

CANADIAN MENNONITE

May 26, 2008

Volume 12 Number 11

Praying for relief

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Speaking in love

TIM MILLER DYCK
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

The apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 14 about how we speak to one another. He compares speaking in tongues, a secret language, with prophesy, a public speaking: *"Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, those who prophesy speak to other people for their building up and encouragement and consolation. Those who speak in a tongue build up themselves, but those who prophesy build up the church"* (verses 1-4).

Paul asks those in Corinth to think of three measuring tools when deciding when and how to speak: Do we demonstrate love for one another? Are we strengthening, encouraging and consoling one another? Does our speech build up the church?

I've been reflecting on Paul's lessons on how to communicate because I think they also shed light on how I see *Canadian Mennonite* working. Not that the magazine is just for prophetic words (although prophetic voices among us are certainly published here) but that all our speaking together through these pages be guided by our desire to love one another and build up each other and the church.

Canadian Mennonite includes the voices of many people. A total of 1,606 of you had your words and pictures published in 1,308 submissions last year. We

continue to be the Mennonite magazine in North America that publishes more issues and more pages per issue than any other. With our church's German-language magazine, *Der Bote*, now closed, *Canadian Mennonite* becomes an even more precious resource for the building up and strengthening of the church.



Letters: I am often asked about Letters to the Editor as I travel to various parts of the country to visit churches and talk to readers.

People ask how we choose the ones we print. The common conception is that we select just a few letters out of a big mailbag. In fact, our policy is to be as inclusive as possible in this section, and we publish virtually every letter we receive. Last year, we published 116 letters out of the 126 we received, or 92 percent.

Occasionally, if the same topic has been dominating the Letters section for a few months, I'll decide that's enough on that subject for a while and I also have a rule of thumb that any person can write on any subject they like, but not more than once a year on the same subject. This decision is a reflection of our church practice of having open mikes at delegate sessions, but also expecting speakers to have their say and then make way for the next person to speak.

You might be interested in what was most written about in the Letters section last year: First Nations concerns (especially in response to our report on a talk Sakioeta' Widrick gave), climate change

and the environment, and church and state relationships were the top three topics, in that order. (This, and many other editorial, operational and financial details are all available in our 2007 annual report, which is posted on our website).

Design Feedback: I also wanted to thank you for your continuing feedback on our new design. We have been working hard at responding to your comments, ironing out the remaining rough edges and making sure it is readable for everyone.

The biggest issue was readability with coloured backgrounds. We have changed our palette of background colours to use only pale colours and have lightened the colours twice when printing black type onto colour (for example, the light blue we are using in this issue is at 5 percent inking). We now only use a solid black background inside when printing with white type and have increased the font size in Milestones and in our author credits.

I've been testing these changes with some of you who wrote in and they seem to be working. One reader wrote, "We would like to thank you for the new format in the [*Canadian*] *Mennonite*, especially the print size. It improved considerably." Another responded, "I was asked to look at the April 28 issue of *Canadian Mennonite* to assess readability of print on the current use of colour. The colouring has been toned down sufficiently for good readability. The darker browns were particularly difficult to read in previous issues. The more recent paler tones of various colours have made reading much simpler. I appreciate your effort. Thank you again."

Please let me know if there are other things we can still do to make sure the magazine is the love-demonstrating, covenantal-strengthening communication tool we want it to be.

ABOUT THE COVER:

A cyclone survivor sits in the ruins of a house in Myanmar. Cyclone Nargis claimed tens of thousands of lives and caused widespread destruction, especially in the country's coastal areas. For a story of Mennonite Central Committee's relief efforts, see page 15.

PHOTO BY DCA/ACT INTERNATIONAL

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Mission statement: *Canadian Mennonite (CM)* is a bi-weekly Anabaptist/Mennonite-oriented 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, and news and analyses of issues facing the church. In fulfilling its mission, the primary constituency of *CM* is the people and churches of Mennonite Church Canada and its five related area churches. *CM* also welcomes readers from the broader inter-Mennonite and inter-church scene. Editorial freedom is expressed through seeking and speaking the truth in love and by providing a balance of perspectives in news and commentary. *CM* will be a vehicle through which mutual accountability can be exercised within the community of believers; the paper also encourages its readers to have open hearts and minds in the process of discerning God's will.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:23-25, NRSV).

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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 June 9 issue will be posted by June 5.

One pilgrim's

In our March 3 issue, Canadian Mennonite presented the first of two articles about AMBS pastoral theology professor Arthur Paul Boers' 800-kilometre pilgrimage across Spain, which resulted in his writing The Way is Made by Walking: A Pilgrimage Along the Camino de Santiago (InterVarsity). In that issue, Boers focused primarily on how the church needs to be more welcoming of pilgrim seekers. In this issue, he provides insights into how pilgrimage affects the hearts and minds of those who set out on such a quest or journey, appropriate as we enter a season where many people hit the highways and byways in search of exercise for the body, mind and soul.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ARTHUR PAUL BOERS



I encounter persistent complaints from friends and colleagues about too much to do with too little time for central priorities. People sense something awry, but cannot name it.

Wilderness writer Sigurd Olson wrote a half-century ago: "There is a restlessness within us, an impatience with things as they are, which modern life with its comforts and distractions does not seem to satisfy. We sense intuitively that there must be something more, search for panaceas we hope will give us a sense of reality, fill our days and nights with such activity and our minds with such busyness that there is little time to think. When the pace stops we are often lost, and we plunge once more into the maelstrom, hoping that if we move fast enough somehow we may fill the void within us."

Olson put his finger on something awry with our way of life today and we need help with such questions. One place the church can engage the spiritual longing in our culture is to name the shallowness of how many of us live, and to offer and model more grace-filled approaches.

I am particularly taken with the wisdom of Albert Borgmann, a social philosopher who is deeply informed by Christian faith, in his analysis of how contemporary culture—with its emphasis on technology and consumerism—forms us, our characters, our families, our friendships and our most-important relationships. In fact, he argues that the forces of technology and consumerism too often deeply deform us. He holds

progress

out alternative ways of living, favouring a lifestyle that he names as “focal.” Focal living helps us identify and perceive the “something more” alluded to by Olson, the quality of life that many of us miss and long to find.

The Camino was in every sense a focal place and the walking of it a focal experience. While such terminology was not part of the vocabulary of pilgrims I met, I suspect that the focal reality we experienced was a factor that drew them to this path. My evidence for that has to do with the quality of relationships pilgrims experienced along the way and the depths of reflections sparked by such encounters. On the Camino we caught a glimpse of life-giving possibilities.

A persistent theme in Camino conversations was people’s occupations. No doubt this was partly because a standard ice-breaking conversational gambit is the question, “So what do you do for a living?” It is a mostly reliable way to make small talk with strangers.

This inquiry was even more pertinent since it was easy to wonder how people had the time to undertake such a trip. Many Europeans use annual vacations and walk a week or two at a stretch. As a professor I was privileged to be able to attempt this pilgrimage, but I was in awe at those who stepped all the way from Austria or the Netherlands, some people setting aside as much as six or more months.

Yet there was more going on than curiosity or making small talk about occupations that made such inquiries vital. Careers can be places where we feel

conflicted and torn. The Camino inevitably raised issues for many. On a grand scale, we pondered “the meaning of life.” We engaged questions about how we choose to live, where we expend time and energy, how we employ gifts. One of life’s most soul-killing choices is to work at variance with what we know to be true, good, just or beautiful.

And so as we walked, we talked. Not just about what we did for a living, but how we felt about our occupations. I, for example, spoke of love for my job, but my longing at the same time to feel less

[W]ork is intended by God to be more than just a means to an end, a way to put money in the bank and food on the table.

like a foreigner and to live once again in Canada, the land of my birth. I identify deeply with biblical metaphors about exile, but I do not always rest easy in that sensibility: “*I have been an alien residing in a foreign land*” (Exodus 2:22b).

I encountered numerous folks who pondered transitions, especially in their careers and vocations. Some considered a different geographical or institutional location for their work. Others seriously looked at changing occupations altogether. Several found clarity in what they needed to do to make their labour more meaningful.

Three sets of issues surfaced again and again:

- People often considered whether or not they led balanced lives. Were they

working too much, too hard?

Hisako, a surgeon from Japan, visited with me over a memorable and tasty supper of roasted red peppers and lightly grilled steak in the small hillside farming town of Ferreiros. She spoke of the impressive demands in her institutional setting and sadness that her intense work did not leave room for her love of the arts. She got in touch with me after I went home and explained that convictions that emerged on the Camino gave her courage to make changes in her employment.

- Or pilgrims discussed whether their particular jobs were personally meaningful. Some complained that they were bureaucratic functionaries, putting in time or pushing paper. They felt diminished and unfulfilled.

- Some wondered if their occupations contributed to wider well-being. They noted institutional or political pressures that kept them from providing services and using gifts in ways to which they felt called. Were they benefiting their neighbours?

These vocational struggles were reminders that work is intended by God to be more than just a means to an end, a way to put money in the bank and food on the table. People of faith can legitimately—and indeed must—wrestle with



*Another way of life,
a more redemptive vision,
is available. It is there;
it needs to be embraced.*

questions of pace and balance, meaning and fulfillment, contribution and making a difference. And this time apart helped us all to focus our questions and enter into unexpected discernment.

So it was no surprise that we often heard conversion stories of people whose lives got reoriented by the Camino and who gave themselves to caring for other pilgrims.

One woman we met walked the pilgrimage alone some years ago. As she approached a small isolated shelter in a remote valley, she heard someone there playing a flute and spontaneously decided to remain there and has done so now for years! Her parents, I'm told, were not pleased. She ministers to the physical aches and pains of passing pilgrims, and is appreciated for the hospitality she now offers.

A young 30ish man I met never questioned his factory job, but then took a month for the pilgrimage. He caught a vision on the route, quit his work, and bought an old house in Castrojeriz. He is refurbishing that stone edifice as a place of hospitality for pilgrims. He was one of the most gracious hosts I met.

Such accounts are almost beyond comprehension, except that they have a biblical ring to them. After all, St. James worked as a fisherman when Jesus came by: *"Immediately [Jesus] called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat*

with the hired men, and followed him" (Mark 1:20). I pray that the convictions of such brave pilgrims will keep me examining my own tightly held values and misguided choices.

The pilgrimage nudged me to consider how I might live more focally. No surprise then that so many of us pilgrims on that route re-evaluated our lifestyles. This pilgrimage repeatedly offered glimpses of what life could be like, but all too seldom is.

It gave peeks at kingdom possibilities. Yet how hard it is to honour such priorities. Too quickly my life gets

caught up in stress and striving, busyness and preoccupation, competition and achievement.

Another way of life, a more redemptive vision, is available. It is there; it needs to be embraced. We no more have to invent it from scratch than we have to create the Camino ourselves. But we do have to reach out deliberately and embrace focal living. That persistent kind of determination can be surprisingly difficult, especially when too few of those around us stretch their hands and efforts in similar directions.

But the Camino convincingly demonstrated why such efforts are ultimately worthwhile.

Adapted from The Way is Made by Walking by Arthur Paul Boers. © 2007 by Arthur Paul Boers. Used with permission of InterVarsity Press, Box 1400, Downers Grove, IL 60515, USA. ivpress.com.

/// For discussion

1. Boers says, "One of life's most soul-killing choices is to work at variance with what we know to be true, good, just or beautiful." Do you agree? Do you know people who have changed careers because their souls were being strangled? Can you imagine taking that step yourself?
2. What things discourage us from examining our lifestyle? In what ways do technology and consumerism prevent us from reflecting deeply on the meaning of life? Do our jobs keep us too busy to reflect?
3. Are there times, other than walking a pilgrimage, that we can reflect on life? Do repetitive tasks such as walking, knitting or weeding help us to be introspective? Is thinking deeply about our lives something we try to avoid?
4. Do we depend on work to provide meaning for our lives? How does this impact those who are retired or physically incapable of working? What might it mean to "embrace focal living," as Boers calls it?

