

CANADIAN MELIONITE

June 23, 2008

Volume 12 Number 13

Running
for relief

inside

The Crimson Phoenix 4

Essential reading 17

War resister loses battle 23

CANADIAN
MENNONITE
10th anniversary

EDITORIAL

Telling Jesus' story

TIM MILLER DYCK
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

We're trying something we've never done before in this magazine.

In the Feature section of this issue, you'll find the first part of Reece Friesen's "Tales of Avalon City." I first heard of his passion for biblical storytelling through the graphic novel format last year in these pages. He was the featured speaker at last year's Junior Impact retreat at Camp Squeah in B.C. He was also associate pastor at Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church in Abbotsford, B.C., at that time. He's now studying to complete his master of theology degree and working on a full-length biblical graphic novel to be published by our church publisher, Herald Press.

Reece used a version of what he presents here to tell 150 youths and sponsors about the story of Jesus. I thought the idea was strikingly fresh and creative, and I contacted him to ask if we could explore bringing his work to the whole church.

Some of you will be unfamiliar with the superhero-genre of art and text—but give it a try. I find how Reece takes the art form and uses it to tell a very different story compelling. It has very different moral messages than what you will find in *Iron Man*, *The Dark Knight* or the other films that dominate our Canadian cultural landscape in the summer months.

Reece's story was too long to run in one issue, so we have serialized it. Part 2 is coming next issue, then we have national assembly coverage, and the conclusion will come in our Aug. 18 issue. I'm excited to help him tell the story of Jesus in a new way.



I'd like to also thank Paul Fieguth for his writing. The conclusion to his intensive 10-part series, *Living Within Limits*, is in this issue.

Subscriber services: If you will be away from home this summer or at any other time, or are moving permanently to another country, we are glad to mail your subscription to you anywhere in the world. This is free of charge if you are subscribed through your church. We can also put your subscription on hold if you are away temporarily.

Also, I wanted to let subscribers know that, while we don't have control of how well or poorly your issue is treated by Canada Post while in transit, we can send you issues by first class mail and in protective envelopes at an annual cost \$22.68 for those who would like to receive their issues this way.

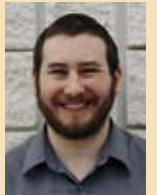
Electronic delivery: I'd like to also pass on the encouragement of one of our electronic subscribers: "I enjoy the magazine every two weeks and I read it through e-mail. I'd like to encourage you to encourage others to opt out of the print magazine and read the [*Canadian*]

Mennonite via email or download instead. I realize that many people like to read the magazine on the couch or elsewhere, but for many people habits can change (and we really need to change many of our habits). Thanks for considering this."

We've been offering the complete magazine in electronic format by e-mail for a few years now and the system works well. To try it out, please go to our home page at canadianmennonite.org and click on the "Electronic Delivery" link to sign up for delivery directly to your inbox. The service is free to all subscribers. Please have your subscriber number ready when you sign up (it's on your print issue mailing label and starts with an "A" followed by six digits). You can continue to get the print issue as normal or go entirely paperless (and you can change your preference at any time later on).

Welcome to Dan

Johnson: I'd like to welcome graphic designer Dan Johnson to our production team. Dan has a diploma in graphic design from Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and comes to us from working in design at three newspapers in the Markham area. He's also a pastor's son. He's the one who assembles the 150 or so pieces that go into each issue into a visually coherent whole.



Johnson

My thanks to Tim R. Dyck, our former designer, for his years of service to the magazine and our church. Tim has started his own retail art store business in Durham, Ont., and needed to devote all his time to that new effort. We wish you well in that, Tim.

ABOUT THE COVER:

Jason Erb, youth pastor of Living Waters Church in New Hamburg, Ont., was the first to cross the finish line in the inaugural New Hamburg Run for Relief. Erb finished the five-kilometre event in under 18 minutes. Preliminary figures showed that more than \$10,000 had been raised by the run, part of the annual New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale. Ross Shantz, sale chair, said the entire sale brought in nearly \$350,000.

PHOTO: DAVE ROGALSKY, EASTERN CANADA CORRESPONDENT

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Milestones/Calendar" by postal mail or fax to our head office.

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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contents



The Crimson Phoenix 4

Canadian Mennonite presents the first of a three-part summer series by graphic novelist **STEVEN "REECE" FRIESEN**. In the first installment of "The Crimson Phoenix" we are introduced to the title character, his sidekick-in-training, Sparx, and the Darkness, an arch-villain menacing Avalon City.

How do we then cut back? 14

In his final Living Within Limits column, University of Waterloo professor **PAUL FIEGUTH** offers ideas on how people can begin reducing their environmental footprint.



Portrait of the artist as a community member 16

National correspondent **AARON EPP** reports on the recent Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery exhibit featuring works by 18 Hutterite artists.

End of an era 19

A year after the demise of the B.C. Women in Mission, the Manitoba organization announces it is disbanding after 66 years of service. Manitoba correspondent **EVELYN REMPEL PETKAU** also reports on plans by Canadian Women in Mission to revamp the national program.

Rest in peace 21

A Lebanese father says his dead son can now rest in peace after 111 countries, including Canada, signed on to an international cluster bomb ban.

Returning the favour 28

After receiving Mennonite Central Committee aid as children and young adults, two elderly Winnipeg sisters have been making baby quilts for the local MCC Festival and Relief Sale.

Regular features:

Readers write **8** Milestones **13** Pontius' Puddle **13**

For discussion **22** Yellow Pages **24**

Calendar **29** Classifieds **30**

Telling Jesus' story 2

TIM MILLER DYCK

In praise of smaller tax refunds 9

MIKE STRATHDEE

Why don't we get it? 10

GORDON PETERS

Truth-telling friends 11

MELISSA MILLER

Transgressing privilege 12

AIDEN ENNS

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 July 7 issue will be posted by July 3.

The Crimson Phoenix

BY STEVEN "REECE" FRIESEN

The people of this world call many individuals "heroes." Ironically, those on the other side of the fence usually call the same people "villains." So what makes a person a true hero? There is a story in the Bible that tells us a great deal about what it takes to be a hero. See if you can figure out which story it is.



Chapter 1: Called to be a Sidekick

Avalon City is much like other great, metropolitan cities. It has its business districts and residential areas, parks and factories, malls and playgrounds. Its people are as diverse as its districts, and many of them are not so different from you or me, but some of its citizens are not so normal.

You see, in this city, one man can fly and another can lift a car over his head. It's not uncommon to see a masked heroine fire laser beams out of her eyes or a teenager who can stick to walls and leap from building to building. Some are heroes, some are villains; some hide their abilities, and some show them off. But either way, it's "normal" for Avalon City.

On this particular day in Avalon City, a large crowd of newspaper and TV reporters gather in front of Avalon city hall for a press conference called by the mayor. It is fairly straight forward, even a little boring: Question. Vague answer. Question. No comment. And so on.



Then an explosion of green fire and smoke erupts in the middle of the people. The blast splits the crowd like a drop of water in a pan of oil. There, emerging from the smoke appears . . . the Darkness! The mayor's bodyguards reach for their weapons.

"Puh – lease . . . put your guns down. I have planted several explosive charges in the surrounding buildings." He motions to the towering giants around the square. "I will survive their untimely toppling. You will not."

"What are your demands, Darkness?" the mayor asks grimly.



This is a part of his job that he can never get used to—stalling criminals so that Avalon City’s defenders can get there. “Let me guess. You want me to make you mayor, or give you the keys to the city!”

“No. Nothing so extravagant. Just a few paltry dollars.”

“How much, Darkness?”

“Well, let’s start with a billion and go from there.” The Darkness smiles wickedly, his yellowed teeth gleaming with spit.

“He’ll stop you,” the mayor says, calming himself as he smooths down the hair on the back of his neck, but wonders where “he” is.

“I doubt that very much,” snorts the Darkness. “You see, I arranged for a little accident far, far away from here. ‘He’ has such a soft spot for children.”

“Not a school!”

“A school bus, actually,” the satisfied villain corrects him. “And by the time he’s

disarmed it, I’ll be . . .”
“. . . on your way to prison.”



A cheer goes up from the crowd as a red-caped figure lands opposite the Darkness. The Crimson Phoenix, their protector, has arrived. *“The bombs you planted in these buildings took a little longer than the one on the bus. You really should start fire-proofing your work, Darkness.”*

The villain screams in rage and raises his fists, energy crackling and arcing between his fingers. “You’ve ruined my plans for the last time, Phoenix!” he snarls, spitting out the words, “Let’s go!”

Aside from a few overconfident reporters, the crowd pushes backwards, trying to get away from the brewing

battle. But no battle comes, at least none they can see. With lightning speed, the Crimson Phoenix leaps towards his adversary, catches him around the waist and rockets him into the air. The wind screams past them as they shoot over the buildings and crash down onto an abandoned car just outside the city limits.

“Now you can let loose a little,” the Crimson Phoenix says, dropping the enraged villain to the ground. “We can’t have you hurting people every time you want to rule the world.”

The Darkness throws everything he has against the Crimson Phoenix. He tries to bribe him, sweet talk him. . . . He even offers him a job as his sidekick! Finally, the Darkness gives up and starts fighting.

The battle is bright and loud, with shredded metal and the stench of burning rubble everywhere. It ends as any resident of Avalon City would have predicted—with the Darkness defeated



and the Crimson Phoenix victorious. Oh, the villain will escape from prison a few days later, no doubt, but for the moment at least, he is out of the picture.

Returning to city hall, the Crimson Phoenix is immediately surrounded by shouting reporters and cameras.

After making sure that no one had been hurt and no property damaged by the Darkness, he addresses the media: *"I am here to protect what is good and oppose what is evil."* It's always the same, the phrase he repeats whenever he is asked about who he is. Several reporters even mimic the words while grinning at one another.

"I hope that each and every one of you will dedicate yourself to the same goal," he adds with a smile. Then he is gone . . . up into the sky. It is this way every time. No one knows what he looks like, and no one knows where he comes from, but everyone knows what his mission is.

The week after his battle with the Darkness is busy for our hero, as there are always emergencies that demand his attention. He deals with each one in the same careful, thorough way, thoughtfully addressing each crisis so as to protect people and property. He is the only hero that the insurance companies aren't trying to sue.

And it is during this week that 17-year-old Haley Douglas does a solo climb up Timberbrook Peaks, one of the cliffs west of Avalon City. Even though a person should never climb alone, Haley has climbed this particular route dozens of times before, and she doesn't expect any trouble . . . which just goes to show that trouble rarely shows up where it is expected. As she nears the summit she slips and falls about 10 metres before her safety rope catches her. Of course,



trouble isn't done with her. Rubbing back and forth on a sharp ledge, the rope has frayed, which explains why it breaks a second later.

Haley screams as she falls. A hundred metres provides a good five seconds of screaming, but she only screams for four. At what seems like the last possible moment, the Crimson Phoenix swoops in and catches her. It's a good thing he always wears armour, as her fingers dig into him as she holds on for dear life. They float slowly to the ground, where he sets her down carefully. She tries to pull herself together and stammers out a "thank you," knowing he'll take off in a second to go help someone else. But the weirdest thing happens. He doesn't leave.

He just stands there, looking at her, deep in thought, almost as if measuring her up. Then the Crimson Phoenix does something he had never done before. He reaches up and takes off his helmet.

Now, Haley was not known for being speechless—her friends call her "motor-mouth"—but all she can do is stammer.

"But you . . . you're . . . no one has ever seen . . ."

" . . . my face," he says, finishing her sentence. *"No, you would be one of the first."*



Haley forces her lips to move: "Why me?"

"I'm looking for . . . an assistant. Someone to help me carry out my mission. It's important to me to train others for this purpose. It will be demanding . . . a lot of hard work, but I think you can do it."

"I'm . . . I'm honoured, but I don't have any powers. I can't fire laser beams or fly, and . . . well . . . I'm not a hero!"

"Who you are now has very little to do with it," the Crimson Phoenix says,

chuckling. *"It's who you will be that interests me. So what do you say? Are you ready to follow me?"*

"Well, then . . . YES! When do we get started?"



"Now. Let's go."

"What? But I . . ."

" . . . have a great many things to take care of, I know. Leave them, and come with me now."

There is a moment of silence, then Haley nods. "It's like this with heroes, huh? Spontaneous!"

"There's more thought behind these things than you think, but it will all make sense soon enough."

Haley holds on tight to the Crimson Phoenix as he lifts her into the air.

"Let us begin."

