toronto.

The long, narrow leaves remind me of tears and important and influential friends.

Newer, more slender branches represent all I learned at AMBS. The newest branches are those of my experience as a pastor in a small congregation. They were incredibly kind and generous. I finally came "home."

The willow tree has a sturdy trunk, bending with the wind, but not breaking. Ministry is life-long. Although I have given up pastoring this congregation, I hope to remain in ministry. New branches and leaves will appear.

Psalm 16 has long been a favourite. I can say that I truly *"have a goodly heritage."* I can say clearly and without hesitation: *"God has shown me the path of life. In his presence is fullness and joy."* Amen.

—**Anita Janzen**

Anita Janzen retired recently from pastoring at Hanover (Ont.) Mennonite Church.

Over the course of this issue and the next one, Canadian Mennonite presents MC Canada general secretary Robert J. Suderman's reflections so far on his cross-country tour of congregations. The visits are still in progress until the end of this month. As a tie-in with the most-discussed issue—youths and young adults in the church—we also present Nicole Cober Bauman's reflections on the experiences of her and five other young adults in an intentional community this past summer on page 7.

When I was first appointed general secretary of Mennonite Church Canada, I asked myself what I need most to do my job well. One answer seemed logical—I need to hear firsthand about the spirit, challenges and life of the congregations and area churches we are serving.

That answer grounded my efforts to visit each congregation in Mennonite Church Canada, in its own place, in a short period of time.

So now people are rightfully asking, "What have you heard? What are you learning? Are there patterns emerging?"

There are indeed some patterns emerging. I have chosen to highlight 13. The first six (presented in this issue) are in order of the frequency they have been mentioned by our churches. The next seven (presented in the Oct. 16 issue) are not. All have come up often enough to be identifiable as patterns.

Members of Wilmot (Ont.) Mennonite Church met with MC Canada general secretary Robert J. Suderman during his God's People Now tour earlier this year.

General secretary on the state of 'God's People Now' reflects

1. Youths and young adults

There is a concern about enlisting our youths and young adults for active participation in the church. This needs to be done from the standpoint of a compelling vision of what it means to be the church, and not simply based on what we've always done or how tradition and habit have guided us.

In our visits, the very low participation of the 18- to 28-year-olds in congregational life is striking. A corollary to that pattern is the question about why this is so. There is no agreement about why this is happening.

(For a more in-depth analysis of this issue, see "What about the young adults?" Sept. 4, page 2. Ed.)

2. Demographic realities

A second concern is related to the growth, or the lack of growth, in the church and the demographic realities facing our church. Regular participation in the church is declining in a number of regions. The depopulation of rural areas, especially on the Prairies, is generating significant stress and distress also in the congregations. While the rural-urban demographic shift is beyond the control of the church, the church is experiencing the impact of the realignments that are taking place. This is dampening the spirit of enthusiasm and optimism in some congregations.

Another demographic reality is that fewer Canadians are committing to regular participation in the church as a pattern for their lives. This shift affects our congregations in all settings, both urban and rural.



Peter Letkeman, left, and Jake Dyck discussed the state of the Mennonite Church with MC Canada general secretary Robert J. Suderman during his visit to Grace Mennonite Church in Brandon, Man.



Photo by Hinke Loeuwen Ruidgers

Reflects *From page 5*

There is also a redefinition of what “regular” attendance and participation in the church may mean. Whereas “regular” attendance used to mean attending church services and functions three to four times a month, that number is now down, perhaps once to three times a month, but it is still “regular.” This puts a great deal of pressure on “filling the jobs” that need to be done all the time.

And then there is the aging phenomenon of Canadian demographics in general that is also present in our churches. The “baby boom” bulge is aging, and this impacts the numbers, energy and vision of the church.

This three-fold phenomenon—depopulation, decreased participation and aging—is putting significant pressure on the capacity of congregations to offer the quality of ministry to those who do come that they are used to and that they would like.

3. Unity and diversity

A third concern is related to the unity and diversity we experience in our church. Can we generate enough common ground in our church so that the rich diversity among us can truly be life-giving, rather than energy-sapping?

The focus of the common ground/diversity issue is often, but not always, our understandings of sexuality and the role of the church in advocating for or against the changing understandings of sexual preferences and activities. While the sexuality discussion is frequently the lightning rod, the conversation is often quickly diverted to discussion about how to interpret the Bible adequately and where the authority rests to make decisions for things like polity issues.

4. Worship and music

Yet another concern is the passion generated by preferences of worship styles in the congregation, often, but not always, centred on preferences for music.

I use the word “passion” intentionally to describe this phenomenon, because, next to the sexuality discussion, this is where passion and emotion, anger and exuberance, conflict and joy are most often evident.

I have experienced this as a “turning the corner” phe-

nomenon. Some congregations have “turned the corner” and the related issues have been largely “laid to rest.” In those cases, worship is spoken of passionately as an uplifting, nurturing and joyous occasion where the community of Christ’s body comes together for inspiration in unity and hope.

Some have not “turned this corner” and it is striking how often worship in these settings is experienced as a locus of conflict, division, anger and dissatisfaction. What is very clear in all cases is that “turning the corner” is a difficult process.

5. Leadership development

Another important concern is developing creative, energized, imaginative and “Anabaptist” leadership for the church as it navigates the sometimes turbulent waters of the 21st century.

Some leadership may be highly energized but scarcely Anabaptist; other leadership may try to be very Anabaptist but is not too imaginative.

There is a clear recognition that the church will require a special breed of leadership to move forward joyfully in our century. It is also clear that this leadership will need to be shaped and developed on the “horse” that is galloping—with folks who are already in the harness, so to speak.

There is a strong call for better leadership training to be available at local levels without the need to interrupt life with several years of training in a seminary or college. It is evident that our academic institutions are directly touching only a very small percentage of our leadership potential with formal training opportunities. Much of the leadership of our congregations is now in the hands of persons who have little or no “Mennonite” leadership or theological training.

And there are many who assume that if such training is not accessible locally, they will then access what is available. What is clear is that there is a strong call and cry to shape the leaders for the present and the future. This presents a major challenge for us as a church system.

6. Polity, authority and decision-making

The final of the six major concerns is related to issues of polity, authority

Some leadership may be highly energized but scarcely Anabaptist; other leadership may try to be very Anabaptist but is not too imaginative.

and decision-making in the church and the congregations. Where does authority lie in the church, and for which questions?

Some advocate for radical congregational autonomy that understands that the locus of authority for the discernment of ethical and doctrinal issues lies, ultimately and squarely,

Elkhart, Ind.

Ripe with growth: Embracing community intentionally

We are young, bright-eyed and perhaps a tad idealistic. But this last quality is not one we plan on letting fade any time soon. Instead, we are exploring our hopeful visions for church and life together, testing the capacity of our idealism to fulfil our dreams of transformation.

Mennonite young adults have been talking together and with our peers beyond the Mennonite world. We have gathered—in various places around the globe (in Charlotte, N.C., and Edmonton), at Young Adult Fellowship retreats, and online (through the Mennonite World Conference [MWC] AMIGOS group and the MennoProgressives e-mail list)—for dialogue about who we are, and to explore our visions for the church and for the world. And as we've come together, we've discovered a great deal of diversity, but also tremendous and rousing commonality.

One of the fundamental terms has been “community,” and, although this word can too quickly lose its depth, it persists to feed my longings for more intimate relationships, spaces for vulnerability and openness, and breaths in which words of doubt and question are allowed to be uttered. I long to be known, challenged and held accountable as I walk with a church family on this road of radical discipleship.

Sounds easy, right? Then why are these genuinely relational communities so hard to find? Why do our deepest longings so often speak to the need to identify ourselves with a place and a people who give life meaning?

Something is missing. That's what I keep feeling in the deepest parts of me when I look at the world. And that's

within the jurisdiction of congregational life. Others would like to see more authority given—and taken—by other levels of the church, either at the regional or national level, thereby providing more direction for local implementation of decision-making.

Still others would advocate for some kind of combination. Perhaps, ethical

what I've been hearing in the many young adult conversations I've been a part of.

And so this summer I set out with five of my peers to try our hand at unearthing this missing piece. We decided to experiment with intentional community—what was, for me, an effort to explore church in a fresh but old way.

The six of us—called New Hope Fellowship, or, more commonly, the New Hoppers—took up residence in Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church's meetinghouse in Elkhart. This not only laid the groundwork for transformative and nurturing relationships with members of this small African-American congregation.

Our time was short, but our vision was, and remains, long and deep. We wanted to explore more intentionality in our relationships, to address conflict in the style of Matthew 18, to become immersed and involved in the life of our local church and surrounding neighbourhood, in rich and challenging ways.

We decided to pool our earnings in a common purse, and to share groceries, meals and household roles together. We wanted to flesh out our faith commitments and theological conundrums, and explore spirituality together, to test how it might become a more vibrant, practical and relevant dimension of our lives. We planted a giant organic garden and practised Aiden Schlichting Enns' suggestion for simple grey water recycling (see “Low-tech for the soul,” *May 15, page 8, Ed*). We sought meaningful and frequent encounters with the forgot-

discernment should be done locally and congregationally, but theological and doctrinal guidance should be more broadly based. And then there are those who are simply inconsistent, advocating for more central authority for others and more autonomy for themselves.

—**Robert J. Suderman**

ten of society, in this case, our entire neighbourhood.

We hoped to maintain a mindfulness of peace and justice issues, of gender and race dynamics, of environmental sustainability. We dreamed of living both simply and deeply. Our souls needed more slow living, more beauty, more touching real people.

As I said, our vision is expansive, and trying to emulate the church in Acts is much more than could be realized in one short summer. But, nonetheless, we set out on a journey that will continue, a journey of beginning to explore together these many pieces of church community.

This summer was ripe with growth. We did not arrive at autumn without our share of difficulties in between, but the conflicts and the challenges have left me renewed. I have been left with greater reassurance that this way of life is something I need to explore more fully. I've been challenged to explore how the church as we know it might be able to better encapsulate some of what this community experience has taught me. And I'm left with the coming-home sense that this approach to life, borne of a lasting dose of healthy idealism, might very well offer me at least part of that missing piece for which so many of us yearn.

—**Nicole Cober Bauman**

The author is a member at Tavistock (Ont.) Mennonite Church; she is entering her third year at Goshen College and represents Canada on the MWC young adult group, AMIGOS.



Bauman

the young prophets

Winnipeg

Book launch provides insights into 'making the news'

Fittingly, the recent launch here of John Longhurst's updated book, *Making the News: An Essential Guide for Effective Media Relations*, included local newsmakers. Bob Cox, editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and Terry McLeod, host of *CBC Information Radio*, joined Longhurst in a "Religion and the media" presentation, offering helpful hints on how faith-based non-profit organizations can better "make the news."

Their tips included:

- **The use of Longhurst's book as a resource.**

"It's very good for anyone because it's realistic," said Cox.

"I recommend it in my workshops because it's simple and engaging," added McLeod.

- **Build long-term relationships with the media.**

This is "key to getting the message out, said Cox, adding that this "takes not years, but decades."

- **Decide if your organization really wants to communicate with the media.**

"Some try to keep us out," said Cox.

- **Put people—not the organization—at the beginning of the story.**

"People are key," said McLeod.

"Wider stories are best seen through the eyes of ordinary individuals. In radio, I look for that."

- **Tailor stories for a specific news outlet.**

"Radio is different from a daily paper," said McLeod. "We seek to reflect diversity and the changing nature of our province.... Change is key."

- **Focus on what is new. That is the bottom line of a story.**

- **Find key communicators in your organization and utilize their skills.**

Longhurst, who is currently director of communications and marketing at Canadian Mennonite University, wrapped up the presentation by reading the conclusion of his book. He em-

phasized the larger goal of non-profit organizations, which is to "share good news...the good things that happen in the world [which] often fly under the media radar, unless someone brings it to their attention.... Our job as communicators is to help ordinary people...tell their stories of human possibility."

A wide-ranging discussion period followed. Listeners raised questions related to the truth of news-story aphorisms, such as "if it bleeds it leads," and "timeliness is next to godliness," as well as challenges about the "negative reporting" of Muslims, which some seemed to think is happening in the media now.

"Timing is everything," Cox acknowledged. As for the negative reporting about Muslims, "it's largely a lack of understanding," he said. The lack of a Muslim point of view among staff and the wider community is a



Photo by Christine Longhurst

John Longhurst, right, spoke at the recent launch of his updated book, *Making the News: An Essential Guide for Effective Media Relations*. At left is Bob Cox, editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

problem, he acknowledged, which makes it "a big job" to provide balanced coverage.