VIEWPOINTS

/// Readers write

We welcome your comments and publish most letters sent by subscribers intended for publication. Respecting our theology of the priesthood of all believers and of the importance of the faith community discernment process, this section is a largely open forum for the sharing of views. Letters are the opinion of the writer only—publication does not mean endorsement by the magazine or the church. Letters should be brief and address issues rather than individuals.

Please send letters to be considered for publication to letters@canadianmennonite.org or by postal mail or fax, marked "Attn: Letter to the Editor" (our address is on page 3). Letters should include the author's contact information and mailing address. Letters are edited for length, style and adherence to editorial guidelines.

✉ Saskatoon Christians show how to 'care for the least of these'

RE: "CARING FOR the least of these" and "A step forward," April 14, pages 4 and 22.

I thank the group in Saskatoon for the work that they are doing with Mark, the ex-offender described in "A step forward." And "Caring for the least of these," with the question about whether we have a responsibility to protect vulnerable people, was a very interesting article.

As I read the story of how a community chose to protect itself from further offences committed by a person like Mark, I could not help but ask myself, "Why do we make the question of whether we have the right to protect ourselves and others so complicated?" We have both the right and the obligation to protect. The questions we have to answer are, "What are we protecting ourselves and others from?" and,

worthy of our commitment. This is not aspirational; it is yielding to despair.

In the same way that we commit to the potential of nonviolence as being essential for peace, we need to commit to the potential of the church as being essential for the gospel. Before peace can be experienced as gospel, the church must be gospel, because God's vision of peace demands a people of God faithfully living out its calling of peace. When the church does not live up to its high calling, we should not reject the calling, but rather work to strengthen the vision and life of the people. God's primary strategy is that the world will come to salvation by seeing

FROM OUR LEADERS

The church as gospel

ROBERT J. SUDERMAN

Recently, I attended the Conrad Grebel University College board meeting in Waterloo, Ont. Part of the meeting was an inspiring 10-minute presentation celebrating 30 years of ministry of the Peace and Conflict Studies department. I was stirred by the successes. It is poignant to see how a deep commitment to peace and nonviolence has been maintained. In a broken world in which violence is often assumed to be redemptive and thereby justifiable, it is gratifying to see the tenacious efforts inspired by the gospel take shape and impact our world in such positive ways.

Later, I talked to James Pankratz, academic dean of the college, about how a vision for peace and nonviolence can be sustained in the face of the growing tendencies to justify violence for political and military purposes. He used a word I had never heard before. He stated that the commitment to nonviolence must be "aspirational"; that is, we aspire to the

health of the world by using a strategy of nonviolence, trusting that in God's hands this will actually work.

I have thought much about that. We are aspirational because this road to peace promises a better world. But most of all we are aspirational because we believe this is what God desires of his people. Kingdom of God people are like



God's vision of peace demands a people of God faithfully living out its calling of peace.

this because peace is gospel. We have not lost our capacity to be aspirational about peace as the core of the gospel nor about nonviolence as an essential strategy for peace.

I believe we also need to be aspirational about the church and its God-given vocation. Because the church's life does not yet fully reflect the aspirations we—or God—have for it, we tend to judge it to be irrelevant and go on to look for other avenues that are deemed to be more

the gospel lived out and that those living it out will be invitational and hospitable.

In our world—even within the church—it is an uphill climb to understand the church to be gospel. It is also a steep climb to suggest that the gospel can best be experienced by looking at the life of the church. But we must aspire to both.

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

“How are we going to do it?”

Those in Saskatoon chose to protect themselves from the improper behaviour of a man in their community with a method that restored him as a member within the community. They protected themselves by working constructively with him. They followed the Spirit of Christ in reaching out to him and as a team they provide the care that he needs to go through each

day without hurting himself or others. This would also mean that he is learning to replace his destructive behaviour with a wholesome lifestyle.

Many of the issues that were mentioned in the “Caring for the least of these” article are described as international and very complex in nature. In reality, they are human issues to which we can respond with compassion. It will simply take a larger team of people

FAMILY TIES

Letting go of fear

MELISSA MILLER

“**W**hat are you afraid of?” Our seminary teacher asked the class. We were studying contemporary theology, examining what Christian scholars are saying about God from diverse perspectives—Third World peoples, postmodern thinkers, feminists, “eco-theologians,” and post-Holocaust Jewish-Christian dialogue. A dizzying time to engage with many perspectives while holding on to one’s own beliefs!

The teacher’s question was a calming one, encouraging us to pay attention to our fears when we enter into such a fray. She added, “As you note your fears and understand them, consider whether you need to hold onto the fear. How does your anxiousness interfere with learning from someone else?” She remarked that her beliefs as a Mennonite Christian have been strengthened through engaging with others who see the world and God differently from her.

Maybe such an instruction could help us as we navigate the challenge of understanding current sexuality beliefs and practices. Fear inhibits our discourse. We are afraid of many things. Fearful of what we don’t know. Fear caused by unchallenged stereotypes. Fearful for our children and their well-being. Fearful of being impure or not faithful to the Word of God. Such fear can block our ears from hearing others, and it can lead us away from

open-hearted, respectful conversation. It also can make it more difficult to develop healthy sexual attitudes and behaviours. What we can’t talk about becomes more hidden and burdened with shame.

One place of challenge involves how we talk about homosexuality. When individuals identify themselves as gay or lesbian, they and their family members often struggle to find people who will listen to, and respect, their experiences. Too often they find themselves shut down by others who respond with weighty silence or harsh judgment and even bullying. Some



Maybe if we calmly rest in God’s promises, we can turn from fear to compassionate listening.

of these intense reactions are driven by the kinds of fear listed above.

Unfortunately, such judgment can have unintended consequences, including turning people from the church. Anna Groff, writing in the April 15 issue of *The [U.S.] Mennonite*, says, “Some young people distance themselves from the Mennonite Church because of attitudes toward . . . the denomination’s teaching position on homosexuality.”

I conclude with a family story. A few years ago, after my dad died, my mother prepared to sell the family home. The large home that she and Dad had built together rests on a couple of acres of land in a rural area. After several

disappointments—people expressing interest and then backing down—she found a perfect buyer, a pleasant single woman willing to accommodate Mom’s asking price and closing date.

After the deal was completed, a neighbour felt the need to tell my mother that her buyer was rumored to be lesbian. Judgment and fear accompanied the rumour. Mom responded with some energy: “So what? She needs a home like everyone else! And she’s been kind and fair to me.”

Given that my father had held strong views against homosexuality, I found some irony in the situation and, I confess, I realized my own prejudices. I turned to a brother, naming my discomfort and pondering what reaction Dad would have had. My brother gently replied, “Well, we know what Dad believed before he died.

We don’t know what he thinks now.” His statement was so audacious and full of hopeful possibilities that it blew away my uneasiness.

What are we afraid of? Maybe if we examine our fears, we can deepen our trust in God’s invitation throughout Scripture, “*Don’t be afraid.*” Maybe if we calmly rest in God’s promises, we can turn from fear to compassionate listening. Who knows what we might learn from others who see things differently than we do?

Melissa Miller (familyties@mts.net) lives in Winnipeg, where she ponders family relationships as a pastor and counsellor.

to provide that care.

We also need to be better informed about the complexities of the financial markets. As Christians, we are defeating our purpose if, on the one hand, we are very happy to receive a good return on our investments from the diamonds that come out of the Congo and, on the other hand, criticize those who use methods that cause injury to the citizens of that country and destroy God's creation.

DAVID SHANTZ, MONTREAL, QUE.

Corrections

The Gathering the Farm Community in Hope group sponsored the event featured in the "Keepers of the land" article on page 26 of the April 28 issue; the group was incorrectly identified in the article. Ray Dirks has been working with Gordon Bell students since 1987; incorrect information appeared in the "Gallery curator doubly honoured" article on page 26 of the May 12 issue. *Canadian Mennonite* regrets the errors.

GOD MONEY AND ME

God's gift to the church

EDWIN FRIESEN

Sometimes business entrepreneurs get a bad rap in our churches. Far too frequently they are stereotyped as caring only about the bottom line, with little regard for the welfare of their employees, the environment or Canada's tax rules. On the other hand, these same business people may feel that the church sees them primarily as an ATM machine, with little regard for them as individuals or for the wisdom and skills they can bring to the church.

To be sure, there are business people deserving of such negative stereotyping, just like there are in other professions. But there are many entrepreneurs who deserve better, much better.

In my years with the Mennonite Foundation of Canada, I have met many entrepreneurs who believe that business is what God has called them to, and within that calling they seek to provide a good product, be fair to their employees (and their families), make a margin and be generous with their profits. Many of them go the second mile for their employees, helping them over rough spots in their personal lives, even when their productivity lags.

Jesus seemed drawn to business

people. He mixed easily with tax collectors, joining them for an evening of conversation and dinner hosted by Matthew, a brand new follower of his (Matthew 9:9-13). On another occasion, he invited himself to the home of Zacchaeus, another wealthy tax collector who turned on a dime, made restitution for his fraud, and heard Jesus pronounce a blessing on his home (Luke 19:1-9). Jesus and his entourage were supported in their itiner-



Entrepreneurs are God's gift to the church, just like janitors, musicians, teachers, ushers . . .

ant ministry by a group of women who, as Luke is careful to note, did so out of their own income, in all likelihood self-employed income (Luke 8:1-3).

Many of Jesus' stories and parables have an entrepreneurial flavour. In one story, an entrepreneur gave various amounts of money to three individuals and sometime later called them to account (Matthew 25:14-30). Two had doubled their money and were highly commended. The third had kept the money safe, burying it in the ground, for which he was soundly condemned. The first two saw opportunities and pursued

them, while the third waited for a cloudless sky that never came.

Entrepreneurs are God's gift to the church, just like janitors, musicians, teachers, ushers, food coordinators and youth sponsors. Often they have skills in planning, management, human resources, big-picture thinking and problem-solving that can add depth to the ministry of any congregation.

The next time you find yourself negatively stereotyping entrepreneurs in your church, ask yourself some questions:

- How many people in your church, including yourself, would have a job if there were no entrepreneurs?
- What personal skills do the entrepreneurs in your church have that could enhance the work of your congregation?

Don't short-change your church by marginalizing its entrepreneurs. After all, they are God's gift to the church.

And when you take an entrepreneur out for lunch, pick up the tab—what a surprise—and leave a generous tip. That will be an even bigger surprise.

Edwin Friesen is a stewardship consultant at the Winnipeg office of Mennonite Foundation of Canada (MFC). For stewardship education and charitable gift planning, contact your nearest MFC office or visit mennofoundation.ca.

/// Milestones

Births/Adoptions

- Brisbin**—Caitlyn Nicole Konrad (b. April 29, 2008), to Julie Konrad and Michael Brisbin, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont.
- Giesbrecht**—Kaitlyn Mae (b. April 14, 2008), to Abe and Sara Giesbrecht, Leamington United Mennonite, Ont.
- Giesbrecht**—Kirsten Elise (b. April 1, 2008), to Jeanette and Matthew Giesbrecht, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.
- Huebner**—Marcus Christopher Klassen (b. April 29, 2008), to Chris and Rachel Klassen Huebner, Charleswood Mennonite, Winnipeg.
- Ische**—Kensington Lee-Marie (b. Feb. 17, 2008), to April (Brubacher) and Ryan Ische, Poole Mennonite, Ont.
- Kotz**—Belle Leonora (b. April 10, 2008), to Shantelle and Ryan Kotz, North Kildonan Mennonite, Winnipeg.
- LeClair**—Joseph Peter (b. May 6, 2008), to Belinda and Trevor LeClair, North Kildonan Mennonite, Winnipeg.
- Miller**—Gavin Larry (b. March 19, 2008), to Herman and Kristine Miller, First Mennonite, Burns Lake, B.C.
- Peters**—Jesse Isaac (b. May 18, 2006 in Haiti, adopted April, 2008), by Ken and Maria Peters, First Mennonite, Burns Lake, B.C.
- Reis**—Clarice Shantz (b. May 2, 2008), to Julia Shantz and Marcos Reis, Mennonite Fellowship of Montreal, Que.

