

C A N A D I A N
Mennonite

Jan. 8, 2007
Vol. 11, No. 1



United in Christ

pages 6-7

Testifying with God's gifts to us

One of our pastors, Hugo Neufeld, wrote a book published just a few months ago called *The North End Lives*. It's full of short stories from Hugo and Doreen's three decades at Welcome Inn, an MC Eastern Canada congregation in inner-city Hamilton. I'd like to share one with you as a way of introducing one of this magazine's focus areas for 2007.

The Neufelds got a call one evening from Pam and Jason, asking them to come over. Jason was near retirement, and had been laid off from his long-term factory job a few years before. Pam worked a variety of part-time, minimum wage jobs in the fast food industry. They had little to get by on and didn't yet have pension and old age security cheques arriving.

The mysterious news was soon revealed. "Guess what?" Pam said. "We've received some inheritance money—\$4,000! When the money arrived, we both immediately told ourselves, 'Now we have something to give to the centre.'" That something was handed to Hugo and Doreen: an envelope with 13 \$100 bills inside. The Neufelds protested that this was too much, almost a third of the badly needed money, much more than 10 percent. But that was their wish.

Hugo Neufeld recalled research he had carried out for a university class, in which he asked 10 people living on social assistance how things would change for them if they had an annual income of \$50,000. Six out of 10 immediately talked about contributing to others, he reported. As one person put it, "I'd just help a lot of other people. I'd be able to help my church, my family and my friends."

What Jason and Pam were doing, Neufeld wrote, "was claiming that original goodness, that initial inheritance, that comes from being designed in God's image. I wondered

what we could do with all that we inherit from our Creator if we were to take full ownership of that 'estate.'"

As Christians, we are a called-out people, living by a different set of values and principles than the world teaches. One of the very important ways we do that is through the constant decisions each of us makes on what we do with our money: from daily spending to retirement investments to where our earthly resources go after we die. As Mike Strathdee writes on page 9, money decisions affect our daily lives in deep ways. Our dollars often have longer arms than we do. "Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are," says James Frick.

I hope a series of articles we'll be bringing you this year (starting with the examples of Herb and Shirley Schultz on page 4) will help us live more faithfully in this area.

I also want to let you know about some of the other topics we are working on for 2007: growing leaders through Mennonite education; female spirituality; "high church" Mennonites; further reflections from Jack Suderman's church visits; faith and the global economy; the church's response to climate change; food and agriculture (following up on the 2002 "Peace with the Land" conference); peacemaking (from domestic violence to elder abuse to Afghanistan); the role of sport and church teams in church life; and how we connect our faith with our health and our body image.

I'd like to thank our Editorial Advisory Group for helping shape our editorial calendar and invite your suggestions for stories or people you think would be good to interview in connection with these ideas or others you have. Plus, we'll continue to cover our church life together as it unfolds.

Blessings to all of you as we go together with God into 2007.
—**Tim Miller Dyck**

Mission statement: Published by Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service, *Canadian Mennonite* serves primarily the people and churches of Mennonite Church Canada and its five area conferences. *Canadian Mennonite* is a bi-weekly Anabaptist/Mennonite periodical which seeks to promote covenantal relationships within the church (Hebrews 10:23-25). It provides channels for sharing accurate and fair information, faith profiles, inspirational/educational materials, news and analysis of issues facing the church.

Head office: 490 Dutton Drive, Unit C5, Waterloo, ON, N2L 6H7
Phone: 519-884-3810 **Toll-free:** 1-800-378-2524 **Fax:** 519-884-3331
Web site: canadianmennonite.org

Please send all material to be considered for publication as follows:

General submission address: submit@canadianmennonite.org
Letters to the Editor: letters@canadianmennonite.org
Calendar announcements: calendar@canadianmennonite.org
Transitions announcements: transitions@canadianmennonite.org
Material can also be sent "Attn: Submissions/Letter to the Editor/Calendar/Transitions" by postal mail or fax to our head office.

Editorial Staff: **Tim Miller Dyck**, Editor/Publisher, editor@canadianmennonite.org;

Please contact Lisa Jacky at office@canadianmennonite.org or x221 for subscriptions and address changes. A mail-in subscription order form is in the Tomorrow section. **Postmaster:** Send returns to head office. We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program toward our mailing costs (PAP Reg. No. 09613, Agreement No. 40063104). ISSN 1480-042X

CANADIAN
Mennonite

Ross W. Muir, Managing Editor, managinged@canadianmennonite.org;
Barb Draper, Editorial Assistant, edassist@canadianmennonite.org;

Tim R. Dyck, Graphic Designer, artdirector@canadianmennonite.org

Correspondents: **Leona Dueck Penner**, National Correspondent, ca@canadianmennonite.org, 204-888-6781 x178; **Amy Dueckman**, B.C. Correspondent, bc@canadianmennonite.org, 604-854-3735; **Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**, Alberta Correspondent, timanddonita@attglobal.net, 780-436-3431; **Karin Fehderau**, Saskatchewan Correspondent, k.fehderau@sasktel.net, 306-933-4209; **Evelyn Rempel Petkau**, Manitoba Correspondent, erpetkau@cici.mb.ca, 204-745-2208; **Dave Rogalsky**, Eastern Canada Correspondent, ec@canadianmennonite.org, 519-579-7258

Circulation/Finance: **Lisa Jacky**, office@canadianmennonite.org
Advertising: **Karen Suderman**, advert@canadianmennonite.org, toll-free voicemail: 1-800-378-2524 ext. 224, home office: 519-745-4507

Board of Directors: British Columbia: Henry Neufeld, John W. Goossen. Alberta: Brenda Tiessen-Wiens. Saskatchewan: Bernie Thiessen, Margaret Ewen Peters. Manitoba: Aiden S. Enns, Bernie Wiebe, Paul Krahn. Eastern Canada: Mary Lymburner, Brice Balmer, Ester Neufeldt, Larry Cornies.

Canada

Jan. 8, 2007
Vol. 11, No. 1



Page 5

4 **UpClose**
Generous generations **4**
Klassen: athlete of the year **5**

6 **Faith&Life**
On being brothers and sister **6**
Binding congregants together **8**

9 **InConversation**
Letters **9**
Money and marriage **9**
Covenant-making **10**

11 **WiderChurch**
Korean fellowship formed **11**
Bridging the cultural divide **12**
Successful Congo elections **16-17**

18 **LocalChurch**
Morden still singing at 75 **18**
Dogmatism to mindless tolerance **22**
Transitions **25**

26 **TheChurches**
Why pray? **27**

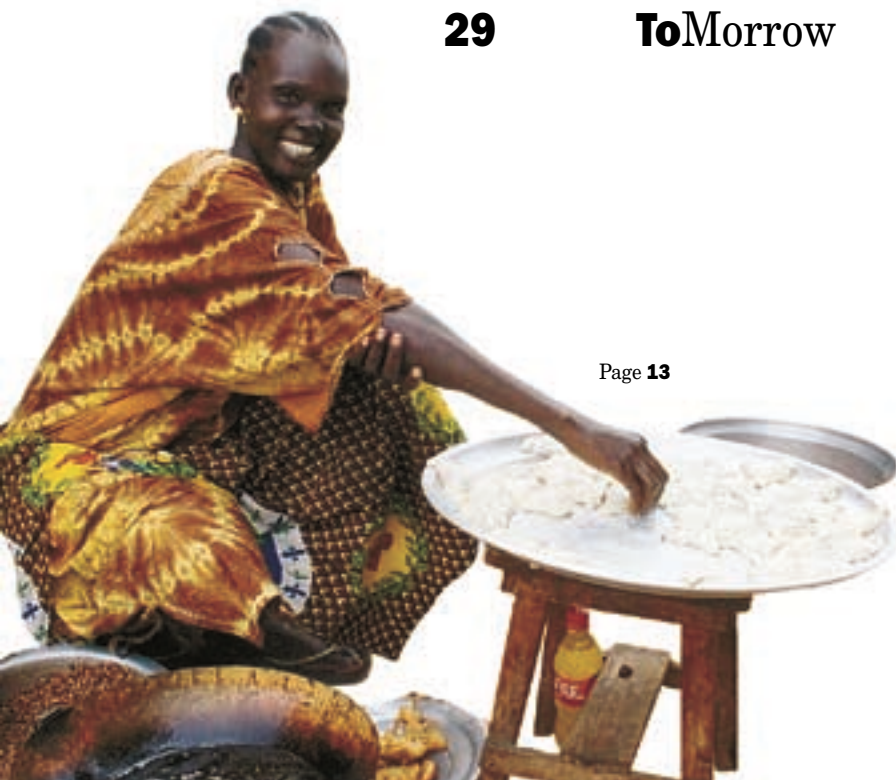
29 **ToMorrow**



Page 12

Electronic delivery

All subscribers can get the complete contents of *Canadian Mennonite* delivered free by e-mail or view selected articles online. For either option, visit our website at canadianmennonite.org. The Jan. 22 online issue will be ready by Jan. 18.



Page 13

Cover: The “United in Christ/Unidos en Cristo” banner was created by Grace B. Weber, Judy Gascho-Jutzi, Pat Janowski and Elizabeth Rudy of First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ont. It is being sent to First’s sister congregation—Comunidad del Monte Santo in Madrid, Colombia—along with three prayer shawls later this year. See “On being brothers and sisters,” a sermon preached by Monte Santo’s Sandra Rincón at First Mennonite on World Fellowship Sunday 2006, on page 6. —Cover design by Tim R. Dyck, banner photo by Ross W. Muir

Stewardship stories of the generous life:

Generosity through the generations

With this UpClose article, Canadian Mennonite begins a series of six “stewardship stories for the generous life” that will be printed throughout 2007. These profiles of generous Christians were originally published in 2004-05 by the MC Eastern Canada Stewardship Commission and are reprinted with permission.

How would you define generosity? Herb and Shirley Schultz of New Hamburg, Ont., answer that question by telling stories from their childhood, describing the generosity modelled by their parents.

When Shirley’s uncle vanished without a trace, leaving behind his wife and seven children, Shirley’s parents made monthly deliveries of food to the struggling family. For two years, they made space in their own home for one of the children.

Her mother also reached out to strangers. Those wandering down the road received a good meal from her kitchen and she spent countless hours making garments and comforters for relief at “sewing circle.” Reading church papers and newspapers kept her keenly aware of world events and needs to which she could respond.

Shirley also remembered her father giving money to help buy a house and car for missionary families from Argentina to use while back home in Ontario on furlough. He gave generously without keeping careful account.

Herb’s parents also modelled generosity, a term they would not have spoken. Not wealthy, they shared what they had, beginning with setting aside a 10th of the cash they received bi-weekly from the milk they produced. On Sunday, they took the money from the kitchen cupboard and put it on the offering plate. They also gave each child money for Sunday school offerings.

“I don’t remember talking about tithing; I just saw it,” Herb reflected. It was a principle he adopted, always carefully tithing his meagre earnings and even the small cash gifts he received during lean college days.

Shirley also credits the influence of chapels at Rockway Mennonite School, where she learned to “walk the talk.” She still recalls the delight of putting 10 percent of her first teacher’s pay cheque into the offering plate.

While they started with tithing, Herb and Shirley have moved beyond legalism to giving as an act of worship out of gratitude to God. Theirs is the kind of generosity Paul talks about in II Corinthians 8-9, which includes giving in both good and difficult times.

The Schultzes have experienced both. Herb, who began his career as a pastor in 1955, was still receiving a quarterly love offering from the church when he and Shirley were married in 1959. If a storm blew up on the designated Sunday, they knew both attendance and the offering would be low, but they didn’t fudge their tithe! Additional gifts in kind, like the chunk of beef dropped off by one of the poorest farmers in the church, were humbling but welcome. Shirley acknowledged that until the church began paying Herb a salary of \$400 a month in 1967, they often “lived on love and eggs.”

When the Schultzes became parents, they followed the example of their parents, helping their three daughters pack Christmas bundles and school kits. They were pleased to see their girls develop generous spirits. When their pet gerbils turned out to be a prolific pair, the girls sold the young gerbils and gave all the money—\$29—to a mission project. The daughters, now adults with their own families, along with Herb and Shirley, usually choose MCC projects to support at Christmas, rather than giving gifts to each other.



Herb and Shirley Schultz

Herb and Shirley do not confine giving beyond the church budget to Christmas. When a need arises, they write a cheque, no matter what level of giving their tax return records. Generosity is a way of life throughout the year.

One of their greatest gifts is hospitality, practised over many years. Among dinner guests have been all the girls’ teachers from Kindergarten through Grade 8, as well as international students and Rockway friends, some of whom have kept in touch for decades.

Their gift of time includes serving as local volunteers at the Ten Thousand Villages warehouse. During a four-month sabbatical in the Middle East and Africa in 1992 they saw how products sold through organizations like Ten Thousand Villages helped the creators of those products achieve a better life for their families. They also saw raw poverty, the memory of which still makes them weep.

Herb and Shirley seem content with the realities which may lie ahead—like further downsizing and receiving from others. In the meantime, they plan to continue giving time and money, paying attention to what they really need and what they can do without, practising hospitality, enjoying their family, modelling generosity for their grandchildren, and being grateful to God for God’s faithfulness and generosity to them.

—**Ferne Burkhardt**

Waterloo, Ont.

Refugee coalition director named a Waterloo Region Woman of the Year

Eunice (u-ni-tse) Valenzuela, director of the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support, has been chosen as one of Waterloo Region's seven "Rogers' Women of the Year for 2006" for her work as director of the coalition, a position she has held since 2002.