—Leona Dueck Penner



Goshen College file photo

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Goshen College Art Department is currently displaying works (until Oct. 22) by present and former art faculty members. The exhibit, located in the college's Hershberger Art Gallery, features pieces from the beginning—prior to 1955, when associate professor emeritus of art Ezra Hershberger, pictured at his easel, began to develop the art program with only a few students. Since then, the department has had more than 400 students graduate with art degrees.

Dylan ponders the state of these 'modern times'

Bob Dylan. *Modern Times*. Columbia, 2006.

Bob Dylan has struck again with the release of a new album, *Modern Times*. Dylan again looks at the state of the times, dreams of romance, and gives a dark look at the future. What surprises is not the content, but that Dylan is still working with these issues at the age of 65.

Dylan indeed has been with us for years. It is hard to suggest that he has let us remain comfortable or that he has painted a beautiful picture, but he has helped us see more clearly the world we face. It is comforting when he sings, "I'll be with you when the deal goes down" on the song of the same name. Dylan can't ignore the rain and the possibility that the levee will break and that those in power will take as much as they can from the spoils.

"Workingman's Blues No. 2" is a critique of the realities of the economy for the working class: "The buyin' power of the proletariat's gone down... Low wages are a reality / If we want to compete abroad." He recognizes the global nature of the job market, but doesn't let the rich who benefit the most from capitalism off the hook.

"Ain't Talkin'," an almost nine-minute dirge, ends the album. It is an apocalyptic vision for today with little of the hope of "The Times They Are A Changin'" (from his 1964 album of the same name). On "Ain't Talkin'," he sings, "As I walked out last night in the mystic garden...there's no one here, the gardener is gone." But Dylan hasn't given up: "I am a-tryin' to love my neighbour and do good unto others / But oh, mother, things ain't going well." He even asks his mother for help: "They say prayer has the power



to heal so pray for me, mother."

This is just one of many references to spiritual matters on the disc. It is not clear if he has any hope left: "Heart burning still yearning, there'll be no mercy for you once you've lost"; but he can't get away from this long quest: "I practise a faith that's been long a burning, there's no altars on this long and lonesome road."

This is a long journey—much like the song—and he is "walkin' with a toothache in [his] heel."

As the record drifts to a close we lose sight of him, and will have to wait for the next installment. I'll keep listening to Dylan—since I find comfort in his keep-walking attitude as I face my own discomfort from living in this world. In spite of the darkness in the lyrics, listening to Dylan sing and play encourages the listener.

—**Jerry L. Holsopple**

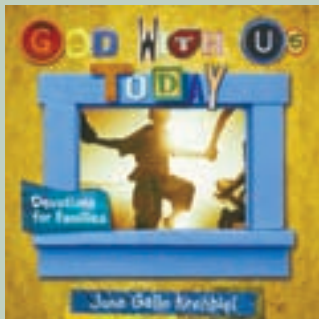
The reviewer teaches in the visual arts department at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va. The review originally appeared in an expanded format at thirdway.com.

Waterloo, Ont.

Family devotional book offers creative ways to nurture faith

A new book from Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN) invites busy families to share devotions at home. *God With Us Today: Devotions for Families* is the second devotional book from author June Galle Krehbiel, a freelance writer and editor.

Each of the 100 readings in *God With Us Today* includes a brief meditation on a Bible passage as well as a prayer and questions to help families worship God. Included with the short devotionals are poems, proverbs, quotations, word puzzles, song lyrics and simple facts to help children and adults better understand the Bible and their world.



"Today's busy families need creative ways to nurture faith at home," says Eleanor Snyder, editorial director of the Faith & Life Resources division of Mennonite Publishing Network. "*God With Us Today* draws parents and children to personally connect with God, while having fun together."

Scripture texts for *God With Us Today* were selected from the new Gather 'Round Sunday school curriculum, a joint project of Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Church USA and the Church of the Brethren.

Krehbiel's first devotional book, *101 Devotionals With Children* (Herald Press, 1999), and *God With Us Today* can be ordered online at mennonite-church.ca; follow the "Resources" link (*God With Us Today*: ISBN: 0-8361-9343-1).

Mennonite Publishing Network is a ministry of MC Canada.

—MC Canada/MPN joint release

Publishing note

Newton bookstore now under local ownership

On Sept. 15, the Provident Bookstore in Newton, Kan., was sold by Mennonite Publishing Network (MPN) to a local investor group. In consultations with church and business leaders last winter, MPN executive director Ron Rempel discussed plans to either close or sell the Newton store, which has required subsidization over the past five years. He also said that MPN, as the publishing ministry of Mennonite Church Canada and MC USA, is seeking to focus on its core mission of publishing books and resources with an Anabaptist perspective. MPN publications, except for dated curriculum and periodicals, will continue to be available through the Newton store.

—MPN release

Letters

Mennonites should be present at Caledonia

I write to once again question the presence or voice of the Mennonite community in response to the continued violence escalating at the Caledonia, Ont., Reclamation Site. After returning from being at the site and doing work in Six Nations during my three weeks of holidays, I am amazed the Mennonites still have not shown themselves or made a visible presence known in this situation.

Here on Canadian soil we have one of the greatest travesties of justice being played out before the world and Mennonites, who are good at discussing how their peace position is supposed to change the world, are nowhere to be seen.

At this point I have to congratulate the Iroquois people and some of the residents of Caledonia, who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to try to get the truth out about what is really occurring at Caledonia. Maybe the lack of a Mennonite presence also has to do with guilt over Mennonite ownership of some of the land in question that is associated with the Haldimand Tract.

In early Mennonite history in their relations with the Iroquois, even though you don't have it written down in your history books (believe me, I know, I took Mennonite history at Canadian Mennonite Bible College and there was only one small para-

This section is a forum for discussion and discernment. Letters express the opinion of the writer only, not necessarily the position of Canadian Mennonite, the five area churches or Mennonite Church Canada. Letters should address issues rather than criticizing individuals and include contact information. We will send copies of letters referring to other parties to them to provide an opportunity to respond in a future issue if their views have not already been printed in an earlier letter. Please send letters to be considered for publication to letters@canadianmennonite.org or to Canadian Mennonite, 490 Dutton Drive, Unit C5, Waterloo, ON, N2L 6H7, "Attn: Letter to the Editor." Letters may be edited for length, style and adherence to editorial guidelines.

graph that addressed Mennonite relations with Indian people), Mennonites and Iroquois pledged to help and support each other. As such, lands in Pennsylvania were opened to the Mennonites, with the guarantee that if anyone tried to harass them or injure the peace, the Iroquois would dispense justice.

Now it's time for turn about and fair play. But where are the Mennonites? Apparently, they are sitting back, reading the paper or maybe writing a letter or two. Whatever the case, my disappointment at the lack of Mennonite involvement leaves me with the same bad taste in my mouth that Judge Marshall's illegal proclamations do. So much for justice in this our home and native land.

—**Sakoieta' Widrick, Selkirk, Man.**

Creative ways to reduce military tax contributions

Canadian Mennonite recently reported a call for new efforts to ask our government to allow us to divert the portions of our income taxes used for the war effort to foreign aid ("Protesting

military taxes," July 31, page 7).

This has been tried with limited success in times past, and I don't hold out for greater things to come any time soon.

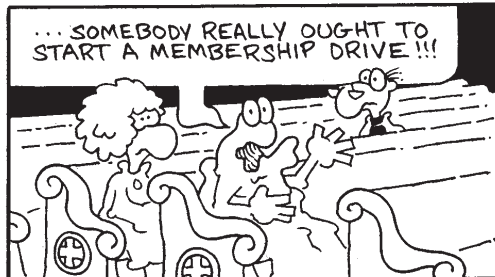
I believe that if we truly want to avoid war, we need to be guided by our conference leaders before an election by an announcement describing the party that might be more in tune with our peace stance. A lot of my acquaintances voted Conservative in the last election, based on quasi-religious grounds, and the result is manifest in increased military spending. The religious talk is long forgotten and military thinking reigns anew—witness the number of bumper stickers with yellow ribbons or the number of veterans' licence plates.

However, there may still be ways to channel more of our financial resources directly to the needy. One way is to increase our charitable donations to 20 percent of our income. We are fortunate to have responsible leaders in our Mennonite organizations who ensure that the funds reach their intended destination.

Another way to reduce our Mennonite contributions to the military is to reduce our family income. This could be done by hiring a brother in the church who is in need of financial support to work a few hours a month for us, and pay him more than the going rate! Our family income may also be reduced by just one spouse working and the other spending more time with the children—or perhaps doing voluntary work.

—**Walter Quiring, Surrey, B.C.**

Pontius' Puddle



Youths thankful for MC Saskatchewan VBS experience

This summer, along with five other students—Carissa Feick, Michael Bueckert, Joel Bueckert, Wendy Luitjens and Ashley Wiebe—I had the wonderful opportunity of working with Mennonite Church Saskatchewan's Vacation Bible School (VBS) troupe. The experience was something irreplaceable and almost indescribable. The children were well behaved, the food was good and the billets were great.

Many times, although we were there to teach, the children would be the ones to teach us valuable lessons. One child stands out particularly in my mind. He had a very positive attitude and loved to say “easy shmeezy.” On the surface it was just a cute say-

ing from a little four-year-old boy, but when I thought about it more, I realized that, although God does not promise us that life will be easy, he does tell us that he will go with us in all circumstances and help us through all trials. This thought alone helped make my summer a whole lot easier; I always knew that there was someone to turn to in all my times of need.

It was also interesting to note the ways God always proved faithful and gave us exactly what we needed. Often times I would find myself praying for a good, refreshing sleep; however, sleep did not always come quickly since I shared a room almost every week (and you know what happens when girls share a room). Lots of times, late night talks were the most meaningful, the most uplifting talks we had, something I wouldn't trade for the

world. But God still came through and provided me with the energy I needed, even if only for those two-and-a-half hours that we were with the children. What an awesome God we serve!

In closing, on behalf of the VBS troupe, I extend a big thank you to the MC Saskatchewan conference for providing us, as youths, with this opportunity to extend the kingdom of God to the children of our province and beyond. Also, thanks so much to the many people who prayed for us during the summer months; your prayers were greatly appreciated and the support could be felt as we travelled from one church to another. May God bless those who had a part, and those who will have a part, in this ministry.

—Lenora Epp

The writer is from Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite Church in Glenbush, Sask.; she is in her first year at Steinbach (Man.) Bible College.

MELISSA MILLER



Family Ties

Each time I visit my in-laws, I hear new colourful expressions I hadn't heard before: “Holy buckets!” “Raw pickle.” “A nickel's worth of \$10 bills.” They remind me of the cross-cultural experience present in family relations.

Another example comes from Charleswood, the church where I worship. An English-speaking Mennonite congregation with strong German influences, it includes a substantial number of Koreans. Over time, the language of Korea has been included in the service. Currently, on most Sundays the Bible is read in Korean. Pastor John Braun has taken it upon himself to learn some Korean and can now lead communion using both English and Korean.

While I understand not a word of Korean, the experience of hearing a language that I cannot understand in worship expands my perspective on the church of Jesus Christ. As scripture is read, I ponder the church in Korea and other places in Asia. I consider the way Korean Christianity was shaped by American soldiers during and after the Korean War. I marvel at the spread of Anabaptism in Korea, and think of my Korean friends who claim their Anabaptist heritage joyfully, with the passion of the early Anabaptists.

Church musician John Bell says that the Christian church of the 21st century is predominantly composed of people who speak languages other than English, are poor, and live in countries outside of Europe and North America. Therefore, he counselled, the least we can do to stand in solidarity with these sisters and brothers is to

Cross-cultural stretching

The capacity to stretch beyond one's familiar culture enables new life to be created.

sing one song each Sunday in their languages. To do so enriches our faith as well.

Such an attitude stands in contrast to the T-shirt slogan I once saw at a Pennsylvania flea market that proclaimed stridently, “You're in America now. Speak English!” Cross-cultural encounters can bring out the best and worst in people. In our families and close relationships, we often prefer to be with people who are similar to us, who share our customs and preferences, who “speak our language.” It is hard work to stretch

across differences.

On the other hand, there are many rewards. For starters, think of marriage, which requires some kind of difference, some degree of letting go of one's first family, to join with another person. New blood is necessary for lots of reasons. The capacity to stretch beyond one's familiar culture enables new life to be created. Similarly, parents or other adults in the family may find themselves at places they hadn't imagined they would go, as they respond to the interests or cultures of their children and children's spouses. Recently, my husband and I dutifully—if somewhat reluctantly—ate the sushi our 20-year-old son requested for his birthday.

“Holy buckets!” is one of my mother-in-law's favourite oaths when she is dealt an exceptional hand in Rook. “Raw pickle” is her term for cucumbers. And “a nickel's worth of \$10 bills” was what she asked me to pick up for her at the flea market. With a smile, I'm learning to translate.