Baptisms

- Fraser Martin**—Breslau Mennonite, Ont., May 11, 2008.
- Beth Goertzen, Margaret Joinson, Marvin Skalicky**—Carrot River Mennonite, Sask., May 4, 2008.
- Erin Van Alstine, Hazel Van Alstine**—Hunta Mennonite, Ont., May 11, 2008.
- Nadia Bailey, Anthony Balzer, Mary Fehr, Vicki Groh, Meghan Matthies, Willy Peters**—Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., May 4, 2008.

Marriages

- Braul/Dueck**—Loren Braul (Kelowna, B.C.) and Lori Dueck, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., March 29, 2008.

Carter/Goetze—Jeff Carter and Gisela Goetze, Milverton Mennonite, Ont, Oct. 6, 2007.

Deaths

- Braun**—John, 84 (b. Jan. 28, 1924; d. Feb. 3, 2008), North Leamington United Mennonite, Ont.
- Buller**—Maria, 82 (b. June 20, 1926; d. April 22, 2008), Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg.
- Friesen**—Isaac M., 88 (d. April 22, 2008), Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.
- Funk**—Anna, 88 (b. June 14, 1920; d. May 1, 2008), Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg.
- Harder**—Aganetha, 68 (b. May 23, 1939; d. March 30, 2008), Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg.
- Harrison**—Lillian (nee Carruthers), 87 (d. April 30, 2008), First Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont.
- Hovius**—Justin Jacob, 14 days (b. April 23, 2008; d. May 6, 2008), infant son of Beth and Jake Hovius, Steinmann Mennonite, Baden, Ont.
- Klippenstein**—Martin, 81 (b. Sept. 25, 1926; d. April 27, 2008), Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.
- Martens**—Anna, 80 (d. May 9, 2008), Sherbrooke Mennonite, Vancouver, B.C.
- Nahrgang**—Robert Michael, 65 (b. Aug. 14, 1942; April 29, 2008), Erb Street Mennonite, Waterloo, Ont.
- Regier**—Peter, 95 (b. April 1, 1913; d. April 6, 2008), Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg.
- Rempel**—Mary (nee Janzen), 95 (b. Jan. 23, 1913; d. May 2, 2008), Rosthern Mennonite, Sask.
- Schwalter**—Hanna (nee Cornelsen), 83 (b. Feb. 26, 1925; d. Feb. 27, 2008), Sherbrooke Mennonite, Vancouver, B.C.

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

Pontius' Puddle



LIVING WITHIN LIMITS: PART VIII

What if there isn't enough for all?

PAUL FIEGUTH

"Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves" (Genesis 11:4).

For nearly 100 years there has always been more—more energy, more food, more opportunities. During this time it has been true that shortages were mainly caused by inequity, not by an actual worldwide shortage. That is, there has been enough food and financial capital available to meet the needs of the world's poor. Therefore, where people were lacking in resources or food, it made sense to aggressively petition western governments to address persistent inequities.

Even now, where stories of food riots and rice shortages enter the mainstream press, there is still so much excess and waste in the western world that a strong case can and should be made for equitable redistribution.

But we are living on a finite planet, with a finite ecosystem, finite energy reserves and finite food production. The earth's situation is like a lifeboat scenario or will soon become like one: Too many passengers on a sinking ship with too few lifeboats available. It is impossible to save all of the passengers. So what to do?

What does the realization of a limited planet mean theologically?

There is no question whether the church can weather great difficulties. Christian history is littered with wars and plagues, persecution and oppression.

The question is how this will affect our theology. Are we fair-weather friends with God, such that our faith relies on the continuation of a comfortable western

lifestyle?

In most cases I believe the answer to be no, that suffering and loss can strengthen and re-invigorate faith. The history of the Russian Mennonites provides a good parallel. For generations they enjoyed a comfortable, relatively affluent lifestyle in Ukraine, followed by terrible tragedy during the Bolshevik Revolution and Stalin era that followed, yet they maintained a very strong faith tradition.

But the question is probably a bit more subtle. Given Canada's relatively low



Does our faith rely on a world created by God that has enough?

population density, and good access to water and resources, it seems reasonable to expect our society to continue to be stable and mostly well-fed, although the same probably seemed reasonable to many Russian Mennonites before the revolution. And even if Canadians are able to feed themselves, it will not be possible to feed and heal the millions who will suffer as we approach the limits of the earth's carrying capacity.

Given the emphasis placed on missions and service by many Mennonite churches (and aid agencies like Mennonite Disaster Service and Habitat For Humanity), I wonder whether a greater challenge to our faith won't come from a situation in which there is not enough for all. Does our faith rely on a world created by God that has enough?

The Bible quite clearly does not imply a futility in helping and feeding the poor, even if there isn't enough. The poor will always be with us, but Jesus dedicated his life to ministering to, and working with,

the poor, despite the fact that there were far more poor than could be ministered to by one man and a small band of disciples.

Furthermore, Mennonites, along with many other aid agencies, have been engaged in a variety of efforts like world peace and nuclear disarmament. These problems are long-term, possibly indefinite, with no end in sight, yet generation after generation of aid workers attack these problems with renewed energy and hope.

But how do we face a large-scale problem that has no solution, even in principle?

To some extent this is an anxiety of the western world. Many poorer parts of the world have no illusions of a limitless world. Famine, drought, desertification and overcrowding make limits present and real for them. It is we who are pursuing the Tower of Babel, building structures without end and treating historical

cautions as anachronisms. Letting land lie fallow—don't be ridiculous, that's economically wasteful! Taking a Sabbath and not working (or reading email)—how quaint! However, both of these are limits, requested by God, which we ignore at some peril.

A theology of limits is in no way meant to limit God. Grace, love and forgiveness should be celebrated in a theology of abundance. However, what might a theology of limits look like? How might such a theology impact our churches, our faith, our lifestyle? How can we find a renewed attention to the Sabbath, to the jubilee, and to the huge but finite creation? ❧

Paul Fieguth is an associate professor in systems design engineering at the University of Waterloo, Ont., and a member of Waterloo North Mennonite Church. For expanded versions of these articles, resources or to contact him, visit ocho.uwaterloo.ca/limits or e-mail pfieguth@uwaterloo.ca.

GOD AT WORK IN US

Arli Klassen on MCC

Canadian Mennonite interviews new executive director of MCC International on her short- and long-term goals

BY AARON EPP

National Correspondent
WINNIPEG

Implementing a re-visioning and restructuring process, and strengthening the organization's international program, are the two mandates of the new Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) International executive director.

Arli Klassen took on the role at the beginning of April, succeeding Bert Lobe, who served as interim executive director for 18 months. She is the first woman to serve as the executive director of the international organization in its 87-year history.

Sitting in a boardroom at MCC Canada's head office recently, Klassen said the re-visioning and restructuring process began with Robb Davis, who served as executive

been responsive enough to Canadian interests when shaping its international programming.

"I'm coming into a place where the questions have been focused, and there has been a process started to answer those questions, so that feels good," said Klassen, who has more than 15 years experience working with MCC, including her previous position as executive director of MCC Ontario. She expects to launch the internal review at MCC's annual meeting in June, and hopes to have the final report ready in time for the June 2009 meeting.

Familiarizing herself with MCC's international programming and looking at ways to strengthen it are also priorities for Klassen's first year. She has met with area and program directors to discuss the challenges and opportunities they face in their

leadership abilities. As director of administrative services for MCC Canada, she described Klassen as fully present and fully engaged with the people she meets, adding that Klassen has the ability to establish authentic and genuine connections and friendships.

"Today, she is bringing this same energy and passion to engage with MCC's diverse constituency in many countries," said Reimer. "She recognizes the strengths of MCC and is not intimidated by the challenges of a large organization working to bring peace, justice and dignity for all people."

When asked if North Americans are too comfortable with their wealth, Klassen respond by saying, "There are many generous people in our constituency who are finding ways to reach out and walk alongside people who are less privileged, but I would say in general, as Canadians we're not aware how much wealth and privilege we have in the global sense."

That said, though, Klassen believes the organization must continually ask itself how it can encourage people to engage in social justice issues. One of MCC's strengths, she said, is that there are many

different ways to connect—from going to a relief sale or working at a thrift store, to serving on a committee or going overseas. People wondering what they can do to contribute to MCC's mission should know "there isn't any one

way" to get involved, Klassen said. "It's about finding the way that works for you."

Klassen also wants Canadian Mennonites to know that "MCC is their organization, and we don't ever want to become so independent that we make our own decisions about what our mission and mandate is."

MCC wants to hear from constituents, not only through donations, but through them sharing their ideas and concerns. "We value thoughts on what MCC is doing in Canada and internationally," Klassen stressed, "and we're committed to remaining a Mennonite Church-based organization that has Christ at the centre of who we are and what we do." ❧



"I'm coming into a place where the questions have been focused, and there has been a process started to answer those questions, so that feels good."

director prior to Lobe. Davis left after less than a year-and-a-half on the job, prompting the internal review. "It was a wake-up call," Klassen said of Davis's departure. "I think Robb named many of the challenges and inefficiencies in our system, but in a way that didn't work with the system."

Klassen said the organization refers to itself as "a family of MCCs," made up of 12 boards. Some decisions need to be processed by each board, a time-consuming process. How MCC can figure out which decisions can be made in a centralized way, while remaining a decentralized, locally accountable, grassroots organization, is one of the key questions the internal review is looking at.

Another concern is that MCC hasn't

work, be it peacebuilding, relief or community development.

"Our best programming is work that . . . integrates all three of those areas," said Klassen. Because MCC prides itself on being responsive to local needs, the emphases shift depending on the region. There are many different opinions regarding what the right emphasis is, but Klassen said she doesn't see it leaning any one way.

Another important task for her first year is building trust and relationships with MCC staff, especially at the head office in Akron, Pa., where people who have been on staff for more than three years have already worked with three different executive directors in that time.

Melaney Reimer is confident in Klassen's

Sometimes service hurts

CMU student Patrick Nickel receives 2007-08 Spirit of Generosity Award

By JOHN LONGHURST
Canadian Mennonite University
WINNIPEG

Sometimes serving others hurts. Just ask Patrick Nickel of Delta, B.C. He knows.

Nickel, a second-year student at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) in Winnipeg, injured his ankle trying some new tricks while skateboarding. But it was all for a good cause. Nickel was hurt at The Edge, a Youth For Christ skateboard park where he volunteers five hours each week with inner city youth.

"Some of the kids I work with are phenomenal on skateboards," says Nickel, who was hobbling around the university on crutches during the last month of school. "I, on the other hand, am pretty horrible."

For his service at The Edge, Nickel is CMU's 2007-08 recipient of the Mennonite Foundation of Canada Spirit of Generosity Award, which is given annually by the foundation to students at Mennonite schools in Canada who have demonstrated a spirit of generosity in their personal lives.

Each Spirit of Generosity Award-winner receives \$400 from the foundation, \$200 of which is given to a charity of the recipient's choice.