"When I came to Canada in 1991, I thought that people should pronounce my name correctly," she said gently when asked how to spell her name. This regard (pride) for herself as a person might seem out of place among Mennonites, but it fits well with Valenzuela's comprehension of God's call to Christians. Beginning with love of self, she exhibits love of others and love of God as well.

In 1991, Valenzuela, together with her husband, was a refugee. From her father and mother she had learned that people should care for those who are poorer than themselves. "He would give meat to the poor every December 24 so that they would have something to celebrate with," she recalls.

This justice ethic led her to found Base Christian Communities in Esteli, a city in northern Nicaragua. Together with a Roman Catholic priest, she helped organize the city into local communities to pray; to supply water, food and first aid; and to give a voice to all the people. This was begun before the socialist Sandinistas came to power and continued under their government. She continued this work in the countryside around the city of Condéga, in spite of the activities of the Contra guerrillas in the area.

An election brought the Contra supporters to power in 1991 and Valenzuela decided that her homeland had become too unsafe for her. "When I left, it was not to go to Canada, it was to go to where I and my family could be safe," she says. Her husband was in Canada already, having left earlier because of his political beliefs.



Valenzuela

Her first experience of Mennonites came on Jan. 11, 1991, when a Mennonite family from Kitchener picked her up from Fort Erie, Ont. They opened their home and lives to her, welcomed her into their congregation (Kitchener Mennonite Brethren), and helped her settle in Canada.

At first, Valenzuela's application for refugee status was denied. She feels it was due to the political views of some of those on the examination board. But she was allowed to stay because her husband had been a target of the Sandinistas. In 1996, she received landed immigrant status and was then reunited with her son Carlos Jose after five years of separation. She became a citizen in 1998.

It was her passion for the poor—including the stranger—that brought her to work with the refugee support coalition in 1992, while she was classified as a refugee herself. Her motivation, then as now, was to build a community where all cultures, religions and economic levels can live together in peace. She believes that Christians need to experience first-hand different cultures so as to passionately help others have an easier time. This, she believes, is what God has called her to do.

Interestingly, although she worked with the Catholic Church, it was more humanitarian than Christian for her. But when she returned to Nicaragua in 1998, when she could travel on a Canadian passport, a different view of her work there was brought to her by a complete stranger.

Walking in Condéga, a woman called to her. Valenzuela went up to her and the woman said, "So you are alive. Every day when you went by my store out into the countryside, I prayed for you. And when you would return in the evening, I gave God thanks."

Valenzuela didn't recognize God's help then, but does now. She finds traditional Mennonite churches too

Winnipeg

Klassen named Canada's 2006 athlete of the year

For Olympian Cindy Klassen, 2006 was a banner year. It began with her five medals in Turin last February, followed by her winning the world all-around speed skating championship in Calgary, and ended with her being awarded the Lou Marsh Award as Canada's best athlete and the Bobbie Rosenfeld Award as Canadian female athlete of the year. In between, she became a spokesperson for Mennonite Central Committee's Global Family program (aidscarenow.org) and she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Manitoba.

Yet in the midst of all this acclaim Klassen continues to respond with surprise, gratefulness and a shy grace which has captured the hearts of Canadians, quickly directing attention away from herself to how her successes can help others.

After the announcement about the Lou Marsh Award, she expressed "surprise" and noted that "the greatest thing about it is that it went to an amateur athlete, and I think because of that our sport will get more exposure. And that's really exciting. More kids will get into skating."

Klassen acknowledges that the prayerful support of family, friends and her church community is "huge" for her, making her feel "at peace" as she skates all over the world.

—**Leona Dueck Penner** (compiled from *Winnipeg Free Press* and other local media reports)

constraining and worships in the Dwelling Place, a Mennonite Brethren congregation striving to build community in a poor area of Kitchener.

"We work with the community, within it...not doing something to it," Valenzuela says. "The community, including the refugees, has gifts to give us. Work with the community means not impressing our values on them. Instead, we humble ourselves to process and work together."

—**Dave Rogalsky**

On being brothers and sisters

Sandra Rincón is pictured in front of a banner that hangs at the front of Kitchener (Ont.) First Mennonite Church on the third Sunday of each month, when the two congregations simultaneously pray for each other.



Sandra Rincón preached the following sermon at First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ont., on World Fellowship Sunday 2006. (In Spanish, the day is known as Domingo de la Fraternidad Mundial or World Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday. The Spanish word is gender neutral; hence the focus on what it means to be brothers and sisters. Her text was Genesis 33:1-8.) Rincón is a member of Comunidad del Monte Santo in Madrid, Colombia, which has had a reciprocal relationship with First Mennonite for the past three years; the congregations have exchanged banners (see front cover), cards, children's drawings, photos and gifts, as well as a vibrant prayer ministry for each other.

It was difficult to write this meditation. Seeing the relationship between brothers and sisters at a broad level makes me think about the suffering of so many persons in the world. So many human beings like us who do not have bread, who do not have peace, who do not have life. So many human beings who view the other with hatred, with resentment, with evil, and who want to kill or destroy others simply because they think or feel differently, or out of jealousy or envy.

The Bible is not free of such examples: Cain and Abel, Joseph and his brothers, Jacob and Esau. This constant struggle for power, control and riches is slowly destroying us, is distancing us from the will of God, where love, forgiveness and community are the fundamental principles for a better common life.

The South perceives the North as a paradise, the North sees the South as a dark place. The South is poor because of the constant robbery by the countries of the North. The inhabitants of the North are not even aware that their privileges come from the suffering and the lives of millions of human beings who are exploited, humiliated and subjected to violence.

Among them are the indigenous peoples of the North and the South who were, or are, being exterminated—all because of the lack of conscience as development, civilization and the future advance. A lack of conscience of which our churches—including the Mennonite Church—are a part. From their big armchairs, the men and women of the world invented this division, this gulf that seems to have no solution, because we do not matter to one another.

Brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the Spirit of Life, we are destroying one another. I do not understand why. Those of us who call ourselves Christians are not living the message of reconciliation of Jesus in the building of our church, in his challenge to our comfort.

On occasion, we are the ones who most participate in these divisions between brothers and sisters because we do not understand, we do not discern the Word of God, a father who wants a true place for each of us, a place in this world that was made for us, for all. Mistrust, fear of the other and self-protection are feelings that do not permit us to draw near to one another. They make us relate with our hearts completely armed, making integration between the sons and daughters of God more difficult.

How many more years, how many more deaths, will we need before we see each other as brothers and sisters? When will this all stop? I don't know.

But we as a church continue to have the great task of opening our arms to accept the other as he or she is. We have the challenge of knowing God beyond the four walls of our houses, workplaces and churches. We have the challenge of lifting our voice as prophets to denounce injustice, to clamour for truth, and to permit the reconciling love of God to flow through our veins—so that one day the North may ask forgiveness of the South for so much destruction, and that the South may firmly determine that it does not want to continue the wave of death that surrounds it. So that with humility we may re-encounter one another, and set out running to embrace one another, to cry, to be broken and to be transformed by the love of God, as happened with Jacob and Esau.

It is not an easy path, nor a short one. We, as sister churches, have set out on a path, trying to build a bridge across that gulf that separates us. We do not know with certainty who we are, we do not know how to treat one another without mistrust. We only know that God is with us and will be on that path.

I, as a member of Comunidad del Monte Santo congregation in Madrid, Colombia, bring longings, wishes, concerns, greetings, to share with you, as Jacob brought all his belongings to share with Esau.

I want to tell you that the situation in Colombia is difficult for the poor, that there is a great concern about the re-election of Uribe and his policy of “democratic security,” which opens the doors ever wider to poverty, violence and death. As a church, we have to discern and decide on our role in the municipality and in the region. We have to look for ways to support ourselves—to obtain the bread, the health services, the housing—to survive. At the same time, we continue to trust and believe in God, which is not always easy.

With pain we see the effects of evil, hatred and violence in our surroundings, which are not only Colombian products, but also Canadian and U.S. products. We hear the stories of our neighbours who have been displaced and who can only serve one meal to their children. We hear the life stories of persons who come to our church seeking acceptance, love and restoration. And we feel that our call is with these persons.

The call to love the other begins with our own lives and flows out in the life of others. Our church has changed. The older people remember a country without violence, the adults can no longer perceive our country without so many problems, and the children are growing up in a place with few opportunities.

We do not know if we are prepared for the new challenges ahead, but we trust that God will guide and strengthen us. As we seek these answers as Christians, we support one another and we seek the company of others, because we want to form “community.”

In this space where we meet you, where we have chosen you and where we are telling you that we want you to come to know us, we want you to see us as your brothers and sisters in Christ. We want to share the same table with you. We want you to hear about how our life is going, about our hopes and our suffering. We want you to be our brothers and sisters, as Jesus was the brother of every one of his disciples, friends, family, as Jesus was the brother of his enemies.

This is a challenge for you and for us, we know. The church in Madrid has taken it on and has given it a special place in our vision as community. We hope that it is also so for you, our sister church in the North.

—Sandra Rincón

[W]e as a church continue to have the great task of opening our arms to accept the other as he or she is.

‘Refreshing winds’ of worship

Canadian Mennonite concludes its three-part series on worship in preparation for the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) Refreshing Winds conference later this month in Winnipeg, with reflections on worship issues close to the heart of three CMU staff members.

Binding congregants together

What does it mean to worship as a community—not just as a collection of individuals? How can worship help people truly find and meet God? How can it bring people together? And how can Christians achieve some sense of understanding about the role of music in worship?

For Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) assistant professor of practical theology Irma Dueck, who just completed a doctoral thesis on Mennonite worship, one of the big issues today is “whether worship is just a collection of individuals meeting in the same place at the same time, or is it a time when a community gathers to corporately worship God?”

She believes that worship today often ends up catering too much to individual needs. “Worship is supposed to be a time when we pray, praise and sing together,” she says. “Of course, worship is intensely personal, but even though it speaks to me, it isn’t about me.... It’s about God and the Christian faith.”

Worship should focus on the things that bind congregants together, she



says, adding, though, that the goal of worship “is not to unify us. Through Christ, we are already one body.... We don’t get unity through worship. Rather, through worship we acknowledge our unity in Christ. By singing, praying and praising together, worship helps us recognize it.”

She emphasizes that the goal of worship is just that—worship. “Worship is good in and of itself,” says Dueck. “It doesn’t have to accomplish anything else.”

Hungry for the presence of God

For new chapel coordinator Christine Longhurst, who came to CMU after 10 years of pastoral ministry at River East Mennonite Brethren Church, one of the primary issues is finding ways to help people encounter God in worship. “People today are hungry for the presence of God in their lives,” she says. “They long to know and experience God.”

Yet many churches fail to meet this hunger, she says, because they “mistakenly view worship as learning about God, instead of meeting God. While learning what it means to live as Christians is important, it is not an adequate substitute for the incredible

experience of encountering God. The goal of worship is to meet and interact with the Divine.”

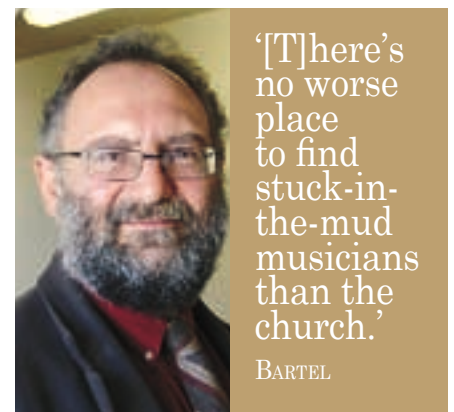
Longhurst, who is completing a doctor of worship degree from the Institute for Worship Studies, also believes that much worship today has become too individualistic. “Sometimes it seems as though everything—the songs, the prayers, the sermon—focus only on my needs and my issues. Little is said about who God is, what God has done, and what God is continuing to do. Worship should focus on the nature and activity of God.”

Imaginative musicians required

As a musician, Dietrich Bartel sees “developing a musical style that speaks to everyone in the church” as an important issue. It’s a big challenge, he says, because the church is “ever-changing and ever-renewing itself. How do you keep tradition alive, yet find ways to incorporate the new?”

Although he respects tradition, Bartel, an associate music prof who is also music director at All Saints Anglican Church in Winnipeg, is open to using contemporary music in worship. At his church are found a steel drum band along with hymns or 16th century chants. “We have to keep the door to the new open while keeping alive the old,” he says. To do this, “we need imaginative musicians to help us. Unfortunately, there’s no worse place to find stuck-in-the-mud musicians than the church.”

—CMU release
by **John Longhurst**



Letters

Views of God must change as we grow

This high school dropout, now 83 years old, is responding to the “Young prophet’ denies spiritual principles” letter by Ryan D. Jantzi (Nov. 13, page 15).

I personally know Sarah Johnson. I fully support her deeper understanding of spiritual principles (“A personal confession of faith,” Aug. 21, page 8). If I were to write down my deep beliefs, it would be in the same vein

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.

as hers. How wonderful it did not take her 83 years to have this mature understanding.

In the parable in Mathew 25:14-29, the master was going on a journey

and required his servants to look after things according to their abilities; one had five talents and he doubled them, so the master took the talent the from

Continued on page 10

MIKE STRATHDEE



God, money and me

Money problems are a leading cause of failed marriages, the cable TV series *Til Debt Do Us Part* suggests. In the program, Canadian author Gail Vax-Oxlade works on financial makeovers for couples who are in over their heads, unable or unwilling to agree on how to make things better.