Melissa Miller is a family life consultant, pastoral counsellor, and author from Winnipeg. She can be reached at familyties@mts.net.

Church should provide comfort and challenge

In response to Jack Suderman's editorial, "What about the young adults?" Sept. 4, page 2, I would like to say, "Amen, hallelujah!"

At the age of 28, I have just spent the last 10 years of my life in the age group he describes. I happen to know that Suderman did not have a chance to visit my church, but I think he would have found the same things he describes from his experiences elsewhere.

I want a congregation that is engaged in the community while also thinking globally. I want a congregation that is seeking to promote justice in every way possible. I want to worship with people who are engaged in the life of the church and maintain accountability to each other. I want to

worship and be church in a context of creative innovation, trying new things, and encouraging those who often sit on the sidelines to participate in ways they are comfortable with. I want to be part of a community that supports each other through the highs and lows of life in this crazy world. I also want to be part of a church that believes in having fun, fellowshiping and connecting in many ways—regardless of age, gender, family status or whatever our hang-ups may be.

Church is a community based on similar foundational beliefs. It is a place where all can be made comfortable while also being challenged to think in new ways. It is a place where we share our gifts and resources with each other. It is a place of accountability and support. If we return to the foundations of what it means to be church together, I believe that

many people, young and old, will join us. This type of community is what our secular society cannot offer and exactly what we all need.

—**Karen Martin Schiedel, Waterloo, Ont.**

Correction

Kira Friesen is not one of the 51 Mennonite Central Committee Serving and Learning Together participants from Canada and the United States who took part in training sessions in Akron, Pa., this past summer. Incorrect information appeared in the Sept. 18, page 5 article, "More than 100 young adults begin one-year MCC terms." *Canadian Mennonite* regrets the error.

SHERRI GROSZ



God, money and me

Have you ever been lost and alone in the dark? I have. Years ago I had to drive home from a meeting in a small town in southern Ontario. A few left and right turns later, I was lost in the night, unable to retrace my steps, and with no cell phone or a map of the area. The road names were unfamiliar and there were no directional signs for other towns or settlements. It was after midnight and all the farms on the gravel road were dark.

Deciding that further driving was pointless, I stopped at the crest of a hill, turned off the car and stepped out. Surveying the surrounding area I could see the glow of lights in the distance. If I headed towards the city I would be back in recognizable territory. Once back on familiar roads, it was simple to navigate my way safely home. That night, the glow of lights in the distance was a beacon calling me safely home.

We are surrounded by people who are lost, and often alone, in the dark. Some may never have heard the good news of Christ, some may have made poor life decisions and some may have intentionally turned away and are unable to find their way back. We may encounter these people in our homes, schools, churches and businesses.

When we look around our communities, we will find agencies and organizations, many of them Christian-based, that seek to improve the lives of those who are lost and in need of help. Some of us may have the gifts, abilities and calling to work or volunteer at these agencies, but some of us don't.

What can we do? We can provide support for those who

Lost and alone

Money is a great tool and we can easily find ways to spend all we have.

do the work. It could be donating funds, offering prayer, providing supplies or a friendly ear. I Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." Mennonite Foundation of Canada (MFC) has adopted this scripture, and we use it as our guide while serving the Christian community.

Money is a great tool and we can easily find ways to spend all we have. Jesus reminded the rich young man that in order to have eternal life he needed to do two things: keep the commandments and give his wealth to the poor, so that he may have treasure in heaven. We also are to fight the temptation to keep what God has given us, to open our hands and give back to God, and to provide help to those who are in need.

By sharing our stories, questions and struggles around the use of money, and by pooling our funds, donations and tithes, we are able to make our Christian light shine a little brighter.

You may have some questions surrounding the relationship between faith and money, or you may be ready to help shine the light of Christian love by donating funds during your lifetime or through your estate. At MFC, we are ready to work with you and assist you in shining the light as brightly as possible to reach out to those who are lost and alone.

Sherri Grosz is a Mennonite Foundation of Canada stewardship consultant. For stewardship education, estate and charitable gift planning, contact your nearest MFC office or visit mennofoundation.ca.

Winnipeg

Conference to examine World War II CO experience

Nearly 30 years ago, Billy Graham was quoted in *Sojourners* magazine as saying, "I have 14 grandchildren now, and I ask myself, 'What kind of world are they going to face?'... I have gone back to the Bible to restudy what it says about the responsibilities we have as peacemakers. I have seen that we must seek the good of the whole human race, and not just of any one nation or race."

During the Second World War, more than 10,000 Canadians sought alternatives to military service. Their story remains virtually untold, having been largely relegated to short print-run books and contributions to archival collections.

After four years of planning, the War and the Conscientious Objector conference will be held from Oct. 20 to 21 at the University of Winnipeg, highlighting the experiences of Canadian conscientious objectors (COs) in the Second World War.

The COs came from all walks of life, with the largest numbers coming from groups such as Mennonites, Doukhobors, Quakers, Hutterites and Jehovah's Witnesses. These people were called to military service but refused to participate. Instead, they sought options for alternative service through a program negotiated with the Canadian federal government.

Manitoba

More than 3,000 men claimed CO status in Manitoba, more than any other province. They worked in hospitals, farms, in Riding Mountain National Park, various industries, and in other provinces.

John Bergen was a teacher in Homewood. In a letter to the Department of Education in 1943 he declared himself a conscientious objector, stating, "We are willing to help to sustain life, rather than to help to destroy life, believing in Christ's

words, 'Love thine enemy,' as well as 'Love thy neighbour.'"

After a hearing, Bergen's teaching certificate was unanimously revoked. He then voluntarily served as a CO in the dental corps.

In 1946, Bergen's teaching certificate was reinstated and he went on to a long teaching career, including 22 years at the University of Alberta. However, this issue did not rest with him. In 1975, Bergen revisited the issue with the education department.

After a review, the Manitoba Department of Education wrote, "In view of the fact that Mr. Bergen did serve his country during the war, that society's attitudes have changed vastly in the last 30 years, and that Mr. Bergen's record as a certified teacher was impeccable, I wish to recommend to you that the cancellation of Mr. Bergen's certificate be expunged from the record and that retroactively he be considered certified during the period of cancellation."

Alberta

In Alberta, 1,100 COs served on farms, in industry, mines and in 10 park locations for 50 cents a day, with the rest of their wages going to the Red Cross.

Samuel Martin was a CO from Duchess; he was called to military service in 1944. In his hearing, Martin was surprised when he was denied this status. Because he refused military service, he was arrested and spent more than 18 months in prison.

At times he was put in solitary confinement on a bread and water

diet. In a cold cell, where the heat had been turned off and a window propped open, he only had his underwear to keep him warm because he refused to wear a military uniform.

David Goerzen and Henry Martens worked at Patricia Lake in Jasper National Park. Little did they know that they were working on a secret military project of the Canadian, American and British governments known as Habakkuk. This clandestine project had COs building a proto-



Mennonite Heritage Centre photo

Conscientious objectors cut logs for firewood.

type warship made of ice that could withstand any enemy fire. Goerzen and Martens, of Abbotsford, B.C., have been extensively interviewed by Eco-Nova for an upcoming TV documentary, *Ship of Ice*, on the Habakkuk project.

Ontario

Ontario had more than 2,600 conscientious objectors, many of whom worked on farms. Others worked in industry, mines and parks, and fighting forest fires.

Wilson Hunsberger grew up in Waterloo, attending Erb St. Mennonite Church. As a school teacher, Hunsberger was chosen in 1943 to teach six Japanese children from three

Continued on page 14

COs *From page 13*

families in Nays, Ont. The children and their families were forced out of Vancouver and sent to Nays because they were seen as a threat to national security.

Saskatchewan

There were more than 2,300 men registered as COs in Saskatchewan, working in hospitals, farms, lumber camps, as firefighters and as medics.

Don Regier of Tiefengrund worked on the J.S. Palmer and Sons farm near Marsden. Palmer had been on the board that interviewed Regier and gave him his CO status. While most COs received 50 cents a day for their work, Palmer paid Regier a full wage in addition to the money sent to the Red Cross.

British Columbia

There were more than 20 locations in B.C. where COs were sent from across the country to complete their alternative service. From B.C. alone there were more than 1,600 COs.

One of their jobs was to plant trees—17 million of them—which today are worth over \$1.7 billion.

"[The CO workers] have served a function of great national importance and will continue to do so in these camps. The need is as urgent as ever and they cannot be replaced," wrote Minister A. Wells Gray to Justice A.M. Manson during the war years.

Conference highlights

The War and the Conscientious Objector conference will take a critical look at the experiences of Canadian COs such as Martin, Goerzen and Martens in the Second World War and interpret them in today's context. The conference will feature speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds, including experts on pacifism in Canada, university students, peace activists and Second World War COs themselves.

For more information on conscientious objectors and the conference, visit alternativeservice.ca and follow the "CO conference" link.

—Mennonite Historical Society of Canada release

Tehran, Iran**Mennonite scholars participate in Muslim doctrine conference**

With much international attention to Iran's policies and influence in the wider region of the Middle East, some observers are also taking note of religious dynamics. In September, three Mennonite scholars participated in a conference in Tehran devoted to study the "science of messianism," also known in Shi'a Islam as the "Mahdism doctrine." The Bright Future Institute, in Qom, Iran, organized and hosted the conference.

The conference drew more than 100 international participants—including David W. Shenk, global consultant with Eastern Mennonite Missions, Salunga, Pa.; Thomas N. Finger, independent scholar at Reba Place Church, Evanston, Ill.; and N. Gerald Shenk, professor of church and society at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va.—and an estimated 4,000 Iranians.

The figure of the Mahdi in Shi'a Islam is identified as the Twelfth Imam in succession after the prophet Mohammed. In Mahdist doctrine, after a lengthy period of injustice and immorality, he is expected to return to establish justice and restore righteousness on Earth. Allusions to Christian teaching are frequent, and in some versions the return of Jesus Christ and the expected Mahdi figure are linked. A display in the conference lobby prominently looped a video proclaiming: "Do you know—Jesus Christ is coming soon? And the Mahdi comes right after that!"

David Shenk presented a paper on "Messianic hope in biblical eschatology" to a plenary session, drawing on his lengthy acquaintance with Islam in Africa and around the world. He

began with a reference to Iranian President Ahmadinejad's recent letter to U.S. President Bush (May 8), which named this hope for the second coming of the Messiah.

Shenk's paper and another presented by Tom Finger carefully outlined the characteristics of human society that is marked by God's rule, expressed in the life of the early followers of Jesus, as non-violence, equality and economic sharing. Shenk further stated that Jesus the Messiah is the fullness of the presence of the kingdom of God.

Gerald Shenk's paper discussed the rise of messianic movements in the American context during the past two centuries. He also traced the same beliefs into movements of dispensationalist theology, which account for support by many contemporary Christians for the nation of Israel both before and after 1948.

Professor Muhammad Legenhausen of the Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute in Qom, commented on the significance of having Christian views presented within a religious conference in Iran. "To have a Christian voice present without being antagonistic is tremendous," he said.

In response, Gerald Shenk said, "In the context of heightened international tensions, the courtesy extended across historic religious divides to welcome the witness of Christian scholars in the framework of new thinking about Islamic hopes and expectations was remarkable."

—**Ross W. Muir**, from a report by **N. Gerald Shenk**



David Shenk, global consultant with Eastern Mennonite Missions, Salunga, Pa., was one of three Mennonite scholars to address the international conference on Mahdism doctrine in Tehran, Iran, last month.

Photo by N. Gerald Shenk

Winnipeg

Der Bote to cease publication in 2008

As one of only three remaining German language Mennonite periodicals in North America, *Der Bote* will celebrate 84 years of publication and wind down its ministry in June 2008.

For a number of years the editorial staff of *Der Bote* have been aware that one day the magazine would cease publication. The number of subscribers has decreased steadily and, although it has enjoyed strong financial support from readers, its operation has been subsidized increasingly through a special *Der Bote* reserve fund. In the mid-1970s *Der Bote* enjoyed a high of more than 9,000 subscribers. Today, just 2,350 subscribe.

In April 2006, the *Der Bote* Editorial Committee, along with editor Ingrid Janzen Lamp and Dave Bergen, executive secretary for Mennonite Church Canada Christian Formation, met to consider the future of the paper. They eventually reached the decision to bring publication to a close.

"The declining number of subscribers, along with the reality of shrinking funds, led us to the conclusion that *Der Bote* cannot sustain itself beyond June 2008," stated Bergen.

Lamp added, "We are grateful for the many people whose gifts, hard work and dedicated prayers have made it possible to continue this ministry for so long."

Various ways of continuing to nurture *Der Bote* readers beyond 2008 are being explored.