While at The Edge, Nickel does more than skateboard. He also seeks to develop friendships with the kids and takes an interest in their lives. "It's about relationships as much as it is about skateboarding," he says, adding that The Edge seeks to provide youths with a safe space to hang out, develop friendships and be mentored.

Many of the youths also lack good role models in their lives, says Nickel, adding, "They aren't bad kids, they just have had some bad modelling when it comes to discipline, school, alcohol and drugs."

'Some of the kids I work with are phenomenal on skateboards.'

Nickel, who is studying youth ministry at CMU, says his time at The Edge has shown him why "some kids struggle so much and get in trouble with the law. It's not because they don't care, it's often that they aren't taught any better."

"Patrick is committed to shaping future generations of young adults through a Christian model," says CMU dean of students Marilyn Peters Kliever. "Through laughter, encouragement and a lot of love he is breaking down the barriers that prohibit youths from redefining their own future, as well as the future of the city of Winnipeg."

Next year, Nickel will do his practicum assignment—a requirement for all students who graduate from CMU—full-time at The Edge, helping to develop a new discipleship and mentoring program for youths. ☸



Patrick Nickel of Delta, B.C., is this year's Canadian Mennonite University Spirit of Generosity Award-winner.

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Photo Contest

Enter your photos on:
Caring for God's creation, or
Young adults in our churches

Send them to:
cmcontest@canadianmennonite.org,
our Flickr photo pool
or by postal mail.

Details on prizes and judging are at our
website, canadianmennonite.org.

**CANADIAN
MENNONITE**

GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD

Paying for our carbon sins

Rockway Mennonite Church program calculates parishioners' carbon footprint . . . at \$30 per tonne

BY DAVE ROGALSKY
Eastern Canada Correspondent
KITCHENER, ONT.

After two years of planning and processing, Rockway Mennonite Church's carbon offset program is up and running.

A spreadsheet-based calculator is available to determine parishioners' 2007 carbon footprint, including electricity and natural gas use, and transportation. The number of tonnes is multiplied by \$30 and donations are then given to the congregation's carbon offset program and tax receipted.

So far, 11 households have donated more than \$2,600, while 19 more have signed up.

Kimberly Barber, who attends Rockway in downtown Kitchener and tours the world as a singer, included her 2007 professional travel in her contribution.

The brainchild of Roger Baer, the process began with a small group in the fall of 2006. Groups gathered several times, including at a spring 2007 "strawberry summit." Books were sold, as were copies of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* DVD. Classes studied the topic together and a policy was drafted and accepted by the congregation.

"Pastoral support was key," says Baer,

Assembly goes 'green'

MEDA carbon offset program to reduce impact of air travel to Paraguay 2009

BY WALLY KROEKER
MEDA / MWC
STRASBOURG, FRANCE

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is working toward the "greening" of its 2009 global assembly in Paraguay by compensating for the exhaust emissions of air travel. It will utilize a new carbon offset program launched by Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA). The program, called the MEDA Green Investment Fund, promotes renewable energy sources by investing in environmentally beneficial businesses in developing countries.

MWC officials have grappled with the atmospheric impact of air travel by General Council members, staff, the Paraguay 2009 travel fund and registrants for some time. "We had decided earlier to begin setting aside a self-imposed levy on all MWC travel to be available for 'green' projects of MWC member churches," says general secretary Larry Miller.

At the same time, MEDA was devising a carbon offset fund to invest in alternative energy ventures that serve the poor. Consultations between Miller and MEDA president Allan Sauder led to MWC officers endorsing the MEDA Green Investment Fund for use internally as well as by registrants for Paraguay 2009.

The MEDA program enables people to calculate the effect of their lifestyle choices—such as air travel—and

make proportional donations to "offset" that to zero. These donations, which are tax-receiptable in Canada and the U.S., are then invested in businesses with a proven positive environmental impact.

The fund's first investment will be in a company which is being developed by MEDA members in Paraguay to produce ethanol from sugar cane, a much more efficient renewable resource than corn-based fuels produced in North America. The sugar cane is grown primarily by small-scale farmers on marginal land—not by large owners buying more land—in an attempt to not displace food production.

Paraguay 2009 participants will have an opportunity to visit the project during the assembly.

MEDA sees the green fund as an opportunity to achieve a "triple bottom line," bringing sustainable benefits to the environment while preserving non-renewable energy sources, stimulating growth in the local economy and reducing poverty. The agency is also reviewing other carbon offset business opportunities in solar and wind energy.

Both MWC and MEDA emphasize that offsets are only a partial step, and are not intended as a substitute for other efforts to reduce reliance on non-renewable fuels.

"We also want to call global church members—especially in the global North—to lifestyles which we believe are essential to care of creation," says Miller. "The first green fund project creates an alternative fuel, but does not necessarily challenge lifestyles based on high fuel consumption.

MWC has accepted MEDA's offer to cover the offsets of MWC General Council delegates representing the national churches from more than 50 countries. MWC will itself pay the offsets of MWC staff travel by contributing to the MEDA Green Investment Fund.

speaking of Scott Brubaker-Zehr's backing.

While businesses and organizations are beginning to offer carbon offsets, Rockway's plan is to use the donations to invest in a number of projects to help Mennonite institutions reduce their carbon footprints. Rockway Mennonite

Collegiate's solar panel project is already under discussion and preliminary conversations have been held with Mennonite Central Committee Ontario to help it audit its building in Kitchener.

The board of Zion United Church, from which Rockway Mennonite rents space, is interested in an energy audit as well. ❧

PHOTO BY DAVE ROGALSKY



Bob Dingman, left, Roger Baer and Lewis Brubacher are members of the Rockway Mennonite Church Carbon Offset Committee. They arrived at their interview using carbon-neutral methods: by bike or on foot.

/// Briefly noted

Ernie Regehr receives 2008 Arthur Kroeger College Ethics in Public Affairs Award

OTTAWA—Ernie Regehr of Waterloo, Ont., senior policy adviser for Project Ploughshares, received the 2008 Arthur Kroeger College Award for Ethics in Public Affairs at a ceremony in Ottawa on April 3. Regehr is a founder and former executive director of Project Ploughshares, one of Canada's leading peace organizations. The Ethics Award honours those who have provided an inspiring example of the importance of ethics and values in public life. Previous recipients of the award include Stephen Lewis and Roméo Dallaire, among others. These awards, now in their eighth year, are presented annually by the Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs at Carleton University. Project Ploughshares is the ecumenical peace centre of the Canadian Council of Churches; it works in the areas of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, preventing weapons in space, arms control, reducing armed violence, and active engagement in areas of conflict.

—Project Ploughshares Release



Regehr

MCC seeks \$500,000 for cyclone relief

BY TIM SHENK

Mennonite Central Committee
AKRON, PA.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is appealing to its constituents for \$500,000 to support relief and recovery work in Myanmar (Burma), whose coastal areas were devastated by Cyclone Nargis earlier this month. Twenty percent of these funds have already been allocated for work by various partner organizations.

Metta, a relief and development organization based in Myanmar, is getting \$35,000 to provide rice, medicine and other items to more than 68,000 people, including many orphans who have gathered in camps in southwestern Myanmar.

Hope International, a partner organization that is distributing emergency supplies and providing medical treatment to cyclone survivors through mobile health teams, is getting \$30,000. As of May 12, Hope International reported that its medical teams had already treated 2,000 people.

Church World Service (CWS) is getting \$20,000 to provide water containers and water purification equipment in 1,000 locations. CWS started distributing these items on May 10 and had reached 13 villages by May 12, according to a CWS emergency response program member.

MCC is providing \$15,000 to IDE-Myanmar, a partner organization that is distributing water containers, water pumps and plastic sheeting. MCC is also applying for funds from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to help IDE-Myanmar restore water systems that were damaged or destroyed by the cyclone.

While MCC does not currently have staff members in Myanmar, Ron Flaming, the organization's director of international programs, says, "We know that there are going to be massive needs for rebuilding. We plan to be engaged in that." ❧

GOD AT WORK IN THE CHURCH

Goshen College adds three new majors

BY EMILY DOUGHERTY

Goshen College
GOSHEN, IND.

Goshen College has created three new majors in its Communication Department: broadcasting, journalism and public relations. The new offerings go into effect this fall.

The new majors were created by elevating current concentrations of a communication major into separate majors.

“The new majors and minors provide more opportunity for specific career preparation within the communications field,” says associate professor of communication Pat McFarlane. “Solid preparation in broadcast, journalism and public relations, including additional courses and a second internship requirement, will help graduates move more easily into the job market in these areas.”

“Goshen College’s emphasis on understanding our increasingly connected world is very related to how communication skills are used to foster understanding between people and across cultures, facilitate problem-

End-of-sch

solving and analyze information,” says Anita Stalter, vice-president for academic affairs and academic dean. “This is an excellent environment in which students in these new majors can learn to approach communication professions in a global information society. Our graduates will be well prepared to enter competitive career environments with a strong liberal arts foundation, critical-thinking skills, excellent communication skills in multimedia environments, and significant hands-on experiences that the department offers.”

The broadcast major now has full use of new high-definition video production systems, allowing Goshen to have a TV broadcast quality production facility. ❧

Chalk up another music award for a Canadian Mennonite (CMU) student. This time it’s vocalist Kirsten Hamm of Altona who won the Jack Siemens Trophy at the Red River Valley Festival on April 8. Hamm, a member of Altona Mennonite Church, sang in her German and French classical class. In addition to winning the trophy in her first year at CMU with an English major and music minor, she earned the highest mark in the festival.

/// Briefly noted

Conrad Grebel, U. of Waterloo establish new graduate partnership

WATERLOO, ONT— Conrad Grebel University College and the University of Waterloo have established a new partnership in graduate theological studies. This partnership was approved by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) on March 14. The master of theological studies degree will now be conferred conjointly by the college and university. “This new partnership has many practical benefits for our students,” says Grebel’s academic dean, Jim Pankratz. “All full-time students in the program will receive full tuition scholarships and other financial support, excellent health insurance and access to graduate student housing. Theological studies students will be able to take courses in other departments within the University of Waterloo or other Ontario universities. It will be easier for them to transfer credits to other graduate schools, including Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS).” This new partnership and OCGS approval also provides provincial funding for the Theological Studies program.

—Conrad Grebel University College Release



chool news

CMU PHOTO



ite University
a, Man., who
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r, received the

CMU PHOTO BY JOHN LONGHURST



A total of 62 students graduated from Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, at the 2008 graduation ceremony held on April 20. Their degrees span the gamut from arts and music to music therapy and church ministries.

/// Briefly noted

Bergen appointed as new Conrad Grebel prof

WATERLOO, ONT.—Jeremy M. Bergen has been appointed assistant professor of religious studies and theology at Conrad Grebel University College. He will complete his Ph.D. dissertation entitled “The Emerging Practice of Ecclesial Repentance and the Nature and Mission of the Church” at the University of Toronto this spring before beginning to teach at Grebel in September. His research focuses on Christian faith communities that have expressed repentance for past actions, and how this practice shapes a church’s self-understanding and promotes reconciliation. Bergen has taught an introductory theology course at the University of Waterloo in 2005 and served as the interim director of the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre from 2005-07. Bergen was one of the editors of the 2007 book, *Creed and Conscience: Essays in Honour of A. James Reimer* (Pandora Press), and has published articles in *The Conrad Grebel Review* and *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*.



Bergen

—Conrad Grebel University College Release

Columbia Bible College graduation news

ABBOTSFORD, B.C.—On April 19, Columbia Bible College held its 72nd commencement ceremony at Central Heights Church in Abbotsford. One hundred and thirty-nine students graduated, including 43 with bachelor of arts degrees, 47 with diplomas, and 49 with certificates. The valedictory address was given by Ashleigh Dueck. John Vooy, a long-time faculty member, was also honoured with faculty emeritus status after 29 years of service at Columbia Bible College.