As many as 90 percent of all marriage breakdowns relate to money problems of one sort or another. So why is the discussion of financial issues in pre-marital counselling and marriage renewal courses often relegated to the margins, glossed over or neglected altogether? Even the Marriage Course, an eight-session video study produced by the people who put together the Alpha program, fails to give serious attention to issues around family life and mammon. Money is the greatest cause of arguments in marriage, the course mentions in passing, then moves on to the next topic.

In a society in which almost all of the financial messages that people receive are “spend, spend, spend,” if Christian communities don’t have strong voices urging couples to live frugally and model the nitty gritty of positive choices, it is almost as if we’re silently affirming the culture. Vax-Oxlade cites statistics indicating that 70 percent of people spend more than their gross income every year.

An article in *Psychology Today* noted that most adults—67 percent of women and 74 percent of men—enter marriage with at least some debt. Far fewer have a plan on how to deal with the situation, or an understanding of the negative effects the unacknowledged presence can have on their household. This can compromise what Scott Stanley calls the three important elements of safety in relationships:

- The ability to talk freely,
- Safety from physical harm, and

Money and marriage

Too often, the conversations needed to develop a common philosophy around spending, saving and giving don’t happen.

- A sense of security about the future.

Shared understandings around the use of money—who pays for what, when do I need to check in about a proposed purchase—need to be talked through early and often to avoid resentment and mistrust. Too often, the conversations needed to develop a common philosophy around spending, saving and giving don’t happen.

Remaining stuck in family-of-origin patterns around finances, be they unhealthy hoarding or compulsive spending, can be equally damaging to a partnership.

Challenges to face and deal with these issues are absent from pre-marriage counselling, in some cases because pastors feel rushed, uncomfortable or ill-equipped to address the topic. Yet these transitional milestone times provide opportunity for introducing new thoughts

and approaches, to encourage communication and full disclosure as cornerstones of relational health.

When a colleague and I did a presentation on marriage and money to a group of recently and soon-to-be wed couples this fall, we noticed several things. All of the participants did their pre-work and eagerly received resources offered for them to take home. The common theme in

post-event evaluations was a desire for more conversation, both as couples and in a group setting. There can be considerable power and healing in shared stories of strengths and struggles.

Can we take the time and make the space in our congregational communities, in livingrooms and other settings to allow these conversations to multiply and flourish?

Mike Strathdee is a stewardship consultant at the Kitchener, Ont., office of Mennonite Foundation of Canada (MFC). For stewardship education, estate and charitable gift planning, contact your nearest MFC office or visit mennofoundation.ca.

Views of God *From page 9*

the slothful servant who buried it in the ground for safekeeping and gave it to the servant with 10 talents.

We are using our greatest talent—thinking deeply—when we study to understand God’s created universe and his eternal creatures. Jesus was the great example for us; he stood for truth and love, telling us to love our enemies and not just our friends and neighbours.

Why is it that all religions and cultures think they have the right and only true religion? Is it because, as young children, we are locked into believing what the preacher interprets from the Bible, thus winning his group to follow his belief and rules?

In closing, I quote from deceased Kitchener-Waterloo (Ont.) *Record* religion columnist Frank Morgan, who wrote just months before his death in

November: “Don’t claim to have all the truth, and don’t claim that other faiths are lesser faiths than your own. And be very sure if your thinking about God and his will for us has not changed since you were in public school, then you really need a spiritual awakening.”

—**Arnold Meyers, Waterloo, Ont.**

Dunham book predates Wiebe’s by four decades

It was good to read of the generosity of Rudy Wiebe and Sarah Klassen in helping to establish the new school of writing at Canadian Mennonite University.

However, I would like to point out that Wiebe’s book, *Peace Shall Destroy Many*, was not the first novel about Mennonites in Canada in English. Almost 40 years before its publication, *The Trail of the Conestoga* by B. Mabel

Dunham was published in 1924, with a foreword by Prime Minister W.L. Mackenzie King.

It was well received and was followed by a number of other books, including *Krisli’s Trees* in 1948, which won the Canadian Library Association’s medal for best children’s book of the year.

Dunham, who died in 1957, was the first president of the Canadian Federation of University Women in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ont.

—**Anne Millar, Kitchener, Ont.**

Correction

Bob Wiebe is the director of Camping Ministries for Mennonite Church Manitoba. His title was incorrectly identified in the Manitoba section of *The Churches*, on page 37 of the Nov. 27 issue. *Canadian Mennonite* regrets the error.

MELISSA MILLER



Family Ties

Recently I visited the church that my family called home for more than 20 years. In the five years since I’ve left, the babies have become kids, the kids have become teenagers, and the adults have become...well, older. After the service, we visited over plates of potluck food. Seeing the faces of these loved ones crinkle with laughter, exchanging hugs and catching up on the news, I felt like I was home. I pondered the similarities between family and church relationships.

For some folk, these overlap. They go to church with their parents or grandkids, a dynamic that can be both a blessing and something other than blessing, I suppose. Like many others, I have migrated from home. On a typical Sunday, the only family member sharing church with me is my husband. Perhaps this makes me keener to view church as family.

Shortly after my visit to my previous church home, I heard a sermon on the topic of church and family at the congregation I now call home. During those months, the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* was under study, with particular attention that Sunday on the church and family (Articles 9 and 19). The *Confession* itself links these when it states, “As the family of God, the church is called to be a sanctuary offering hope and healing for families” (Article 19).

Dan Epp-Tiessen, who was preaching, integrated the two admirably, using biblical texts and storytelling to make his points. At children’s time, he used the well-loved, heartstring-tugging tale of *Love You Forever* (Robert Munsch’s description of a mother’s unconditional love for her son). He told the story well, and the adults

listened closely; a few “big people” wiped away tears as the story ended.

He titled his sermon, “A covenant-making and covenant-keeping people,” concepts which apply equally to family and church relationships. Our understanding of covenant is shaped by the biblical witness of God, who pursues a relationship with humans, who makes covenantal promises to those well-loved people, and who stands by the promises that have

been made.

At our best, this is what we do in our church and family relationships. At baptism, we enter into covenantal agreements with other brothers and sisters, promising to follow Jesus, to offer mutual support, and to give and receive counsel. As adults, we assume responsibilities in families. We promise to provide for and nurture the young. We commit ourselves to being present for the frail and the dying. Some of us exchange wedding vows, covenanting ourselves to each other in life-long commitments. We are covenant-making and covenant-keeping people.

But unlike God (and the steadfast mother in *Love You Forever*), sometimes we fail. We are unable to keep our covenants because of our own shortcomings or because of the weakness or sin of others. At such times, we need much grace. We need to face our brokenness and abandon ourselves to God’s redemptive love. As the writer of I John reminds us, “If we confess our sins, he who is faithful...will forgive us.” Such a promise helps us be covenant-making and covenant-keeping people.

Melissa Miller (familyties@mts.net) is a pastor, counsellor and author from Winnipeg.

Covenant-making at church and at home

We are covenant-making and covenant-keeping people.

Calgary

Korean Anabaptist Fellowship in Canada launched

Fifteen Korean Mennonite Church leaders from Toronto, Waterloo and London, Ont., Winnipeg and Vancouver had more than one good reason to travel to Calgary last fall. On Nov. 25, they celebrated the launch of an international partnership between Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary and the Jesus Village Church in Chun Chon, South Korea.

The event, which included a banquet of Korean dishes such as *kimchi*, provided an opportunity to gather and discuss the formation of the Korean Anabaptist Fellowship in Canada.

A vision for the formation of the international fellowship began last January, when a number of Korean church leaders met at Charleswood Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.

Initial discussions were wide-ranging. Newly appointed fellowship coordinator Bock-Ki Kim of Toronto United Mennonite Church explains: "In January [2006], everything was unclear. We did lots of brainstorming about the name, and finally postponed that decision. When we met in Calgary, several brothers suggested that we discuss tangible things, such as where and how often to meet."

The suggestion was helpful.

"This time, in Calgary, the discussion was narrower and deeper," Kim says.

The group agreed on the name, appointed Kim to a three-year term as coordinator, and decided to meet annually at the Mennonite Church Canada assembly.

The Korean Mennonite Church is new to Canada, growing as a direct result of Korean students studying at Canadian Mennonite Bible College (now Canadian Mennonite University) beginning in the 1990s. Charleswood Mennonite Church, where many of these students attended, became the birthplace of the first Korean Mennonite congregation in Canada.

As an emerging church made



Photo by Rob Doerkksen

Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary hosted Mennonite Church Canada representatives and leaders of the emerging Korean Anabaptist congregations in Canada and South Korea in November. The event, which included a Korean banquet, saw the launch of the Korean Anabaptist Fellowship in Canada.

up mainly of immigrants, Korean Anabaptists face some unique situations and issues.

Tim Froese, MC Canada Witness executive director of International Ministries and a former worker in Korea, notes, "Many of the Korean people have Presbyterian and Methodist backgrounds. One of the

things we talked about [in Calgary] was the question of identity."

Issues of Anabaptist and Mennonite identity, developing personal connections, communication, immigrant concerns, cultural adjustment, Christian education and evangelism are all on the agenda for the fledgling organization.

"Evangelism is a key issue," Kim stresses. "The Mennonite focus on friendship evangelism takes a long time. We are working on how to understand mission and evangelism in a Mennonite context. We need to give what we have, particularly the gospel. We have a strong passion to share the gospel and the way of life."

Froese sees MC Canada having a role in supporting the emerging fellowship, noting that Korean Anabaptists and churches are spread over a broad geographic area and do not necessarily know each other. "We can work to facilitate opportunities for Korean brothers and sisters to rub shoulders with each other and the larger church," he says.

The next meeting of the Korean Anabaptist Fellowship in Canada will take place at the MC Canada Assembly in Abbotsford, B.C., in July. —**Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**

Winnipeg

Scripture verse now on MC Canada letterheads

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

This "scripture foundation verse," approved by delegates after extensive discussion at Assembly 2006, now graces MC Canada office stationery and letterheads after templates were recently updated.

This updating was no easy task, it would seem, based on a "sampling" of

templates obtained from communications director Dan Dyck. For example, in the French version, "the jury is still out on which French translation to use," he says. "That one may be updated one more time."

And, Dyck adds, it may be a while before people see these new letterheads in hard copy, because, in the interest of thriftiness and environmental respect, the current "pre-printed letterhead stock will be consumed prior to re-ordering pre-printed letterheads with the scripture foundation verse." The scripture foundation verse will also be incorporated in a planned redesign of MC Canada's home page on its website.

—**Leona Dueck Penner**

Winnipeg

Bridging cultural and racial divides in the pages of *Intotemak*

For nearly 35 years, Neill and Edith von Gunten have been using a small, nearly invisible quarterly magazine called *Intotemak* to share aboriginal stories across cultures and races.

With only 1,300 subscriptions and about twice that many readers, this informal yet newsy publication also makes its way to about 100 homes in the United States and as far away as Hong Kong, Paraguay and Argentina.

It was in the Argentinean province of Formosa where Mennonite Mission Network workers Keith and Gretchen Kingsley stumbled across a copy of *Intotemak*. In its pages they learned about the 2006 bi-national Native Mennonite Assembly in Atmore, Ala., this past summer. (See “*Learning the meaning of being one*,” Oct. 30, pages 6 to 8.)

The Kingsleys realized that their ministry with the indigenous peoples of Argentina’s northern Chaco region had things in common with ministry in a North American aboriginal context. They eagerly signed up to attend the event—and when they got there, they met their old acquaintances, the von Gunten, who are now co-directors of Mennonite Church Canada’s Native Ministry.

“We grew up together in the same church and played basketball together as children in Berne, Ind.,” Neill reflects. “We had opportunities to catch up with each other and I found that we have so much in common.”

Crossing cultural borders has become a special ministry for the von Gunten. Much of what they have learned about cultural border crossings has come from walking alongside aboriginal people for more than 37 years.

“We were surprised to find out that [the Kingsleys] knew about us and our ministry in Canada through *Intotemak*,” Edith says. “This little newsletter has so much potential for

breaking down the walls that separate us culturally.”

At the assembly, the von Gunten eagerly listened as the Kingsleys shared about their lives with the indigenous Toba people in Argentina.

“It was important to hear their stories and realize that we all come from small, struggling native churches, and to know that they understand,” says Neill.

And in the process the Kingsleys formed an immediate bond with North American aboriginals in attendance.

At the closing session, Steve Cheramie Risingsun, pastor of the host congregation, presented the Kingsleys with a wall hanging as a symbolic gift and blessing for them and their Toba brothers and sisters in Argentina.

The von Gunten muse about the possibilities for more such cross-cultural meetings among different worldwide aboriginal groups at the



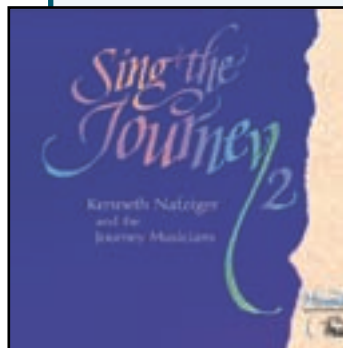
von Gunten

Mennonite World Conference sessions to be held in Paraguay in 2009.

“[Aboriginal] churches and communities have so much in common, and it would be such an encouragement to all of them if they could share and learn from each other,” says Neill.

In the meantime, the von Gunten will continue their ministry of bringing together aboriginal and non-native people in Canada and sharing their stories through *Intotemak*. When indigenous groups come together—in person or in the pages of *Intotemak*—to share common experiences, borders are erased, say the von Gunten, since sharing stories is an inherent way of bridging differences, passing on knowledge and building relationships.