During the final year of publication, the ministry of *Der Bote* will be cel-



brated in a series of feature articles highlighting the impact of its ministry over the years. Also, a special *Der Bote* celebration is planned during the 2008 assembly of MC Canada.

Founded in 1924 as *Der Mennonitische Immigrantentbote* in Rosthern, Sask., it later merged with the U.S.-based *Christlicher Bundesbote* in 1947 and became the weekly publication of the former General Conference Mennonite Church as *Der Bote*. Since the transformation into MC Canada in 2000, *Der Bote* has been a resource ministry of the national church. Over the years, the bi-weekly paper has provided important news, information and spiritual nurture to readers in Canada, as well as the United States, Mexico, South America and Europe.
—MC Canada release

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Hwacheon, South Korea

'Walking the way' of discipleship

What happens when an unlikely group of Christians living in different countries, speaking various languages and coming from diverse backgrounds, meet together for nine days of discipleship training from an Anabaptist perspective?

In the words of Micah 6:8, they do justice, love kindness and walk humbly.

From July 7 to 15, more than a dozen participants from Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea gathered together to experience what it means to be Anabaptist in Asia. The Asia Anabaptist Discipleship Training Program, hosted by Jesus Village Church and the Korea Anabaptist Center, took place at Abba Shalom Koinonia in the South Korean mountains near the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

The training program theme was "Walking the way," based on Micah



Richard Rancap, pastor of the Integrated Mennonite Church in the Philippines, left, led interactive daily devotions and sessions that helped participants, including Soon Jae Kwon from South Korea, learn more deeply about God's vision of shalom.

6:8. Richard Rancap, pastor of the Integrated Mennonite Church in the Philippines, led interactive daily devotions and sessions that helped participants learn more deeply about God's vision of shalom. Rancap challenged the group to consider carefully what it means to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly in individual contexts. Discussions about the sessions carried on long into the night and began again at early-morning breakfast.

After several days at Abba, the trainees divided into three groups for

outreach experiences.

A "doing justice" group learned about peace-and-justice-related issues in Korea by visiting an organization working for land justice; a home for elderly women who had been sexual slaves of the Japanese military; and The Frontiers, a Christian organization sending young people to serve through peace camps in conflict areas around the world.

A "loving kindness" group visited with patients at a hospice, walked with workers from a Christian organization doing ministry to the homeless, learned from Korean Sharing Movement working in North Korea, and served 1,000 lunches at a soup kitchen in central Seoul.

The "walking humbly" group experienced how various Christians in Korea have understood discipleship and community through a history tour of the Christian Church in Korea. Group members visited the largest church in the world (Yeoido Full Gospel Church); and worshipped and served together with Sarangbang Community Church, a small, rural, community-focused congregation that runs an alternative school.

The Discipleship Training Program's transformative impact went beyond expectations. During final-day reflections, a Japanese participant working with peace and justice projects at her church, and involved with issues of sexual slavery since 1988, said she was inspired to continue her work, knowing others in Asia support her.

—**Cheryl Woelk**

The author works at the Korea Anabaptist Center through Mennonite Church Canada Witness and its partner, Mennonite Mission Network.

Beirut, Lebanon

MCC seeks \$1.4 million for Middle East relief

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is seeking \$1.4 million from donors to help people affected by violence in the Middle East.

The 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah displaced nearly a million Lebanese, or about a quarter of the population. Many are returning home to find their homes and possessions destroyed. The conflict has also left many injured. As many as 100,000 unexploded bombs remain in Lebanon, leaving civilian families—especially children—in danger.

MCC is sending \$977,000 in material resources, including 6,000 relief kits, 21,000 school kits, 40,000 health kits, 16,800 blankets and 38,400 cans of meat, to Lebanon. The response also includes \$382,000 in financial support for relief, health and peace projects.

A \$52 donation prints 100 copies of



Relief supplies stand on the tarmac in Beirut, Lebanon, awaiting transport to distribution centres.

a game that educates children about the dangers of unexploded ordnance, \$55 purchases a kitchen kit, and \$111 supports a doctor's work in Lebanon for one day.

Continuing military action in Gaza between Israeli and Hamas forces has killed more than 200 people. MCC is providing \$86,900 to Palestinian partner organizations that support job creation, women's health and child nutrition projects.

To donate, visit mcc.org and follow the "Donate" link at the bottom of the window.

—MCC release

Mercy Corps photo

San Antonio, Tex.

Countering military recruitment in the U.S.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. is bringing together youths and adults from across the country later this fall to gain tools to counter the lure of military recruiters and increasing militarism in American society.

The conference, which will be at San Antonio Mennonite Church from Nov. 3 to 5, will explore how to counter military recruiters who promise money for college or job training, offers that are especially hard for youths in impoverished communities to resist, says Titus Peachey, MCC U.S. director of peace education.

“The recruiters will go where the recruitment is most effective, and that’s always where there’s more unemployment and fewer opportunities elsewhere,” he says.

The idea for the conference was sparked at a bi-national Anabaptist consultation in Elgin, Ill., in March 2005, which focused on the potential for military conscription.

African-American and Latino participants, saying their communities were disproportionately vulnerable to military recruitment, issued a strong call for the larger church to address aggressive recruitment efforts in communities affected by poverty and racism. The conference will echo that call and provide tools for churches to answer it.

A broad variety of workshops will target various themes, including helping participants learn more about the realities behind military advertising and recruiting; challenging and equipping congregations to help youths find meaningful non-military opportunities for education, job training, employment and leadership development; and discussing strategies for counter-recruitment work in public schools and other settings.

The conference is especially intended for young people and adults who are instrumental in helping them make decisions about their future, whether in roles as teachers or guidance counsellors, youth pastors or pastors, or simply as friends and family.

“This is a spiritual issue,” Peachey says, noting that one workshop will focus on the spiritual basis for counter-recruitment work. Times of worship and biblical study will underscore how countering military recruitment fits

into a commitment to Christ’s way of peace and reconciliation.

To learn more about the conference or to register, visit mcc.org and follow the “News and Events” link.

—MCC release by **Larry Guengerich**

Darfur, Sudan

MCC, Foodgrains Bank team up to provide aid

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is shipping 4,000 metric tons of wheat to Sudan as one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises continues in the country’s Darfur region.

Fighting continues in Darfur, where a civil war erupted three years ago, despite a peace agreement between the government and one rebel faction in May. Hundreds of thousands of people have died in the conflict and about two million have been displaced into camps.

William Reimer, MCC’s director for food, disaster and material resources, visited Darfur in July and says the region’s civilians are in greater danger than ever. A 7,000-member African Mission peacekeeping force was scheduled to leave the country at the end of September and the government of Sudan is strenuously resisting calls for a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur.

In partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, MCC is provid-

ing the wheat to the United Nations World Food Program for distribution in Sudan, with about 70 percent going to Darfur.

“The UN is out of food as of December, so this shipment is timely,” Reimer says.

MCC is also sponsoring trauma healing work in displacement camps in Darfur and is preparing to support conflict mediation work between community leaders.

Reimer met a Sudanese trauma counsellor, Elizabeth Cornelia, who described her work with displaced people to him. “She talked about the terrible trauma that so many people in Darfur still experience,” Reimer reports. “The rape and killings continue.”

Cornelia provides camp residents with materials to make mats and beds to employ themselves productively, as few formal employment opportunities are available to camp residents.

—MCC release by **Tim Shenk**



Photo by John Robinson

Two million people have been displaced by the ongoing conflict in Sudan’s Darfur region. This photo of Otash camp, near the town of Nyala, South Darfur, was taken in 2004.

New Hamburg, Ont.

Assistant pastors to celebrate 100 years of active ministry

This fall, the Nithview Community congregation will be celebrating with Victor Dorsch and Amsey Martin, who serve as assistant pastors, and are each celebrating 50 years of active ministry. That's a total of 100 years!

Their paths first crossed in the summer of 1955. Victor Dorsch, his wife Viola, and their two children were living in a small apartment at Eastern Mennonite College (EMC) in Harrisonburg, Va., where Dorsch was completing his theological studies. Late that August, Martin and his new bride, Leona, moved into the apartment next door. These young men were preparing for a lifetime of Christian ministry and their spouses were prepared to support them and serve wherever they were called. They had many opportunities that year to "bump into" one another as the small adjoining apartments shared a bathroom.

The Dorschs had a dream to serve God in the mission field, so they applied to Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions in Lancaster, Pa., with an openness to serve wherever God would call them. On Oct. 23, 1956, the Dorschs and their young family set sail from New York for their first assignment in Somalia. They would serve as missionaries in Africa for the next 31 years.

In the meantime, Martin spent one year at EMC, choosing to complete his pastoral training part-time while serving as a pastor. His first call came in the fall of 1956, when he became the pastor of a small, emerging church in Glen Allan, Ont. To support his growing family he also worked at the Wallenstein feed mill. Then in 1963, Martin was invited to plant a church in Listowel, Ont. The new congregation began with only three families, but since that time Listowel Mennonite Church has outgrown its facilities three times and now has 225 members. Martin also served at

Poole Mennonite (Milverton, Ont.) and at Bethel Mennonite (Elora, Ont.), before retiring from Living Water Mennonite Church in New Hamburg in 1996.

Despite being continents apart, their pathways still crossed. In 1973, the Dorschs' daughter, Shirley, returned from Africa to take her final high school year. She lived with the Martin family in Milverton and became good friends with their daughter, Sharon.

When the Dorschs returned from Africa, he served for seven years as the pastor at Mapleview Mennonite Church near Wellesley, Ont.

"Viola and I always hoped that we could come to Nithview when there was a need," Dorsch reflects. Some rental apartments became available in early 1994 and the Dorschs moved in during March of that year. "No sooner had I signed the papers than the Nithview chaplain, pastor Gerald Schwartentruber, approached me and asked if I would help him with the pastoral needs at Nithview," Dorsch says with a laugh. "I have been serving as an assistant pastor at Nithview ever since!"

When Martin retired from full-time ministry in 1996, he and his wife were well settled in their New Hamburg home. He began looking for an opportunity to serve in the community and joined the pastoral team at Nithview in 1999.

Nancy Mann, current pastoral care coordinator at Nithview, acknowledges that it would be difficult to offer the wide range of pastoral services with-



The Nithview community in New Hamburg, Ont., is honouring two long-time assistant pastors for their combined century of ministry. Amsey Martin and his wife Leona, left, were to be feted on Oct. 1, while the celebration for Victor and Viola Dorsch is scheduled for Nov. 19.

out the contribution of these faithful, experienced pastors.

"They really understand the needs of seniors because they are seniors," she says. "We are so fortunate to have them serving as part of the pastoral team here at Nithview."

Dorsch, who is in his 79th year, reflects, "I enjoy working with elderly people, and just walking with people in their times of need. I still have some good years left in me and I want to use them for the Lord's service."

Martin agrees that serving at Nithview brings satisfaction and purpose to his senior years. "It is a joy to share with the many residents and the great staff at Nithview," he says. "I thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve him here."

The Nithview Community congregation was to honour Victor and Viola Dorsch on Oct. 1. Amsey and Leona Martin will be acknowledged on Nov. 19.

—Nithview Community release

Calgary

Musical raises funds for Mexican water project

When Marion Carson Elementary School Kindergarten teacher Kate Janzen contacted Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta for information about its work in water resource development, few knew it would grow into an hour-long musical that would raise funds for MCC's water project in Osinala, Mexico.

But the musical—created by Janzen and a colleague, and performed by 70 little Kindergarten students—taught both the performers and more than 300 spectators (mostly parents and grandparents) about water, and spurred them to fill little “rain buckets” with money for Mexico.

The songs provided information about where water comes from, how to find it, when to conserve it, who has it and who does not, how much some have and how little others have, and about the fish that swim in it.

One of the songs performed in the musical, “That’s Conservation,” goes like this:

*Turn off the tap when you're brushing
your teeth.
Wasting the water will cause the world grief.
We can remember this simple little rule:
That's conservation.*

*If your lawn looks brown and it needs
a drink,
Before you water it remember to think:
It only needs a Frisbee of water every week.
That's conservation.*

*Pollution is a problem for some big
companies,
Dumping their water in our rivers and seas.
When we get big we'll do better than that.
We'll practise conservation.”*

Money raised following the performance will go towards defraying the \$750 cost of a cistern needed to water community gardens that will help to provide food for local residents.