Over the next several weeks, our hero and his new sidekick train on the rooftops of Avalon City. The Crimson Phoenix gives Haley a new name—Sparx—and a special outfit which allows her some of his abilities. Of course, powers don't make one a hero, so she still has to train like crazy! It is exhausting, but now Sparx loves hanging out with a superhero. With the Crimson Phoenix training her, she progresses rapidly. Gymnastics, stealth, speed. Haley was pretty athletic before, but he pushes Sparx to be more fluid and disciplined. The training doesn't stop there. Haley was pretty smart—smarter than most of her classmates anyway—but the Crimson Phoenix compels her to think beyond the



minimal expectations of those around her. She had also always considered herself to be a good person, but he requires her to scrutinize what being “good” really means.

“A hero protects what is good and opposes what is evil.”

Sparx nods in agreement. “I can do that. I can protect what is good and oppose what is evil. Protecting what is good is basically protecting the innocent from criminals, and stopping those criminals is opposing what is evil. It seems pretty simple.”

“But it’s not,” he replies. *“There are many people with powers and abilities out there who simplify what it means to be a hero. They would agree with your assessment of our mission, but they don’t understand that . . .”* Before he can finish, he is

interrupted by an alarm sounding from the streets below.

Sparx looks at her teacher. “I think I’m ready.”

He nods thoughtfully and says, *“Remember your job down there. If things get complicated, focus on the basics. I’ll be right behind you.”*

Sparx vaults over the wall and down to the pavement below, and comes face to face with a bank robbery in progress! Adrenaline floods her veins as she races down the street and, leaping into the air, smashes through the front window in a shower of broken glass. Three armed men whirl in surprise—not to



mention the freaked-out bank patrons and employees! Sparx scans the room, sets priorities, and proceeds to take out the culprits one by one. The entire confrontation takes no more than a few seconds . . . of shooting, screaming and bleeding. But then it’s over. Sparx looks with satisfaction at the three unconscious



have hurt these people!”

“So you hurt them first? What does that make you, Sparx? You think because you’re a ‘good guy’ that it’s okay to act like ‘bad guys’? Those labels are almost completely pointless. Listen to me: A hero protects what is good and opposes what is evil . . . without becoming evil. Others

cross that line, but we must not. You have to find a better way.”

“I’m sorry,” Sparx whispers sadly. “I’ve been trying so hard, but I don’t think I’ll ever be a hero.”

“Just keep watching me, Sparx. I will show you how.” %



robbers. As the smoke clears, she can see the Crimson Phoenix standing in the doorway, surveying her handiwork.

“Not bad, huh?” she suggests smugly, crossing her arms in front of her. “I used that prioritizing technique you taught me.”

But the Crimson Phoenix doesn’t look happy at all. *“That was my technique, but not my priorities,”* Sparx, he says. *“You’ve failed. You did not protect what is good and oppose what is evil.”* He motions around the room. *“Look around you: severely beaten men, traumatized people and a trashed bank.”*

“But they are criminals! They would

To be continued next issue.



Steven “Reece” Friesen recently moved with his wife Rachel and daughters Abigail and Laureli from Abbotsford, B.C., where he was the associate

pastor at Eben-Ezer Mennonite Church for four years. They are currently living in Calgary, where he is working on his master of theology degree and completing work on Pax Avalon: ConflictRevolution, a graphic novel he has coming out in the fall through Herald Press.

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.

✉ Girls and women must learn to dress modestly, for Jesus' sake

BRAVO TO THE guys in the youth group in Manitoba who "wished the girls would dress more modestly," ("Lust in the church," March 31, page 14). That should send a message loud and clear to all young ladies.

We have watched in dismay as young women, and older ones, too, follow the fashions of society. Jesus challenged us to be salt and light, yet to see brides' wedding attire pictures—many from Mennonite churches—in the local papers, we wonder if we are slaves to society's dress codes.

What would happen if parents and pastors take a stand for modesty and against other codes of conduct we copy from society? Are our churches safe places, especially for men and boys as they interact with women in the church?

When our local paper had a short news article about how the Catholic church in Abbotsford is tackling the modesty problem, I paid a visit. The secretary at the window, thinking I probably wanted to enrol someone, said, "Sorry, our program is full." She gladly gave me a brochure that told about their new venture for girls in Grades 8 to 12 called "Modesty for Christ: Teaching modesty and virtue." The aim is "to show everyone that we can be trendy, stylish and modest, all at the same time."

These Catholics are taking the lead in making a difference in society. Can we Mennonites follow?
MARY DERKSEN, ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

✉ What women wear isn't important to Jesus, and shouldn't be to men either

KUDOS TO THE five churches that made a real effort to bring discussion on sex under God's umbrella ("Lust in the church," March 31, page 14). I always wondered why our churches have traditionally left that for us to learn in the secular world.

I also wondered about the young men who want the women in their church to dress more modestly. Why do men think it is a woman's responsibility to control their sexuality for them? Is it not our duty to treat each person as a person first and a sexual being second? We have obviously failed to teach our youths what Jesus worked so hard at trying to show us: respect for each other no matter whether our clothing is ragged, old, new, plentiful or scant. Perhaps one day all women will be appreciated for the content of their character and not by the clothes they wear.

ERNE ENGBRECHT, LETHBRIDGE, ALTA.

✉ North American food practices called 'wasteful'

I ENJOYED YOUR article on food localism in the Oct. 15, 2007, edition ("From farm to fork," page 4).

Not only is the food we eat travelling thousands of kilometres and causing many rural farmers in many other countries to go out of business, countries such as the U.S. and Canada export food then import that same type of food back from other parts of the world. This seems even more wasteful.

We live in a very rich country, but we seem to look at the short-term gain when it comes to resources. And we seem to do this on the backs of other people in other countries who have few resources yet live comfortably.

LEO BAHR, TAVISTOCK, ONT.

(This letter was e-mailed to Canadian Mennonite on Oct. 23, 2007, but inexplicably did not arrive on our mail server until May 18. As Mr. Bahr says, "And we thought standard mail was slow!"—Ed.)

✉ How then should our tax dollars be spent?

RE: "MENNONITES WHO benefited from war mustn't refuse to pay for it now" letter by Peter Siemens, May 12, page 10.

I want to point out that the 8 percent of federal tax amount is not just withheld from the Canada Revenue Agency, but is diverted to a "peace tax trust fund" where the money is held until such time as legislation

regularly put forward by Conscience Canada as a private member's bill is eventually passed. This legislation, when passed, will allow war tax resisters to legally place the diverted tax into a government-administered "peace fund."

I would remind Siemens that modern warfare, which is extremely expensive to prepare for, requires the conscription of our tax dollars rather than our bodies. On May 15, in an interview on CBC Radio, Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute in

Washington stated that the cost to address climate change, food security, water scarcity, overpopulation and poverty in order to stave off civilization's collapse is \$190 billion per year for the foreseeable future. He thinks this is possible because this amount represents only about one-fifth of what the world's nations spend on armaments per year—\$1 trillion.

On the same day, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Defence Minister Peter Mackay announced that Canada would spend \$30 billion on the Department of

GOD, MONEY AND ME

In praise of smaller tax refunds

MIKE STRATHDEE

Figuring out what to do with their income tax refund is an annual spring ritual for Canadians.

In 2006, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), our national tax collector, said that about 24.1 million tax returns were filed, of which almost 15.7 million individuals received refunds. The average refund was more than \$1,300.

For some, tax refunds provide the means to top up children's education plans or retirement savings. Others make an extra payment on outstanding debt, launch into this year's home renovation project or plan their family vacation.

In the pre-parenting stage of life, tax refund time was one of a couple times a year

that Carolyn and I would sift through appeal letters from charities and make decisions about one-time gifts. That may have been a response to hearing from a charity whose workers had to raise all of their own support tell me that spring was often the leanest period of the year for gifts.

Eastern Mennonite University had a great challenge in a recent ad. The headline, "Buy something or change lives?" asked people to consider investing their refund in kingdom work by helping

students attend college.

Predictably, others are ready to pounce on our inclination to spend rather than share or save. Several American retail chains have a promotion to get people to spend their refunds right away. Kroger's grocery stores, Kmart, Lands' End and Sears offer to add 10 per cent to a tax refund, provided the entire refund is used to buy a gift card at their store.

Sometimes when I'm speaking to churches, I see if anyone is listening by suggesting that we shouldn't get tax refunds. Christians who give regularly



[M]any people would be better off with a bit of extra cash flow every pay period throughout the year.

and substantially to the work of their congregation should not be receiving tax refunds—not big ones, in any event. It's bad planning, unless your personal sense of patriotism and philanthropy extends to giving the government an interest-free loan every year.

While some people truly look forward to getting a big cheque or electronic transfer into their account, many people would be better off with a bit of extra cash flow every pay period throughout the year.

The federal government lets taxpayers request that their employer take less tax off their pay cheque if their situation indicates they will likely be getting a refund. You can get the "Request to Reduce Tax Deductions at Source" form from the CRA website (cra-arc.gc.ca) or your closest CRA office. The form must be completed each year, but only takes a few minutes to fill out. CRA will send back a letter within eight weeks indicating if your request is approved, and telling your employer how much less tax can be deducted from your pay at source.

Things that CRA will take into consideration in granting the request include regular RRSP contributions (other than payroll plans), childcare expenses, employment expenses, interest expenses and carrying charges on investment loans. Charitable donations are mentioned under the "other" category.

Curiously, our federal tax collectors, who keep statistics on everything under the sun, say they don't keep records on

how many Canadians apply to have less tax deducted at source. Nor do they do much to promote this concept.

But in the spirit of doing all we can with what we have, it's worth exploring.

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

Defence by 2028. This did not include another unannounced \$20 billion, for a total of \$50 billion. Canada is now the sixth-largest supplier of armaments to the world and is NATO's sixth-highest military spender.

To paraphrase the late U.S. general and president, Dwight Eisenhower, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

What would the followers of Jesus do when faced with these two choices of how we must use our tax dollars?

MURRAY D. LUMLEY, TORONTO

Murray D. Lumley is a board member of Conscience Canada and a reservist with Christian Peacemaker Teams.

✉ 'Common assumptions' about end-of-life issues challenged

KATHLEEN REMPEL BOSCHMAN'S article, "A new normal in uncertain times," May 12, page 28, contains some good advice and intentions. However, I must challenge a few of her statements.

First, a common assumption is that "what you are feeling, the person is probably feeling just as profoundly, perhaps more so." Judging by my experience as a caregiver and care recipient, and by my research on disability and end-of-life issues, this is often not the case. We should never presume to project our own feelings onto another person or we may find ourselves not implementing Rempel Boschman's next admonition to "allow him or her as much control as possible."

Second, although it is indeed wise to make a will,

FROM OUR LEADERS

Why don't we get it?

GORDON PETERS

At our church my family and I have been involved in a small group that is concerned about, and active in, the education of all people about our earth. We discuss environmental issues, trade issues, social justice issues or anything else that comes our way. We look at things from personal, family, church and social perspectives. Many small steps make an impact if enough of us make them.

The "Earthkeepers" have been writing a monthly column in our church newsletter and we meet from time to time to talk about these issues. We often include a potluck to offer a little bit more enticement to meet. We have done the Saskatchewan food potluck theme, and the food was great!

I am always amazed when talking with people about how many of them "don't get it." I wonder if they feel that the earth is boundless in its resources and will clean itself up after the mess we leave.

Working in the private sector, I'm often reminded of the limited nature of

business and the environment. Our new provincial government is convinced that any policy that restricts a business's attempt to subdue nature and its resources is evil and must be eliminated. Rather than discuss the implications of long-term environmental degradation, and the impact that will have on our economy,



Jesus' carbon footprint was small, even for the times he lived in.

we forge ahead in search of more, better-paying jobs.

The human cost to this is also forgotten by the business world. Homelessness is on the rise, and crime will increase as people look for alternative funding sources to pay for rent and food. The old saying that "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer" is certainly true today.

For me, these issues, including initiatives like fair trade, are all part of the gospel of Jesus. We in the West have done a poor job of following it. I struggle with

our middle class-ness and wonder about our poorer Mennonite brothers and sisters around the world. How do I make a difference to the poor in Saskatoon? What can, or should, I do to help the church members in Congo, Bolivia or Indonesia?

Somehow the money I donate to my church and other charities doesn't cover it for me. We all need to think more about our spending habits and the choices we make. This applies to where we buy gas; whether we should have a car or two, or a boat or all-terrain vehicle;

where to make our investments or even whether to have investments; and where to buy our groceries.

Jesus' carbon footprint was small, even for the times he lived in. We need to look at his life as an example of how to live on this earth. Remember what he said to the rich young ruler.