—Columbia Bible College Release

Canadian Mennonite University professor gets grant to study American Evangelicalism in western Canada

WINNIPEG—Americans have usually viewed Canada as a source of natural resources, hockey players and cold weather. In the 1950s and '60s, some of them also viewed it as a mission field. That’s what Brian Froese, assistant professor of history at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), discovered while doing archival research about Mennonite Brethren ministries to aboriginal communities in B.C. during those decades. “It was apparent from the material that they viewed western Canada as a mission field,” he says. “One document described Saskatchewan in the 1950s as one of the most unchurched regions in North America.” Froese has been awarded a \$54,000 grant by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for a project entitled “American Evangelical Missions in the Twentieth-Century Canadian West.” He will use the three-year grant to study the impact of American Evangelical missionary work in western Canada, and also to see how American Evangelicals influenced western Canadian church groups, including Mennonites.

—Canadian Mennonite University Release

Building awash with problems

Rising water levels spell the end of 1902 rural church building

BY KARIN FEHDERAU
Saskatchewan Correspondent
ROSTHERN, SASK.

Eigenheim Mennonite Church is being forced to build a new sanctuary. The stately old church, with a roofline that points to the blue prairie sky and a large cemetery a short walk from the back door, has been plagued with problems in the last year.

Heavy rainfall in the low-lying area has caused the water table to rise by a metre, causing repeated flooding. The clay soil around the church has absorbed the extra moisture, causing it to expand and place pressure on the basement walls. Added to this, the church is too close to the highway, which aggravates the flooding as water flows off the raised road.

"The newest foundation, built in 1973, has started to crumble," says Allan Friesen, pastor of the 150-member congregation, of the situation.

Other concerns have added to the nuisance of flooding. Members of the church who can't manage the stairs have difficulty working the lift provided to the basement. They would prefer to have everything on one level. And there's a feeling that the building was getting too small for the needs of the congregation, which had only talked about making a few changes before the problems began.

"We've outgrown it," says George Epp, chair of the building committee.

Erected in 1902, there is little left of the original building. Renovations over the years have changed much of the original Rosenorter church, which was built before the highway was constructed.

Flooding has forced the issue, and the congregation, made up of professionals, truckers and a few farmers, must now accomplish in one year what most churches do in five—plan and finance the new



Eigenheim Mennonite Church as it currently stands is to be rebuilt in another location to alleviate a number of problems, including flooding and problems some congregants have using the chair lift that leads to the basement. The new church will be built on one level.

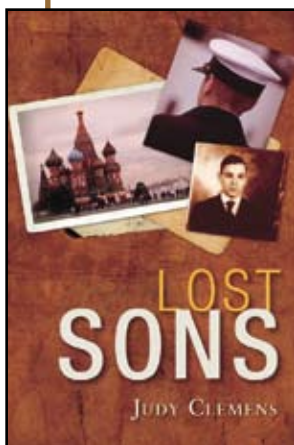
edifice. It has spent the last eight months debating possible solutions to the problem. To fix the present basement isn't cost-effective. To move the building to a new foundation doesn't have much merit, according to Friesen, because there is no guarantee the problem won't reoccur.

After deciding on a new building elsewhere on the church's eight-hectare property, new challenges arose. It was discovered that, after choosing Janzen Steel, a building company trusted by many locals, the company cannot begin construction

for at least another year, as the building boom in the now-affluent province means contractors are in short supply. And the quote for the project could change in the next year, based on demand in the Saskatchewan economy, Epp notes.

Will the church recycle some of the old building materials for the new structure? "We've discussed this," says Friesen, who feels certain that the pulpit and pews will be reused.

A fundraiser for the new building was held on May 4 in Rosthern. ❧



Lost Sons Judy Clemens

Detective Stan Windemere's son, a sailor in the U.S. Navy, disappears in the frozen tundra of Russia, and Stan finds himself unable to focus on his job. He soon learns of another lost son, Clayton Kratz, who also disappeared in Russia—in 1920. Stan dives into this mystery and prepares for the truth that his own son, like Kratz, may never come home.

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National and area church partnership covenant signed

BY DEBORAH FROESE
Mennonite Church Canada
WINNIPEG

In an historic move, Mennonite Church Canada and each of the five area churches signed a partnership covenant on April 19.

The document outlines their commitment to cherish, bless and support each other's ministries in a complementary and collaborative fashion through ongoing dialogue as equal parts of the body of Christ.

MC Canada general secretary Robert J. Suderman refers to the covenant as "remarkable," saying that he cannot stress its significance enough. "We cherish our relationships and believe the best about each other. We will bless each other's ministries as though they were our own and operate, with the entire community in mind."

Suderman credits the Holy Spirit for

creating an atmosphere where the commitment to such an agreement could be made. "We can't take this for granted," he says.

According to MC Canada bylaws, congregations are members of both their respective area church (B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba or Eastern Canada) and the national church. The

'It's important to remember that the request for this covenant came from area churches, to clarify the way we work together.'

covenant highlights this dual membership and defines it to mean that both area and national churches have direct access to member congregations, thus creating an open-door relationship between all parties.

The covenant affirms MC Canada in its leadership role as the national church with the responsibility of moderating between the partners and serving as the common vehicle for international ministry.

"It's important to remember that the request for this covenant came from area churches, to clarify the way we work together," says Pam Peters-Pries, executive secretary of MC Canada Support Services, who helped draft the covenant.

To facilitate implementation of the partnership covenant principles, operating agreements detailing staff relationships

and procedures between MC Canada and area churches will need to be developed. These agreements will be customized for each area church, to ensure the particulars are relevant for their specific circumstances. ☺



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Welcome to the fold

MC Eastern Canada church plants greeted with open arms

BY DAVE ROGALSKY
Eastern Canada Correspondent

Mission minister Brian Bauman began his report to the delegates at MC Eastern Canada's 21st annual meeting, held this year in Leamington, Ont., by reminding them of the four new congregations that had joined in the past six years.

"Unfortunately," he continued, "Mission Council does not have any new congregations to introduce to you as members. But there is good news. . . . God is moving in our midst in ways that, quite frankly, I cannot explain to you and I don't understand. But we have eight church planters and new churches with us this morning. Eight! There are church planters, [people] going to be church planters, as well as congregations that have already begun and they have discovered the Mennonite faith. They've discovered our emphasis on community, on justice, on peace, on service, and say that is who we want to connect with, that represents who we want to be as a church."

He then introduced the congregations and their

PHOTO BY TIM MILLER DYCK



Dancers from the Lao Canadian Evangelical Mennonite Church in Toronto celebrate MC Eastern Canada's 20th anniversary.

PHOTO BY DAVE ROGALSKY



Mennonite Church Eastern Canada missions minister Brian Bauman, left, talks with Kassa Lemma, pastor of the Amharic-speaking Rehoboth Evangelical Church in Toronto, one of eight new church plants in the area church.

pastors. Groups gathered around each pastor, and multilingual prayer consecrated them and their work.

MC Eastern Canada executive minister David Martin, MC Canada Witness executive secretary Janet Plenert, and Jim Loepp Thiessen, pastor at The Gathering Church in Kitchener, Ont., each focused on Jesus' charge to "go and make disciples of all nations" in Matthew 28:16-20. A common theme linking their presentations was the need for the church to be a safe place to ask questions.

Loepp Thiessen noted that, in spite of Jesus' resurrection appearances, "some doubted." The Gathering's 13-minute video of testimonies of unchurched and de-churched people showed the transforming power of discipleship-making.

Loepp Thiessen and Plenert agreed with Martin, that "without forming disciples, we are not the church." They also stressed that the church is being disciplined and transformed as it makes disciples.

Delegates applaud budget but speak little

Despite several opportunities to do so, delegates did not raise particular issues or questions from the floor with the exception of one question on understanding amortization costs. Executive actions, including signing a new covenant regarding board and staff relations with the other area churches and MC Canada (*see previous page for story of the signing*), and a renewed five-year agreement with *Canadian Mennonite*, were accepted as part of Executive Council actions without discussion.

Ed Janzen, chaplain at Conrad Grebel University College and a member of the Listening Committee, called for applause that congregational donations came in over budget. He recalled that delegates had tentatively affirmed MC Eastern Canada's budget three years ago and described the past year's figures as incredibly good news. He said that it meant "not only that our leaders have captured something of the heart and soul of who the people are, and the trust that has gone along with that, but that the people ourselves have also captured a piece of that vision and stepped up to the request." ▮

A first-time experience

By LISA WILLIAMS
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

An announcement in the Toronto United Mennonite Church bulletin caught Pepper Parr's attention and piqued his interest. He contacted the appropriate people to let them know that he would like to attend the Mennonite Church Eastern Canada annual church gathering as a delegate. The congregation agreed to send Parr on its behalf.

"I wanted to learn more about [MC Eastern Canada] and felt that it was time to get a closer look at the regional church," he explained.

When he arrived on Friday evening in Leamington, Ont., he sensed a buzz of excitement. He moved through the registration process and found his spot at the colourful round tables. As he examined the materials provided to him, he was grateful for the attempt to recycle as much as possible—from the water bottles to the poly envelopes containing the printed materials.

Parr was moved as Beth Marontate led those gathered in worship through American Sign Language, her passion and love for God spilling out through her motions. Those who spoke during the worship sessions caused him to realize again that if you listen to what is happening around you, you will know, feel and hear the presence of God.

When asked if he would attend another annual church gathering, he responded, "If you are serious about the growth of your faith community, then attending a regional event is part of the growing. You can't help but come away from an event like this and not feel that there is a wider community."

He did lament that there was not more time to sit and talk with people and exchange ideas and thoughts. However, by staying an extra day and attending a service at Leamington United Mennonite Church, he experienced more fully being a part of the MC Eastern Canada community of congregations.

Parr reflected that he met some fabulous people with whom he would welcome an opportunity to work in the future, and left this experience encouraged and excited about the family that he is a part of—Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. ❧



Parr

Making disciples in international settings

By LISA WILLIAMS
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

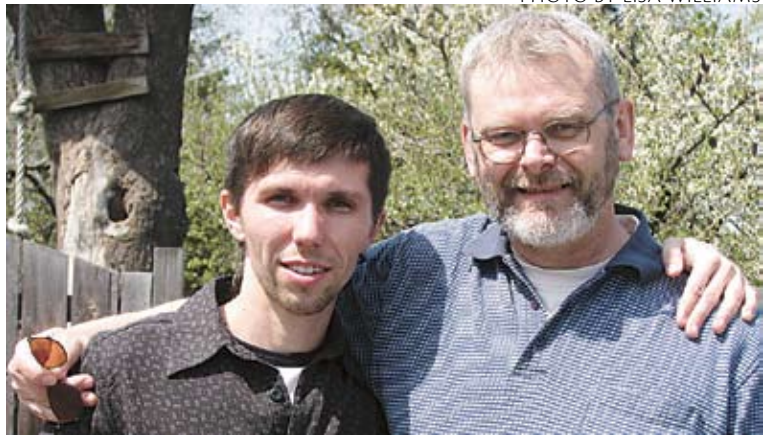
The theme of this year's annual church gathering, "Extending the peace of Jesus Christ: Making disciples," stretched beyond the borders of MC Eastern Canada to our international sisters and brothers, who attended the event after taking part in the International Mennonite Pastors Coming Together (IMPACT) program.

Ian Spence of Manchester, England, encouraged us to be relevant to the world around us and to respond and meet people "where they are at."

Claire Traore of Burkina Faso reminded us to be in prayer for God's work of making disciples.