—**Abe Janzen**



Photo by Leona Dueck Penner

Sisters Hannah and Kayla Drudge and cousin Sophie Hildebrand Schlegel, from Winkler and Morden, Man., raised enough money to pay for two cisterns for the Mennonite Central Committee Brazil cisterns project. Hannah donated money she got from the tooth fairy and the three held a concert in Sophie's livingroom that included singing, instrumental music and a puppet show. Proud grandparents Harry and Agnes Huebner said, “We are pleased that the girls are practising the gift of generosity at such an early age, because if any practice comes close to capturing the spirit of the Christian faith, it is that of giving and receiving graciously. And in today's world there is much that counters this emphasis. We are grateful to all the people who helped the girls realize their goal.”



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Kapuskasing, Ont.

New marker for Reesor cemetery

A new stone monument stands in a tiny cemetery in the wilds of northern Ontario so that eight Mennonites who are buried there will not be forgotten nor their graves lost forever. On June 25, nearly two dozen people travelled by four-wheel drive down a narrow path along a snowmobile trail to the old cemetery of the Reesor settlement in the wilderness east of Kapuskasing for a dedication service.

The cemetery was begun in 1928, only three years after Mennonite immigrants from Ukraine first tried to make their living along the railway line between Cochrane and

Kapuskasing. Eventually, the community dispersed and the cemetery was closed. Maintenance was continued by John Enns, who lived in Reesor until his death. Relatives considered moving the remains, but rejected the idea as complicated and costly.

Thirteen years ago, the maintenance of Cemetery No. 2 was taken over by Jimmy Zwezdaryk, who once lived in Reesor. Now 81, he still drives to Reesor from Kapuskasing every week to cut the grass and to keep the forest from taking over. In recent years, concern was expressed that if there was no one to take care of the cemetery it could be completely lost to posterity.

George Janzen, who had once lived

in Reesor, consulted the relatives of those buried there and had the names engraved on a large stone. He and his son travelled to the old cemetery, poured footings for the base and erect-

ed the stone a few days before the dedication.

The dedication service was led by Martha Bartel, whose grandmother, Maria Kroeker, is buried there, and by Arno Bartel, who spoke on the passage in Joshua 4, where the Israelites are commanded by God to gather stones for a

memorial to mark their crossing over the Jordan River.

—From report by **Martha Bartel**

In recent years, concern was expressed that if there was no one to take care of the cemetery it could be completely lost to posterity.



In a fitting tribute to a couple of “bridge builders,” Peter Zacharias, long-time lead pastor of Blumenort Mennonite Church, Gretna, Man., and his wife Valentine, right, were presented with “Footprints on the Bridge,” a painting by local artist and church member Bev Friesen, to honour his 24 years of ministry with the Rosetown, Man., congregation. Presenting the painting at the June 25 retirement celebration was ministerial chair Armin Ens, left. Testified one mother of Zacharias’ impact on her family, “I knew I wanted to become a part of this body [of believers] when I walked through the church doors and the pastor wanted to know the names of my children and showed interest in their wellbeing.”

Edmonton

Storyteller adds his voice to Alberta singers

Renowned Mennonite storyteller Jack Dueck was the highlight for this year’s annual spring concert at Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church in Edmonton. Dueck’s stories of grace, faith, love and hope were interspersed throughout the concert, some from his own life, some from people with whom he has crossed paths, and others from historical individuals or literary works.

Dueck’s stories were like mini-ser-

mons, each relating in some way to the choir music directed by Nancy Dyck and Diana Wiens, and accompanied by Martha Hubert and a host of other musicians. His knowledge of literature and of both Mennonite and general history gave him ample material with which to work.

Originally from Coaldale, Alta., Dueck and his wife now live in Waterloo, Ont., and attend Rockway Mennonite Church. He holds a number of degrees in English literature and music, including a Ph.D. in literature from Notre Dame University. His telling of the story of Russian Mennonites resulted in the video *Mysteries of Grace and Judgment* produced by Mennonite Central Committee.

—**Sandra Epp**



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Bloomingtondale, Ont.

Service helps heal pain of church schism

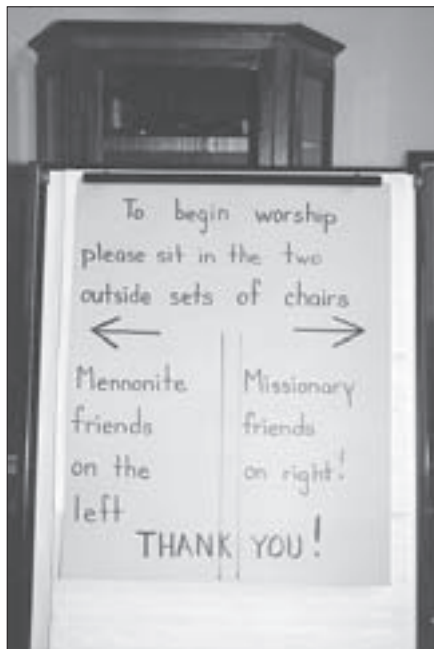
The double doors at the centre back of our auditorium at Bloomingdale Mennonite Church tell a tale. A new Schneider meeting house was built in 1872 with two entrance doors, one for men and one for women. It is believed that three years later it was changed into one common door after many of the members affiliated with the “New Mennonites” or Reformed Mennonites (who later became the Evangelical Missionary Church).

In 1879, the more conservative Mennonite group regained use of this building and the entrance doors were changed back to separate doors for men and women. In a major renovation in 1951, after there was no longer a faith principle involved, the two doors were again replaced by a single entrance.

In hindsight, we chuckle about those doors, but they tell the story of the limitation and stretching of human thought, customs and faith. Some people are able to envision changes and newness more quickly than others, sometimes at a pace others cannot accept.

We might say, “This is a human story—not God’s story.” But God’s story is translated through fallible human beings. In spite of the doors, in spite of who is joining and who is leaving, in spite of how welcoming or rejecting the persons who walk through those doors—God is able to create a people.

In reviewing Bloomingdale’s 200-year history, the anniversary planning committee wanted to recognize the pain of the congregation’s first major schism. It seems that a large part of the Schneider (or Snyder) congregation of 1874 was happily involved in the Reformed Mennonite movement. Those not in favour of changing traditions probably worshipped for a time with their long-time sister congregation at the Martins meeting house. In 1879, this more conservative group asked the United Mennonite group to leave the building so that the original purpose of the gift of land—“for a Mennonite burial ground and a Mennonite meeting house”—might



As people filed into worship, they were asked to sit on the far right if they were from the Evangelical Missionary Church and on the far left if they were Mennonite.

be fulfilled once again. All this after years of unresolved conflict within the conference on these matters!

When Bloomingdale approached the nearby Breslau Evangelical Missionary Church (EMC) to consider a joint worship service, it agreed and on May 7 about 35 EMC guests joined the Bloomingdale congregation.

As people filed into worship, they were asked to sit on the far right if they were from the Evangelical Missionary Church and on the far left if they were Mennonite. The central empty space dominated the room, especially during a painful reflection on the brokenness of the Mennonite Church in the late 1800s.

Assured by singing that the love of God “is greater far than all our sins,” the gathering was invited to offer to one another a handshake and blessing. People immediately rearranged themselves by sitting together as one body of sisters and brothers in Christ.

As Bloomingdale’s pastor, I reflected on how God created a divine story

using the human story. EMC pastor Dennis Bells, architect of the “divided” seating plan, looked ahead in his meditation, inviting the church to fulfill its mission by relocation, reconciliation and redistribution. He noted that the congregations had followed two paths with one purpose: to raise up a community of believers reconciled to God and to one another.

Worshippers experienced reconciliation in a variety of forms. The biblical words, sung and prayed, invited congregants to build on their foundation in Christ and to move into healing and forgiveness.

If prejudices were softened or let go, if one stereotype fell by the wayside, if someone pleads for patience or for forbearance in the next step of any big church conflict, the Lord will know that we meant what we said and sang.

—Mary Mae Schwartzentruber

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Winkler, Man.

At 25, Covenant prepares to meet new challenges

Potluck and fellowshiping around the table—a well-established tradition of Covenant Mennonite Church in Winkler—was central to celebrating the church's 25th anniversary on Sept. 10.

In 1981, Covenant was created from Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church, to provide an alternative General Conference option in Winkler and to be an outreach to the community. A core group of 12 members grappled with such questions as “What does it mean to be the church today?” “How can the church speak to present-day issues?” and, “What kind of church does our community need?” Those same questions are still engaging this congregation, now a generation older and with its own traditions.

“When we were younger we wondered if we had wisdom,” congregational chair Doug Dyck told the congregation. “Now we've gained wisdom, but have no one to pass it on to.”

Covenant was a congregation that from the outset wanted to offer a less formal and more-participatory worship style with shared leadership. The small group of founding members carried a heavy load of responsibility in leading worship, teaching Sunday school, participating in weekly care groups and performing all the other tasks involved in the life of a church.

Slowly but steadily the membership of Covenant grew until 1988, when it reached a peak of 46, requiring the church to grapple with a variety of new issues.

Gary Bueckert, a founding member, recalled, “The diversity of theological thinking within the group was beginning to cause a strain on some relationships.”

In 1992, Barry Lesser was called to be Covenant's first pastor, with the hope of easing the workload for members and developing a more unified vision. However, by 1997 membership had dropped to 28, its pastor was resigning and Winkler Bible Institute,

where the congregation had worshipped for 16 years, was closing down.

Despite this divisive and difficult period, members recalled many fellowship events that helped to build good inter-generational relationships that continue to this day. Even when the congregation languished, it sponsored a refugee family from Guatemala and never ceased to be an active supporter of local and overseas mission projects.

Without a pastor and a building, members were faced with the necessity to reinvent Covenant. Within the year Covenant purchased the former Lutheran church and hired Kelvin



Dyck

Dyck for an interim one-year period, a position he holds to this day.

In his morning message Dyck reflected, “We are deeply mindful that why we are here is purely and simply because of, and through, God's grace.”

A changing demographic profile is one of the issues now facing the congregation.

Children have grown up and left the area, and adults are retiring—or nearing retirement—with plans to travel or serve in other locations. At the same time, the new building has provided a welcome for visitors to the church.

“For the long-term survival of this congregation we need to attract new people, more young families and singles,” noted Bueckert.

—**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**

‘Now we've gained wisdom, but have no one to pass it on to.’



Photo courtesy of Abe Dueck

The largest graduating class in the history of Alberta Mennonite High School (AMHS) held a reunion at the Entheos Retreat Centre west of Calgary in June. Of the 37 students who enrolled in the 1955-56 Grade 12 class, 23 came to the retreat, along with a number of spouses and one teacher—Jake Isaac of Edmonton. The school was founded in 1946 and closed in 1964. Pictured from left to right, front row: Elsie (Thiessen) Nikkel, Elsie (Janzen) Thiessen, Agnes (Wall) Klassen, Marlene (Sawatzky) Quapp, Eleanore (Toews) Dueck, Agnes (Langeman) Thibert, Bertha (Quiring) Schmidt, Helen (Willms) Schmidt and Alice (Friesen) Bogner; middle row: John Hubert, Arnold Kornelsen, Henry Schmidt, Jake Isaac (teacher), Abe Dueck, Jake Janzen and Danny Schmidt; and, back row: Peter Nikkel, Henry Hubert, Ted Regehr, William (Bill) Baerg, Jack Dueck, Victor Pauls, Dave Voth and Rudy Dyck.

People&Events

San Lorenzo, Paraguay—The words of II Timothy 2:2 permeated the August celebration of God's faithfulness during the 50 years of existence of Centro Evangélico Mennonita de Teología Asunción (CEMTA), the Mennonite seminary in Paraguay. Featured at the 50th anniversary celebration were a symposium on "Theological education in and for the 21st century," a choral seminar by Canadian Paul Dueck (who, along with his wife, Linda, presented a plaque on behalf of Mennonite Church Canada), worship and thanksgiving. Symposium speakers started with Anabaptist theological principles, continued with an analysis of postmodernity in the Paraguayan context, and concluded with proposals for theological education at CEMTA. The three-day anniversary activities closed with a thanksgiving service on Aug. 12 that included the official opening of a new library and auditorium.
—MWC release, from a report by **Renate Penner**

Hepworth, Ont.—Gwen Dell'Anno was appointed as the new executive director of Silver Lake Mennonite Camp effective Sept 1. She replaces Ben Janzen, who completed a three-year term. Dell'Anno brings a personal commitment to the Mennonite/Anabaptist faith and a commitment to the mission of Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, along with an understanding of the challenges facing Christian non-profit camping organizations. She is a graduate of Niagara Christian College and received an honours bachelor of science degree in wildlife biology from the University of Guelph. Dell'Anno has a strong background in environmental education, leadership experience and a thorough understanding of residential Christian camping. She plans to move to the Hepworth area with her family

so she can continue working on some outdoor education initiatives and strengthen the off-season rental program at Silver Lake.