Gordon Peters is treasurer on the Mennonite Church Canada General Board. He attends Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon, Sask.

making a living will or advance healthcare directive is not. According to research published in the Hastings Center Report (May 2004), living wills don't work. They are based on the scientifically invalid assumption that we can predict what our wishes will be in the future. Within only two years, the majority of signatories have changed their minds.

Although the intent of advance healthcare directives is to allow family and medical personnel to follow the signatory's wishes if their loved one cannot communicate, the truth is that the overwhelming majority of dying people want to live as long as possible provided their pain and other symptoms are well managed, which is the usual case, and provided they are not depressed, socially isolated or burdensome.

The bottom line is that living wills are not only

useless, they are dangerous. They create a false sense of security; strengthen the already prevalent tendency of ignoring dying people, even when they can communicate; and reinforce the impression that most people have no resilience to face the dying process and therefore want death. In other words, they promote euthanasia.

Instead of perpetuating the living will mythology, we should be educating everyone—especially medical personnel—on the real views of dying people and on the necessity of following those wishes whenever medically feasible. But mostly we should maintain our connections with those who are dying, as both Rempel Boschman and Marge Warkentin ("Carrying each other's burdens," May 12, page 28) suggest.

RUTH ENNS, WINNIPEG

FAMILY TIES

Truth-telling friends

MELISSA MILLER

T rue friends tell the truth. I know this and I learned it again recently, a lesson I resisted, given my hard heart and miniscule vision. The latest teaching occurred when I found myself in a corner, a place I never like to go. I had been asked to do something that I really didn't want to do, yet I couldn't quite see how I could readily decline. I turned to my oldest, truest friend, sure I could count on her loyal solidarity.



This friend is so able to read my mind and soul that I often don't have to finish my sentences before she has sensed my perspective and leapt to my defence. She's been so tried-and-true over the years that I often trust her judgment over my own. She appears to have a capacity to know me better than I know myself. I rely on her to rant and rave, in colourful language, when the world is being unjust towards me. This time, though, she gently nudged me to say yes to the request. "Maybe you can count on the Spirit," she said. "Try praying." I was left

nearly speechless. It felt like she wasn't getting it! And the corner was getting tighter.

Undeterred, I turned to Friend No. 2, who echoed Friend No. 1's take on the situation. She used words like "honour" and "gift," and "God's great and compassionate heart." I went looking for a

More likely they were talking with God and God was giving them the counsel I needed to hear.

third opinion, I now confess sheepishly. She, too, lined up with the first two, and added words like "the holiness of responsibility."

Were they in cahoots with each other? I knew they weren't talking together. More likely they were talking with God and God was giving them the counsel I needed to hear. If that was the case, the corner was definitely squeezing me.

Because I am a slow learner and not readily put off my path, I squared my shoulders and sought out Friend No. 4,

thinking maybe a male perspective would shed some insight. And it did. Somehow in his presence I was able to name some of the weak and stubborn parts of me that were holding me back from saying yes. It was hard to look squarely at the nest of resentment and poor attitude I'd been nursing, and harder still to speak of it. Yet it seemed to offer a new way out of the corner.

Friend No. 4 offered to pray for me. As he did, I felt shifts in my spirit. In the places where I'd been holding onto a stubborn no, I felt little spaces of loosening. The way out of the corner did involve saying yes. Not yes to exactly what I'd been asked to do, but yes to

participating in God's breathing new life into old dry bones, in the possibilities for change, in bearing a flame of light into a cold, dark place. All I needed was a little nudge, well okay, a big united push from four wise friends.

I mean, really, I should have known. How could all my truth-telling friends be wrong?

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

Postcard Project sends controversial letters on homosexuality

BY TIM MILLER DYCK
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

WINNIPEG—A group of four Winnipeg Mennonites sent a letter and reply postcard to every Mennonite Church Canada church last month, asking for support in its desire to change the church's position that homosexual activity is sinful.

The mailing, in addition to raising this emotionally heated issue, also elicited strong responses, as the letter suggested that the group was presenting these postcards at the upcoming national church gatherings. "We are collecting postcards of support from individual Mennonites and will share them with others, such as delegates at the MC Canada's People's Summit in July," said the letter.

The national church office responded with an e-mail to every congregation, stating that the mailing was done without its authorization, knowledge or permission, and that the group's request for display space at the assembly was declined. Church leaders are meeting directly with the group and will announce the location of an off-site meeting place organized by the Postcard Project. Pam Peters-Pries, executive secretary of Support Services at MC Canada, said that while the call for dialogue is worthy of display, pushing for a desired outcome is advocacy. "So we couldn't endorse it as a call to dialogue," she said.

"When we wrote the letter, we weren't sure how the details would work out," said Kirsten Freed, one of the Postcard Project organizers. "There isn't a space, in most places, to come out as being supportive, welcoming or affirming," she said, describing the project's goals. "If people are afraid to voice their opinion, then there cannot be true dialogue."

Riverdale Mennonite Church in Millbank, Ont., was one of the churches that got the mailing. Pastor Jim Brown said, "They asked for people to send postcards, but only, it seems, from people who agree with them. That doesn't feel like dialogue to me."

NEW ORDER VOICE

Transgressing privilege

AIDEN ENNS

This is my second attempt at writing this column. I wrote another two weeks ago, but it stalled. The editor, whom I respect and consider a friend, sent it for review to the board of this magazine and an informal editorial advisory committee (I'm a part of both).

The groups were divided, with the most commonly expressed and strongest feelings that it should not be printed.

My goal with this space is to push the boundaries of our love ever wider. It is provocation for edification. For the sake of provoking, I advocated dialogue and participation with a marginalized group seeking greater inclusion, the Postcard Project (see related news story at left).

For the sake of edification, I'm now stepping back to talk about our posture towards people at the



I need to migrate to the margins in as many ways as I can.

margins. Some may wonder why I don't just leave the church if I differ so widely on some points of faith and practice. But I can't leave; this is my church. It has given me a gospel of radical love, such as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, in which the outcasts and downtrodden receive blessing and hope. It is colourful and full of misfits.

When Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector who was rich, met Jesus, he gave half his possessions to the poor and repaid those whom he had defrauded (Luke 19). His was a gesture of solidarity with the marginalized.

I am like Zacchaeus before he shed some wealth. Our systems of exploitation are similar, but better veiled. My power and privilege is more than financial: I am a white, male, heterosexual, able-bodied, highly educated, urban-living, home-owning, car-driving Christian. Each of these attributes moves me closer to centres of power.

As I seek comfort in my social and economic status, I need less spiritual liberation. Jesus will pass by me en route to the poor unless I leave my station and seek him out. As Mary announced, God "has brought down the powerful . . . and lifted up the lowly; [God] has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1).

In silence, I can ignore my complicity in injustice. I can enjoy privilege, but not receive liberation. I pursue security at the expense of freedom. I deeply regret that not enough Mennonites have shown me the path to the periphery. I wander far.

For the sake of spiritual vitality and radical discipleship, I need to migrate to the margins in as many ways as I can. Each encounter and every action represents who I am and how I deal with power imbalances.

Paradoxically, it is for my own comfort that I attempt to leave my sites of privilege and move towards the stranger, the one who acts differently, the one who transgresses my codes of propriety.

This is a self-imposed move into a "wilderness" of insecurity, led by love, buoyed by the promise of liberation and peace. On the journey I forfeit privilege for the sake of others' pain. I shed a layer of guilt and explore new levels of acceptance. I accept more of myself, my neighbour and our God.

For those with an urge to engage a Samaritan, a woman, a harlot, a Roman centurion or a tax collector, I hope this is an incentive to transgress privilege in the pursuit of love. ❧

Aiden Enns can be reached at aiden@geezmagazine.org. He is a member of Hope Mennonite Church in Winnipeg and sits on the Canadian Mennonite board.

/// Milestones

Births/Adoptions

Hergott—Jaxon Stewart James (b. May 2, 2008), to Jamie and Jessica Hergott, East Zorra Mennonite, Tavistock, Ont.
Hildebrand—Hadassah Joy (b. April 4, 2008), to Annie and Cam Hildebrand, Bergthaler Mennonite, Plum Coulee, Man.
Kropf—Owen Trevor (b. May 15, 2008), to Bethany and Trevor Kropf, East Zorra Mennonite, Tavistock, Ont.
Marr—Tyson Robert (b. May 11, 2008), to Eric and Sherry Marr, First Mennonite, Calgary, Alta.
Pauls—Caleb John (b. May 15, 2008), to Jason and Helena Pauls, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.
Pfohl—Katelyn Ann (b. May 17, 2008), to Debbie and Jeff Pfohl, Wellesley Mennonite, Ont.
Thesen—Brady Luke (b. April 29, 2008), to Michelle and Perry Thesen, Carrot River Mennonite, Sask.
Tiessen—Nyah Marie (b. April 11, 2008), to Kim and Rob Tiessen, Sherbrooke Mennonite, Vancouver, B.C.
Wellman—Ashley Michelle (b. May 9, 2008), to Michelle and Mike Wellman, Crosshill Mennonite, Ont.

Baptisms

Jeremy Enns, Michelle Farrell, Matt Friesen, Ellery Penner, Alex Schmidt—Niagara United Mennonite, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
Alexandria DeVries, Gregory Fischer, Herman Heidi, Latdapron Khamphonthong, Ratchani Khianghum, Tanaphon Lomphet, Amber Willms—North Leamington United Mennonite, May 18, 2008.
Christa Kuepfer, Gregory Kuepfer—Riverdale Mennonite, Millbank, Ont., May 4, 2008.
Parker Banks—Trinity Mennonite, Calgary, Alta., May 11, 2008.
Jessica Gerber, Scott Mader, Sarah Penner, Rob Satory, Nicole Zvanovec—Wanner Mennonite, Cambridge, Ont., June 8, 2008.
Glen Connery—Waterloo North Mennonite, Ont., May 11, 2008.

Abe Wall, Betty Reimer—Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man, May 4, 2008.

Marriages

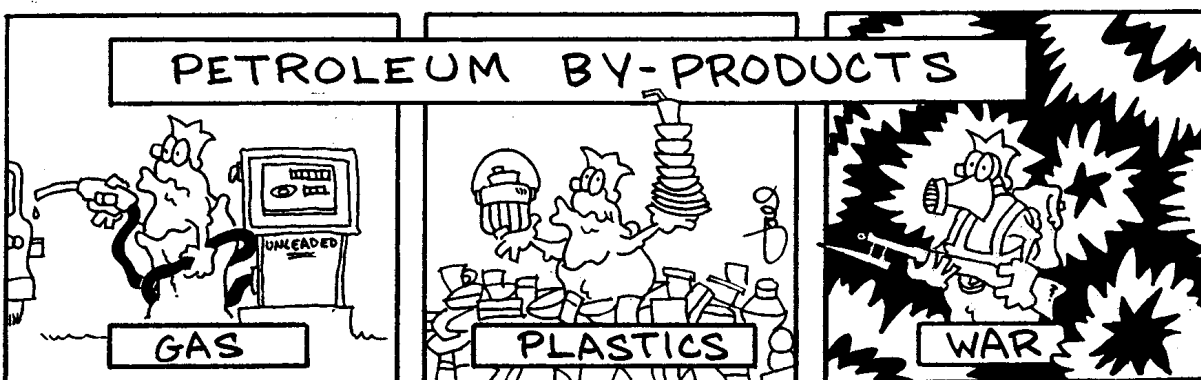
Shantz/Wideman—Jeff Shantz (First Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont.) and Kimberly Wideman at St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., May 10, 2008.
Towns/Weber—Mike Towns and Jeanette Weber, Floradale Mennonite, Ont., April 19, 2008.

Deaths

Falk—Henry, 90 (b. Sept., 1917; d. June 3, 2008), Carman Mennonite, Man.
Harder—Caroline, 62 (d. Feb. 29, 2008), Bergthaler Mennonite, Plum Coulee, Man.
Hiebert—Frank, 91 (b. Jan. 15, 1917; d. May 26, 2008), Emmanuel Mennonite, Abbotsford, B.C.
Hildebrandt—John H., 97 (b. 1911; d. May 22, 2008), Elim Mennonite, Grunthal, Man.
Houston—John, 58 (d. April 14, 2008), Avon Mennonite, Stratford, Ont.
Köhn—John, 82 (b. July 12, 1925; d. June 4, 2008), Niagara United Mennonite, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
Neufeld—Mary (nee Hildebrand), 91 (b. June 13, 1916; d. May 2, 2008), Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man.
Poettcker—Ruth (nee Brown), 85 (b. May 20, 1923; d. May 29, 2008), Bergthal Mennonite, Didsbury, Alta.
Sawatzky—Henry, 76 (b. Oct. 30, 1931; d. May 18, 2008), Mount Royal Mennonite, Saskatoon, Sask.
Wiens—Elizabeth (Betty), 85 (d. April 29, 2008), Tofield Mennonite, Alta.
Yantzi—Dorothy (nee Erb), 77 (b. Aug. 4, 1930; d. March 25, 2008), Maple View Mennonite, Wellesley, Ont.