—MC Canada release
by **Krista Allen** with **Dan Dyck**



Sing the Journey 2 CD

This is the second CD produced and directed by **Kenneth Nafziger** of hymns from *Sing the Journey*. Featured are guest soloist Marilyn Houser Hamm, the Journey Musicians, Shekinah, and Sons of the Day. Continue the journey with these 19 new hymns.

CD, \$19.99

Blessed Are the Pacifists The Beatitudes and Just War Theory

Thomas Trzyna takes a fresh look at pacifism as a practical method of conflict resolution grounded in Scripture. Based on a study of just war theory, Trzyna does not rehearse familiar debates about how to justify war. Rather, he views pacifism as a way of life, its success measured not in years, but generations.

Paper, 138 pages, \$14.99



1 800 631-6535 • www.heraldpress.com

Sudan

Recovery begins in south while Darfur conflict widens

While a devastating armed conflict continues in western Sudan's Darfur region, the people of southern Sudan are beginning to recover from a 21-year civil war, according to Rob Haarsager, a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) country representative.

In southern Sudan, a grueling conflict between rebels and government forces claimed an estimated two million lives and displaced about four million people by the time a peace agreement was signed in January 2005.

Today, however, the southern Sudanese city of Juba has become a boomtown as the seat of southern Sudan's new parliament and the base for aid organizations working in the region. Rob and his wife Mary, also an MCC Sudan country representative, are moving to Juba this month after living since 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Haarsager says the changes in Juba are striking when compared to his memories of the city. The Haarsagers lived in Juba as MCC workers from 1985-87 in the early years of the civil war. During the war, he says that Juba was a garrison town in a war zone. Government forces controlled Juba while rebels controlled the countryside. The city was rife with wartime fears, suspicions and human rights abuses.

Now, however, people can come and go freely and the local economy is growing rapidly.

"It's an exciting time for the local person and other people like us who are moving in and living there," he says.

From Juba, the Haarsagers will continue to manage MCC's work with Sudanese organizations to help communities recover from the trauma of displacement and war, by providing seeds and tools to displaced farmers who are returning.

In Darfur, news reports suggest that the four-year-old conflict is widening into areas of neighbouring Chad and Central African Republic. The U.S. Congress has declared the conflict to be a genocide of Darfur's population, and the United Nations reports that



Photo by Doug Hostetter

A street vendor sells food in Juba, the capital of southern Sudan. The end of Sudan's 21-year civil war is bringing new life to the city.

hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and more than two million have been displaced.

MCC is currently supporting a peacemaking project in southern Darfur through a Sudanese partner organization, Darfur Emergency Response Organization. The goal is to support dialogue between ethnic groups that have been divided by the Darfur conflict and address local conflicts over land and water rights, Haarsager says.

"We're hoping that even those kinds of efforts will help bring security to certain specific areas and allow people to return to their homes," he says.

MCC is also providing food to war-affected communities throughout Sudan in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Currently, a shipment of 4,000 metric tons of wheat is being distributed to Sudanese schoolchildren, mostly in camps for displaced people in Darfur. —MCC release by **Tim Shenk**

Strasbourg, France

Global church membership almost 1.5 million

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) has released the *Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and Related Churches World Directory 2006* and new numbers show membership in the 217 churches now listed in 75 countries around the world is just under 1.5 million.

Africa, with 529,703 members, continues to have the largest and fastest growing membership among the five continental regions. Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) in Ethiopia is the largest national conference globally, with 130,727 members.

All continental regions except Europe have shown increased membership, due in part to a change in recording the 500 members in the independent countries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, now listed in Asia but formerly counted with Europe as part of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The 2003 World Directory listed 200 church bodies in 65 countries with a total

membership of nearly 1.3 million.

According to 2006 numbers, Africa has stretched its membership lead over North America by some 30,000, a 17.2 percent increase since 2003. However, membership in North America in 2006 has also grown, to just under a half-million, an increase of 10.7 percent. The increase is partly due to changes in reporting, since the new number includes more independent groups as well as the rapid growth among Old Order groups due to large families and a 90 percent retention rate among their youths. Until 2005, Mennonite Church USA was the largest national conference.

The six countries with the most baptized members are the same as in 2003, but India and Canada have switched places in the list. The six countries in order of rank are: the U.S. (368,280), Congo (216,268), India (146,095), Canada (131,384), Ethiopia (130,731), and Indonesia (72,624).

Inclusion in the *World Directory* does not necessarily mean MWC membership. Churches and conferences are included in the directory if they are rooted in the Anabaptist-Mennonite stream of church history or have direct fellowship with churches that are so rooted.

—MWC release by **Ferne Burkhardt**

Abbotsford, B.C.

Board wrestles with 'peace tax' plan, ACOM implications

Mennonite Church Canada's General Board wrestled with how best to engage a 2006 delegate resolution "urging the government to enact legislation which would allow conscientious objectors to direct the military portion of their taxes to activities of development and peace," at its meetings hosted by Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church in Abbotsford in mid-November. It also considered the deeper implications of Area Church Only Membership (ACOM) and approved a Support Services Council recommendation on the topic.

On the issue of a peace tax, the board heard from staff about a private member's bill (C-348) introduced in the House of Commons last June by Bill Siksay, NDP Member of Parliament for Burnaby-Douglas, B.C.

The proposed legislation seeks to "permit individuals who object on conscientious grounds to paying taxes that might be used for military purposes to direct that an amount equivalent to a prescribed percentage of the income tax they pay in a year be diverted to a special account established by this enactment."

Board members issued a statement of consensus support for the legislation, and instructed staff to define more fully the implications and methods of formally supporting Bill C-348 in the House of Commons.

"Increasing militarization in Canada is a critical issue facing our country, and we believe that the church must respond in a way that is faithful to our understanding of the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ," said Janet Plenert, executive secretary of MC Canada Witness.

The Board further instructed staff to engage congregations with the broader issues of militarization in Canadian society and the response as a peace church to this trend. Plenert noted that the Conscience Canada website—consciencecanada.ca—already has a Peace Tax Form available for those who wish to fiscally object on conscientious grounds to the use of taxes for military purposes. The website warns

Photo by Dan Dyck



Janet Plenert, executive secretary of MC Canada Witness, presented research to the General Board on a 2006 delegate resolution to advocate for a legal peace tax option.

that using the Peace Tax Form to withhold a portion of taxes will likely result in garnisheed wages.

The Board also approved a Support Services Council recommendation to allow ACOM congregations to participate in MC Canada's pension plan, group RRSP and group benefits plan "with the same rights and respon-

sibilities as congregations which are full members of MC Canada."

Counsel on selecting nominees from ACOM congregations to serve on MC Canada councils and committees, as delegates at national church assemblies, and confirming that area conferences have the right to decide who represents them, was referred to the Moderators, Secretaries and Area Church Ministers Group for advisement. A report from this group will be presented at MC Canada's Leadership Assembly in early March.

The final decision will determine whether representatives from ACOM congregations can be appointed to represent the Area Church and have decision-making and voting ability at the national church level.

—MC Canada release by **Dan Dyck**



Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools

(Middle School at Bedson)

www.wmes.ca

Providing Quality Christ-Centred Education...

Open House & Information Evening

January 29th 2007 at 1:00pm and 7:00pm

Now offering full and half time kindergarten at both locations!

WMES Bedson – St. James (K-8) 250 Bedson Street, Winnipeg, MB, Ph: (204) 885-1032
 WMES Agassiz – Fort Garry (K-6) 26 Agassiz Drive, Winnipeg, MB, Ph: (204) 261-9637



News brief

Canadian thrift shop sales top \$5 million

The 56 Canadian Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) thrift shops contributed a record \$5.1 million to the work of MCC this past fiscal year, up from \$4.6 million the previous year. Judy Dyck, MCC's Canadian thrift shop coordinator, says a new emphasis on informing customers that every purchase is really a gift to the world, contributed to the increase in sales. "We want to help our customers, donors and volunteers understand why we do what we do," says Dyck. "We want people to make the link between what we are doing locally and what MCC does with the money." One of the most effective communication tools is the shelf cards that remind customers their purchases are supporting MCC projects. Some shops now have large world maps to help communicate the message that donations and purchases support MCC projects throughout the world.

—MCC release by **Gladys Terichow**

Looking for a way to use your leadership and management skills?

Country Representatives:

- Ethiopia**
- Sudan**
- Zimbabwe**
- Bangladesh**
- India**
- Mexico**

Direct inquiries to:

Becky Stahly
MCC, Human Resources,
PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501
Phone: (717) 859-1151
Email: rss@mcc.org

Leadership Positions:

- Administration & Resources Director, Akron, PA**
- Associate Director - Asia Dept, Akron, PA**
- East Coast Executive Director, Akron, PA**
- Peace Program Coordinator, Akron, PA or Winnipeg, MB**
- Resource Generation Network Director, Akron, PA**
- Washington Office Director, Washington, D.C.**

Apply now.



One Periwinkle Garden Home unit available on a right-to-occupy basis. If value increases, equity grows.

990 sq. ft basis includes: kitchen, living room, dining room, bedroom, study, in-suite laundry.

Exclusive listing. \$177,000. Call Merrill Hunsberger, Broker of Record, Hunsberger Realty Ltd., Brokerage. Office: 519-746-1714 or cell: 519-580-5791

Easy living

at Parkwood Mennonite Home retirement centre near RIM Park in Waterloo, Ontario.



Why is half the planet hungry?

Study food issues with MCC's new **FoodBasket Toolkit**



Created for churches, schools and small groups, the FoodBasket Toolkit includes a four-session curriculum for youth and adults as well as activities for children. Also included are a DVD, storybook, giving calendar and stickers. Borrow or purchase the FoodBasket Toolkit today.

Canada 888-622-6337
 U.S. 888-563-4676
mcc.org/catalog



Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Historic elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo culminated in the Dec. 6 inauguration of Joseph Kabila as the country's first democratically elected president in more than 40 years.

Mennonites in the Democratic Republic of Congo are relieved that their country successfully held national elections in 2006, after decades of corrupt dictatorship and two recent wars. Like many Congolese, Congo's roughly 200,000 Mennonites hope the elections will begin a new era for their country, according to Pascal Kulungu, a Mennonite Brethren lay leader in the country's capital, Kinshasa.

Congo's elections were held under a 2002 peace agreement that installed Joseph Kabila as the interim president. The elections were accompanied by fears of widespread violence between supporters of Kabila and those of his main rival, Jean-Pierre



Congolese Mennonites at success of election

Bemba. While there were several violent episodes during the course of the elections, Bemba eventually conceded defeat and the elections concluded relatively peacefully.

"This is giving more strength and hope to the Congolese people, in seeing the way we have accepted the president," Kulungu says.

Congolese Mennonite churches welcomed the elections and encouraged their members to vote and run

for office.

A total of 40 Congolese Mennonites ran for Parliament, and three were elected in a crowded field of more than 9,000 candidates, Kulungu says. Kulungu himself ran unsuccessfully in one of four Kinshasa ridings; he was listed as candidate No. 615 on page five of a six-page, poster-sized ballot with 854 other candidates running for 14 positions.

"This is the first time Mennonites



Winnipeg election observer Megan McKenzie worked at a polling station in Ngaba, part of the capital city of Kinshasa. The Winnipeg group was coordinated by Canadian Mennonite University's Institute for Community Peacebuilding.



Detail from a ballot posted at an election office showing Mennonite candidate Pascal Kulungu (No. 615). Mennonite Brethren candidate Jean Claude Kikweta (No. 614) was also on the six-page ballot.

s relieved ns

have tried to be in the government,” he says. “We are satisfied to see that we have at least three people representing us.”

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) helped organize Congolese and international election observers on election days in July, when the main election was held, and in late October, when a run-off vote between Kabila and Bemba took place. MCC also helped Congolese churches prepare their communities for the elections by organizing public meetings to explain the voting process.

The Manenga Mennonite Church

actively prepared for the election this summer, according to Ray Dirks of Winnipeg, who was part of a Canadian delegation of July election observers.

The congregation got together on the last Saturday afternoon in July because it would not meet on Sunday, the day of the election. The church building is not much more than a few poles, tin sheets on half the roof, a tarp on most of the rest, and a blanket along one side to keep out the blistering sun.

Reverend Muenekuangu gave a powerful, wise and thoughtful sermon on selecting leaders who want to fol-

low God’s will. He ended his sermon by imploring people to pray that night and vote the next day. In this very simple setting, it was obvious this tiny band of first-time voters were taking their impending role in potentially shaping the future of their country very seriously, Dirks says.

Kulungu now sees an acute need for reconciliation in Congo because of recent wars that turned neighbours and communities against each other. He says churches have a role to play in this process by teaching about nonviolent ways to resolve differences and to find healing following the elections.

“That is the challenge we have now—how people will reconcile with themselves, with their neighbours and with the country,” Kulungu says.
—MCC release by **Tim Shenk**, with files from **Ray Dirks**

Congolese Canadian Odette Mukole, a member of Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, takes notes during an election observer training session.

**Photos by
Ray Dirks**



Pascal Kulungu, right, was among representatives of the National Electoral Commission and the Church of Christ in Congo who gave instructions to international election observers.



Morden, Man.

Singing the focus of 75th anniversary celebration

Morden Mennonite Church chose to celebrate its 75th anniversary by singing.

“We sing because we believe,” said pastor Harold Hildebrand Schlegel. “Music has always been such a central part of the life of this congregation.... Those songs stay with us, sustain us in times of difficulty.”

And music was a central part of the daylong celebration on Nov. 12. The mixed choir that began nearly 75 years ago, and still sings today, extended an invitation to all who had at one time been choir members, to sing at the anniversary.