—Silver Lake Camp release by **Ruth-Ann Shantz**

San José, Costa Rica—More than 70 women from across Central America met in July for the first gathering of women theologians and Bible students to talk about women's roles in church and other areas. Future plans are to create an inventory of women's gifts. Other objectives included identifying the social, cultural and religious contexts of women in Central America; reflecting on biblical misinterpretations of women's roles in the life of the church; and agreeing on specific actions. Biblical reflections by pastor Ofelia García of Mexico led women to profound thinking and delving into Scripture. "In this search for becoming true co-inheritors of grace, we are not alone," García assured the women. "God is calling women to be partners, to expand the kingdom of God with our gifts from our femaleness. We have to believe and own the truth that Jesus has called us." The gathering was part of a worldwide effort led by Mennonite World Conference (MWC) to encourage and nurture women in theological training and pastoral ministries. Similar gatherings have been held in different regions of Africa since 1999. Funding for the Costa Rica meeting came from Mennonite Church Canada Witness, Rosedale Mennonite Missions, Canadian Women in Mission, and Mennonite Central Committee.
—MWC release by **Milka Rindzinski**

Newton, Kan.—Ted Stuckey's 31 years of service to the General Conference Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church USA were celebrated with a retirement celebration by Mennonite Church USA Executive Leadership members on Aug. 29. Stuckey

began his work as business manager and treasurer for the General Conference Mennonite Church in 1975. He kept that title until the denomination's merger with the Mennonite Church, which formed what is now MC USA. Within the new denomination, Stuckey served as director of administration for Executive Leadership, treasurer for MC USA and president of Church Extension Services. His most recent responsibilities included supervising the accounting and financial management of MC USA Executive Leadership. "Ted's dedication to the purpose of Mennonite Church USA and his expertise in understanding how we operate as a living, breathing organism made him a valuable asset for our church," said Jim Schrag, executive director for MC USA. "We're not only going to miss his services and knowledge, we're going to miss his friendship and sense of humour." Upon retirement, Stuckey said he plans to "take a break" and enjoy time with his grandson.
—MC USA release

Goshen, Ind.—The inauguration of Goshen College's 16th president, James E. Brenneman, filled a weekend with moments of great laughter, joy and celebration, but also of great ritual, worship and tradition. After being thrown into the college's fountain by students in the traditional presidential dunking, reconnecting with old college friends, partying and dining with the whole college community at a "Brenneman Bash," the new president culminated the activities with an inaugural address on Sept. 10. In his remarks, Brenneman quoted Isaiah, Proverbs, Albert Einstein, Rachel Carson and Aristotle, and called wisdom and wonder the hallmarks of great Christian higher education institutions, which need to be continually nourished and developed. "The spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power and knowledge, spoken of by Isaiah, are the

quintessential descriptors of the best educational institutions, secular and religious alike, known to humankind," he said. "But our educational task is not complete by simply becoming passionate learners of all that there is to know from the vantage point of human capacity. Wisdom and understanding, counsel, power and knowledge must be embedded in the larger narrative of Scripture." Centred on the theme, "Growing wisdom and wonder," and based on Isaiah 11:1-2, the ceremony was attended by nearly 1,000 people.
—Goshen College release

Managua, Nicaragua—John Paul Lederach, distinguished scholar at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) and professor of international peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame, was awarded the Order of the Culture of Peace for his work in Nicaragua and around the world on Sept. 7. Lederach is the founding director of EMU's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding and its associated Practice Institute. The Martin Luther King Order of Peace was established in 2003 and is conferred with a medal featuring the face of the famed American civil rights leader. The annual award is sponsored by the Polytechnical University of Nicaragua's Martin Luther King Institute, in collaboration with the World Council of Churches' peace program. University president Emerson Perez Sandoval praised Lederach's efforts to build a culture of peace around the world. Lederach's connections with Nicaragua began in the mid-1980s, when he was working for Mennonite Central Committee's "Peace Portfolio" program. From 1986 to 1989, he worked almost exclusively as a member of the Conciliation Commission, which mediated between the Sandinista government and the political and armed East Coast movement, which represented Nicaragua's indigenous peoples.
—EMU release

Transitions

Births/Adoptions

Brisbin—to Julie Konrad and Michael, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Tyler Brian, Aug. 27.

Dueck—to Heidi and Jason, Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg, a son, Daniel Mattias, June 22.

Fehr—to Denita and Abe, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Winkler, Man., a daughter, Summer Madison, June 18.

Friesen—to Andrea and James, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Winkler, Man., a daughter, Mackenzie Jade, July 19.

Froese—to Rolande and Abe, Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg, a son, Samuel Alexis, July 14.

Gerber—to Laura and David, Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont., a son, Keegan Kennedy, Sept. 2.

Giesbrecht—to Catherine and Alfried, Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg, a son, Alexander Emanuelle, July 16.

Janzen—to Angela and Paul, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Ava Angeline, Sept. 7.

Koke—to Sandra and Michael, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont.,

a daughter, Anna Elizabeth, Sept. 6.

Schmidt—to Corrie Brubacher and Brenton, Breslau Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Claire, June 13.

Schumacher—to Lori and Chris, Erb St. Mennonite, Waterloo, Ont., a daughter, Ella Katherine, Aug. 30.

Toews—to Liese and Anton, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Gladys, Sept. 7.

Trojek—to Bernadette and Jamie, Breslau Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Esme, March 8.

Marriages

Bauman-Toews—Scott and Jenn, Breslau Mennonite, Ont., Aug. 26.

Friesen-Giesbrecht—Will and Chrisie, Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Aug. 12.

Jantzi-Albrecht—John and Mallory, Maple View Mennonite, Wellesley, Ont., Sept. 2.

Janzen-Balzer—Nathan (Coaldale Mennonite, Alta.) and Marla (Langham Zoar Mennonite, Sask.), in Langham, July 2.

Kasdorf-Meyer—Dennis and Kristine, Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, March 25.

Kasdorf-Thiessen—Anthony and Haley, Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, July 8.

Klassen-Schroeder—

Matthew (Jubilee Mennonite, Winnipeg) and Charis, July 22.

Kuepfer-Mitchel—Harold and Meagan, Riverdale Mennonite, Millbank, Ont., Sept. 9.

Mader-Sawatsky—Scott and Andrea, Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, July 29.

Regier-Enns—Ben and Andrea—Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, May 12.

Reimer-Braun—Micah (Rockway Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont.) and Erin (Emmanuel Mennonite, Abbotsford, B.C.), in Abbotsford, Aug. 27.

Voth-Fehr—Jason (Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.) and Robyn (Blumenorter Mennonite, Rosetown, Man.), at the bride's home, Aug. 19.

Deaths

Bueckert—John, 64, Zoar Mennonite, Langham, Sask., Aug. 29.

Derksen—Susan, 54, Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Aug. 25.

Jantzi—Annie, 87, Maple View Mennonite, Wellesley, Ont., Sept. 10.

Koop—Hilda, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., July 20.

Nickel—Agnes (Neufeld), 70 (b. Nov. 20, 1935), Camrose Mennonite Fellowship, Alta.,

Sept. 11.

Nickel—Mary, 84, Zoar Mennonite, Langham, Sask., Sept. 1.

Smits—Connie, 54, Maple View Mennonite, Wellesley, Ont., Sept. 3.

Thiessen—Anna, 96, Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg, July 28.

Toews—Walter, 83 (b. Feb. 23, 1923), Carman Mennonite, Man., Sept. 10.

Unger—Don, 64, Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon, Sept. 1.

Weber—Sam, 90 (b. March 20, 1916), Erb St. Mennonite, Waterloo, Ont., Sept. 8.

Baptisms

First Mennonite Church Greendale, Chilliwack, B.C.—Jason Vandenberg, Sept. 3.

St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont.—Lori Brubacher, Matthew Snyder, June 4.

Wildwood Mennonite, Saskatoon—Cheryl Falk and Luke Warkentin, Aug. 6.

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

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Mennonite Church Canada

Prayer and praise requests

In the midst of busy autumn schedules, remember to create quiet moments to pray for:

- The situation in the Middle East. Glenn Witmer, Witness Worker in Israel, requests prayer for Nazareth Village and for other organizations or institutions that rely heavily on visitors who travel to Israel. Many people's livelihoods are affected as the area suffers the economic repercussions of decreased tourist travel.

- The family of Anastasia De Sousa, who died in Montreal's Dawson College shooting, and for families of those injured. Remember also the family of Kimveer Gill, as they cope with his death, with the aftermath of the shooting, and with the shocking realization of violence committed by a family member.

- Government leaders as they consider Canada's role among the poor of the world, especially Bill C-293, which calls for accountability in development assistance abroad. The bill highlights poverty reduction, sustainable development, the perspective of the poor, and human rights. Pray also for those around the world who struggle daily due to the harsh reality of extreme poverty.

—**Hinke Loewen-Rudgers**

Witness workers 'doing fine'

Mennonite Church Canada Witness worker Pat Houmphan, together with his wife, Rad, report that they are "doing fine" in the wake of a military coup in Thailand on Sept. 19. The Houmphans minister to the Isaan people in rural northeastern Thailand.

In a Sept. 20 e-mail, Houmphan wrote, "We want to let you know that we are

doing fine, and things are calm and life is going on as normal in Borabu and in the Isaan land." He reported that the Thai military issued several decrees, including the ban on public gatherings of more than five people, although religious gatherings are still allowed.

Houmphan asks supporters of their ministry to "pray for our safety as we continue to live and serve in Thailand. Pray for reconciliation between groups, and that peace and democracy will be restored soon."

Gordon Janzen, Mission Partnership facilitator for Asia, said, "At this point it appears that these political developments will not have any direct impact on our ministry."

—**Dan Dyck**

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Releasing gifts for ministry

How might a community of congregations best engage all personality types in the life of a conference whose goal is "making disciples, growing congregations and forming leaders"?

Each of the 14,000 people within MC Eastern Canada is gifted in a unique way. How might the conference be more attuned to empower all individuals so that their special God-given gifts are released for ministry? How might the conference and congregations create spaces of safety so that all voices can be heard?

In light of recent restructuring and a newly configured staff model, the conference staff set apart a day to focus on the role that personality types play in how they approach their work and team relationships. Under the leadership of Sue Steiner and Betty Pries, of Associates Resourcing the Church (ARC), staff worked with Myers Briggs personality types as well as conflict

management models. Time was spent examining how to approach conflict so that the outcome produces creativity, energy and productivity, as opposed to diminishing relationship and undermining effective ministry.

Staff members were eager to deepen their understanding of working relationships and conflict management, so that they could maintain and enrich a vibrant and healthy staff environment that will result in effective ministry to the wider church.

The day was well spent as staff openly explored their personal work and interaction styles. By better understanding how different personality types relate and perceive their environment, new perspectives were gained on individual approaches to ministry and functioning as a team.

—MC Eastern Canada staff

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Campus ministry underway

Mennonite chaplain Mark von Kampen has opened his office on the University of Manitoba campus for another season.

The Inter-Mennonite Campus Ministry (IMCA) is a partnership of three Manitoba Mennonite conferences—Mennonite Church Manitoba, Evangelical Mennonite and Evangelical Mennonite Mission. It also depends on generous support from congregations and individuals. The ministry functions under the direction of a board composed of representatives from each of these three conferences.

"Young adulthood is one of the most exciting and potentially terrifying times of life," says von Kampen. "The IMCA ministry is committed to standing alongside students as they experience the wonder and struggles of this time

of life. We are excited about offering a warm, welcoming and encouraging Christian setting where young adults can connect with fellow travellers on their journey of faith and find guidance and spiritual direction."

To contact the ministry, call 204-474-9691 or e-mail mvonkamp@shaw.ca.

Celebration banquets honour CwM ministry

The summer program of Camps with Meaning has given Manitoba Mennonites many things to be thankful for, says Bob Wiebe, camping ministries director. To that end, a series of celebration banquets, thanking and praising God for the summer camp program, will be held in late October and early November. The theme planned for the banquets is represented by Psalm 33:3: "*Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.*"

"Camps with Meaning has been blessed with creative young people who write home-grown songs representing our faith," says Wiebe, noting that some of these songs will be shared during the banquets. A video of summer programs and a brief update will also be part of the events.

The banquets will take place at Whitewater Mennonite Church, Boissevain, on Oct. 28 at 6 p.m.; Winkler Berghthaler Mennonite Church on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m.; and at Douglas Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, on Nov. 5 at 5 p.m.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Pastoral vacancies now filled

Several MC Saskatchewan churches that have been looking for new pastoral staff, some for quite awhile, have filled the positions they were seeking.

• Wilmer and Barb Froese, who served at Laird Mennonite Church for 15 years, have accepted a one-year term to work at Rosthern Mennonite Church beginning Nov. 15. “The congregation there is still actively looking for a full-time youth pastor,” says conference minister Jerry Buhler.