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 X

How do we then cut back?

PAUL FIEGUTH

If you have become convinced of the need for change, then time is of the essence. Currently, globalization and the Internet allow you to purchase things, acquire information and to share experiences with people from far and wide with a few keystrokes. This may not always be the case.

It is simplest to do nothing and wait for problems, if any, to arrive. However, once you are convinced of the need for change, it is far easier psychologically and far less costly to undertake the changes before you have to. In other words, to be ahead of the problem, not in a competitive sense, but being at a level of preparation ahead of where you need to be. For example, I want my energy consumption to be dropping faster than energy prices are going up.

So where do we start? It is important for change to begin modestly. Insisting that people embark on a radical overhaul of their lifestyle is doomed to failure. We start small, and as our comfort level increases, and with the support of others in our community, we go further, until we can let go of the status quo.

The chart on the next page is one attempt to give a comprehensive set of ideas, organized by topic and the degree of change. Most of the ideas in the chart focus around the individual and the family, although suggestions for broader, community-level ideas would be welcome. I definitely see a very strong role for community in undertaking and supporting changes, and as an energy-constrained world is likely to become smaller, less globalized, I believe that significant leadership for change will be needed and most beneficial regionally, rather than federally.

For most people, the bulk of their

impact on the world can roughly be captured by seven topics:

- Food
- Water
- Electricity
- Natural Gas
- Gasoline
- Air Travel
- Material Consumption

Becoming aware of our habits around these topics and consulting the chart for ideas should give a variety of places to start. Furthermore, since each person's



I want my energy consumption to be dropping faster than energy prices are going up.

life situation is different, the above list and accompanying chart should be taken as suggestions, not as a prescription of what to do.

One of the easiest places to start with is water, since its use is easily perceived. The water use by my family is approximately 30 litres per person per day, less than 10 percent of the regional average, which saves us more than \$2,000. This huge reduction required only relatively minor adjustments in lifestyle; there's no outhouse and we're not bathing in a rain barrel!

In terms of electricity, our new freezer is twice the size but uses a third of the power of an older model. The new fridge, bought after our old one failed, uses 20 percent of the power of our previous fridge.

Since moving into our current home, we have reduced natural gas use for heating by two-thirds. We did this with a better furnace, more insulation and a programmable thermostat, as well as by turning down the temperature, which

saves us nearly \$1,000 per year. We wear sweaters and slippers all winter, and sometimes it's a little uncomfortable. But we need a bit of a reality check: Having a house heated to 18 degrees C all winter would have seemed like an incredible luxury throughout most of history.

And therein lies the tragedy. Comparatively modest adjustments while still maintaining a fairly status quo lifestyle—if undertaken by everyone—would buy our society a great deal of time to adjust and would greatly stretch fossil fuel supplies. But people won't adjust until forced to, meaning that our society will slam into limits at full speed.

To be sure, there are a number of ways in which my family's lifestyle veers away from the status quo. We have no TV, no air-conditioning, no dishwasher. I walk to work and we never water the lawn. There have been some sacrifices; I allow myself far fewer trips to academic conferences,

which has negatively impacted my work. But in the grand scheme of things, these seem like a fairly trivial price to pay.

The accompanying chart of ideas is just a starting point. Each person will have their own perspective on what they are called to do and how to live. I hope that the 10 articles in this series have given some overview of my own perspective on these matters. Whether you agree or disagree with my specific opinions and conclusions is not so important; what is critical is that the broad issues of limits, energy and lifestyle be present in our thoughts, discussions and prayers. %

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.

A path to environmental and societal sustainability

	Easy / Status-Quo	Substantial Change	Sustainable / Powerdown
Getting Started Motivation	<input type="checkbox"/> Worry, Read, Listen <input type="checkbox"/> Change Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan, Think <input type="checkbox"/> Change with your Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Act, Change <input type="checkbox"/> Change with your Community
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Drive slower, Defensively <input type="checkbox"/> Select a vehicle based on fuel efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Run multiple errands in one drive	<input type="checkbox"/> Be a one-car family <input type="checkbox"/> Select a car rather than van / truck / SUV <input type="checkbox"/> Walk / Bike / Bus / CarPool / Train	<input type="checkbox"/> Go car free / Use a car co-op <input type="checkbox"/> Move to be walking/biking distance to work
Locality	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone, rather than travel, for meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Buy local products <input type="checkbox"/> Raise awareness among friends <input type="checkbox"/> Write to local politicians	<input type="checkbox"/> Low-impact summer vacations (no seadoo) <input type="checkbox"/> Limit air travel <input type="checkbox"/> Increased involvement in community	<input type="checkbox"/> Take local holidays <input type="checkbox"/> No more air travel
Food	<input type="checkbox"/> Focus on local produce	<input type="checkbox"/> Buy / cook only local, seasonal foods <input type="checkbox"/> Can / freeze food bought in season <input type="checkbox"/> Plant a vegetable garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Organize a cellar for food storage <input type="checkbox"/> Buy / lease land and grow most of your food
Pollution & Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Buy organic <input type="checkbox"/> Don't use any herbicides or pesticides <input type="checkbox"/> Use environmentally friendly cleaning products <input type="checkbox"/> Compost all food waste <input type="checkbox"/> Recycle <input type="checkbox"/> Buy recycled products	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant local native species in your garden <input type="checkbox"/> Use cloth diapers / tissues <input type="checkbox"/> Don't use any gasoline garden tools (mower, trimmer, leaf-blower) <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce garbage <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid plastics, Drink tap water	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant a permaculture garden <input type="checkbox"/> Use re-usable feminine products <input type="checkbox"/> Aim to produce zero garbage
Consumption	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring your own bags when shopping <input type="checkbox"/> Resist expectations of consumption <input type="checkbox"/> Resist expectations of obsolescence <input type="checkbox"/> Have a "No Flyers" sign	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't buy things that get thrown out <input type="checkbox"/> Fix and repair whenever possible <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguish between wants and needs <input type="checkbox"/> Buy / trade second-hand <input type="checkbox"/> Limit replacement of computers/electronics <input type="checkbox"/> Rent a cottage, rather than own <input type="checkbox"/> Limit TV / advertising exposure <input type="checkbox"/> Change birthday / Christmas expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> Make most of the things you need <input type="checkbox"/> Live well below your means <input type="checkbox"/> Seriously consider every purchase <input type="checkbox"/> Move to a smaller house / join community <input type="checkbox"/> Get rid of the TV completely
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce night-time winter temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Turn the lights off <input type="checkbox"/> Have a house energy audit done <input type="checkbox"/> Buy efficient appliances, lightbulbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce day-time winter temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Use fans rather than air-conditioning <input type="checkbox"/> Insulate / weatherstrip your house	<input type="checkbox"/> Seriously reduce winter heating <input type="checkbox"/> Stop all air-conditioner use <input type="checkbox"/> Close off unneeded rooms
Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor your utility bills <input type="checkbox"/> Take shorter showers <input type="checkbox"/> Install water savers on taps & showers <input type="checkbox"/> Install low-flush toilets <input type="checkbox"/> Get a rain barrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Aggressively reduce your utility bills <input type="checkbox"/> Take cooler showers <input type="checkbox"/> Use ONLY rain water in the garden	<input type="checkbox"/> See water & energy as precious and limited <input type="checkbox"/> Take infrequent, short, cool showers <input type="checkbox"/> Get a composting toilet <input type="checkbox"/> Use rain water for your toilets
Ethical Living	<input type="checkbox"/> Buy fair trade <input type="checkbox"/> Know where your products are made <input type="checkbox"/> Know how your products are made	<input type="checkbox"/> Be a committed, educated consumer	
Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Raise awareness among friends <input type="checkbox"/> Support environmental organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Write to your government	<input type="checkbox"/> Raise awareness at work	<input type="checkbox"/> Raise awareness in your community
Money, Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Select "green" investments <input type="checkbox"/> Economize <input type="checkbox"/> Understand the frailty of money & investing	<input type="checkbox"/> Request responsible pension investing <input type="checkbox"/> Get out of Debt <input type="checkbox"/> Diversify out of status-quo	<input type="checkbox"/> Seek alternatives to banking, investing <input type="checkbox"/> Change attitudes towards wealth and money
Being at Peace	<input type="checkbox"/> Pray	<input type="checkbox"/> Rest, Reclaim a sabbath	<input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate the simpler life

ARTBEAT

Portrait of the artist as a community member

Hutterite artists portray what life is like on their colonies

BY AARON EPP

National Correspondent
WINNIPEG

Hutterites make art? It may seem like a naïve question, but that's what many were thinking at a special event celebrating a Hutterite art exhibition at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery last month.

"This then is our hope, that the kind of art featured here today will become part of our growing repertoire of effective ways to express and share the message of love, peace, community brotherhood and sisterhood—as stepping stones toward making this world a better place, one artist at a time," said Dora Maendel, who teaches at the Manitoba Fairholme Colony School, to a crowd of roughly 100 on May 15.

The exhibit featured works from 18 different Hutterite communities, most of them by students taking art classes in school via interactive instructional television. Using TV monitors and remote-controlled cameras, teachers teach from their respective sites, and students respond verbally and visually. The technology connects remote Hutterite communities and offers quality courses to students on a variety of colonies, as opposed to the handful of students in each school.

The works in the exhibit, which included photography, paintings, linocuts and collages, portrayed various aspects of Hutterite life. An acrylic painting entitled "*Du Kannst Am Besten*" ("You Can Do It Best") portrayed a woman playing baseball. In a statement accompanying the



Joey Penner of Winnipeg views some of the paintings at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery's Hutterite art exhibit that ran from May 2 to June 14.

piece, artist Elaine Hofer said baseball is a community-building event on her colony, and she wanted to capture the intensity a woman named Eileen brought to the game.

Marcus Waldner's "*Zwillinge*" ("Twins"), another acrylic painting, showed two girls, their arms draped on each other's shoulders, looking over a valley, while a linocut by Victor Kleinsasser, who teaches at Crystal Springs Colony, showed a mother braiding her daughter's hair.

"What I like is Hutterites seeing themselves in art," Serena Maendel said when asked what she likes most about teaching students from Kindergarten to Grade 9.

She appreciated the fact that the exhibit went beyond Hutterite stereotypes and showed Hutterites as they see themselves. "It validates [our] life," she said. "It's working together, playing together and saying, 'This is us.'"

Judging by crowd reaction and attendance, the exhibit was a success.

"I enjoyed it," said Ed Funk of Winnipeg, who attended the exhibit with friends. Funk is a credit manager who has worked with Hutterites for years but who never knew they made art. "It's really neat to see what they've done over the past few years," Funk said, "and I think they should do more of it." ❧

PHOTO BY DAVE ROGALSKY



Investment advisor Jim Tubb, left, supports his sons Steven, centre, and Andrew at their summer business venture, Millrace Gallery, in St. Jacobs, Ont. The twins are both studying business, Steven at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S., and Andrew at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. Their father thought that real business experience—from start-up, through insurance, contracts and customer service—would aid them in their studies. The gallery has also created an opportunity for a dozen or more local artists to show their creations, advertise their services and realize a 70 percent return on sales. The Tubbs are from Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church. The gallery will be open until Aug. 31.

Essential Reading

Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee lists 31 must-reads

Mennonite Church USA Release
GOSHEN, IND.

Mennonite church, college and historical libraries have shelves filled with books about the history of the faith. Choosing which ones to read ones can be a daunting task. That's why the April issue of *Mennonite Historical*

Bulletin, published by the Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee, has compiled "The Essential Anabaptist/Mennonite History Reading List."

"The project was driven by the question of what all Mennonites should read in order to be sufficiently knowledgeable about the many facets of our church history," says Rich Preheim, the magazine's editor and historical committee director. "Understanding those many facets is important to understanding who and what we are today and could be in the future."

The 31 titles on the list include general Mennonite histories as well as volumes on women, African-Americans, Hispanics and the international church. The list also includes reference books, such as the five-

volume *Mennonite Encyclopedia*. It was compiled with input from about 40 professors, teachers, writers, librarians, archivists and others in the field of Mennonite history.