Dreaming of planting many Mennonite congregations in Ukraine, Vasy Shevchenko explained that people in his community are slowly beginning to believe

PHOTO BY LISA WILLIAMS



Vasya Shevchenko of Ukraine, left, shares a hug with Bruce Sawatsky of Maple View Mennonite Church, Wellesley, Ont., his IMPACT host.

what they see in the lives of the people in his congregation, and not just in their words.

Through a school founded by Mennonites in Congo, Mubenga (Benjamin) Wa Kabanga shared how he benefited from the school by being educated there. Now a pastor, he reminded us that to share God's love with people is difficult when basic physical needs are not being met, and he asked for prayer for the people of Congo. ❧

ARTBEAT

BOOK REVIEW

How the man shaped the theology

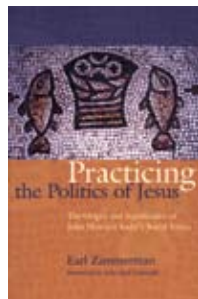
Practicing the Politics of Jesus: The Origin and Significance of John Howard Yoder's Social Ethics.
Earl Zimmerman. Cascadia Publishing House and Herald Press, 2007, 273 pages.

REVIEWED BY BARB DRAPER

John Howard Yoder changed Mennonite theology in the 20th century, reshaping the debate about theology and social ethics, about Christian faith and practice. In this analysis of Yoder's ideas, Earl Zimmerman provides a new perspective by investigating Yoder as a person and how he was influenced by his experiences at Goshen College and in Europe after World War II.

Zimmerman argues that Yoder did not create *The Politics of Jesus* in the comfort of a North American setting; rather, it was a response to his experiences in dealing with the social and religious realities of post-war Europe.

Yoder developed his theology while he was working closely with European Mennonite churches.



Yoder was a student of Harold Bender at a time when the Mennonite Church in North America was moving away from strict isolationism and Protestant fundamentalism. Yoder valued Bender's "Anabaptist Vision" and wanted to further develop Mennonite theology. As a post-graduate student in Europe, he could not find a faculty advisor

to study Anabaptist theology with, so he took an historical approach and investigated the early conversations between

Anabaptists and Protestant reformers in Switzerland. Because Yoder's dissertation was written in German, and only recently published in English, the influence of Anabaptist thinking in Yoder's theology has generally not been recognized.

According to Zimmerman, Yoder's concept of the church was different from Bender's. Yoder believed in the primacy of the local congregation, rather than a strong centralized organization, and he believed that discernment should come from conversations at the local level. The church is central to Yoder's theology, for it is the community of those who follow Jesus who are called to practise social ethics.

Zimmerman's research includes a wide variety of personal letters and papers, as well as Yoder's dissertation and other published material. He presents a very interesting and accessible approach to Yoder's theology, reflecting on the person as well as the ideas. Yoder was a brilliant student with sharp wit and an extraordinary ability to learn languages, but his interpersonal relationships were sometimes difficult.

For anyone interested in learning more about John Howard Yoder, this book would be a good place to start. ❧

Barb Draper is Canadian Mennonite's Books & Resources editor.

PHOTO BY MARY E. KLASSEN



Scholars and authors William Klassen, left, and Walter Klaassen, centre, were honoured last month for their lifetime efforts in history and theology, especially in providing new generations access to the Anabaptist theologian and civil engineer, Pilgram Marpeck. The event was timed to coincide with a celebration of the forthcoming publication of their book, *Marpeck: A Life of Dissent and Conformity* by Herald Press. The new biography comes after a lifetime of work on Marpeck, the authors having edited *The Writings of Pilgram Marpeck*, which was published three decades ago. John Rempel, right, of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary led the tribute during the annual Anabaptist Colloquium in Elkhart, Ind.

FOCUS ON SENIORS

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Volunteers prove infectious

BY MARGARET EWEN PETERS

Special to *Canadian Mennonite*
PETITCODIAC, N.B.

When my husband Gary and I arrived here in October 2007 to begin our Service Opportunities for Older People (SOOP) assignment with Ten Thousand Villages Atlantic Festivals, we met staff and volunteers who would form the community in which we worked, laughed, shared, prayed and were sent out each weekend.

We normally headed out on Thursday for somewhere in the Maritimes. As we arrived at our destinations, local volunteers joined us to help unload and set up for the one- or two-day sales. Local volunteers made these sales a success; not only did they advertise the events and personally invite people to attend, they also provided workers, they hosted us, and then they helped take it all down and load up when

we were done.

It was great to hear them speak of the reasons they do all this work. These non-Mennonites talked of their belief in fair trade and justice, and their belief that Ten Thousand Villages is one way to speak to these issues from rural communities in Atlantic Canada. For most of our sales we worked with different church groups, but we also enjoyed our time working with students at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S.

The student who had been the previous year's contact person for St. FX (as it is known locally) had died of cancer in June. His parents came to the sale and I was able to talk with his mother. She told me about her 21-year-old son and his passion for justice in the world. Through World University Service of Canada, St. FX sponsors students from overseas to study at the

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGARET EWEN PETERS



Margaret Ewen Peters gets a hug from Clifford Allen, sales coordinator of Ten Thousand Villages Atlantic Festivals.

university, and her son had worked with these students.

The Ten Thousand Villages sale was another way he had worked for justice, she said. In his memory, friends and fellow students picked up the challenge of hosting this sale. As we set up for the sale on Oct. 31, music from a Halloween party was playing nearby, but these students said the sale was where they wanted to be.

And people came from the university and the community in greater numbers than

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before, leading to a 50 percent increase in sales compared to 2006. The dedication and interest of these university students speaks well of the continuing work for justice and dignity in our world.

Our second-last sale was in Yarmouth, N.S. After seven weekends of sales and a six-hour drive to Yarmouth, we did not arrive with a lot of energy. But then we met our contact person, Wilfred Allen. His enthusiasm for the work of Ten Thousand Villages and his encouraging way with all the volunteers and sale visitors was so infectious.

On the Friday morning, he gave a tour to some high school classes, telling stories about the products and people who make them. At noon, some of these students returned with their friends to shop.

Allen spent much of his time at the door, greeting people with a warm smile and delightful laugh. He would ask them if they wanted to receive information about upcoming sales or if they would be interested in volunteering at the next sale. All during the sale he kept dreaming and talking about how the sale could be improved next year. His desire is to move to a more shared leadership, knowing that brings new ideas and people. And like the Antigonish sale, this one also saw a 50 percent increase in sales from the previous year.

As we talked to people at these different locations, they spoke of the twin blessings they received as volunteers. They were not only helping to build better communities in developing countries around the world, but they also enjoyed the community they formed working together as volunteers.

And we also experienced these blessings, too. We were able to visit many communities and meet the local people. We were inspired by the dedication and the fellowship of Petitediac Mennonite Church, and the care given to us by the local Ten Thousand Villages staff. Most of all, we were able to be a little part of the important work of Ten Thousand Villages and the difference it makes in people's lives as they work together producing, distributing and selling fair trade goods. ☸

Margaret Ewen Peters and her husband Gary are co-pastors of Hanley (Sask.) Mennonite Church.

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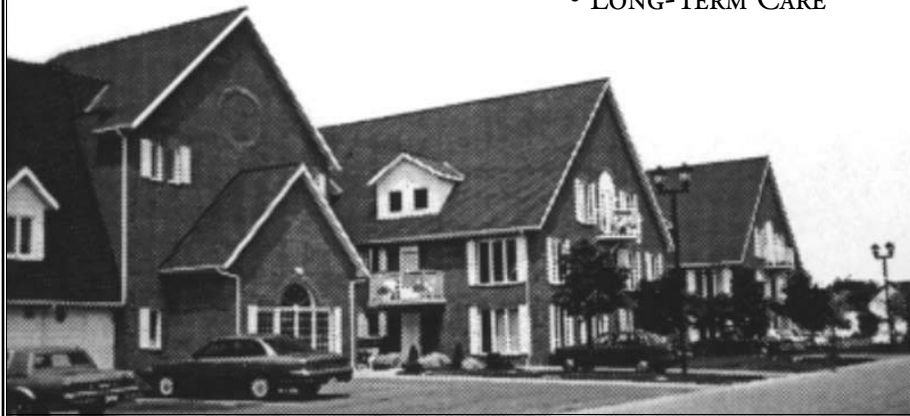
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'Aging-in-place' at Bethany

Bethany seniors complex continues expansion

BY KARIN FEHDERAU
Saskatchewan Correspondent
SASKATOON, SASK.

Bethany Seniors Housing has almost finished its third large building. Known as Bethany Place, the block will house 56 units.

"It's designed to be aging-in-place," says administrator Teresa Issac of the facility run by Saskatoon Mennonite Care Services, explaining that Bethany's residents will be able to progress through various stages of aging and remain independent for as long as possible.

The new building features such aids for seniors who may be experiencing dementia or age-related senility as stove guards

installed in each unit that turn the burners off after 30 minutes or less if residents forget. Automatic doors are another helpful addition. And to accommodate reduced mobility, there is room outside each unit's door for scooter parking with plug-ins for recharging.

Housecleaning, laundry and homecare help are provided, and residents can contract out for such additional services as nursing care as their health needs increase. Residents can also buy meals as needed, rather than be tied down with a monthly meal plan.

At this point, all the suites have been completed and residents have been steadily moving in. Only the common areas are still being worked on. In a recent newsletter to the Bethany community, Issac detailed the goals for the coming months: Next on the list for construction is the kitchen servery and eating area.

Two of the suites have already been converted to assisted-living status, says Issac, and more can be converted as needed. "The demand for that is growing," she notes.

To further help resident seniors, a



Eileen Epp, left, is served soup in the diningroom of Bethany Place by Norma Mudd.

medical clinic with three doctors and five other healthcare professionals is opening on the ground level. The Bethany board worked hard to arrange that. And to help maintain communication between residents and their family members, the position of aging-in-place coordinator has been created.

Part of the vision for the new building includes the wider community. Because of a housing need in the city, two suites have been set aside for people in need. They will be used to help those who face a sudden jump in rent or unexpected health crisis and suddenly have no place to live. Called emergent need suites, the Bethany option offers individuals from the community a place to stay until other arrangements can be made.

"I have one person a week coming to me" asking about the emergent need suites, says Isaac. "We could use a whole building" for this purpose, she admits.

There are also waiting lists for every floor plan in the large complex. "It's normally a two- to five-year wait [to get into a building]," Issac says.

With the new addition of Bethany Place, there is still one more need to consider—long-term care in the form of a nursing home.

The official grand opening for Bethany Place will be in November. ☘



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Service Opportunities for Older Persons Release

Earlier this year, members of Trinity Mennonite Church and the surrounding Glendale community of Phoenix, Ariz., gathered in the sunny courtyard of a newly purchased and remodelled house for a dedication service. Former pastor Peter Wiebe, originally from Plum Coulee, Man., helped lead the service.

The Service Opportunities for Older

own sink and running water.

The SOOP program in Phoenix comes under the umbrella of Goldensun Peace Ministries, which provides care for adults with developmental disabilities.

Phoenix is an ideal SOOP location from the beginning of October into May, since the weather offers warmer temperatures than found in most parts of the U.S. and Canada. The days are sunny and bright, the evenings are pleasant and the nights cool down quickly in this desert environment.

Besides helping with construction projects, Phoenix SOOPers work for four to six hours each weekday at one of several food banks, the Glencroft retirement home, a thrift shop, or a Ten Thousand Villages store.

While in the SOOP program, volunteers experience many phases of community life. The responsibility for cooking is shared. The times of group discussions, working together on the job, storytelling, singing and playing games all create many enjoy-

Phoenix is an ideal SOOP location ... since the weather offers warmer temperatures than found in most parts of ... Canada.