The Morden Mennonite Church Male Choir was led by Jake Zacharias for most of its 33 years. In his 80s now, Zacharias brought the choir out of retirement for the anniversary concert.

“It was a very high priority,” said member Al Ens, when asked about how he found time every week to come to choir practice over the years. “We would leave family and even visitors to come. It was quite a clique in the better sense of the word. It drew people into the church.”

“We gave up hockey and other

activities. We would stop the field work. There was a willingness to serve, and this put us in demand in the community,” said male choir member Isaac Hoepfner. “We sang in the seniors home, hospital and the penitentiary.”

The male choir made seven recordings and toured North America, Mexico and Germany, often at the invitation of other churches. It disbanded in 2000.

“Too many people going different ways, and Jake was tired,” said Hoepfner.

The choirs rehearsed in the afternoon while borscht simmered in the church kitchen and old friends became reacquainted while poring over photo displays.

After a borscht and pie supper, the sanctuary filled with people and music. Betty Petkau, who was three years



Photo by Evelyn Rempel Petkau

Guests at the Morden Mennonite Church's 75th anniversary service enjoyed a meal of borscht and pie served by the men of the congregation.

old when the church was formed, recalls being asked to join the choir at age 14 and she sang in the choir until recently. For her, the music and the choir were a huge part of her church experience.

“The choir used to be all young people,” noted Erna Bergman. “Now, we are almost all seniors.”

“Morden is becoming a relocation centre for seniors,” Schlegel acknowledged. “I don't know if we have taken full advantage of that resource. So many young people leave for college or work, and they may or may not return.”

The Morden Mennonite congregation, with 320 members and an average Sunday attendance of more than 200, has always used music to express its faith and it used music to express its gratitude to God for these 75 years.

“We sing because it is good practice,” said Schlegel. “The Book of Revelation reminds us that our eternal vocation will be to sing praises to our God.”

—Evelyn Rempel Petkau



Photo courtesy of Paul McDowell

On Sept. 24, Cameron Kaufman-Frey, second from left, was installed as the new pastor of Community Mennonite Church, Stouffville, Ont. He is pictured at the installation with council chair Paul McDowell, left; regional conference minister Marvin Friesen, who led the installation ceremony; and search committee chair and elder Eugene Reesor. Originally from St. Clements, Kaufman-Frey grew up in St. Jacobs Mennonite Church. He ministered in a congregation in Morgantown, W.Va., for the past eight years before joining Community Mennonite Church in August.

St. Catharines, Ont.

Focus on children changes to seniors care over 50 years

Grace Mennonite Church celebrated its 50th anniversary this fall with a weekend of worship and reminiscing. The group is smaller now and the celebration was somewhat muted in comparison to the 40th anniversary in 1996.

On Oct. 15, the congregation celebrated God's "Amazing Grace" over the past 50 years, looking back on the many lives that have been touched, the ministries carried out, and the changes wrought through their influence.

In January 1956, the fledgling congregation began meeting in St. Catharines' Lincoln Park Community Centre. The church was begun as an English language congregation among the barely bilingual German-English congregations of the United Mennonite Conference of Ontario.

Like many other congregations begun for similar reasons and in similar circumstances in Steinbach, Winkler and Brandon, Man., and Regina, in the late 1950s and early '60s, the congregation took the same name—Grace Mennonite Church. This was in contrast to their parent congregations, which took the name of the community they were found in.

In 1957, just a year after beginning, Grace broke ground for its building, since added to for children's ministry and handicapped accessibility. Grace found a huge ministry in the early years with summer Vacation Bible School groups of more than 200 and a Sunday school with 51 staff and more than 300 students. Children's ministries, which eventually grew to include Girls' and Boys' League groups, played an important role in the church, and members of Grace were among those instrumental in founding Silver Lake Mennonite Camp near Lake Huron.

In the years since, Grace has sponsored a Mennonite Voluntary Service Unit and was the location for the first Ontario Sunday School Teacher convention. Grace also elected the first woman deacon in Ontario.

In 1984, the congregation took part in the building of the Grace-Linwell

retirement apartments on land the congregation had held since the 1950s. This, together with making the church handicapped accessible in 1990, pointed to a change of focus, which has accompanied a decrease in the number of young families attending the congregation. Grace is facing issues similar to many congregations across Canada—young adults leave for school

or jobs, or to begin families elsewhere, but somehow are not replaced by those who come from elsewhere to study, take jobs and begin families.

The Mennonite world is certainly different from that of 50 years ago and Grace has had a hand in many of the changes.

—**Dave Rogalsky**, with files from **Ted Kopp** and **Marlene Wignall**



Photo by Dave Rogalsky

Waterloo, Ont.

Regehr feted by Project Ploughshares supporters

For many, Project Ploughshares is Ernie Regehr and Ernie Regehr is Ploughshares. From the presentations made at the 30th anniversary symposium held in Waterloo in November, this confusion could be forgiven. Speaker after speaker lauded Regehr's work as the visible head of Ploughshares.

But the celebration was actually a recognition that Regehr has moved into semi-retirement. From August 2005 to this past September, John Siebert shared the director's position with Regehr. Since his retirement as director, Regehr has been re-hired by Project Ploughshares as a half-time policy advisor focusing on nuclear weapons.

Ernie Regehr, right, was feted at the 30th anniversary celebrations of Project Ploughshares in Waterloo, Ont., in November. He is pictured with new director John Siebert, left, and Bethuel Kiplaget of Kenya, the executive director of the Africa Peace Forum and the former Kenyan ambassador to France.

The highest accolade paid to Regehr was by Bethuel Kiplaget, the former Kenyan ambassador to France who is now the executive director of the Africa Peace Forum and an expert in peace negotiations and conflict resolution in Kenya. He spoke hopefully of the chances for peace in Africa, noting huge improvements over the past 15 years. Regehr was specifically thanked for his roles in the formation of the Africa Peace Forum and in the creation of a small arms reduction protocol that has led to a decrease in the arms flow in the region.

—**Dave Rogalsky**



MDS photo by Andi Dubé

Erica Ingrahm, left, and her father Joseph stand beside a rubber tree outside their trailer in Diamond, La. The rubber tree, which is adjacent to where Ingrahm's new house will be built, is the only part of their property that survived Hurricane Katrina. Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) opened its project in Diamond in early November after Canadians Bert and Doris Hamm from Edmonton and John and Grace Kroeker from Kelowna, B.C., arrived a month earlier to prepare the site. Although MDS was active with cleanup and repairs shortly after the storm, the displacement of many in the community following the hurricane made it difficult to begin rebuilding efforts immediately after the storm. Through the MDS project in Diamond, a church and several homes in the area of Plaquemines Parish are already being repaired and rebuilt.

Automotive

West Park Motors, Altona, MB
GM Sales-Leasing-Parts-Service
(204) 324-6494; www.westparkgm.com

Education Resources

MBIC Resource Centre
(see ad next page)

Financial Services

Eby Financial Group
(see ad next page)

Gerber Financial Services, Waterloo, ON
(519)746-1900;
mgerber@dundeewealth.com

MAX Canada
(see ad next page)

Mennonite Savings & Credit Union
(see ad next page)

IPC Investment Corporation
(see ad this page)

Roth Nowak Insurance Brokers
(see ad next page)

Josslin Insurance Brokers Ltd.
(see ad next page)

Funeral Planning

Friends Funeral Service
(see ad next page)

Guestroom/Residence

Maison de l'Amitié
(see ad this page)

Legal Services

Russel Snyder-Penner
(see ad next page)

Real Estate

CITYCORP Realty Ltd.
(see ad next page)

Hunsberger Realty
(see ad next page)

Re/Max Performance Realty
(see ad next page)

Travel

Bonaventure Travel
(see ad next page)

Mennonite Your Way Tours
1-800-296-1991; www.mywtours.com

Sound Advice, Excellent Products, Peace of Mind

John Thiessen, BA, BTh, CFP
Tel: 1.866.324.9574
john@ipcmanitoba.com



Insurance Provided by IPC Estate Services Inc.



**Maison de l'Amitié
House of Friendship**

Guestroom and Student Residence

120 Rue Duluth, Est
Montreal, QC H2W 1H1
(514) 843-4356

Experience hospitality in the heart of Montreal's Plateau!

www.residencema.ca



Mennonite Savings and Credit Union
A tradition of trust.

- Aylmer** 519 765-3025 • 1 800 265-4513
- Elmira** 519 669-1529 • 1 800 265-1994
- Kitchener** 519 576-7220 • 1 800 565-6801
- Leamington** 519 326-8601 • 1 888 285-5501
- Milverton** 519 595-8796 • 1 800 952-2217
- New Hamburg** 519 662-3550 • 1 800 567-4047
- St. Catharines** 519 646-9223 • 1 866 405-8590
- Waterloo** 519 746-1770 • 1 800 265-4513

Serving members of Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches across Ontario.

ACCOUNTS • LOANS • MORTGAGES • ONLINE SERVICES
FINANCIAL PLANNING • WWW.MSCU.COM



RE/MAX
Performance Realty
Independently Owned and Operated
John J. Friesen
Sales Associate

Business: (204) 255-4204 Winnipeg, Manitoba
Toll Free: 1-800-267-0794
E-mail: johnjfriesen@remax.net



Mennonite & Brethren in Christ
RESOURCE CENTRE

Your Audiovisual Library

519-745-8458 ext.225 | 50 Kent Ave.
www.mbicresources.org | Kitchener, ON

Roth Nowak
INSURANCE BROKERS

119 University Avenue East
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 2W1
Telephone: (800) 576-7166
E-mail: service@rothnowak.com

Auto, Home & Business Insurance

Dennis Roth • Ed Nowak

Serving the Mennonite Community throughout Ontario

Representing



MAX Canada is committed to serving the Anabaptist community with insurance protection & mutual aid care.

- HOME
- FARM
- CHURCH
- BUSINESS
- AUTO*

restoring what is lost to
WHOLENESS

877-770-7729 • www.maxcanada.org

Products available in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario & Saskatchewan



617 Sandringham Dr., Waterloo, ON N2C 3L8
Telephone: (519) 746-1714
Toll Free Page: 1-800-263-1420
Cell: (519) 980-1790
Website: www.hunsbergerr Realty Ltd
E-mail: merrill@hunsbergerr.com

Merrill Hunsberger, P.Eng.
Broker of Record
"CHINESE ALSO SPOKEN" 中文服務



2146 Main Street Winnipeg, MB R2V 3S5

Walter Klassen
Harold Koslowsky
Harry Froese

Phone: (204) 339-5555 • E-mail: f_f_s@mts.net

It is your goals for the future that matter

Duane L. Eby MBA, CFP, CLU, ChFC

501-1 Blue Springs Drive
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4M1
e-mail: deby@ebyfinancial.com
tel 519.725.2006 fax 519.886.7169



EBY FINANCIAL GROUP INC.

www.ebyfinancial.com



Russel Snyder-Penner
B.A., LL.B., M.A. Trademark Agent
Corporate/Commercial Law
Charities/Non-profits
Wills/Trusts, Real Estate

SUTHERLAND MARK FLEMING SNYDER-PENNER
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

255 King St. N. Suite 300
Waterloo, ON N2J 4V2
519-725-2500
(f) 519-725-2525
russ@solicitors.com



Commercial/Investment/Residential

EDMUND PRIES PhD
President / Broker of Record

737 Belmont Ave. W. T: 519-578-0003
Kitchener, ON F: 519-743-6490
N2M 1P3 Canada E: broker@citycorp.ca

Bonaventure Travel

- Lila Hollman
- Sherryl Koop
- Lori Neufeld
- Rose Szczepanik
- Ruth Wiebe
- Liz Krohn
- Fiona Stafford
- Julie Alexiuk

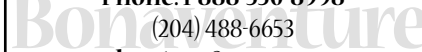
428 Academy Road, Winnipeg, MB

Phone: 1-888-550-8998

(204) 488-6653

bontrav@escape.ca

Fax: (204) 488-6694



Don Wagler



Rose Wagler



Scott Wagler



Steve Wagler



Don Leis



Derrick MacDonald

Proud to Represent



New Hamburg
519•662•1644

Kitchener
519•893•7008

Tavistock
519•655•2377

Wellesley
519•656•2065

1•888•JOSSLIN (567•7546)
www.josslin.com

Offering specialized products for:—
Church • Farm • Car • Home • Business

JOSSLIN INSURANCE
BROKERS LIMITED

Abbotsford, B.C.

From dogmatism to mindless tolerance: Mennonites in the last century

On a rainy fall evening at Abbotsford's Bakerview Mennonite Brethren (MB) Church, more than a hundred people gathered to hear two elder statesmen from Canada's largest Mennonite groups reflect on the faith communities that nurtured them and the changes they have seen in recent decades.

John Neufeld, a former Winnipeg pastor and president of Canadian Mennonite Bible College, drew on his experiences growing up in a relatively closed community in the Fraser Valley where conformity and tradition were valued, and where home, school and community together helped internalize values.

"Outsiders were viewed with suspicion or disdain," said Neufeld. Biblical admonishment to "not be conformed the world" and to be "in the world but not of it" were common.

Neufeld recalled the contentious issue of transition from German to English and the pressure to be able to identify a specific personal conversion time, observing that there is an increasing biblical illiteracy in Mennonite congregations.

Secularization, pluralism, relativism, individualism, affluence, mobility and the impact of the media describe the current Mennonite cultural context, he said. "Our culture has left its mark on each of us, probably more than we realize."