"I don't expect everyone to agree with every book selected," Preheim says, "but I do hope the list will introduce people to some of the good books out there and spur them to read not only those but others as well."

The list is also not intended to be a recognition of the best books. Because the works on the list are meant to be broad introductions, Preheim says it excludes many great books that are more specific in their focus, such as on a particular timeframe. But he hopes that reading general histories will lead readers to more-specialized volumes. ❧

The Essential Anabaptist/Mennonite Reading List

- *A History of the Amish* by Steven M. Nolt.
- *An Introduction to Mennonite History* by Cornelius J. Dyck.
- *Encircled: Stories of Mennonite Women*, edited by Ruth Unrau.
- *Full Circle: Stories of Mennonite Women*, edited by Mary Lou Cummings.
- *Harold S. Bender* by Albert N. Keim.
- "Global Mennonite History Series": *Anabaptist Songs in African Hearts* by Alemu Checole, Samuel Asefa, Bekithemba Dube, Doris Dube, Michael Kodzo Badasu, Erik Kumedisa, Barbara Nkala, I.U. Nsasak, Siaka Traore and Pakisa Tshimika. *Testing Faith and Tradition* by Claude Baecher, Neal Blough, James Jakob Fehr, Alle G. Hoekema, Hanspeter Jecker, John N. Klassen, Diether Gotz Lichdi, Ed van Straten, Annelies Verbeek.
- *Martyrs Mirror* by Thieleman J. van Braght.
- *Mennonite Historical Atlas* by Helmut T. Huebert and William Schroeder.
- *Mennonite Women: A Story of God's Faithfulness* by Elaine Sommers Rich.
- "Mennonites in Canada" series: *Mennonites in Canada, 1786-1920: The History of a Separate People* by Frank H. Epp. *Mennonites in Canada, 1920-1940: A People's Struggle for Survival* by Frank H. Epp. *Mennonites in Canada, 1939-1970: A People Transformed* by T.D. Regehr.
- *Mennonites in Russia, 1788-1988: Essays in Honour of Gerhard Lohrenz*, edited by John Friesen.
- *Open Doors: The History of the General Conference Mennonite Church* by S.F. Pannabecker.

- *Profiles of Anabaptist Women: Sixteenth-Century Reforming Pioneers*, edited by C. Arnold Snyder and Linda A. Huebert Hecht.
- *Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be* by John D. Roth.
- *The Anabaptist Vision* by Harold S. Bender.
- *The Black Mennonite Church in North America, 1886-1986* by LeRoy Bechler.
- *The CPS Story: An Illustrated History of Civilian Public Service* by Albert N. Keim.
- *The Hispanic Mennonite Church in North America, 1932-1982* by Rafael Falcon.
- *The Mennonite Church in America: Sometimes Called the Old Mennonites* by J.C. Wenger.
- *The Mennonite Encyclopedia*.
- "The Mennonite Experience in America" series: *Land, Piety, Peoplehood: The Establishment of Mennonite Communities in America, 1683-1790* by Richard K. MacMaster. *Peace, Faith, Nation: Mennonites and Amish in Nineteenth-Century America* by Theron Schlabach. *Vision, Doctrine, War: Mennonite Identity and Organization in America, 1890-1930* by James C. Juhnke. *Mennonites in American Society, 1930-1970: Modernity and the Persistence of Religious Community* by Paul Toews.
- *The Radical Reformation* by George Huntston Williams.
- *The Story of the Mennonites* by C. Henry Smith.
- *Two Kingdoms, Two Loyalties: Mennonite Pacifism in Modern America* by Perry Bush.
- *Women Against the Good War: Conscientious Objection and Gender on the American Home Front, 1941-1947* by Rachel Waltner Goossen.

FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S BOOKS & RESOURCES

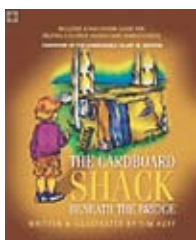
Children's Books & Resources

Books

Bully Bill. Joy Birky, illustrated by Chad Thompson. Herald Press, 2007, 40 pages.

This story about a bully who learns a better way is told in rhyming couplets with full-page illustrations.

The Cardboard Shack Beneath the Bridge: Helping Children Understand Homelessness. Tim Huff. Castle Quay Books, 2007, 32 pages.



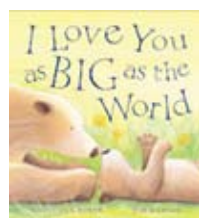
This picture book, illustrated by the author, is designed to help parents and teachers discuss homelessness with children. It includes a discussion guide.

The Family Song. Jane Hooper Peifer, illustrated by Ingrid Hess. Herald Press, 2008, 58 pages.

The Stranowsky family has a song that they sing that reminds them of God's love. When the family has adventures, the song plays a role in carrying them through. The book includes a reading by the author and a performance of "The Family Song" on CD.

Holding. Lorna Schultz Nicholson. James Lorimer & Co. Publishing, 2008, 128 pages.

This book, set in Canada, is part of an action-packed sports series for children aged eight to 13. This adventure is set at a summer hockey camp.



I Love You as Big as the World. David van Buren, illustrated by Tim Warnes. Good Books, 2008, 28 pages.

Big Bear and Little Bear describe how much they love each

other, reminding children of how much they are loved.

Lacrosse Warrior: The Life of Mohawk Lacrosse Champion Gaylord Powless. Wendy A. Lewis. James Lorimer & Co. Publishing, 2008, 128 pages.

This book tells the story of how a Canadian lacrosse champion coped with racism and brutal checking during his career.

Lectionary Story Bible (Year B). Ralph Milton, illustrated by Margaret Kyle. Woodlake Publishing Inc., 2008.

Based on *The Family Story Bible*, this collection includes at least one, usually two, stories for each Sunday in the church year. This is the second volume of the series.

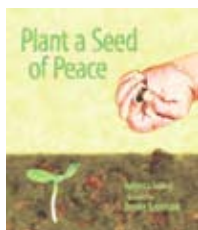


My First Message: A Devotional Bible for Kids. Eugene H. Peterson. NavPress, 2007, 384 pages.

This hardcover book is a collection of Bible stories from *The Message* version of the Bible. Each story comes with questions and suggested responses for children.

My Mommy and Me and My Daddy and Me. Tina MacNaughton. Good Books, 2008, 18 pages.

These stories of Little Mouse and her mother and Little Bear and his father are told in rhyming text.



Plant a Seed of Peace. Rebecca Seiling, illustrated by Brooke Rothshank. Herald Press, 2007, 116 pages.

These 43 stories about Anabaptist peacemakers are

written for children to show how Christians from the past and present have put their faith into action. Many of the stories are set in the 20th century, but many reach back to the 16th and 17th centuries.



Simply in Season Children's Cookbook: Fun with Food from Garden to Table. Mark Beach and Julie Kauffman. Herald Press, 2006.

This children's cookbook has lots of large and colourful photos to go with the simple recipes. It was commissioned by Mennonite Central Committee and is part of the World Community cookbook series.

Sleep in Peace. Ingrid Hess, writer and illustrator. Herald Press, 2008, 40 pages.

This bedtime book is a poem describing kids all around the world who settle down for bed and how God watches over them.



Resources

Food For All: A Buffet of Ideas about Hunger. Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

This six-part print curriculum teaches children (Grades 1 to 5) a Christian response to hunger.



Sing Little Children Sing CD. Becky Degan. Herald Press, 2006.

The *Nursery Songbook* with Bible-based nursery songs was first published in 1957. Becky Degan performs the

25 songs in the booklet in a fun modern-day style. The songs are particularly suited to children aged three to seven and are suitable for use at home or church.

Compiled by Barb Draper.

GOD AT WORK IN THE CHURCH

End of an era

Manitoba Women in Mission decides to disband after six decades of service

BY EVELYN REMPEL PETKAU

Manitoba Correspondent
CRYSTAL CITY, MAN.

After 66 years of formal organization, Manitoba Women in Mission decided to disband at its May 3 Enrichment Day. This move comes a year after the B.C. organization folded. Although the Manitoba group formally began in 1942, groups of women were meeting as early as 1895 in Gretna.

Manitoba president Betty Anne Hildebrand was prepared for this eventuality. "We had been struggling with the decision to restructure or fold for a number of years," she said, adding that after contacting the 19 active groups and five honorary ones for their input, "we had a pretty strong feeling that this would not fly anymore."

Justina Heese, a long-time Manitoba member, was "surprised but not surprised" by the group's decision. "It is very much a cause of aging," she said. "Older people couldn't come to regional and national meetings anymore. There was a struggle to fill leadership positions."

The executive is planning a celebration for May 2009.

"We want to go out with a bang while we are still strong," said Hildebrand.

For Erna Neufeldt, president of Canadian Women in Mission, the Manitoba decision was unexpected. "Our executive has known for some time that membership across the country has been going down . . . but Manitoba has been very strong," she said.

Manitoba "made an enormous contribution," Neufeldt said. "You see how much the women contributed through their support of family, youth, education, leadership, camping programs, schools, [Canadian Mennonite Bible College] and [Canadian Mennonite University], and through countless acts of charity in their

PHOTO BY TINA HILDEBRAND



Long-time Manitoba Women in Mission member Maggy Wiebe speaks at the final memorial service the organization will hold.

communities and in their churches. I am humbled by what they have all done and I believe in the future they will continue to do all this."

Looking ahead

Although there are no signs of Women in Mission in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Eastern Canada ceasing operation, there is the awareness that membership is declining across the country.

Heese has been asked to co-chair a task force with representation from each Canadian region, that will look at what is happening with women's groups across the country.

"We are looking for answers," said Neufeldt. "We want to find out whether the women in our congregations are still interested in connecting with each other and beyond their own congregation. We know they are gathering, but how much is that happening? There is a loss of connectedness with the loss of B.C. and now the Manitoba groups."

Heese hopes the study will enable the committee to make recommendations about what would be meaningful for women and what structure could best serve the needs of women in the church. Although the present structure seems to be waning, "no one seems to feel the work done by women, such as supporting the work of the church, and mission projects of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee, is obsolete," she said.

"Their work was grassroots support for these organizations and it came with prayers and the knowledge and support of individual workers."

When women began meeting more than a century ago, their role in the church was limited, and the groups provided an important forum through which they could serve. "Now men and women are co-opted for all the positions in church," noted Heese. "Women don't have the energy to run a parallel program anymore."

With files from a report by Maggy Wiebe, MWM member.

/// Briefly noted

Suderman accepts invitation to serve second term

WINNIPEG—The General Board of Mennonite Church Canada has invited Robert J. Suderman to serve a second term as general secretary. A statement released by moderator Henry Krause and signed by the Review Committee said, "[T]he General Board strongly affirms the outstanding work of Robert J. Suderman and has invited him to serve a second term in his position as general secretary of Mennonite Church Canada." Suderman has accepted the invitation, acknowledging that there are some details that still need to be defined. The Review Committee said it surveyed General Board members, who represented area church leaders, council chairs and members; executive committee members; and staff that report directly to Suderman. The statement also said, "In all the responses, [Suderman] has met and exceeded expectations as general secretary. He has consistently shown leadership and vision which has served Mennonite Church Canada well. His commitment to the church in all its various forms in the Mennonite constituency and in the wider Christian community, locally and globally, is valued and deeply appreciated."

—MC Canada Release

Eastern Canada women seek to follow where Jesus leads

Vineland United Mennonite Church Release
VINELAND, ONT.

The annual spring Enrichment Day of the Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada was held on April 19 at Vineland United Mennonite Church, with approximately 200 women in attendance.

The theme was "Where he leads me, I will follow." Carol Penner, pastor of The First Mennonite Church in Vineland, read from Isaiah 52:7: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news," and listed ways in which women can use their feet for good purposes.

Keynote speaker Melodie Shantz from Moorefield, Ont., shared her "Journey into God's love" message in the morning session and her "Journey into God's desert" talk in the afternoon. She grew up in Windsor, Ont., in a dysfunctional family and was introduced to Jesus through a Catholic Sunday school class as a child. She left home at the age of 17 and eventually went to Wilfrid Laurier University, where she met Dale Shantz, a Mennonite youth who was later to become her husband.

Shantz had many questions about God and she did not hesitate to be very honest with her feelings. She expressed gratitude to her mother-in-law and her husband's family for accepting her into their lives even though the adjustment was not easy for her.

A turning point in Shantz's life came when she called out to God and accepted his love and acknowledged the sacrifice he made for her. She felt forgiven for having made so many wrong choices in her life, but still struggled as she sought to let go of her "favourite sins."

God loves each of us, but is not satisfied with us until we have reached our full potential, Shantz explained. People undergo God's testing to bring out their full potential, she said.