Persons (SOOP) house was purchased last August. Five SOOP couples from Abbotsford and Kelowna, B.C., Winnipeg and Gimli, Man., along with local volunteers, worked over a period of three months to convert the attached garage area into a three-bedroom and one-bath addition. The home can now accommodate 14 people, with each new bedroom having its

able memories. Weekend activities provide participants with an exposure to the desert and other unique places in Phoenix and around Arizona.

Anyone wishing to consider a SOOP experience should e-mail soop@mennonitecc.ca or call Carolyn Nase in Winnipeg at 204-261 6381. ☘



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Calendar

British Columbia

June 5: Mennonite Educational Institute graduation.

Alberta

June 3-4: Theological studies event at Camp Valaqua, "Our Money Talks" with Bryan Moyer Suderman, designed for church leaders. To register call Doug Klassen at 403-289-7172 or Jim Shantz at 403-485-2518.

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

June 10-12: Heritage retreat for seniors at Camp Valaqua with Hugo and Doreen Neufeld. To register contact Dave at 403-335-8649 or Kurt at 403-271-7477.

June 29: Springridge 80th anniversary and picnic at Spring-Glen Park with speaker Jerry Buhler, 10:30 a.m.

July 4-5: MCC Relief Sale and Auction at Millennium Place, Sherwood Park.

Saskatchewan

June 1-3: Alban Seminar for pastors and church leaders at Shekinah Retreat Centre sponsored by MC Sask.

June 8: Prairie Falcon motorcycle rally, fundraiser for MCC.

June 13: House of Doc concert with acoustic instrumentation and 4-part harmony in an old-time Mennonite family tradition at Prairieland Park, 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door.

June 13-14: MCC Relief Sale at Prairieland Park.

June 20-21: Rosthern Junior College presents "Pirates of Penzance," 7:30 p.m. All seats reserved.

June 21: RJC decade reunion groups meet. Alumni supper.

June 22: RJC graduation: Baccalaureate service at Rosthern Mennonite Church,

10:30 a.m. Graduation exercises in RJC gym, 2:30 p.m.

June 28: Southern Valley Foodgrains Bank charity sale near Hague.

Manitoba

May 2-June 14: "Discover Hutterite Art" exhibition at Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery.

June 8: Fundraising concert for the Mennonite Family Centre, Ukraine, at First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, with sacred and secular music by First Mennonite mixed choir and two Winnipeg Ukrainian choirs, 7 p.m.

June 9-11: Workshop for pastors, "Never Call Them Jerks: Healthy responses to Difficult Behaviour" with Arthur Paul Boers at CMU. Visit cmu.ca or call 204-953-3865 for more information.

June 11-14: 16th annual Believers Church Conference

at CMU, "Congregationalism, denominationalism and the body of Christ" to explore how churches live out the call to be the body of Christ. Visit cmu.ca for more information.

June 13-14: Winnipeg MCC Festival and Relief Sale.

June 20: World Refugee Day at Central Park, Winnipeg, with music, dancers and special guests, 4-10 p.m. For more information call 475-3816.

June 21: Camp Koinonia fundraising golf tournament at Winkler Golf Club.

July 1-4: Family camp at Camp Moose Lake.

July 5: Cycle Clear Lake for MCC Manitoba. For more information visit mcc.org/Manitoba/bike or contact hila@mts.net.

July 7-8: MC Canada delegate assembly, "Living Faithfully" at CMU.

July 8-10: Joint MC Canada/MC USA Summit, "At the Crossroads: Promise and Peril" at CMU with speakers Tom

Annual national delegate assembly to address militarization, ecology, pluralism

BY DEBORAH FROESE
Mennonite Church Canada
WINNIPEG

Mennonite Church Canada's annual delegate assembly will take place this summer in Winnipeg at Canadian Mennonite University on July 7 and 8, immediately followed by a joint MC Canada/MC USA People's Summit at the same location. The Summit begins on the evening of July 8 and concludes on July 10.

Both events invite the body of Christ to determine a faithful response to God's call in a world increasingly challenged by militarization, ecological concerns and a diverse faith society. The theme shared by these gatherings, "At the crossroads: Promise and peril," expresses the urgency of the issues at hand and is based on Deuteronomy 4:1-9, where Moses implores the Israelites to remember their identity as the people of God.

MC Canada Support Services executive secretary Pam Peters-Pries says that it is

important for the church to gather together: "We are the church. We live in a global village in which our lives are interwoven with others around our globe. Others are watching us. We need to talk about our faithfulness in the midst of global realities.

Assembly discernment sessions include:

- Thriving Pastors: Healthy Churches;
- Being a Peace Church: An Urgent Choice;
- Confessing Jesus Christ in a Religiously Pluralistic World; and
- Greening the Life of our Church.

Registered adult delegates will engage in timely discernment sessions, address business items and budgets, and hear reports from the General Board, Christian Formation, Witness, Support Services and Finance.



Raquel Contreras, president of the Union of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Chile, a new MC Canada partner, will be a special guest at the event. Contreras will be available for discussion about the changing identity of Chilean Baptists as they work at returning to their Anabaptist roots.

Of special note is the celebration of the new partnership covenant between MC Canada and each of the area churches (*see story on page 19*), and special recognition of congregations that are

joining and leaving this partnership body.

Advance registration is required for both the assembly and People's Summit. Register online at mennonitechurch.ca/events/summit08 or call toll-free 1-866-888-6785 to request a registration form.

and Christine Sine, April Yamasaki and Tom Yoder Neufeld.

July 12-13: Grace Mennonite Church 50th anniversary celebration with barbecue and program (12), worship, lunch and reflections (13). Register at gracemennonitechurch.org.

July 16: Drive the Ball to Ukraine MCC Manitoba Golf Tournament.

Aug. 2-3: 40th anniversary celebration for Braeside Evangelical Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. BBQ and worship, Sat. (2), 5:30 p.m.; Sun. worship 10:30 a.m. (3). Register at braesidechurch.ca.

Ontario

June 1: Shaped note singing from the *Harmonia Sacra*, at Detweiler Meeting House near Roseville. Call Sam Steiner at 519-884-1040 for more information.

June 3: Lebold Fundraising Banquet with April Yamasaki at Conrad Grebel, 6:30 p.m.

June 4: Golf Tournament for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate at Willow Valley Golf Course, Mount Hope. Call 519-342-0007 ext. 3011 for information.

June 6-7: "Intersect '08: Bringing Effective Communication to Real People" workshop led by Gayle Goossen at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate for church-related agencies and congregations. Register by May 15 at www.mccc.ca.

June 7: Mennonite Historical Society meeting and bus tour featuring Conservative Mennonites. Andy Martin will speak at Grace Mennonite near New Hamburg, 10 a.m. Bus tour at 1 p.m. Call 519-669-1884 for information.

June 7: Willowgrove Golf Tournament, dinner and auction at Angus Glen Golf Course, Markham, 1:30 tee-off, best ball format. For information contact 905-640-2127 or ron@willowgrove.ca.

June 10: Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp chicken barbecue and pie auction, 5:30-8 p.m. Order tickets at 519-625-8602 or info@hiddenacres.ca.

June 12-14: Write! Canada, Christian writers' conference, for beginner to professional writers in Guelph. Visit www.thewordguild.com or call 519-886-4196 to register.

June 19: MEDA breakfast at the Stone Crock, St. Jacobs, 7:30 a.m. Speaker: Dave Erb, president, Erb & Good Family Funeral Home.

June 20-22: Zurich Mennonite Church 100th anniversary celebrations. Historical displays and tours (20-21); dinner and evening of music (21); worship at 9:30 a.m. (22). Register at Zurich Mennonite Church, Box 131 Zurich, ON, N0M 2T0.

June 20-22: Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter weekend at Futures Inn, Cambridge, 7:30 p.m. (20) to 4 p.m. (22). Call Marjorie at 519-669-8667.

June 21: Strawberry social at Nithview Home, New Hamburg, 2-4 and 6:30-8 p.m.

June 22: 60th anniversary celebration at Nairn Mennonite Church. Call 519-232-4425 or visit nairn.on.ca.mennonite.net for more information.

June 21: Willowgrove and Glenbrook Day Camp 40th anniversary

celebration.

June 27-29: Hidden Acres Family camping weekend. To book a campsite or more information contact 519-625-8602 or info@hiddenacres.ca.

June 29: Transport for Christ truckers Sunday sponsored by Milverton Mennonite Fellowship. Truck parade from Milverton Co-op, 9:30 a.m.; church service, 10 a.m.; barbecue lunch. Call 519-595-8762 for details.

July 14-18: Please join our "Beach party" daily Vacation Bible School at Leamington United Mennonite Church, 9-11:30 a.m.

Sept. 8: First rehearsal of Mennonite Mass Choir to sing Handel's *Messiah* (Dec. 13) at First Mennonite, Kitchener. Contact www.mennosingers.com to register.

June 4-8, 2009: Sounds in the Lands

II, a festival/conference of Mennonites and music at Conrad Grebel University College.

U.S.A.

June 21-23: Reschley reunion, Mount Pleasant, Iowa. For details contact sueg2345rr@lisco.com.

July 25-27: Southern Africa reunion for alumni of MCC and mission agencies at Bethel College, North Newton, KS. Contact Norma Johnson at 316-283-4018.

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.

/// Briefly noted

Time to register for Paraguay 2009, organizers urge

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY—Registration materials for Paraguay 2009 are now available at mwc-cmm.org, where the form can be downloaded, completed, signed and returned to designated offices. There will be no online registration. As well, registration packets have been mailed to congregations in Canada and the U.S. The packets include a registration form, a document with general information, a poster featuring a picture of the Global Community of Young Anabaptists—AMIGOS—with the famous Iguazu Falls in the background, an *Update* newsletter, tour information and a Global Youth Summit insert. Registering as early as possible is strongly encouraged in order to get the best travel reservations and preferred lodging arrangements. A four-minute promotional video will be available on the MWC website by the end of May for congregations that want a quick overview of the organization and an attractive way of inviting people to participate in Paraguay 2009. Eight MWC member conferences in Paraguay have invited their global faith family to join them in worship, fellowship, service and witness in July 2009. "God is calling us to Paraguay. Vamos!" says assembly coordinator Ray Brubacher.

—Mennonite World Conference Release

Sound in the Lands II festival/conference invites proposals

WATERLOO, ONT.—Composers; instrumental and classical vocal performers; singer/songwriters; jazz, folk, pop and alternative performers; academics; writers, dancers and visual artists are all invited to submit proposals for next year's "Sound in the Lands II: Mennonite Music Across Borders" festival and conference, scheduled for June 4-8, 2009, at Conrad Grebel University College. A sequel to the highly successful 2004 event, Sound in the Lands II is both festival—with multiple concerts, performances and workshops—and an academic conference with papers and presentations which address issues of Mennonite-rooted peoples and their music-making locally and globally. The event seeks to expand musical horizons, integrating global, cross-cultural and newer genres of music with more familiar Mennonite traditions. Submissions will be received until Feb. 1, 2009; written proposals (a maximum of 500 words) should be sent to Carol Ann Weaver at caweaver@uwaterloo.ca, while composers/musicians should send scores and/or recordings by surface mail to: Sound in the Lands II, Conrad Grebel University College, 140 Westmount Rd. North, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6.

—Sound in the Lands Release

Classifieds

For Sale

For Sale: Attractive A-frame cottage, waterside, on grounds of Chesley Lake Camp Association Limited, Allenford, Ont. View of lake on 2 sides! Fieldstone fireplace in large living room, dining room/solarium, 2 BRs on main floor, loft sleeps 2. Adjustable permanent dock. Most chattels included. Sale is subject to approval by Board of Directors. Exclusive Listing. \$429,000. Merrill Hunsberger Realty Ltd., Broker of Record, Hunsberger Realty Ltd., Brokerage. 519-746-1714. Cell 519-580-5791. E-mail merrillhunsberger@rogers.com.