• North Star Mennonite in Drake said goodbye to Harold Peters Fransen, the two-year intentional interim leader, and now welcomes Audrey Mierau Bechtel as a pastor. “I’m excited about it,” says Bechtel, who was to begin her interim position on Oct. 1. She has served in one church before this and earned her master of divinity degree at Goshen College.

• Henry Block has agreed to serve in a half-time interim capacity at Zoar Mennonite in Langham.

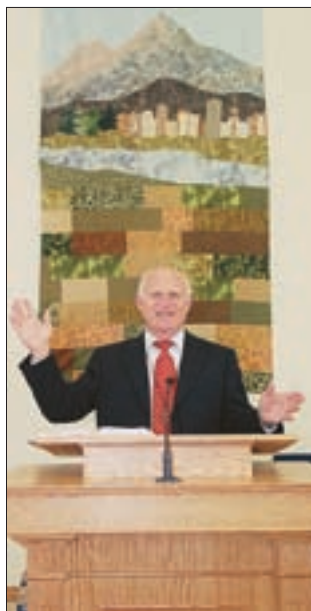
• Bill and Helen Kruger are sharing a full-time position at Zion Mennonite in Swift Current.

• Superb Mennonite and Laird Mennonite are continuing to finalize arrangements, notes Buhler.

Mennonite Church Alberta

Quilt highlights new Trinity sanctuary

More than 140 vehicles crowded the parking lot at Trinity Mennonite Church, Calgary, on Sept. 17, where, after 23



years of prayer and planning, the congregation gathered to worship and celebrate its new church building.

The pulpit, behind which pastor Erv Wiens is pictured speaking at the dedication service (see photo at left), was designed and built by Trinity member Kevin Neufeld.

A striking quilt, hanging on the wall at the front of the sanctuary, features the Calgary skyline set into a mountain background and grain field foreground, similar to the view people have when they look at the building from the outside.

When Trinity members began talking about a banner, Doug and Anne Marie Boyse

Continued on page 30

ELSIE REMPEL



From our leaders

The horror that erupted in Dawson College in Montreal on Sept. 13 has grabbed the attention of many, but it has especially gripped the hearts of parents and students.

As a former elementary teacher, I know schools as a place where teachers are trusted and legally bound to take the place of parents as guardians of their children while they are on the school grounds. The violent rampage at Dawson College showed parents and children how vulnerable students can be—even in school.

How can parents and educators protect and prepare children for life in a world where evil can erupt and lash out at them? How do followers of Jesus respond? Do we succumb to fear and build ever-higher security walls around our children?

Lindor Reynolds, *Winnipeg Free Press* columnist, responded to the horror at Dawson College from a parent’s perspective in her Sept. 14 column, “I feel terror yet again.” She concluded by saying, “There are limited resources in our schools and we need to spend them on education and on programs that teach children not to bully and teachers to recognize those who have become disconnected to their peers. We need to reinforce gun control. Last night, I wept for all the dead children. I suspect many of you did the same.”

Weeping for all the dead children. It echoes back to the slaughter of infants during the early childhood of Jesus, which, in turn, harkens back to the time of Jeremiah. Jeremiah’s Rachel is still weeping for her children. Parents across Canada joined her lamentation

Raising children in a dangerous world

Jesus called us...to remember that the kingdom of God is at hand and among us.

as they were reminded of the vulnerability of our children by this tragic event in Montreal. Will we respond with silent rage and a desire for revenge as some have responded to 9/11?

Or will we respond, like Reynolds suggests in her column, by doing what we can to build an alternative and safer society? Jesus called us—from the dangerous and vulnerable context of first century Palestinian society—to remember that the kingdom of God is at hand and is among us. He also challenged us to be wise as serpents and

innocent as doves.

Fortunately, parents and teachers who, like Reynolds, are “feeling terror once again,” can find sources of wisdom and signs of the kingdom of God among us.

The Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre’s KidsPak issue entitled “Peace Roots and Fruits” begins with an encouraging true story called “Bully No More.” It includes anti-bullying role-plays and a list of resources on this topic.

As followers of Jesus, we have additional resources for combatting terror. Jesus knows all about becoming vulnerable and living in a dangerous world. But Jesus also knows and shows us that the kingdom is among us. Jesus is among us, shares his peace with us, equips and sends us to be peacemakers even as terror disrupts and threatens the lives of our children.

Elsie Rempel is MC Canada’s director of Christian Education and Nurture.

Calendar

British Columbia

Oct. 20-22: B.C. Women in Mission retreat at Camp Squeah.

Oct. 21: Mennonite Foundation all-day seminar for church leaders involved with governance, finance and employment. Rick Braun-Janzen and Clayton Loewen presenting at CBC. Call 1-800-772-3257 for information.

Oct. 26: Retired pastors meeting/lunch in the CBC boardroom; 10 a.m.

Oct. 26: One-day workshop on faith and mental illness at Cascade Community Church, Abbotsford. Contact MCC Supportive Care Services at 1-800-622-5455 or www.mccscs.com.

Nov. 4: MC B.C. special delegates sessions, West Abbotsford Mennonite Church, 8:30 a.m. Pension plan holders meeting follows.

Nov. 4-12: MCC Arts and Peace Festival at CBC.

Nov. 6-7: Peace Week activities at CBC.

Nov. 16-18: MC Canada general board meets at Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church, Abbotsford.

Nov. 17: Mennonite Heritage Society of B.C. presents lecture "Controversy, change and consensus" dealing with theological issues of the last century by David Ewert and John Neufeld (of Winnipeg) at Bakerview M.B. Church, 7 p.m.

Nov. 17-19: Senior youth Impact retreat at Camp Squeah.

Nov. 18: MCC B.C. annual general meeting. Willingdon MB Church, Burnaby.

Dec. 1: World AIDS Day benefit concert with the Vancouver Welshmen's Choir at Abbey Arts Centre, Abbotsford.

Dec. 2,3: Advent vespers with Abendmusik Choir, 8 p.m. Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, Abbotsford (2); Knox United Church, Vancouver (3).

Donations to Menno Simons Centre.

Feb. 10: B.C. Women in Mission special business session at Bethel Mennonite Church, Aldergrove, 2 p.m.

March 16-17: Youth workers conference at CBC.

March 31, April 1: Lenten vespers with Abendmusik Choir, 8 p.m. Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, Abbotsford (31); Knox United Church, Vancouver (1). Donations to Menno Simons Centre.

May 6: B.C. Women in Mission inspirational day at Eden Mennonite Church, Chilliwack.

Alberta

Oct. 14: Camp Valaqua fall work day. Call the camp office at 403-637-2510 for more details.

Oct. 20-22: "Imagine...a balanced life" conference presented by Women Alive, at Four Points Sheraton, Edmonton. Speaker: Pam Farrel, author of *Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti*.

Oct. 26: MCC Alberta hosts Tony Campolo at Dalhousie Community Church, Calgary. For tickets, call 403-275-6935.

Oct. 24-26: Pastors retreat at Camp Valaqua. To register or for information call Jim Shantz at 780-485-2518.

Oct. 27-28: MCC Alberta annual meeting at Rosemary Mennonite Church.

Nov. 26: Installation service for paster Terry Lesser at Springridge Mennonite Church, Pincher Creek.

Saskatchewan

Oct. 15: Wildwood Mennonite Church 30th anniversary celebration. Breakfast, worship and afternoon events planned.

Oct. 20: MDS dessert and information evening at Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon.

Oct. 27-29: Quilting and scrapbooking retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre.

Oct. 28: MC Saskatchewan Equipping Conference at Mount Royal Mennonite Church. Theme: "Connecting diversity."

Nov. 3: RJC annual appreciation and fundraising banquet. Guest speaker: CPTer James Loney.

Nov. 3: MCC pastors and church leaders conference.

Nov. 3-4: MCC Saskatchewan annual general meeting at Forest Grove Community Church, Saskatoon..

Manitoba

Oct. 13-14: Manitoba Women in Mission annual 24-hour retreat, "Rooted in the Centre," at Camp Assiniboia.

Oct. 17-18: J.J. Thiessen Lectures at CMU, with Joel J. Shuman, King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Oct. 20-21: "War and the Conscientious Objector" history conference, University of Winnipeg. Speakers will include Mennonites, Jehovah's Witnesses, Doukhobors and Quakers from B.C. to Quebec.

Oct. 26: MC Manitoba annual fall delegate sessions at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Winkler, 7 to 9 p.m.

Oct. 27-29: Scrapbooking retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

Oct. 28: CMU fundraising and dessert evening.

Oct. 28: 25th annual MMYO volleyball tournament at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, 8:45 a.m.

Oct. 28: Camps with Meaning celebration banquet at Whitewater Mennonite Church, Boissevain, 6 p.m.

Oct. 30: MCI soup and pie fundraiser in Gretna, 5 p.m., followed by the fall concert, 7 p.m.

Oct. 30: Westgate Mennonite College annual general meeting, at 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 3-4: CMU youth ministry conference. Theme: "Kingdom-driven ministry. Speaker: Wendell Loewen of Tabor College.

Nov. 3-5: Camp Moose Lake quilting retreat with Val

Pankratz and Lois Friesen Wiebe.

Nov. 3-5: Camp Koinonia quilting retreat with Nancy Ross, Hedy Albrecht and Edith Hammond.

Nov. 4,5: Camps with Meaning celebration banquets—Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church, 6 p.m. (4); Douglas Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, 5 p.m. (5).

Nov. 10-12: Camp Koinonia quilting retreat with Jill Hildebrand and Heather Heide.

Nov. 10-12: Camp Moose Lake quilting retreat with Rose Campbell and Lois Friesen Wiebe.

Nov. 15-16: John and Margaret Friesen Lectures at CMU. Topic: "Mennonites and architecture." Speakers: Rudy Friesen, Harold Funk and Roland Sawatzky.

Nov. 17-18: MCC Manitoba annual general meeting, Winnipeg.

Nov. 17-18: Fall Partnership Circle meetings at Riverton Fellowship Circle.

Nov. 22: Westgate Mennonite Collegiate evening with the arts, at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2: North Kildonan Mennonite Church Quartet's Advent concert, 7 p.m., at the church.

Jan. 18-20: CMU Refreshing Winds conference on worship and music. Keynote speaker: Marva Dawn, author of *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship For This Urgent Time*.

Jan. 19-21: MMYO junior high youth retreat at Camp Koinonia.

Feb. 2-4: MMYO senior high youth retreat at Camp Koinonia.

Feb. 9-11: MMYO junior high youth retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

Feb. 20-21: CMU winter lectures with Robert Russell, professor of theology, Graduate Theological Union. Topic: "Science and theology."

March 4-7: "Sharing the Faith

in a Pluralistic and Post-Christian Society" conference at CMU. Speaker: Joe Boot of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries Canada.

March 9-11: MMYO senior high youth retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

April 13-15: Manitoba Mennonite Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, in Winnipeg. For more information, visit marriageencounter.org.

Ontario

Oct. 7-8: Bloomingdale Mennonite Church bicentennial celebration weekend.

Oct. 11: Peace and Conflict Studies/Christian Peacemaker Teams forum at Conrad Grebel's Great Hall, 7 p.m.

Oct. 12: Celebrate Canadian church relationships with African congregations through food, music and a presentation by Hippolyto Tshimanga, MC Canada Witness African mission facilitator, 7 p.m., at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church.

Oct. 12-14: Ten Thousand Villages fair trade craft sale at Hamilton Mennonite Church; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (12-13), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (14). Tea room open for lunch each day. For more information, call 905-528-3607.

Oct. 14: Mennonite Youth Fellowship fundraising dinner and auction at First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, at 5:30 p.m. For tickets, call 519-744-6575.

Oct. 28: Institute for Worship and the Arts' Planning and Leading Worship workshop at Conrad Grebel, 9 a.m. To register, call 519-885-0220.

Oct. 28: Silver Lake Mennonite camp fall fund-

raiser, "From wave tops to tree tops," featuring hypnotist Jerry Enns and the Mike Erb Band; 7:30 p.m. at the University of Waterloo Humanities Theatre. For tickets, call 519-888-4908.

Oct. 19: MEDA breakfast at the Stone Crock, St. Jacobs, 7:30 a.m. Speaker: Larry Martin.

Oct. 22: Pax Christi Chamber Choir debut concert at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, Toronto, 3 p.m. To order tickets, visit paxchristichorale.org.

Nov. 1-4: Annual Ten Thousand Villages festival sale at Vineland United Mennonite Church; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (1,2,3) and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (4). Tea room open each day.

Nov. 3-5: Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter weekend at Stratford's Festival Inn; from 7:30 p.m., Friday, to 4 p.m., Sunday. To register call Marjorie Roth at 519-669-8667.