"We have moved from certainty to ambiguity, from dogmatism to mindless tolerance, from clarity about nonconformity to ambivalence, from separation from the world to unthinking and unchallenged assimilation," Neufeld stated.

Ethical issues are no longer black and white. "People were utterly sincere, but in retrospect they were sincerely wrong on a number of counts," he said, wryly adding that 60 years from now people might say the same thing about him. He blamed past rigidity on a dogmatic certainty

that claimed to know exactly what the Bible taught on any issue for the church's newfound tolerance.

In the future, Neufeld suggested that Mennonite thinking about morality and ethics might need to be more oriented to Jesus' teaching rather than focused on cultural traditions. "The Bible as the inspired word of God is more important to me than earlier," said Neufeld, calling on pastors and teachers to "share what we know and believe about the Bible as a whole with congregations."

In responding to Neufeld, Columbia Bible College faculty member Gareth Brandt noted that the plagues of individualism and biblicism continue to this day. He also suggested that churches are not speaking out enough about Canada's culture of violence.

Relying largely on official MB documents, well-known MB New Testament scholar David Ewert

focused on significant changes in MB theology and ethics in the past half-century. Scripture is unchanging, he said, but church understandings of Scripture change. "We have come through a rather stormy half-century," he said, referring to such issues as science and creation, the changing role of women in church, and the inerrancy of Scripture.

Of the latter, Ewert stressed that Mennonites "should not get hung up on definitions of interpretation," rather they should be challenged to live under the authority of the Word of God.

Responding to Ewert's presentation, Bruce Guenther from ACTS Seminary in Langley, B.C., wondered why Mennonite Brethren theologians have been absent from the development of an Anabaptist theology. "We focus on personal ethics, not social ethics.... Why can't MBs name the idolatries, the principalities and powers?" he asked.

The event was organized by the B.C. Mennonite Historical Society.

—Henry Neufeld



Come make a difference on a great Volun-Tour to **Beautiful Guatemala** **AND NOW COSTA RICA!**

Safe, gorgeous, meaningful travel, comfortable and informative. Great hotels and lush surroundings. For ages 30-ish to 70-ish. February and March 2007.

Check out www.snowfishtours.com or phone toll-free 1-866-914-3321.



Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure
Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure seeks to live out servanthood ministry as modelled by Jesus Christ.

www.mvsa.net

Lethbridge Winnipeg
Toronto Montreal

FOCUS

Finances

From sin to stewardship

What a change! There was a time when many people in the Mennonite community were taught to view insurance with considerable suspicion. To purchase insurance demonstrated a lack of faith in God and in one's faith community. In many contexts it was labelled as sin and grounds for excommunication. It meant becoming "unequally yoked with unbelievers" (II Corinthians 6:14).

It was in this environment that mutual aid societies or associations were encouraged and found fertile ground, whether to meet health needs or property protection. It was these organizations that, for more than a century, kept the spirit and practice of mutual aid alive in the churches.

Today, we think of being properly insured as an act of stewardship. We become annoyed, impatient or even judgmental if people experience a loss and have inadequate life, medical, auto or property insurance. As Christian stewards of what we own, we are encouraged to ensure that we protect our assets as well as possible with adequate insurance to maintain or regain wholeness at a time of loss.

Historically, the Mennonite Church held a fatalistic theology which taught that believers should be thankful for suffering since it tested resolve and brought them closer to the mind and experience of Christ. Now, we more commonly believe that God's will for our lives is not to suffer setbacks and losses that will prevent us from carrying on the ministries to which we have been called. We are encouraged to avail ourselves of various forms

Continued on page 24



EBY FINANCIAL GROUP INC.

Financial Planning...Decisions with Confidence
It is your goals for the future that matter

Duane L. Eby MBA, CFP, CLU, CHFC

501-1 Blue Springs Dr.
 Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4M1
 t: 519.725.2006 f: 519.886.7169

www.ebyfinancial.com deby@ebyfinancial.com



WHOLENESS

The MAX[®] family of companies is committed to serving the Anabaptist community with mutual aid care to restore wholeness after a loss and insurance protection to preserve the wholeness of something you already own.

Because the insurance program supports so much of MAX Canada Mutual Aid Ministries—what you preserve helps to restore. You have many ways to be a part of MAX and experience the "wholeness" process, here's how:

- Purchase an insurance policy for your HOME, FARM, CHURCH or BUSINESS through MAX Canada Insurance Company.
- Sign up to receive email notifications that provide opportunities to help with special needs throughout the Anabaptist community.
- Give your time as a volunteer or by donating financially to help meet those special needs.

Contact MAX Canada Today!
 877-770-7729 • www.maxcanada.org

MAXTM Preserving and Restoring Wholeness
 in the Anabaptist Community

Stewardship *From page 23*

of insurance, allowing us to sustain our asset base and restore wholeness when setbacks or losses occur. However, this does not address the question of being unequally yoked with systems and values with which we cannot agree.

Increasingly, para-church organizations such as MAX Canada Insurance Company and Mennonite Savings and Credit Union are replacing the traditional informal aid ministries. Fully meeting all the regulatory government demands designed to protect society, these organizations nevertheless allow members of our Anabaptist constituency to receive professional services equal to or better than large societal institutions provide. Furthermore, operated within the historical and theological understandings of mutuality and service, these organizations remain dedicated to the historical tasks of mutual aid and mutual support within the constituencies they serve with new forms of “barn raising.”

Consequently, whether premium dollars, savings or investment dollars, they remain within the orbit of the faith community and are used to serve others within that faith community through services offered and mutual aid activities.

We buy insurance to preserve the wholeness of our assets, knowing that when need arises, programs are in place to restore wholeness within the faith community. With our participation in such organizations we fulfil the vision the Apostle Paul shared with the Corinthian believers: *“I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance”* (II Corinthians 8:13-14).

Within MAX Canada, Mutual Aid Ministries operates four programs supported by the insurance enterprise to undergird mutual aid: Burden Bearing Ministry, Network Ministry, Financial Aid Ministry and Educational Ministry. For more details, visit www.maxcanada.org.
—MAX Canada release
by **Nelson Scheifele**

Credit union expands into Niagara region

Mennonite Savings and Credit Union (MSCU) celebrated the grand opening of its newest branch in St. Catharines, Ont., on Nov. 24. This location is the credit union’s seventh branch, and marks a significant leap forward in servicing the financial needs of the Anabaptist faith community in the Niagara region. “Our expansion into the Niagara region is largely in response to the many members of the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ communities who have voiced growing interest in the financial services that we provide within the context of a faith-based mission and values,” says chief executive officer Nick Driedger. “Our values, which reflect those of our member community, illustrate the need to provide prudent and competitive services within a greater context of compassionate mutual aid and Christian stewardship.”

—MSCU release

Meritas launches shareholder action program

Meritas Mutual Funds has engaged Vancouver-based Shareholder Association for Research and Education (SHARE) to help launch the most comprehensive shareholder action program in its history. The issues that Meritas will address cover some of the most pressing concerns for socially responsible Canadian investors. Sustainability and reporting on human rights will be among the topics that Meritas will discuss with the senior management of some of Canada’s largest publicly traded companies. “Since the goal of Meritas... is to invest in companies that represent the best blend of financial, environmental, social and governance policies and procedures, we want to provide the management of these companies with insight into the best practices in these areas,” says Meritas CEO Gary Hawton.
—Joint Meritas/SHARE release

Make the most of your giving



- Donate securities in-kind and pay no capital gains tax.
- Donate in the year you need a receipt and distribute to charities over five years.
- Establish a personalized, longer-term endowment.
- Name MFC in your will to distribute your gift to multiple charities.

We can help you consider your options for charitable giving.



Winnipeg	1-800-772-3257
Kitchener	1-888-212-7759
Niagara	1-888-212-8731
Calgary	1-877-717-0708
Abbotsford	1-888-212-8608

www.mennofoundation.ca

People&Events

Winnipeg—Neil Janzen of Winnipeg has been named chair of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada board of directors. He replaces Ron Dueck, who now serves as the chair of the MCC international board. Janzen, a former president of Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), began his career as a teacher in the 1960s. In the 1970s, he and his wife became MCC representatives in India. Upon their return to Canada, he earned a master of business administration degree from the University of Western Ontario. Following graduation, he served for 10 years as president of MEDA, three years as vice-president of administration at Concord College, chair of the Concordia Hospital board of directors, chair of Ten Thousand Villages Canada board of directors, and moderator of the Mennonite Brethren Conference of Manitoba. His passion for

mission, he says, will help him lead the MCC Canada board as it sets its agenda and direction for future growth.

—MCC Canada release
by **Gladys Terichow**

Abbotsford, B.C.—Joe Defries of West Abbotsford Mennonite Church has accomplished another record-setting feat. On Nov. 4 and 5, Defries solved Sudoku puzzles in a marathon session of 34 hours 56 minutes 37 seconds. Defries, a confessed “Sudoku addict,” worked on 640 of the number puzzles on a 137-metre-long sheet of paper at Abbotsford’s Ramada Plaza and Convention Centre. Defries told *Canadian Mennonite* that his effort was part of the Guinness World Records Week. Defries will have to wait six to eight months to receive official confirmation of his feat from Guinness World Records. The “Sudoku-thon” raised more than \$1,000 for needy children at the B.C. Children’s Hospital Foundation in Vancouver.

—**Amy Dueckman**

Transitions

Births/Adoptions

Dyck—to Kristen and Kevin, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Maisha Brittany Grace, in Three Hills, Alta., Nov. 5.
Fredlund—to Yvonne and Keith, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., a son, Ethan, Nov. 23.
Neufeld—to Rie and Gerald, Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont., a daughter, Irene Iwase, in Japan, Oct. 5.
Regehr—to Rachael and Jonathon, Glenlea Mennonite, Man., a son, Samuel Jacob, Nov. 3.
Ropp—to Nicole and Ryan, East Zorra Mennonite, Tavistock, Ont., a daughter, Naomi Eileen, Dec. 2.
Weber—to Helen and John, Faith Mennonite, Leamington, a daughter, Addison Grace, Nov. 16.
Wiens—to Candace (nee Janzen) and Toby, Schoenfelder Mennonite, St. Francois Xavier, Man., a daughter, Finnley Annika, Dec. 12.

Marriages

Brown-Martin—Brian and Lynne (Arnaud Mennonite, Man.), at Gimli, Man., Dec. 8.
Hock-Derksen—Andy and Cheryl (Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.), in Salunga, Pa., Dec. 2.
Martin-Brubacher—Ryan (Elmira Mennonite, Ont.) and Lori (St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont.), in St. Jacobs, Dec. 9.

Deaths

Bartel—Jacob, 82, North Star Mennonite Church, Drake, Sask. (attending Eden Mennonite Rosedale, B.C.), Nov. 29.
Bartel—Margaretha, 97, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., Nov. 28.
Becker—Margaret, 91, St. Catharines United Mennonite, Ont., Nov. 30.

Boldt—Anna, 84, St. Catharines United Mennonite, Ont., Dec. 2.
Braun—Helen, 92, Schoenfelder Mennonite, St. Francois Xavier, Man., Dec. 6.
Dobka—Anne, 68, Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, Dec. 4.
Dyck—Jim, 80, Grace Mennonite, Winkler, Man., Nov. 7.
Enns—David A., 86, Morden Mennonite, Man., Dec. 3.
Enns—Frank F., 91, Glenlea Mennonite, Man., Nov. 19.
Heidebrecht—Peter J., 98, First Mennonite, Calgary, Dec. 1.
Hildebrandt—Kathie, 65, St. Catharines United Mennonite, Ont., Nov. 29.
Klassen—Betty, 86, First Mennonite, Saskatoon, Dec. 7.
Loewen—Anne (nee Friesen), 92, Bergthaler Mennonite, Altona, Man., Dec. 8.
Neufeld—Louise (nee Enns), 90 (b. March 1, 1916), First Mennonite, Calgary, Dec. 12.
Plenert—Rudy, 78 (b. Sept. 7, 1928), Emmanuel Mennonite, Abbotsford, B.C., Oct. 19.
Ramseyer—Katie, 88 (b. Jan. 12, 1918), Tavistock Mennonite, Ont., Nov. 26.
Weber—Ralph, 78, Floradale Mennonite, Ont., Nov. 7.

Baptisms

Crosshill Mennonite, Millbank, Ont.—Amelia Shantz, Oct. 15.

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.

Advertising Information:

Contact:
Karen Suderman
Advertising representative
1-800-378-2524
advert@canadianmennonite.org

MCC photo by Gladys Terichow



Ella Isaac, left, a 25-year volunteer in the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Ontario office, retired at the end of November—just a few days short of her 80th birthday. Her contributions were recognized at the MCC Ontario annual meeting in Leamington, Nov. 11. Isaac started volunteering in the Selfhelp Crafts store (now Ten Thousand Villages) in 1981 to help her cope with the deaths of her husband Neil, who died in 1979, and her sons Terry and Robert. Over the years she provided a variety of administrative and financial services; most recently, she opened the mail, made bank deposits and stuffed envelopes. “Her model of cheerful service is amazing,” said MCC Ontario executive director Arli Klassen, right. “She has been dependable, reliable and always willing.”

Mennonite Church Canada

Survey, posters in January Equipping

Start the new year right with a moment of reflection in response to a brief user survey included in the January issue of *Equipping*. This can be done online at mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/100. Due date is Jan. 31.