In the afternoon session, Shantz quoted many scripture references that focused on how "our goal is to be like Jesus." She also shared how she felt that, even during

her darkest hours, Jesus had always been there.

Gloria Martin is stepping down from

her role as communicator and Sue Martin is taking her place. Doris Cressman is retiring from many years on the Program Committee and Carol Martin is stepping in. ✻

Compiled from notes by Adelaide Fransen and Joy Klassen.

/// Briefly Noted

Graysville congregation attends pastor's graduation ceremony

GRAYSVILLE, MAN.—When Norm Dyck, pastor at Graysville Mennonite Church, graduated from Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) in Winnipeg on April 20, nearly his entire congregation showed up at the ceremony. The congregation cancelled services at their small rural church more than 100 kilometres southwest of Winnipeg. Dyck posted the times and locations of other worship services in the community so members would not be without a service to attend. But more than 30 of the 45 members joined him that morning at CMU. Dyck has been pastor at Graysville for seven years. The father of three young boys, Dyck appreciates his congregation's support. "Because of their support I was able to do this," he says. "They'll never know how much it has meant to me. They gave me a sabbatical last fall to finish my degree and CMU worked with me to line up the courses I needed." Dyck is presently in the masters program at CMU.

—BY EVELYN REMPEL PETKAU



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GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD

Rest in peace

Canada is one of 111 nations to sign international cluster bomb ban; U.S. boycotts conference

BY TIM SHENK

Mennonite Central Committee
DUBLIN, IRELAND

Last year, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) helped Lebanese optician Raed Moked visit North America to tell the story of his five-year-old son Ahmad, who was killed by a cluster bomb in 1999.

Last month, Moked was one of many people who travelled to Dublin to share their tragic experiences with cluster bombs at a conference where more than a hundred nations signed a commitment to ban the weapons. "We got a strong treaty, and it's a big step," Moked said after the ban was signed. "My son [who was killed by a cluster bomb], he rests now in his grave because we got a treaty."

Longtime peace advocate Titus Peachey, who also attended the conference, said he is both amazed and pleased that 111 countries, including Canada, formally agreed to adopt a ban on cluster bombs.

Peachey, director of peace education for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S., said that the ban is a great step towards ending the use of a weapon that kills civilians in former war zones. "After working at this for 28 years, to actually be at a place where governments are ready to ban these things is really amazing," Peachey said of the Dublin gathering.

However, many nations that use cluster bombs did not agree to the ban, including the U.S., Russia, China and Israel. Peachey said that the U.S. did not even send a representative to the conference.

Cluster bombs are aerial weapons that release up to several hundred "mini-bombs" over a wide area. Peachey and other advocates have long called for a ban on cluster bombs because they kill indiscriminately. In many cases, the "mini-bombs" fail to explode on impact and are accidentally

PHOTO BY MELISSA ENGLE



Titus Peachey, director of peace education for Mennonite Central Committee U.S., holds the head of a garden hoe that struck a cluster bomb in Laos, killing a mother of 11 children. Peachey attended a recent conference that led to an international ban on cluster bombs.

and other former war zones, Peachey said. When Peachey and his wife returned to the U.S., they brought back the broken head of a garden hoe, a simple tool that had detonated a "mini-bomb" in the soil, killing a mother of 11 children.

"I always felt at that time that we had a very special responsibility to do something about this because . . . as Mennonites, we are committed to Christ's way of peace and nonviolence," Peachey said.

In 2003, MCC helped found the Cluster Munitions Coalition, an international partnership of humanitarian organizations that has played a key role in advocating for the ban, according to Peachey. ☘

detonated by civilians years later.

In the decades since they were dropped, the unexploded bombs have continued to kill and maim many people in rural Laos

Sew far, sew good

Spanish and sewing classes link B.C. and El Salvador communities

BY AMY DUECKMAN

B.C. Correspondent
ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

Every Monday night when a church class in British Columbia counts *uno, dos, tres*, it adds up to money for residents of a town thousands of kilometres away.

The Spanish students are members and friends of Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford. The beneficiaries are young girls learning to sew in Uluazapa, El Salvador. The common bond

former village and found it through a sewing machine project.

The idea started when Velasquez returned home to visit family in 2006 and talked to a former classmate, Anna Maria, who mentioned the need for a local facility for teaching girls to sew. She said she would teach the classes if she had the resources. Velasquez, in turn, said he would pray about the matter.

Meanwhile, members of Emmanuel had been seeking a project to partner with in the developing world. When he mentioned the need in Uluazapa, the church's Missions, Peace and Justice Committee promised him \$2,000 in seed money, with the understanding that he would have to

The classes have a decidedly Christian atmosphere, opening every day with devotions and with Christian music playing during work hours.

is Carlos Balmore Velasquez, a member of Emmanuel originally from Uluazapa, who sought a way to help residents of his

raise the rest of the \$10,000 needed.

Even this amount was not an insurmountable obstacle. At the church annual

meeting earlier this year, Velasquez presented the need and his vision to the congregation. "The Lord is so amazing," recalls Velasquez. "I explained what I was trying to accomplish and by the end of the meeting I had \$11,000. I also got funds from other friends. It was something the Lord wanted us to do."

Velasquez went down to El Salvador in February to help start the building project. Local labourers completed construction in 16 days. The funds from Canada helped purchase 14 sewing machines and supplies,

PHOTO BY CARLOS BALMORE VELASQUEZ



Sixteen teenage girls are learning to sew in El Salvador as part of an initiative by Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford, B.C.

chairs, a computer and updated electrical power.

Currently, 16 teenage girls are learning to sew from Anna Maria. Since the girls are not attending school, the hope is for them to learn a marketable trade to support themselves. The classes have a decidedly Christian atmosphere, opening every day with devotions and with Christian music playing during work hours.

Emmanuel is now continuing the connection to Uluazapa through weekly Spanish classes. Several church members had expressed a desire to learn Spanish, and Velasquez decided he could volunteer his time to teach them on Monday nights. Rather than charge the students, he decided to ask for donations to support the sewing classes.

Velasquez says he is "happy and excited" about the opportunities he has to help others through this project, connecting learners in his country of origin with learners in his adopted one. "I like helping people," he says. "Anything is possible with the Lord if you have the will to do it." ❧

Happy 60th

Christian leaders from around the world declare the need for a just peace in the Middle East on Israel's 60th anniversary

BY AARON EPP

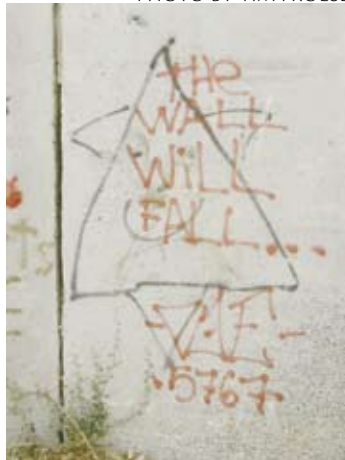
National Correspondent
JERUSALEM/CAIRO

Representatives from Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) were among a group of more than 150 Christian leaders who signed a declaration calling for a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The declaration was published in the letters section of *The Independent*, a popular British newspaper, on May 8, the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel.

The declaration recognizes that, while millions of Israelis and Jews around the world joyfully mark the occasion, millions of Palestinians mourn six decades since more than 700,000 of them were uprooted from their homes and forbidden from returning.

"For them, this day is not just about the remembrance of a past catastrophic dispossession, dispersal, and loss," the declaration reads, "it is also a reminder that their struggle for self-determination and

PHOTO BY TIM FROESE



The "security wall" separating Israelis from Palestinians in the West Bank is a bone of contention between the two groups that will have to be addressed if there is to be a just peace for all in the region.

restitution is ongoing"

It acknowledges that many in the church have been deaf to the cries of the Palestinian people, and that acknowledging and respecting the histories of both groups is not sufficient. It urges "all those working for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine to consider that any lasting solution must be built on the foundation of justice, which is rooted in the very character of God."

Ben White and Philip Rizk, the two journalists who created the declaration, relied on their friends and word-of-mouth to spread the declaration. Signatories include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, author Brian McLaren, theologian Walter Brueggemann, Youth With a Mission chair Lynn Green, and a variety of professors, authors, priests and pastors hailing from Britain, Ireland, France, the U.S., Australia, South Africa and Canada. Denominations

For discussion

1. The provincial Women in Mission program disbanded in B.C. last year and now also in Manitoba ("End of an era," page 19). What programs in your congregation or area church are struggling to get enough volunteers or have closed? What were the reasons?
2. In the Manitoba Women in Mission story ("End of an era," page 19), Justina Heese is quoted as saying, "Now men and women are co-opted for all positions in the church. Women don't have the energy to run a parallel program anymore." Have women's groups outlived their usefulness? Will there be dedicated women like Anna Neufeld and Elsa Klassen ("Returning the favour," page 28) in another generation?
3. Often new programs grow out of connections in the congregation, such as the El Salvador sewing project supported by Emmanuel Mennonite ("Sew far, sew good," page 21). What makes a new church project exciting and well supported?
4. Do we tend to create so many new projects and programs that we try to do too much?

represented included Anglicans, Baptists, Catholics, Pentecostals, Presbyterians and Mennonites.

MCC International executive director Arli Klassen says she signed the declaration because it is a Christian voice that encourages peacemaking: "It's the voice of the churches, and MCC continues to work through and with the churches."

Dave Bergen, executive secretary of Christian Formation, was one of four signatories from MC Canada. He says executive staff felt the declaration was an important statement, adding, "It would be great if something like this could be the catalyst toward a future that would involve a just way of living for all the peoples in Israel/Palestine."

White, who specializes in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has made several trips to the area since 2003, says, "There's something missing from the way a lot of Christians are approaching this conflict. I believe the situation there is going to change for the better, but it will only do so with individual people working together to do their part." ❧

Mennonites join opposition to deportation of U.S. soldier

BY AARON EPP
National Correspondent
TORONTO

The first deportation order has been issued against a U.S. war resister in Canada. Corey Glass, a sergeant in the American armed forces, has been told to leave the country by July 10 or face removal by authorities.

"I don't think it's fair that I should be returned to the United States to face unjust punishment for doing what I felt morally obligated to do," Glass said during a press conference on May 21, the day he received the decision from the Canadian Department of Immigration.

Glass has lived and worked in Toronto since the summer of 2006. He joined the National Guard in 2002, more interested in defending people and doing humanitarian work than fighting on foreign shores. He said he was told he would only see combat if foreign troops occupied the U.S., and he "had no conception" that he would ever be deployed overseas. In 2005, however, he was sent to Iraq.

"Through what I saw, I realized innocent people were being killed unjustly," Glass said. When he returned home on leave, he informed his superiors he would not be returning to duty. After learning desertion is punishable by death, he moved to Toronto, where he has lived self-sufficiently ever since.

On June 3, the House of Commons voted 137-110 in favour of a Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration report.

The report includes a motion that protects conscientious objectors from any country in the world connected to any war that is illegal by international standards; it also asks the government to implement a program to allow conscientious objectors who have refused or left military service "related to a war not sanctioned by the United Nations" and who do not have a criminal record, to apply for permanent resident status and to remain in Canada along with their immediate family members. The motion also asks that the government immediately cease any removal or deportation actions that may have already commenced.

If the motion becomes legally binding, it will be "a global first," said Jane Orion Smith, general secretary of Canadian Friends Service Committee, the service arm of the Quakers. Smith called the decision to deport Glass "a step backwards" for Canada.

The government is "not recognizing rights of conscience that are guaranteed under international laws, and our own constitution, let alone the right to asylum that soldiers have and are entitled to," Smith said, adding that although U.S. soldiers sign up voluntarily, international law recognizes that the conscience is something that can develop over time.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada backs the War Resisters Support Campaign. The organization is inviting Canadian Mennonites to contact government representatives and urge them to keep the wishes of Parliament, said Esther Epp-Tiessen, coordinator of MCC Canada's peace and justice program. Otherwise, Glass won't be the only conscientious objector deported.

"That's the urgent thing at this point," according to Epp-Tiessen. "We're asking Mennonites to remember that [they] have benefited tremendously from governmental provisions for conscientious objectors [in the past]. We're asking that that benefit be extended to others." ❧



Corey Glass speaks at a press conference after being told by the Department of Immigration that he has to leave Canada.