Nov. 11: Spirituality and Aging seminar at Conrad Grebel, 9 a.m. To register, call 519-885-0220.

Nov. 23: MEDA breakfast at the Stone Crock, St. Jacobs, 7:30 a.m. Speaker: Murray Bast.

Nov. 23: Benjamin Eby Lecture at Conrad Grebel. Theme: "Law as a sword, law as a shield." Speaker: Lowell Ewert. For more information, call 519-885-0220.

Dec. 16, 17: Pax Christi Chorale's Christmas concert featuring Vaughan Williams' *Hodie*, 7:30 p.m. (16), 3 p.m. (17), at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, Toronto. To order tickets, visit paxchristichorale.org.

Feb. 9-10: MDS all unit meeting at South Ridge Community Church, St. Catharines. For more information, call Rudy Thiessen at 905-562-0396.

April 28, 29: Pax Christi Chorale's 20th anniversary gala concert, "The Music Makers: Elgar, Handel, Ager," 7:30 p.m. (28), 3 p.m. (29), at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, Toronto. To order tickets, visit paxchristichorale.org.

U.S.A.

Oct. 20-22: Young Adult Fellowship retreat focussing on young adult gifts in the church; Camp Ray Bird, South Bend, Ind. For more information, or to register, e-mail scotth@mennoniteusa.org.

Oct. 26: "Mennonite/s Writing: Beyond Borders" conference, Bluffton University, Ohio. Keynote speaker: Kathleen Norris. Submissions of Mennonite writing sought. For details, visit: www.bluffton.edu/eng/conference/.

Nov. 2-5: MEDA convention—"Business as a calling: Set the pace." Tampa, Fla. For more information, visit businessacalling.org.

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The Churches *From page 27*

contacted a quilter friend at a Presbyterian church. Someone there had designed a banner portraying the church from sea to sea for the 100th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A group from Trinity visited St. Andrews Presbyterian Church to view its collection of banners. Then Heidi Friesen drew a modified version of the sea-to-sea banner, adding side banners with a Bible verse. Bev Patkau of Foothills Mennonite offered her expertise with fabric selection and quilting.

**Mennonite Church
British Columbia**

**Worship brings
churches together**

It was a special day of worship on Aug. 6 when two local Mennonite congregations came together for Sunday services. Members of Olivet Mennonite Church joined Clearbrook Mennonite Church for a joint worship service which some called *Nach Haus Kommen* or homecoming.

Desiring an all-English-speaking congregation for their families, some members of the predominantly German-speaking Clearbrook Mennonite had left that church in 1960 to start the then-named Olivet Mennonite Mission Church.

The worship service on Aug. 6 utilized both languages, with Clearbrook pastor Siegbert Zukowski preaching in German, Randy Thompson of Olivet giving the English message, and singing in both languages. Testimonies of thanksgiving highlighted the service with glimpses into the past together with best wishes for the future.

“We all sensed the Holy Spirit bringing unity to us on this Sunday morning,” said Zukowski.

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

Advertising Dates

Issue

Oct. 30
November 13

Copy Due

Oct. 17 (*Focus on Books and Resources*)
October 31 (*Focus on Music*)

Contact:

Karen Suderman, Advertising Representative
1-800 316-4052 x224
advert@canadianmennonite.org

Canadian Mennonite University has exciting employment opportunities for persons looking to join a growing and dynamic team, and who have a vision for Christian university education. We invite you to check out the following employment opportunities:

- Administrative Assistant to the Academic Dean & Registrar
- Information Technology/AV Technician

Processing of applications will begin immediately, and continue until the positions are filled. For more information, please visit our website at www.cmu.ca or call Susan Warkentin at (204) 487-3300 or e-mail swarkentin@cmu.ca.

Employment opportunities

COALDALE MENNONITE CHURCH
is seeking to hire a

SENIOR PASTOR

to provide full-time leadership to a pastoral team and a multi-generational membership of 300. The successful candidate will be committed to Anabaptist/Mennonite theology, will be gifted in preaching, teaching and visitation. Preferred starting date: March 1, 2007. Please respond by Nov. 17, 2006 to Search Committee by phone 403-345-6728 or fax 403-345-6758.

Seattle Mennonite Church (SMC) is seeking a compassionate leader to serve in its new, full-time position of Community Minister. This person would continue the development and administration of SMC's ministry to the homeless community in its neighbourhood, serving as a member of the ministerial team and work in collaboration with the current task force. Experience and/or training in urban outreach, particularly with homeless populations, preferred. If interested, please contact Karen Solberg at 206-361-4630 or email kmpatterson@netsmc.net by Oct. 15.

International Development Studies



Menno Simons College invites applications for a tenure-track position in a growing program. The appointment is slated to begin in July 2007, subject to budgetary approval. Rank commensurate with qualifications and experience.

A doctoral dissertation in international development or related field, and teaching or applied experience are highly desirable. We are especially interested in candidates with expertise related to development ethics and regional expertise in Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, or Eastern Europe/Central Asia.

Menno Simons College is a college of Canadian Mennonite University, and is affiliated with, and located on, the campus of the University of Winnipeg, which enjoys a strong reputation for undergraduate education. We are committed to equity in employment. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, a statement of research and teaching interests, and a statement describing how they would advance the mission of the college, as found at www.mscollege.ca. Processing of applications will begin on Nov. 1, 2006. Send to: Dean E. Peachey, VP & Academic Dean, Menno Simons College, Ste. 210 -520 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G2 or d.peachey@uwinnipeg.ca.

Bluffton University invites applications for the following full-time tenure-track faculty positions to begin fall 2007.

Accounting: Academic preparation in accounting and/or substantial professional accounting experience required. A terminal degree (Ph.D. or functional equivalent) is desired. Candidates who have an MBA/MA in accounting and CPA or other professional accounting certification will be considered. Teaching responsibilities are in multiple areas of accounting. Ability to teach in areas related to information systems is desirable. The position is lodged within the Department of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting. Teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level is expected. Review of applications begins immediately and continues until appointment is made. This appointment may be earlier than fall 2007 depending on candidate availability.

Economics: Academic preparation in economics or closely related field, such as political economy, economic systems, economic history or international development. An understanding of both mainstream and alternative economic paradigms is highly desirable. A terminal degree (Ph.D. or functional equivalent) will be required for tenure. Completing this degree after employment is acceptable. Demonstrated competence in teaching is essential. A successful candidate will teach undergraduate economics and economics-related courses, as well as courses in the graduate program in business. The economics major is lodged within the Department of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting, and is one component of a values-based liberal arts curriculum. Review of applications begins Dec. 1 and continues until appointment is made.

Education – Early Childhood: Doctorate preferred and required for tenure; ABD considered. Areas of specialization are open but preference given to candidates with interests in literacy and/or language development. Minimum three years teaching experience in elementary schools; college-level teaching experience in a teacher licensure program highly desirable. Teach undergraduate and graduate education courses in curriculum and instruction in early childhood education, including literacy courses. Supervise teacher education candidates in various field and clinical practice settings. Serve as academic advisor to teacher education candidates. May include teaching in the general education curriculum.

Review of applications begins Nov. 15 and continues until an appointment is made. Bluffton University Teacher Education program is NCATE- accredited.

Education – Special Education: Doctorate preferred and required for tenure; ABD considered. Minimum three years teaching experience in P-12 settings; college-level teaching experience in a teacher licensure program highly desirable. Teach undergraduate and graduate education courses for teacher licensure as intervention specialists, including instructional models and learning theories, classroom management, assessment and special education law. Supervise clinical practitioners in special education classrooms. Serve as academic advisor to teacher education candidates. May include teaching in the general education curriculum. Review of applications begins Nov. 15 and continues until an appointment is made. Bluffton University Teacher Education program is NCATE - accredited.

Psychology: Ph.D., ABD or international equivalent required upon appointment. Evidence of excellence in teaching and ability and interest in mentoring students. Areas of specialization are open but preference will be given to candidates with interests in applied social, cross-cultural, community or industrial-organizational psychology. Responsibilities will include teaching a variety of courses in the major. Opportunities exist to teach across disciplines, including sociology, peace and conflict studies, master's program in organizational management and in the general education program. Review of applications begins Nov. 1 and continues until an appointment is made.

Compensation for these positions is commensurate with education and experience within the university pay scale. Send letter of interest, curriculum vitae or resume, three letters of reference (submitted directly from referee or, if necessary, from placement office), and official transcripts to Elaine Suderman, Academic Affairs, Bluffton University, 1 University Drive, Bluffton, OH 45817-2104. See www.bluffton.edu. Bluffton University welcomes applications from all academically qualified persons who respect the Anabaptist/Mennonite Peace Church tradition and endorse Christian higher education in a liberal arts environment. Members of under represented groups are encouraged to apply. EOE.



Mennonite Central Committee Ontario invites applications for the position of

**Receiver, New Hamburg Thrift Centre,
New Hamburg, Ont.**

The position requires a person with a commitment to Christian faith, active church membership and non-violent peacemaking.

This person is responsible for coordinating the receiving of donations to the thrift shop and for coordinating the pickup and delivery of furniture. The candidate must be a good team player with an ability to work cooperatively with staff and volunteers, and must be able to lift and move furniture.

This full-time position is available on a service worker or salaried basis, beginning early November. Application deadline: Oct. 18, 2006.

Complete job description available on MCC's website at www.mcc.org. To apply, send cover letter and resume, or for more information, contact Cath Woolner, 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1 or 519-745-8458 or cathw@mennonitecc.on.ca.

For rent

Furnished 4 bdrm/1 bth house for rent in Victoria, BC, Jan - April 2007, to cover sabbatical leave for pastor. Newly renovated. Close to beaches, hiking, shopping, airport and university. Contact david@saanichcommunity.ca or phone 250-658-1096.

House available on 50 acres recreational land near Wingham, Ont., now to June 2007. One-hr. drive to Waterloo, 40 min. to Lake Huron. Pay utilities only, no rent in exchange for loving care of home. Four bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, stone fireplace, indoor pool. Call 403-335-4856 or email ellin@telusplanet.net for more information.

Wanted

Wanted: Seekers of Christian Spirituality who are moving to or already living in Toronto. We are an urban congregation who value worshipping together in our diversity, being involved in current issues, and having fun together. We are in an exciting stage of transition and invite all who are interested to join us. Warden Woods Mennonite Church: 416-694-1138, ext.30; wwmc@wardenwoods.com; 74 Firvalley Court, Scarborough, Ontario

Abbotsford, B.C.

The annual Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Festival Auction and Relief Sale held last month at the Abbotsford Tradex drew thousands of people who came to eat, shop, visit, bid, play, listen to music and give. The weekend event raised more than \$650,000 for MCC's FoodBasket projects.

The auction of quilts and household goods brought in more than \$350,000, including the traditional, symbolic auctioning of a loaf of bread, which sold for \$244,000. Because the festival supported food projects this year, symbolic bowls of rice were also auctioned, raising another \$5,600. The quilts raised nearly \$35,000, with the feature quilt, French Romance, bringing in \$4,000. Even the children did their part, raising \$2,000 with their own auction of toys, games and other kid-friendly items. And those who didn't find anything to buy, simply gave, donating more than \$150,000 at the donations booth.

"We praise God for good weather, incredible volunteers and the generosity of all those who came," said festival coordinator Dora Hoepfner as she announced the preliminary totals to the congregation at the closing festival of praise on Sunday afternoon.

Donations continue to be counted, Penny Power pennies are still being rolled and added up, and the offering from Sunday's Festival of Praise still needs to be added to the total, so the final count will be even higher. All proceeds benefit FoodBasket projects such as agricultural training in Cambodia, food for orphans in Colombia, and food relief in Sudan. —MCC B.C. release by **Angelika Dawson**

Morris, Man.

Excellent fall weather and hundreds of people combined to make the 25th annual Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Relief Sale at Morris a successful event.

Sale chair Dave Reimer reports that the sale grossed \$135,000 for MCC and "there was a real positive spirit in the air. Produce was a real good seller, quilts enjoyed a resurgence, and two larger items at the auction raised \$17,000. It was a very good day."

Feature items this year included a restored 1950 'B' John Deere tractor donated by the Rosenort Tractor Club, and a 4,042-bushel grain bin donated by Vidir Bins of Morris.

—**Elmer Heinrichs**



Photo by Elmer Heinrichs

Sarah Reimer and Norma Penner of Grunthal, Man., sold apple cider at the Morris MCC Relief Sale, which raised \$135,000 for relief and service projects around the world.

Sales bring relief



MCC B.C. photo

Volunteers of all ages made the MCC Relief Sale at the Abbotsford Tradex such a successful event, bringing in a record-setting \$650,000.