Also, included in the packet are:

- Two colourful posters which highlight Youth Assembly 2007 in Abbotsford, B.C., and "Join the song of healing and hope," which invites everyone to celebrate the diversity of God's people.
- A celebration story from South Korea entitled "Discovering Anabaptism in solidarity."
- The 2007 At Home Lenten resource booklet, "Blessed Hunger...Holy Feast," by Elsie Rempel.
- A Resource Centre update that highlights a five-session "Season of Prayer" worship, prayer and study guide for congregations entitled "Walls: Divine and dividing" by Brian Dyck.
- Mennonite Publishing Network Spring 2007 resource catalogue.
- AMBS Summer 2007 course offering booklet.

New Year's prayer requests

As the New Year begins, pray for and celebrate new initiatives and plans for 2007. Remember especially:

- Anabaptists and Mennonites who will be gathering for a regional meeting near Montevideo, Uruguay, from Jan. 22 to 28. Sisters and brothers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay will attend sessions led by author John Driver and Witness partner Dennis Byler from Spain.

- The need for additional English teachers in China. Churches in Dazhou and Nanchong have made requests for English teachers, but there are not enough teachers to meet program needs.

- Julie and Philip Bender, Witness workers in China, who give thanks for prayer and counsel regarding their discernment of future direction. They have renewed their term through mid-2010.

- A new leadership training initiative in Paraguay. The Evangelical Mennonite Centre of Theology in Asuncion (CEMTA), partner of Mennonite Church Canada Witness, is supporting this initiative, which will allow church leaders in rural towns to participate in intensive theological courses once a week.

—Hinke Loewen-Rudgers

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Workshop to focus on young adults

A year ago, "Young adults and the church" was named as an area of interest for MC Eastern Canada's 2007 Pastors, Chaplains and Congregational Leaders Workshop. Robert J. Suderman's comments in regard to congregational concerns about the lack of young adults in church ("What about the young adults?" Sept. 4, page 2) verified for the planning committee that it had chosen the topic well.

Keynote speaker for the 2007 workshop is Ed Janzen, chaplain at Conrad Grebel, who claims, "One thing that young adults have, that older ones don't, is restless passion. This is the energy to try something new, to search for authenticity and meaning in life,... to uproot and risk comfort and security for the sake of truth, love, compassion, service to Christ. This is the

very energy that makes the missional church possible.... This is more than finding a program to keep young adults occupied until they become old adults. This is about understanding that without the restless passion of young adults we actually aren't a whole and healthy church. Young adults model for us the vital energies that keep us searching for the love of Christ, that keep us active in sharing the love we've found, that keep us honest and open."

While not all would agree with Janzen, his comments are sure to encourage conversation at the workshop, to be held Jan. 13 at Steinmann Mennonite Church, Baden, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Afternoon sessions will focus on questions like:

- "Young adults and the church" was named as the No. 1 concern by Mennonite churches across Canada. What do you think keeps the generational issue so front and centre?
- What should the church be doing that would engage you as young adults?
- What are some of the challenges the church and young adults face in working together?

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Nurture Next to Nature now offered

There is no hiatus at Camps with Meaning. Once summer camp is over, they quickly put out the welcome mat for guest groups who come for quiet, fellowship, nurture or learning. Interest groups, families, churches and schools are among those who take advantage of Camps with Meaning.

Nurture Next to Nature is a new program that is proving to be very popular for school groups. Nature hikes, outdoor cooking, and ban-

nock- and candle-making are some of the activities this program offers to guest groups at Camp Assiniboia. It also provides Manitoba Education curriculum-related lessons on riverbank environments and local history. Another stream offered under this program is peacebuilding, which includes such activities as team-building at the high ropes course. Although the riding horses are away "on vacation," a draft team of horses allows for some horsemanship instruction and sleigh rides.

The Nurture Next to Nature program is being developed through a team effort. Sheila Giesbrecht prepares the lessons and teaching materials. Tanya Suderman began her role as guest group program coordinator and group instructor in December, taking over from Elisa Barkman.

Barkman said, "Initial response by groups who have experienced the lessons has been positive. Hikes and outdoor living skills have been thoroughly enjoyed."

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Hague pastor resigns

Dave Feick, pastor of Hague Mennonite Church, has resigned.

Feick, who has been working there for 10 years, gave his notice of resignation on Nov. 3. "It's time for a change," he said.

The congregation, situated about 30 minutes from Saskatoon and with an average Sunday morning attendance of about 80, plans to take some time for discerning possible new directions the church could consider.

"The deacons are meeting with people to find out where we need to go from here," said Feick.

'Vibrant' rural churches to meet

Almost four years ago, a plan was formed through the Ministries Commission to focus on the smallest rural churches in the MC Saskatchewan conference. Called the Vibrant Rural Churches Program, the project involved Eric Olfert and Naomi Unger and was begun to hear what these rural congregations had learned about remaining hopeful and vibrant in spite of issues such as population decline and farming difficulties.

The project was launched during the 2003 delegate sessions and the resulting report was presented nine months later.

Ten small congregations were included in the initial project.

Since the study was completed, two of those churches have closed. The Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite Church in Rabbit Lake joined another nearby Hoffnungsfelder congregation, and Bethany Mennonite in Watrous officially closed last year and put its building up for sale.

Now, the remaining eight churches have been invited to meet with members of the MC Saskatchewan executive, the Ministries Commission and the Pastoral Leadership Commission, as well as with Unger and Olfert.

"It's a chance for those churches to get back together to talk about what else could be useful," explained Olfert.

Scheduled to take place the weekend of the next delegate sessions in February, the

meeting will be held at Grace Mennonite Church in Regina.

Mennonite Church Alberta

Camp Committee evaluates Valaqua

For many years, Camp Valaqua has been at the heart of much of the children's and youth ministries in Mennonite Church Alberta. Like all good programs, it developed according to the needs of the church and society. These needs are constantly changing, and so must programs.

On Dec. 2, the Camp Committee held a visioning event at Valaqua. Representatives from Alberta churches gathered to discuss and discern possible short- and long-term goals for the camp.

Doug Klassen, pastor of Foothills Mennonite, began the event by sharing about the history of Christian youth movements and the need for constant revisioning to stay relevant to the needs of their time. Discussions facilitated by John Schellenberg, a former MC Alberta moderator with a wealth of experience with Camp Valaqua, followed. The group examined such topics as activity development, facilities, conference relationships, programs, and the overall purpose of the camp.

Current camp director Jon Olfert was pleased with the discussions. "They were broad-based discussions," he said. "It was neat to look ahead at a number of ideas.... It was a vision-based discussion."

Continued on page 28

ROBERT J. SUDERMAN



From our leaders

We are beginning a new year. One of the good traditions of our church is to spend time in the early days of a new year in a spirit of prayer with others for ourselves and the world.

Mennonite Church Canada encourages its members and congregations to pray. Mennonite World Conference encourages the global Anabaptist Church to pray. And the ecumenical councils also encourage the church to pray for its faithfulness and unity. It is good to pray for personal, local and regional needs, for national and global concerns, and to encourage the unity of faith that Christ calls us to as his body.

There are many reasons why it is so important to pray:

- Prayer is our response to God's presence and initiative in our lives. Prayer is God's initiative, and we cannot manipulate God through prayer. Prayer reminds us that our lives are ultimately in the hands of God.
- Prayer is an opportunity to express our gratitude for God's presence in our lives, and it is good to live in a spirit of gratitude.
- Through prayer we pay attention to God's agenda for our lives. Prayer helps us suspend our egos in order to anticipate a possible word from God.
- Prayer focuses our attention on God's permanent presence in our lives and seeks guidance for what we should do in light of it.
- Prayer is an instrument for human reconciliation. It is difficult to harbour resentment or hate someone for whose wellbeing we have earnestly prayed.

Why pray?

Ultimately, prayer is the political act of a community that seeks guidance for its life from beyond the self-proclaimed saviours of our world.

- Prayer is an alternative to inaction. Prayer accompanies effort and allows us to keep up our courage, to persist, and to continue in our Christian walk.
- Prayer is an antidote to our pretensions of self-sufficiency. In prayer we surrender our own wisdom and strength to the greater wisdom and authority of God.
- Prayer does not simply justify and bless what we are already doing. Rather, prayer sheds light on things that we need to be doing as children of God.

• Prayer confesses hope. Even desperate prayer and lament assume there is hope. To pray 'Thy kingdom come' is the same as saying there is hope for something better.

Ultimately, prayer is the political act of a community that seeks guidance for its life from beyond the self-proclaimed saviours of our world. Prayer is an act of resistance against the claims of consumerism, militarism and secularism, and thereby becomes an initiative for justice. Prayer is essential for a community that wishes to demonstrate an alternative to the many dead end paths of our society. I encourage our church to pray profoundly and sincerely at all times.

The Apostle Peter exhorts us to be "clear minded and self controlled so that you can pray" (1 Peter 4:7).

May God provide us with the wisdom and courage needed to be God's people now.

Robert J. Suderman is general secretary of Mennonite Church Canada.

TheChurches *From page 27*

A summary of the discussions, compiled by Schellenberg, has been forwarded to members of the Camp Committee. The committee will consider these as it plans for the future. Any recommendations resulting from the discussions will be brought to the annual sessions in Lethbridge.

**Mennonite Church
British Columbia**

**Pastor recovering
from heart procedure**

Lorin Bergen, pastor of Living Hope Christian Fellowship

in Surrey, is recovering from angioplasty on Dec. 11.

Although a surgeon was on standby to do open heart surgery, the angioplasty was successful and this was not deemed necessary. Bergen, 41, had no genetic or lifestyle risk factors, and no previous indication of heart problems before this incident.

"The support has been unbelievable," Bergen says. "Our church and MC B.C. have been supporting and loving, and we have received numerous e-mails from all across the country and from as far away as Africa. People in many churches have been praying for me; it's just been remarkable."

Recovering at home in mid-December, Bergen said his doctors have given him permission to return to work in January.

**Junior youth retreat
to focus on heroes**

"Project U: The evolution of a hero" will be the theme for the third annual Mennonite Church B.C. junior youth retreat at Camp Squeah from April 27 to 29. The resource person will be Reece Friesen, associate pastor of Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church in Abbotsford and comic book artist of the *Pax Avalon* series.

According to Friesen, the retreat will focus on "forming our identity on the basis

of Christ's identity" and the different masks people wear in various situations. A myth theme will be carried out over the three days of the weekend using story, biblical application and personal application.

Youths in grades 6 to 9 are welcome to attend. For more information, contact church youth pastors or e-mail Friesen at eeaspast@telus.net.

Unless otherwise credited, the articles in TheChurches 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.

Employment opportunities

**Richmond Park
MB Church**

A congregation of about 300 people in the growing, mid-sized city of Brandon – is searching for a

Youth Pastor

who is passionate about leading and discipling youths.

Please send resume and three references to Reinhold Kramer, 43 Noonan Dr., Brandon MB, R7B 0V7.

For information, e-mail: Kramer@brandonu.ca or phone: 204-727-7344.

Subscriber services Mennonite

How to subscribe:

1. Individuals who attend churches that are part of Mennonite Church Canada or one of its five area churches can subscribe through our Every Home Plan (paid for by your church giving and CM's own fundraising). Please contact your church office to be added to the list.
2. Personal subscriptions are also available to anyone. A one-year subscription (24 issues) is \$36.00 plus \$2.16 GST in Canada, \$53.50 (Can.) to the USA, and \$73.00 (Can.) for elsewhere. Two-year and group subscriptions are also available.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

- Payment enclosed
 Charge my VISA Mastercard

card number _____ expiry date _____

Subscription changes:

1. When submitting a change of address or cancellation, please include your subscription number:

Subscription number **Expiry date**

A999999	00/00/00
Kathy Mennonite 999 Menno St. WINNIPEG MB X0X 0X0	

2. Subscription changes are not considered Transitions notices (these go to transitions@canadianmennonite.org).
3. Changes will be made immediately but may take four to six weeks to take effect because of printing schedules.

Contact information:

Canadian Mennonite, 490 Dutton Dr., Unit C5,
 Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 6H7
 Phone: 519-884-3810 Toll-free: 1-800-378-2524 ext. 221
 Fax: 519-884-3331 E-mail: office@canadianmennonite.org



TABOR HOME SOCIETY

**INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR
DIRECTOR OF CARE**

Tabor Home is a 121-bed non-profit complex care facility with a 23-bed special care unit. Tabor Home Society is sponsored by area Mennonite Brethren churches and affiliated with the Fraser Health Authority.

This position requires:

- Baccalaureate degree in Nursing
- Additional preparation in Gerontology
- Minimum three years recent related management experience in a geriatric health care setting, preferably long-term care
- Commitment to promoting and providing Christian values-based programs and services as affirmed in our Mission Statement
- Familiarity with resident database computer system, ie. MDS (Gold Care)

Send Resumes to:
 Attn: Human Resources
 Tabor Home Society
 31944 Sunrise Crescent, Abbotsford, BC V2T 1N5
 or e-mail: lbortucene@taborhome.org
www.taborhome.org

Calendar

British Columbia

Jan. 19-20: “The mind of Christ” learning weekend for Vancouver area Mennonite churches, at Peace Mennonite Church, Richmond. Speakers: John J. Friesen, Gary Yamasaki, Tim Rogalsky and Chris Huebner.

Feb. 9,10,16,17: MCC fund-raising banquets—Central Community Church, Chilliwack (9), Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford (10), Peace Mennonite Church, Richmond (16), South Langley Mennonite Brethren Church (17).

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

Feb. 23-24: MC B.C. annual delegate sessions. Location TBA.

March 16-17: Youth workers conference at CBC.

March 24,25: Lenten vespers with Abendmusik Choir, 8 p.m. Emmanuel Free Reformed Church, Abbotsford (24); Knox United Church, Vancouver (25). Donations to Menno Simons Centre.