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Kitchener 519.576.7220	Mount Forest 519.509.6728	Waterloo 519.746.1770



**Mennonite Central Committee
British Columbia**

Mennonite Central Committee BC invites applicants for the following positions

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a church based international relief, development and peace agency that seeks

to demonstrate God's love by serving among people suffering from poverty, conflict and natural disasters. In British Columbia we support international relief and development efforts by sending funds, personnel and material aid, and we also have local programs that assist people in need here in BC. Qualified candidates for the following positions need to share the mission and beliefs of MCC as well as the specific qualifications for the position.

Please check the website www.mcc.org/bc or call for a detailed job posting on these and other positions. MCC values diversity and invites all qualified candidates to apply.

Finance and Administration Director

The Director of Finance and Administration is a full-time position that reports to the Executive Director with responsibilities for planning, organizing, directing and reporting for all accounting functions. This includes the supervision of accounting staff and ensuring compliance with MCC policies, government regulations and generally accepted accounting principles. This position is also responsible for administrative functions including the management of office equipment, computer information systems, buildings, insurance and administrative staff. This is a full-time salaried position based in Abbotsford.

Assistant Accountant

The Assistant Accountant is responsible to the Director of Finance and Administration and is responsible for specific accounting tasks within the department. In addition to overseeing accounts payable and receivable, this position will also have responsibilities related to payroll, benefits, vacation records, supporting the year end audit, record keeping, and recording Thrift Shop activity. Several years of accounting experience and a related degree are required, payroll training and several years toward a CGA or CMA preferred. Ability to provide IT problem-solving support for office staff is an asset.

Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant plays an important role in a variety of key areas. This includes supporting the human resource department, organizing the resource library, responding to general inquiries, taking minutes at meetings, record keeping, filing, purchasing supplies, reception relief, and assisting with meetings and conferences. The administrative assistant works closely with management in Administration and Human Resources. This is a full-time salaried position based in Abbotsford.

Provincial Thrift Shop Coordinator

Our 9 Thrift Shops are staffed primarily by a dedicated group of almost 1,000 volunteers who generate approximately \$1.5 million toward the ministry of MCC by recycling, repairing and selling donated clothing and furniture. The Provincial Coordinator brings leadership to the Thrift Shop network by acting as a resource and working collaboratively with Thrift Shop Managers and Committees in the ongoing development of Thrift Shop best practices. This includes strategic planning and budgeting, marketing and promotion, display and merchandising, hiring and training staff, policy development, volunteer recruitment, operations, safety, and expansion. This is a full-time salaried position based in Abbotsford.

Thrift Shop Manager - Furniture and More and Kelowna MCC Thrift Shop

The Manager leads a small staff and over 60 volunteers in the daily Thrift Shop operations. This includes supervising, empowering and encouraging staff and volunteers, as well as working under the general direction of the Thrift Shop Committee. The specific duties include: budgeting, annual planning, promotional, assisting customers, organizing displays, recruiting and training volunteers and other duties to keep the shop running smoothly. These are full-time salaried positions based in Abbotsford and Kelowna.

To apply please send a cover letter and resume to:

Attention: Marie Reimer, Human Resource Director (confidential)
MCC BC, Box 2038, 31414 Marshall Rd., Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 3T8
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Interviews will start in July 2008 and will continue until qualified candidates are selected. All applicants are appreciated, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Conrad Grebel University College

Master of Theological Studies Graduates Include Pastors and Scholars

Zohreh Abdekhodaie returned to her home in Iran where she continues to study how religion can provide a framework for people to reclaim their rights. Thesis: *Letty M. Russell: Insights and Challenges of Christian Feminism*

Margaret Anne Champion studied toward her MTS while serving in congregations and with Mennonite Church Canada. Since 2004, she has been pastor and spiritual guide for “soulspace” in Stratford.

During her studies **Jean Lehn Epp** pastored at Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship and is now Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church.

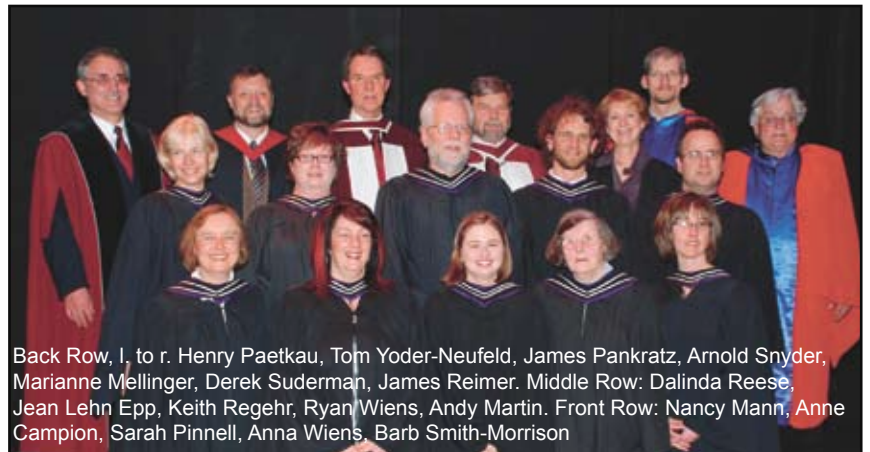
After a year of full-time study, **Nancy Elizabeth Wright Mann** studied part time while working in her current role as Director of Pastoral Care at Nithview Community for seniors in New Hamburg.

Andy Martin has enrolled in full-time Doctor of Theology studies at Toronto School of Theology and is a counsellor at Woolwich Counselling Centre. Thesis: *Creating a Timeless Tradition: The Effects of Fundamentalism on the Conservative Mennonite Movement*

Barb Smith-Morrison worked in pastoral roles at Preston Mennonite Church and now at St Jacob’s Mennonite Church while studying part-time. She is currently enrolled in studies in Spiritual Direction at Eastern Mennonite University.

After two years of full-time study, **Sungyoul Park** and his wife have returned to South Korea, where he works as a pastor.

In April, Grebel celebrated the **20th anniversary** of the Master of Theological Studies program and honoured thirteen graduates, the **largest-ever graduating class**.



Back Row, l. to r. Henry Paetkau, Tom Yoder-Neufeld, James Pankratz, Arnold Snyder, Marianne Mellinger, Derek Suderman, James Reimer. Middle Row: Dalinda Reese, Jean Lehn Epp, Keith Regehr, Ryan Wiens, Andy Martin. Front Row: Nancy Mann, Anne Champion, Sarah Pinnell, Anna Wiens, Barb Smith-Morrison

There have been a total of 70 MTS graduates in the past twenty years. Of these, **half are in pastoral ministry**, one-quarter have gone on to **doctoral studies** and one-quarter are engaged in ministry through a variety of **professions**.



Pastor Sungyoul Parks returned to South Korea after completing MTS degree at Conrad Grebel.

At Grebel, we have been encouraged to believe that moving toward our deepest questions with open hearts and minds will strengthen faith, not diminish it.

Nancy Mann
MTS Valedictorian



Master of Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College

- 39 students enrolled in the program in 2007/08, ranging in age from 22 to 73
- 85% of students are from Mennonite churches. Other students come from Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, United and Christian Reformed churches, and other faiths
- 50% of students are involved in pastoral ministry studies
- As part of the University of Waterloo, MTS students can take graduate level courses at UW and have access to facilities, including libraries
- Students can enrich their program with courses at partner schools (Toronto School of Theology, McMaster Divinity School, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary)
- Students can integrate MTS program with degrees at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary



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Free tuition scholarships to all full-time students. Students may apply for health insurance and graduate housing.

Students are eligible for Canadian and provincial graduate scholarships. Grebel provides more than \$30,000 annually for graduate student financial aid.



Sarah Pinnell plans to enter further graduate studies in a ThM in Homiletics at either the Toronto School of Theology or Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

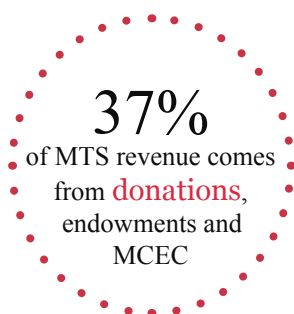
Dalinda Reese, a medical doctor, also completed a medical acupuncture course and started a Fellowship Program in Integrative Medicine.

Lori Guenther Reesor studied while pastoring and parenting in Canada and Australia. Thesis: *Theology and Fundraising: How does current Canadian Mennonite praxis compare to Paul's collection for Jerusalem?*

Keith Regehr studied while teaching Peace and Conflict Studies and maintaining a conflict resolution practice. Thesis: *Judgment and Forgiveness: Restorative Justice Practice and the Recovery of Theological Memory*

Anna Wiens has studied theology at various graduate schools since 1982. She has also been a teacher, completed a graduate degree in Library Sciences, and worked as a librarian at the University of Asmara in Eritrea.

Ryan Wiens simultaneously completed an MTS degree and a Master of Social Work (WLU). He plans to work as a counselor in the area of mental health and/or addictions. Thesis: *The Doctrine of the Imago Dei in the Soteriology of Julian of Norwich*



For more information or to register for the
Master of Theological Studies program at Grebel,
contact Jim Pankratz, Academic Dean/GTS Director
519-885-0220 ext. 24265 or gts.uwaterloo.ca

GOD AT WORK IN US

Returning the favour

Aging sisters make quilts for MCC Relief Sale as a way to say thanks for the relief packages they received many years ago

BY GLADYS TERICHOW
Mennonite Central Committee
WINNIPEG

Many new mothers and grandmothers know that the best place to buy handmade baby quilts is at the annual Winnipeg MCC Festival and Relief Sale. What they probably don't know is that most of the baby quilts are quilted by two sisters who live in the Donwood Manor complex for elderly people in the city.

For more than 20 years, Anna Neufeld, 87, and her younger sister, Elsa Klassen, 85, have made about 30 baby quilts a year for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

'This year we will have lived in Canada 60 years. We have so much now and we want to help poor people in this world.' (Elsa Klassen)

"We quilt baby quilts because we have only enough space for a small quilting frame," explains Neufeld.

In addition to quilting in their home, the sisters, who have both lost their husbands, join other quilters every Thursday in the MCC material resources centre in Winnipeg to make larger quilts for the annual sale that raises funds for MCC projects. The women enjoy the social elements of quilting and the satisfaction of knowing that the sale of their handiwork brings smiles of joy and happiness to those who buy them and those who receive them as gifts. But as they quilt they also reflect on how money raised from the sale of the quilts brings joy and happiness to people experiencing poverty and oppression.

Quilting is more than a rewarding hobby for Winnipeg sisters Anna Neufeld and Elsa Klassen. They were recipients of Mennonite Central Committee assistance when they were children and young adults, and now help MCC by making quilts that are sold at the annual Winnipeg MCC Festival and Relief Sale.

"We were once recipients of MCC assistance and now we can do something for MCC," says Klassen. "We are doing something for MCC. It is not much, but we are doing a little bit to help poor people in the world."

The sisters remember their parents talking about the food assistance they received from MCC in the 1920s when they were living in the Soviet Union. They also remember the 1932-33 famine which claimed the lives of millions of people.

"We were poor as church mice," recalls Neufeld. "I was the oldest of three children. We ate sugar beets and millet; that is what we ate once a day. We cooked it and could hardly wait for the next meal. In the evening we talked about food. We were hungry all the time."

Their father died from pneumonia in

1933, a death the women feel could have been prevented if their father had had more clothes, food and money for medicine.

In 1941, when Germany declared war on the Soviet Union, their brother Heinz was shipped to a Soviet work camp at the age of 16.

"We never heard from him again," says Klassen.

Years later, the sisters learned that their brother had died in the camp at the age of 24.

Neufeld was married in 1942. The following year the newlywed couple and their infant daughter, along with Klassen and the women's mother, Sarah Regier, escaped from the Soviet Union. They travelled by horse and buggy to the Polish border, a

MCC PHOTO BY ALISON RALPH



gruelling trip that took about three months. They received food and shelter through a network of organizations that were set up to help people fleeing the country.

The five lived in Poland for a year and then found refuge in Germany, where they spent several years in the Gronau refugee camp. During their stay in Germany they received MCC care packages with canned meat and blankets.

In 1948 they immigrated to Canada. Three years later, they became Canadian citizens.

"That was a day to celebrate," recalls Neufeld.

When the MCC thrift shop opened on Sargent Avenue in Winnipeg in 1973 both women started working there one day a week. Neufeld has been able to maintain this commitment since the store opened, but several years ago Klassen quit working in the shop on a regular basis due to health concerns.

"This year we will have lived in Canada 60 years," says Klassen. "We have so much now and we want to help poor people in this world."

Adds her sister, "We enjoy doing this. What should we do at home? This is good for MCC and it is good for us too." ❧

Meeting Needs Together



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Calendar

British Columbia

July 13: Picnic celebrating 35 years of MCC thrift shops in B.C., King Road MB Church. For more information contact MCC B.C. at 604-850-6639.