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For Rent

For Rent: Basement suite in west Hamilton near university. Available Sept. 1. Female preferred. Call 905-627-4482 or e-mail corniesp@interlynx.net.

For rent: Dunromin Cottage. 3-bdrm cottage at Red Bay on Bruce Peninsula. Nestled among maple trees. Short walk to sandy beach and small park. Rear deck. Available June 28-Aug 23. Phone 519-746-4920.

Retreat cottage for rent on the Little Mississippi River near Bancroft, Ontario. Wood stove, hydro, running hot and cold water, shower and flush toilet. Ideal for year round getaway. Call 519-471-3309 or kaecee@rogers.com.

Wanted to Rent

Looking for basement suite in south Winnipeg or St. Vital area. Call 204-299-9429.

Advertising Information

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Ad Representative

Karen Suderman

1-800-378-2524 x.224

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Employment Opportunities



Rosthern Junior College invites applications for:
1. Full and part-time **TEACHING POSITIONS** in Biology; Physical Education; Outdoor Education; Christian Ethics, History.
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Please forward a resume to:

Principal
Rosthern Junior College
P.O. Box 5020
Rosthern, SK S0K3R0
Email: gail@rjcs.sk.ca

Upcoming Advertising Dates

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Mennonite Central Committee is seeking an **ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT PROJECT COORDINATOR**. This person will work with MCC's 12 offices and its International Program Department to compile a summary of MCC's current environmental impact/carbon emissions. Submit resumes and/or project proposals to Heidi Koole, MCC Canada, 134 Plaza Drive, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 5K9, or HeidiKoole@mennonitecc.ca. Submissions will be considered starting May 30. More information is available at mcc.org/care-forcreation/coordinator.

The Winnipeg MCC Furniture Thrift Store is looking for an **ASSISTANT MANAGER**. Part-time paid position that can lead to full-time. Duties include training and supervising volunteers, moving furniture, maintaining supplies, and administration. Experience with store and office equipment an asset. Position may include bookkeeping and accounting duties.

Please apply to: Jona Leppky at: 18 Keewatin St. Winnipeg MB
Phone: 694-3669
Email mccfts@shaw.ca



MCC Saskatchewan [MCCS] seeks applications for a **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COORDINATOR** to facilitate justice practices, education and advocacy within the MCCS constituency and its communities, including the intersecting agenda of Peace and Justice with Aboriginal Neighbours and Treaty Justice.

The full job description is available on the web at mcc.org/sask. All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship, active church membership, and nonviolent peacemaking. For further information contact Dorothy Bartel at 306-665-2555 or email: dbartel@mccs.org. Applications will be considered until June 30, 2008.



Mennonite Central Committee Ontario invites applications for the position of

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES WORKER
Chatham, Ontario

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

The Employment Services Worker will assist Low German Mennonites with employment and settlement efforts to help them achieve successful adaptation to a new country. This person will cultivate positive working relationships with clients, the Chatham office staff and with employers. This person will also supervise Chatham staff.

Qualifications include: strong interpersonal skills with demonstrated leadership skills, ability to communicate in the Low German language and be comfortable in a computerized environment.

This three-year salaried full-time position begins July, 2008. Application deadline: June 10, 2008.

Complete job description available on MCC's website at www.mcc.org/serve. To apply send cover letter and resume to Cath Woolner, 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1 or cathw@mennonitecc.on.ca.

Connexus (Korea Anabaptist Center ministry in Seoul) seeks **ENGLISH CONVERSATION TEACHERS**. Opportunity for Christians with university degrees to learn, serve, teach, travel, earn and make friends! For more information, visit www.connexus.co.kr/english.



Conrad Grebel University College
LIBRARIAN-ARCHIVIST

The Librarian-Archivist has administrative responsibility for the College's library and the Mennonite Archives of Ontario. Overall responsibilities will be greater for the archives, including detailed management of the collection. Library responsibility will consist primarily of oversight of staff and policies.

Position open Jan. 1, 2009, but an earlier start, to ensure ample overlap with the retiring incumbent, is preferred. Detailed position description on College website <http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca>, at "job opening."

Applications accepted until June 20, 2008, or until position is filled. The College is committed to employment equity. Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority.

Direct inquiries and applications to:
Dr. James Pankratz
Academic Dean
E-mail: pankratz@uwaterloo.ca

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a church-based relief, development and peace organization with international and local programs that seeks to demonstrate God's love by serving among people suffering from poverty, conflict and natural disasters. MCC BC has approximately 100 workers, over 2,000 volunteers and an operating budget of approximately \$10 million. The Director of Finance and Administration for MCC BC reports to the Executive Director and is responsible for planning, organizing, reporting and directing all accounting functions including the supervision of accounting staff and ensuring compliance with MCC policies, government regulations and general accepted accounting principles. This position is also responsible for administrative functions including the management of office equipment, information systems, buildings, insurance and administrative staff. This is a full-time position based in Abbotsford.

MCC workers share a personal commitment to Christian faith, active church participation and non-violent peacemaking. Other qualifications for this position include; support for the mission of MCC, familiarity with MCC and our supporting churches, certification in a professional accounting association, 5 years of related experience in a management role, knowledge and experience related to the not-for-profit charitable sector, proficiency working with computer systems and accounting software, experience with policy development, ability to work effectively in a collaborative team environment, and strong inter-personal and administrative skills.

Please send a cover letter and resume to:
Attention: Marie Reimer, HR Director (confidential)
MCC BC, Box 2038, 31414 Marshall Rd., Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 3T8
Or fax to: 604-850-8734 or e-mail to: hrdirector@mccbc.com.

Interviews will start in June and will continue until a qualified candidate is found. Check the website www.mcc.org/bc for more information on MCC and a detailed job posting on this and other positions.



MCC urgently seeks applicants for **MCC PROGRAM REPS**:

- 1) West Europe – Bonn, Germany (accepting applications until June 13, 2008)
- 2) Former Soviet Union (FSU) - Zaporozhye, Ukraine

MCC Reps provide the program leadership for MCC's international work. They have primary responsibility for bridge-building, collaboration and liaison work with the various Mennonite and other churches in the region. They manage distribution of material aid, develop opportunities to enhance peace programming and provide support for MCC workers in the field.

All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship, active church membership, and nonviolent peacemaking.

Contact your local MCC for more information.
Call Toll Free in Canada: 1-888-622-6337
Call Toll Free in US: 1-888-563-4676
View job descriptions on the web at: www.mcc.org

Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church

Are you being called:

- To be part of a dynamic pastoral team?
- To nurture young people in their spiritual and life journey?
- To equip and train youth in a life of Christian service?

Then, consider the position of **YOUTH PASTOR** at the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church. We are a rural congregation of 400, located in southern Man., seeking a full-time person(s) to assist the congregation in equipping, training and nurturing young people into the faith, life and mission of the church.

A September 2008 start time is anticipated.

Please contact: Search Committee Chair
Rose Tryon
Box 1595, Altona, MB R0G 0B0
Phone: 204-324-6003
Email: tryonl@mts.net

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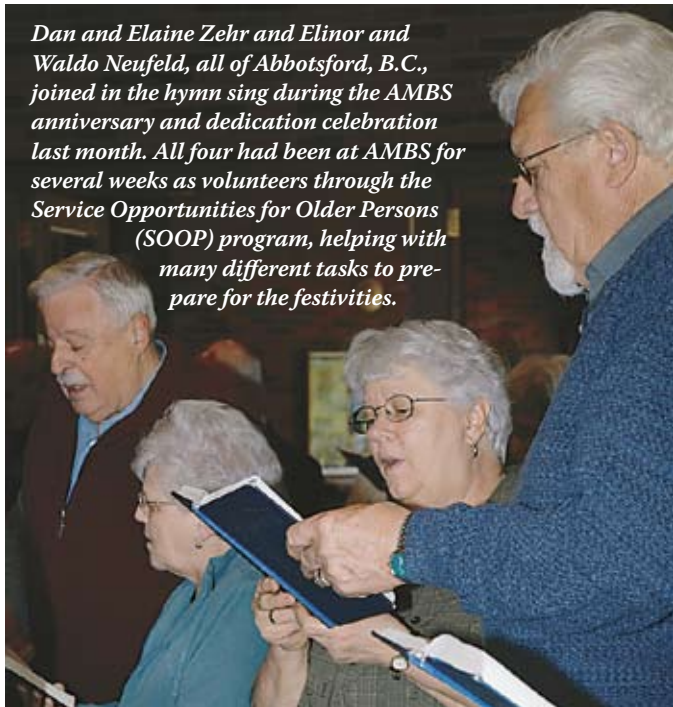
Relative Search

SEARCHING FOR A RELATIVE

On behalf of my grandfather, in Germany, I am searching for his uncle, Heinrich Duerksen his wife Margareta Bock and their son Jakob H. Duerksen who was born in the Slavgorod area in about 1923 and married Sussana Janzen on 11th March 1951. Heinrich and Margareta immigrated to Canada and lived in Alberta. If you know about them or Jakob Duerksen who also have a daughter Ronda Lynn Duerksen born 21st July, 1952 in Gem, Canada, please contact me, Alina Schesler at alinaschesler@web.de.

'Our hope is in God'

AMBS dedicates new 'green' library, commemorates half-century of learning



Dan and Elaine Zehr and Elinor and Waldo Neufeld, all of Abbotsford, B.C., joined in the hymn sing during the AMBS anniversary and dedication celebration last month. All four had been at AMBS for several weeks as volunteers through the Service Opportunities for Older Persons (SOOP) program, helping with many different tasks to prepare for the festivities.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY MARY E. KLASSEN

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary
ELKHART, IND.

Marking both new and historic opportunities for learning, the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary community and friends from across the continent gathered for two days of celebration on the Elkhart campus last month.

"Our hope is in God" was the theme for the April 25-26 events, which began by commemorating AMBS's beginnings in 1958 and culminated with the dedication of the seminary's new library and renovated campus centre.

AMBS president Nelson Kraybill noted that before construction on the new building began, "the best theological collection of books anywhere in Anabaptist institutions was in a windowless underground basement, with no ground floor above it." He went on to enumerate many goals that were met by the project, as the new library and bookstore freed space for other uses. The library also answered the need for a seminary computer lab.

Kraybill acknowledged the contributions of librarian Eileen Saner, who—after initial plans had been drawn up and fundraising had begun—questioned the seminary's administrative team, "If we are going to talk about peace between nations and between peoples, why wouldn't AMBS be committed to peace with God's creation?" As a result, the redesigned project became the first theological library to register with the United States Green Building Council.

To meet the goal of sustainability for the future, the building has a geothermal ground-source heating and cooling system, and uses no natural gas. Building materials from the region were used as much as possible, to reduce the need for transporting them; Don Steider, the seminary's director of maintenance, crafted 2,150 metres of board trim by using cherry trees harvested nearby. Rain gardens and prairie grasses around the building will help restore rain water to the underground aquifer and reduce the need for mowing parts of the 16-hectare campus.

The dedication service included acknowledgement of donors who made the project possible. The building was one component of the larger Next Generation campaign, to which more than 4,000 donors contributed between Jan. 1, 2001, and Jan. 30, 2007, all of whom are recognized by name on a sculpture and its corresponding panels. "Today our hearts are full of gratitude. AMBS and the church say thank you to God who, by his Spirit, makes all things new," Kraybill said.

To extend the celebration beyond AMBS, the seminary invited participants to make contributions to SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist seminary in Guatemala, which hopes to increase its own library and set up regional libraries in Honduras and Nicaragua.

The dedication service came just five months short of the 50-year anniversary of the dedication of AMBS campus buildings in September 1958. ▮