March 26-28: Mennonite Camping Association western regional meeting at Camp Squeah. For more information, visit mennonitecamping.org.

Alberta

Jan. 19-21: Junior high snow camp at Camp Valaqua.

Jan. 27: Camp Valaqua fellowship banquet at Edmonton First Mennonite Church.

Feb. 9-11: Annual Mennonite men’s curling bonspiel in Didsbury. For more information, call Herman Epp at 403-335-3894.

Feb. 17: Winter fun day at Camp Valaqua. Call Jon Olfert at 403-637-2510 for more information.

Feb. 23-25: Senior high snow camp at Camp Valaqua.

March 10: Camp Valaqua fellowship banquet at Trinity Mennonite Church, Calgary.

March 23-24: MC Alberta annual delegate sessions in Lethbridge.

Saskatchewan

Jan. 26-28: Senior high retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Speaker: Roland Martinson.

Feb. 5-12: Mid-year conference for MCC IVEP participants at Mount Royal Mennonite.

Feb. 10-11: Winter Fun Days for youths at Shekinah Retreat Centre.

Feb. 11: International Worship Festival at Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon, 7 p.m.

Feb. 16-26: Ethiopian storyteller Tesfa Dalellew is visiting Saskatchewan.

Feb. 23-24: MC Saskatchewan annual delegate sessions, at Western Christian College, Regina.

Feb. 25: Evening of Quartets—an MCC fundraiser—at Forest Grove Community Church, Saskatoon.

March 23-24: MC Saskatchewan Songfest at First Mennonite Church, Saskatoon.

March 31: Shekinah Retreat Centre fundraising banquet and silent auction at Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon.

April 12: Saskatchewan Women in Mission Enrichment Day in Swift Current.

April 15-21: MCC Volunteer Appreciation Week.

June 26-29: Ecumenical “Making peace in the household of God” conference, Saskatoon.

July 29: Shekinah Retreat Centre Adventure Challenge.

Oct. 26-28: Quilting and scrapbooking retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre.

Manitoba

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*. Visit cmu.ca for more information.

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

Jan. 29: Westgate Mennonite Collegiate open house.

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

Feb. 3: Resonate, the MCI vocal ensemble, in concert with special guest Vic Engbrecht, at Buhler Hall, Gretna, 7:30 p.m.

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

Feb. 12-14: Mid-winter retreat for adults with disabilities at Camp Koinonia.

Feb. 20-21: CMU winter lectures with Robert Russell, professor of theology, Graduate Theological Union. Topic: “Science and theology.” Visit cmu.ca for more information.

Feb. 23-24: MC Manitoba annual delegate sessions at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.

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 8-10: MCI musical production of *Les Miserables*.

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

March 23-25: MMYO junior youth retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

March 24: Winnipeg MCC Festival and Relief Sale banquet, at Douglas Mennonite Church.

Ontario

Jan. 18, 22: MEDA breakfast meetings, 7:30 a.m. at the Stone Crock, St. Jacobs. Speakers: Gloria Eby (18), Bob Nally (22).

Jan. 27: MC Eastern Canada young adult volleyball at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener.

Feb. 2-4: MC Eastern Canada Youth Winter Retreat 1 at Countryside Camp and Conference Centre, Cambridge.

Feb. 9-10: MDS all unit meeting at South Ridge Community Church, St. Catharines. For more information, call Rudy Thiessen at 905-562-4324.

Feb. 9-11: MC Eastern Canada Youth Winter Retreat 2 at Countryside Camp and Conference Centre, Cambridge.

Feb. 15-18: “One world: Seeking justice through faith and policy” student seminar. Presented by MCC Canada. For more information, e-mail chuckwright@mennonitecc.ca.

Feb. 20-22: School for Ministers with Reginald Bibby—“The Role of the Church in Contemporary Canadian Culture,” at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo.

Feb. 21: Rodney and Lorna Sawatsky Lecture with Reginald Bibby, at Conrad Grebel University College Great Hall, 7 p.m.

March 2-3: Engaged workshop at Living Water Fellowship, New Hamburg. For more information, e-mail denise_bender@yahoo.com.

March 4: Menno Singers present “By the Babylonian Waters: Bach and Lalande,” at Zion United Church, Kitchener, at 3 p.m.

To ensure timely publication of upcoming events, please send Calendar announcements EIGHT WEEKS in advance of the event date by e-mail to: calendar@canadianmennonite.org

Employment opportunities

Goshen College is inviting applications for a full-time tenure track professor in the biology department. For more information or to apply, visit the specific position announcement on the Goshen College web page: <http://www.goshen.edu/employment/>.



Conrad Grebel University College, a Mennonite residence and teaching facility affiliated with the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ont., seeks a married couple for the position of **Senior Residents**, beginning approx. June 1, 2007.

The role involves living in an apartment in the College's residence building and supervising the College during non-business hours. Rent and utilities are free in exchange for performance of duties.

Applicants should be mature, responsible and able to relate to a broad range of people, especially students in residence.

If interested, contact:

E. Paul Penner, CGUC Operations Manager
at 519-885-0220 x24231 or eppenner@uwaterloo.ca

Application deadline is Jan. 15, 2007.



Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a Christian relief, development and peacemaking organization that seeks to demonstrate God's love by serving among

people suffering from poverty, conflict and natural disasters. MCC workers are required to be committed to personal Christian faith, church membership, non-violent peacemaking and a lifestyle consistent with MCC policy.

Human Resource Director

MCC has over 85 employees and 1,500 volunteers in B.C. including the head office, Thrift Shops, local programs and service workers on assignment. The human resource function provides leadership and support to the organization in the development of personnel policy, hiring, orientation, training, staff evaluation, salary classification, problem solving, risk management, and other human resource functions. This position is currently four days per week and may be extended to full-time.

Provincial Thrift Shop Coordinator - Interim

MCC Thrift Shops sell donated clothing, books, furniture and other items in order to raise income for MCC ministry. This position brings leadership to nine Thrift Shops in B.C. by working collaboratively on strategic planning, operations, expansion, marketing, merchandising, hiring and training staff, volunteer recruitment, and representing Thrift Shops in various settings. This is an interim position anticipated to be approximately one year in duration. It is currently full-time but we are open to part-time arrangements.

Send a cover letter and resume by Jan. 26, 2007, to:

Wayne Bremner, Program and Personnel Director
PO Box 2038, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8.

E-mail: wbremner@mccbc.com; or fax: 604-850-8734.

Check www.mcc.org/bc for more details on these job postings.



Mennonite Central Committee Alberta invites applications for the position of **ACCOUNTANT** in Calgary, Alta.

Qualifications include: certification from a professional accounting association or comparable experience; prior not-for-profit accounting experience using computer-based accounting systems; and experience with payroll and benefits. MCC requires a commitment to Christian faith, active church involvement and non-violent peacemaking. This is a full-time position beginning on or before Feb. 1, 2007.

To inquire or submit resumes, contact:

Heather Klassen
#210, 2946-32 St. NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 6J7
Phone: 403-275-6935
E-mail: heather@mccab.org

United Mennonite Church of Black Creek, B.C., is seeking a **pastor** to provide leadership for a growing rural church.

Respond to Glenn Beaton, Search Committee Chair
c/o United Mennonite Church
2277 Enns Rd
Black Creek, B.C.
V9J 1H7
or fax 250-337-5229, ATTN: Glen



**PeaceWorks
Computer
Consulting Inc.**
empowering people we believe in

Accepting resumes for full-time
**Linux & Windows
Client Network Admins
Senior Software Consultant**

Winnipeg, Man, & Waterloo, Ont.
www.peaceworks.ca

Roth Nowak Insurance Brokers is a general insurance brokerage located in Waterloo, which has been serving the Mennonite and local community since 1983. Roth Nowak Insurance Brokers represents many of the top insurers in Ontario, including Max Canada.

We are currently seeking to hire a full-time person to service our auto and home insurance clients.

The successful applicant will have the following qualifications:

- R.I.B.O. licence (or willingness to obtain).
- Above average computer skills, including Outlook and MS Word.
- Effective verbal and written communication skills.

Competitive salary, benefits and a positive work environment will be available to the successful applicant.

Interested candidates can forward a resume and covering letter, in confidence by e-mail, to Sharon Goerz, Office Manager, at sgoerz@rothnowak.com.

Roth Nowak INSURANCE BROKERS

Honesty, Integrity and Good Judgement



The MCCBC Board invites applications for the position of **Executive Director**.

MCCBC is a Christian relief and development organization active in supporting provincial, national and international endeavours. It has a staff of more than 85, volunteers in excess of 1,500 and a budget of over \$6.7 million. The Executive Director's role exists in order to lead the team to the fulfilment of its mission. It is a full-time position with a three-year renewable term beginning July 1, 2007.

The Board is seeking an individual who has a passionate relationship with Jesus Christ, a deep commitment to the church and to an evangelical Anabaptist theology that underscores peace and justice. Additionally, this person should have a related university degree with some emphasis in leadership training, and 5+ years of successful experience in a leadership position of an organization.

The successful applicant will need to have: the ability to guide the development of MCCBC program plans supporting the achievement of its mission; the ability to provide sensitive and supportive leadership to staff; the ability to work collaboratively with the Board, staff, colleagues in the family of MCCs, and the constituent church leaders; the skill of effective public communication; and the ability to lead MCCBC in fund development.

Send your letter of application along with a resume and three references to:

Personnel Committee of the Board
MCCBC, PO Box 2038
Abbotsford, BC
V2T 3T8.

or by e-mail to Ernie Schmidt at: eids@telus.net.



Rosthern Junior College invites applications for the position of **Student Recruitment and Constituency Relations Coordinator**.

Responsibilities: Developing and overseeing three areas that will contribute to increased enrolment and funding for the school: Admissions, Fund-raising, Constituency Relations.

For complete job description, check our website: www.rjc.sk.ca

Qualified applicants should forward resumes:

c/o Principal
Rosthern Junior College
410 – 6th Avenue
Rosthern, Saskatchewan
S0K 3R0
Phone: 306-232-4222
Fax: 306-232- 5250
Email: administration@rjc.sk.ca

For rent

FOR RENT: Duplex in N.K. area of Wpg. Avail. Feb.1/07. 3 BR, 1.5 bath, 5 appl., fin. bsmt., gar. Cl.to bus, sch. Quiet family area. \$950 + util. Ph. 204-334-7220 or e-mail: silwiebe@mts.net.

Openings for January! Student Housing in Montreal located within walking distance of McGill and an easy commute to Concordia. Experience community living and social action in a Christian and Peace Church context. www.residencema.ca; e-mail: experience@maisondelamitie.ca; phone 514-843-4356.

A ministry of Mennonite Church British Columbia, located near Hope, B.C., Camp Squeah is welcoming applications for the position of full-time **Program Director**.

The Program Director, a mature Christian, will be a Camping and Outdoor Education professional dedicated to the mission, vision, strategic outcomes and values of Camp Squeah. A self-starter, motivated, organized, and capable of creating a positive sense of motivation and belonging within the Squeah/MC BC community, the Program Director must be camper-focused and an excellent role model to all. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, managing all program delivery within Camp Squeah's Summer Camp and Outdoor Education programs. For more information, including a detailed job description, visit www.squeah.com.

Please submit your confidential application/resume stating qualifications, experience and statement of faith to: Rob Tiessen, c/o Camp Squeah, #4-27915 TransCanada Hwy, Hope, BC V0X 1L3 or e-mail rob@squeah.com.

Processing of applications begins Jan. 15, 2007.

SASKATOON MENNONITE CARE SERVICES INC. requires an **Executive Director** to serve as the Senior Officer of Bethany Manor reporting directly to the Board of Directors.

BETHANY MANOR is a faith-based organization and is a major complex in Saskatoon providing various independent levels of living for approx. 450 seniors. Bethany Manor consists of the Manor, Court, Tower, Villa and a new building currently under construction.

APPLICANTS will possess excellent managerial and communication skills. She/he will supervise a committed staff of approx. 25 employees. Financial, budgeting, accounting and computer skills are also prerequisites. Full employee benefits and pension plan are in place.

Applications, together with resumes and references, should be submitted not later than Feb. 1, 2007, addressed to:

Board Chair
Allan Regehr
110 LaRonge Rd.
Saskatoon, SK S7K 7H8

Interested persons requiring additional information are invited to contact David Ratzlaff at the above address, or phone 306-242-9019.



Woodland Christian High School is inviting applications from qualified committed **Christian teachers** for the 2007-2008 school year. We invite inquiries from teachers in all subject areas, but we are looking especially for teachers of Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

Information about Woodland is available on our website at www.woodland.on.ca. Please direct questions and applications to:

Gary VanArragon, Principal
Woodland Christian High School
1058 Spitzig Road, RR #1
Breslau, ON N0B 1M0
Phone: 519-648-2114
Fax: 519-648-3402
principal@woodland.on.ca

a prayer in winter

We come to you, O God,
in the stillness, the quiet winter beauty
of snow falling on pine trees,
gently covering stubbly harvested fields,
softly, slowly transforming grey city streets.

Help us to live fully in these cold days and nights,
brilliant and subdued by turn.
As the earth prepares for summer's growth,
help us also to receive you,
the fount of creativity and hope.

Prepare our hearts and minds
for surprising grace.

Grant us, O God,
the gifts of silence and reflection,
sacrament in the space of secularity,
holiness at the hearth of home.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

— **Mary Schertz**

Photo taken at Silver Lake
Mennonite Camp, Feb. 2006.