July 14-18: MCC camping week to visit with Aboriginal neighbours on Vancouver Island. For details contact Darryl Klassen at abneighbours@mccbcc.com or call 1-888-622-6337 or 604-850-6639.

Sept. 19-20: MCC festival auction and sale at Tradex, Abbotsford.

Sept. 27: Prince George Mennonite Fall Fair at the Civic Centre in Prince George.

Alberta

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

Oct. 11-12: Coaldale Mennonite Church 80th anniversary celebration. For more information, call 403-345-3363.

Saskatchewan

July 20: Farewell for Bruno Baerg, MCC Saskatchewan director at Barn Playhouse, 3 p.m.

July 26: Shekinah Adventure Challenge.

August 23-25: Green Trek: A Christian Call to Creation Care. Contact MC Saskatchewan office.

October 19-21: Canadian Mennonite Health Assembly conference in Saskatoon.

Manitoba

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 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.

Sept. 6: Morris MCC Auction and Relief Sale.

Sept. 7: MCC Alumni barbecue.

Sept. 26-27: Brandon MCC Relief Sale

Oct. 3-5: Work weekend at Camp Moose Lake.

Oct. 3-5: "Take and Eat: A Conference on Food and Creation Care," hosted by Providence College, CMU and A Rocha Canada at Providence College. For information or to register visit www.prov.ca or e-mail takeandeat@prov.ca.

Oct. 17-19: Scrapbooking retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

Oct. 25: Workday at Camp Koinonia.

Oct. 31-Nov. 2: Quilting/scrapbooking retreats at Camp Koinonia.

Oct. 31-Nov. 2: Quilting Retreat I at Camp Moose Lake.

Ontario

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.

Aug. 8-9: Schürch Family Association reunion at Selkirk. For more information, contact Betty Sherk at bsherk@interlog.com or 416-431-0650.

Aug. 9: Cornstock music festival at Willowgrove, 11737 McCowan Rd., Stouffville, sponsored by MCC Ontario, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Visit mcc.org/Ontario/cornstalk to see the list of participating bands or to order tickets.

Aug. 10: Reesor picnic at Backus Mill Conservation Park, Port Rowan. Worship at 11 a.m. with lunch and social time to follow.

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.

U.S.A.

July 24-27: Bridgefolk summer conference, "Holiness the Road: Saints and the spirituality that sustains them," to discuss Catholic and Mennonite understandings of holiness and sanctity at Saint John's Abby, Collegeville, Minn. Visit bridgefolk.net for more information.

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

Aug. 7-9: Mennonite Graduate Student Conference: The Church at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., sponsored by Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre. For information or to register, visit grebel.uwaterloo.ca/tmtc.

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

Conference to explore food production, processing and consumption as discipleship

WINNIPEG—"Take and Eat: A conference on food and creation care" will take place from Oct. 3-5 at Providence College. Canadian Mennonite University, A Rocha Canada and Providence College are partnering together to offer participants the opportunity to explore how growing, processing and eating food are practical expressions of Christian discipleship, and can bring glory to God by supporting the care of the creation and the care of people. Workshops on such topics as organic food in Manitoba, conservation, agriculture, farming in developing countries, food banks and urban community gardens, are being considered. The emphasis of the conference is open dialogue, not a debate about farming practices. In addition to workshops, several field trips are in the works. The C.P. Loewen Family Foundation is a significant sponsor of the event. For more information or to register, visit prov.ca or e-mail takeandeat@prov.ca.

—BY EVELYN REMPEL PETKAU

Day campers will learn about 'friends around the world'

WINNIPEG—Camps with Meaning is introducing a new component to its day camp programming this summer. The "Friends Around the World" program will introduce campers to other cultures. Through a variety of camper-friendly activities, participants will experience the way people from various cultures live. African and aboriginal cultures are being featured this year. It is hoped that campers will take what they have learned and use it to build bridges with others in an increasingly global world. Activities may include games, preparing food, making crafts and hearing stories. Camp Assiniboia's day camp for students in Grades 1 to 6 runs during the month of July.

—Mennonite Church Manitoba Release

/// Briefly noted

Lancaster bishops may ordain women

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.—On May 16, the Lancaster Mennonite Conference Board of Bishops approved a credentialing policy that will allow for the ordination of women. The new policy will lodge all Lancaster credentialing decisions with the Board of Bishops and a recently formed Conference Credentialing Commission. Lancaster credentialed leaders had rejected a resolution to ordain women in a January 2007 vote. After the resolution was not passed, Linford King, bishop-overseer for Lancaster City District, ordained Elizabeth Nissley, associate pastor of James Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster, on June 24 of last year. King then ordained Janet Breneman, pastor of Laurel Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster, on Jan. 20. Two days before Breneman's ordination, King received a letter from the executive committee of the Lancaster Conference Board of Bishops warning of further action if he ordained Breneman, although no further disciplinary action was ever taken. In keeping with a 2006 Bishop Board recommendation, the new policy stipulates that the role of bishop and similar conference oversight roles will continue to be reserved for men.

—BY ANNA GROFF

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/// Classifieds

Announcements

HIVELY AVENUE MENNONITE CHURCH ANNIVERSARY— If you ever were a part of HAMC, Elkhart, Ind., please join us as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, Oct. 4-5. For more information, visit www.mysite.verizon.net/hivelymenno. RSVP to 574-294-3423 or hivelymenno@verizon.net.

Parent Support Group: Announcing a bi-monthly support group for Mennonite parents of GLBT persons in Southwestern Ontario. We provide confidential support, resources and opportunities for dialogue in the Spirit of Christ. For more information please contact the following: rvfast@rogers.com or pmsnyderangel@rogers.com.

For Rent

Short Term Rental: Well kept and loved 4 bdrm family home for rent in Kitchener while our family is away on a teaching term Sept 08 to end April 09. Stanley Park area. No smoking. No pets. Fenced yard. Furnished. Ideal for young family or visiting professional. Looking for clean, responsible, non-smoking tenants who will care for our home. Contact: 519-742-6503 or lora@imba.com.

Looking for basement suite in south Winnipeg or St. Vital area. Call 204-299-9439 (corrected phone number).

Employment Opportunities

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.

Lendrum MB Church invites applications for a full-time **SENIOR PASTOR**. Lendrum is a well-established church in Edmonton, Alta., with an average attendance of 220 people. We are a diverse, inter-generational congregation.

We are looking for a pastor who:

- is committed to an Anabaptist theology and practice
- has a seminary and/or university education
- supports the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith and the Mennonite Brethren church polity
- welcomes dialogue reflecting a diversity of opinions

Salary is according to the MB conference guidelines along with generous benefits. For further information, or to apply, please call 780-434-4268 or e-mail to Pastoral Search Committee at lmbc@compusmart.ab.ca. All communication and applications will be handled confidentially.



Mennonite Church Canada invites applications for the position of **DIRECTOR OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**.

Mennonite Church Canada is a dynamic and exciting place to work and serve, where the team players are enthusiastic, energetic and strive to put their faith into practice. This position, located in Winnipeg, participates in the mandate given to Support Services to support Christian Formation and Christian Witness with administrative services to enable these programs of the church to do their work efficiently and effectively.

The successful candidate will develop and maintain positive relationships with individual and congregational donors, resulting in financial support for the ministries of Mennonite Church Canada. Frequent travel within Canada is required. Duties commence in late summer 2008.

All staff are expected to exhibit a personal faith commitment to Christ as Saviour and Lord, uphold the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, and the vision of Mennonite Church Canada as a missional church. For a list of qualifications and responsibilities for this position, see the job description posted at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/getinvolved/jobs/>.

A letter of intent and a resume, or any inquiries or nominations, can be directed to Kirsten Schroeder, Director, Human Resources at kschroeder@mennonitechurch.ca, Mennonite Church Canada, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4 (ph. 204-888-6781; toll-free 1-866-888-6785). Application processing will begin July 4.

Upcoming Advertising Dates

Issue Date	Ads Due
July 28	July 15
Aug. 18	Aug. 5
Sept. 1	Aug. 19

Advertising Information

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Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church

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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

PASTOR NEEDED!

Petitcodiac Mennonite Church, N.B., for October 2008

A small, rural, friendly congregation invites applications for a **FULL-TIME PASTOR**, who can relate to our Mission of seeking to follow Jesus as we "Practice Christ-like living, guided by Mennonite theology, within a welcoming community of believers." Although a small congregation of 40, we support many outreach activities, including a local thrift store and food bank, MDS, Ten Thousand Villages, our sister church in Colombia *La Iglesia Menonita de Sinai*, to name a few. We are a member of Mennonite Church Canada and follow MCEC salary guidelines. For an overview of our church family activities, congregational information and a job description, please visit <http://www.petitcodiacmennonitechurch.org>

Please direct applications and enquiries to:
Muriel Bechtel, Conference Minister
Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
4489 King St. East
Kitchener, ON N2P 2G2
muriel@mcec.ca Tel: 1-800-206-9356

Lead Conference Minister, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference:

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference seeks applicants and nominations for **LEAD CONFERENCE MINISTER** (LCM). Responsibilities and qualifications are described on the conference website: <http://im.mennonite.net>.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest and a completed Ministerial Leadership Information form (available through the Mennonite Church USA website: <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/MLI/default.asp>) to Search Committee, c/o Don Garber, 65975 State Road 15, Goshen, IN 46526. The successful applicant will be ordained or able to be ordained, and have pastoral or other leadership experience. Remuneration will be commensurate for the level of responsibility and experience. Candidates from under-represented racial/ethnic groups and women are encouraged to apply. Send nominations to the above address or complete a nomination form online: www.logiforms.com/formdata/user_forms/18609_3637576/61901/.

Applications will be reviewed beginning July 15. The position will remain open until filled. Start date is negotiable, although the goal is for this person to begin by Jan. 1, 2009. Direct questions to Don Garber: 574-533-0121 or donwg@juno.com.



DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: Mennonite Heritage Village is seeking a half-time fund-raising professional to plan and implement an immediate and long-term strategy to meet various funding goals. Details available upon request. Send resume to: President - Mennonite Heritage Village, 231 PTH12N, Steinbach, MB R5G 1T8, or president@mhv.ca.

FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Trinity Mennonite Church is located in the rolling foothills of the Rocky Mountains between Calgary and Okotoks, Alta. We are a growing congregation with a current membership of 104 believers. The successful candidate will profess an Anabaptist Mennonite faith and willingness to learn and grow under the mentorship of the Lead Pastor and through congregationally supported formal education opportunities. We are active members of MC Canada and MC Alberta. Please apply to:

Associate Pastoral Search Committee,
C/O Search Committee Chair
PO Box 48082, Midlake PO
Calgary, AB T2X 3C7

<http://trinity.mennonitechurch.ab.ca/>
Email: Search@Trinity.MennoniteChurch.ab.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.

Church snapshots

PHOTO BY KRISTY LETKEMAN



No, this photograph is not a holdover from this past winter's snow camp. It was, in fact, taken during the May 10 work day at Camp Valaqua, Water Valley, Alta. In spite of more than a half-metre of unexpected wet snow the day before, more than 30 volunteers came to prepare Valaqua for this summer's camping ministry. Downed trees and other storm debris were cleared, and buildings were made ready for campers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE BENDER



Canadian Mennonite is proving to be a useful English learning tool for students at Chongqing Medical University in China. Mennonite Church Canada Witness worker Julie Bender, centre, who teaches English speaking and listening to second-year medical majors, recently used the March 3 issue (pictured) as part of a unit on conflict resolution and forgiveness. She read the story of Bishop Benedict Miller's forgiveness of moonshiners who stole his corn ("Now there was a real religious man," page 13), and then gave students a listening comprehension test. The cover story, "Standing in solidarity with Kenya," proved helpful for teaching the concept of solidarity. In a future class, Bender plans to use Edwin Friesen's "How many balls are enough?" column in the same issue to talk about consumerism.

Walter Martens was thanked by the Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite congregations in Glenbush, Rabbit Lake and Mayfair, Sask., for his 45 years of ministry among them. He was elected as a lay minister in 1962, and except for a year in the late 1960s, when he was interim pastor at North Battleford (Sask.) Mennonite Church, he has served continuously as part of the Hoffnungsfelder ministry team. The celebration took place in the Glenbush church. The congregations gave Martens an engraved painting and his wife Rosella a bouquet of flowers. Martens declared that, over all the years, his aim had been to point people to the Jesus Christ he loved and served.

PHOTO BY MARLENE MARTENS

