

# CANADIAN METHODIST MINIONITE

November 30, 2009

Volume 13 Number 23



## Giving and receiving:

Come explore the spirituality of service pg. 4

### inside

Jesus' Advent changed everything 13

Keep disaster relief a priority 15

Focus on Mission and Service 24

## EDITORIAL

# The (un)friendliness factor

DICK BENNER  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

The caller's voice was full of sadness. Yes, he was making a generous credit card contribution to *Canadian Mennonite*, but his heart was heavy about something else.

After spending a lifetime as a member of the Mennonite church, he and his wife were going to have to find another place to worship. It wasn't about theology. He was a staunch, practising Anabaptist. It wasn't primarily about the leadership. The pastor had paid them more than one visit since they moved into the community more than a year ago.

It was about the unwelcoming congregation, especially, he felt, because he had reached his "three score and ten." "I definitely felt sidelined from the beginning," he said with some emotion. "I like to fish, but no one has taken the time to get to know me well enough to discover that."

His wife was going for surgery and no one particularly knew, or cared, he thought.

We talked on for a while. It was a painful conversation. From my own experience, I could empathize.

Social networks are hard to crack. Favourite, long-standing families who form the power structure of a congregation are often unaware of their clanishness, their tendency to feel the most comfortable with their own, their body

language too-often telling you that you are the "other" and it just might take some time to prove yourself worthy of gaining access to the inner circle.

It is such a paradox. Look at all the witness and mission efforts we pour our hearts and souls into around the world. Our relief and service agency, Mennonite Central Committee, is the envy of other communions and of many non-governmental organizations for the skillful ways in which we partner with nationals to address injustice, poverty and racism. These same nationals come to our assemblies with dramatic stories of how we have showed compassion compared to no other. My saddened friend suggests we take another look at the First Commandment, as given by Jesus: "to love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and your neighbour as yourself." He suggests the English word is inadequate; the Spanish word *proxima*—the one nearest to you—conveys it much better.

"Visitors (or newcomers) often possess a special kind of 'radar,'" writes Joan Hershey in her little book, *The First Thirty Seconds*. "They have the uncanny ability to detect phoniness and indifference if that is at all reflected in the people they encounter. Those first few seconds shape their continuing impression of the congregation."

Take some time this week to single

out the newcomers in your congregation and invite them out for coffee or tea sometime during the week. Get to know them as friends. Ask them to tell their life story, the joys and sorrows of their journey. Invite them into your book club. Tell them where to find a good mechanic, a hairdresser or favourite restaurant.

Pastors, take some time to spend one intentional hour with that newcomer with an eye towards taking inventory of his/her special gifts for the "building up of the body."

Fred Bernhard, a contributor to *The First Thirty Seconds*, built his congregation from 50 to 600 over an 18-year period by doing just that. He spent an hour with each newcomer with the precise purpose of entering that person's gift into a congregational database, information that was used to "equip the saints" on an ongoing basis.

## Meet your board member

Joanna Reesor-McDowell of Stouffville, Ont., represents Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service on our 12-member board.

Mother of two adult sons, Martin and Allan, she and her husband Andrew are members of Hagerman Mennonite Church in Markham. Her current focus is on volunteer work, which gives her flexibility and time to travel with Andrew in his role as moderator of Mennonite Church Canada. This past summer they were enriched by attending together the Mennonite Church Canada assembly in Saskatoon, Sask., MC USA meetings in Columbus, Ohio, and Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay. You can e-mail her at [jrm@parkviewhome.ca](mailto:jrm@parkviewhome.ca) or call 905-642-0211.



## ABOUT THE COVER:

The MDS logo hangs prominently from scaffolding at Rosthern Junior College (RJC). Twenty-six RJC students travelled to Mississippi in the spring to rebuild the home of Billy Morgan, a Hurricane Katrina survivor. Our Focus on Mission and Service section begins on page 24.

PHOTO: JESSICA BUHLER, FOR CANADIAN MENNONITE

Circulation: Please contact Lisa Jacky toll-free at 1-800-378-2524 ext. 221 or by e-mail at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org) for subscriptions and address changes. Subscriptions can also be ordered at our web site. We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program towards our mailing costs. ISSN 1480-042X

Canada

# CANADIAN MENNONITE

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40063104 REGISTRATION NO. 09613

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ITEMS TO CANADIAN MENNONITE

490 DUTTON DRIVE, UNIT C5

WATERLOO ON N2L 6H7

Phone: 519-884-3810 Toll-free: 1-800-378-2524 Fax: 519-884-3331

Web site: [canadianmennonite.org](http://canadianmennonite.org)

**Please send all material to be considered for publication to:**

**General submission address:** [submit@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:submit@canadianmennonite.org)

**Readers Write:** [letters@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:letters@canadianmennonite.org)

**Milestones announcements:** [milestones@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:milestones@canadianmennonite.org)

**Obituaries:** [lisa.metzger@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:lisa.metzger@canadianmennonite.org)

**Calendar announcements:** [calendar@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:calendar@canadianmennonite.org)

Material can also be sent "Attn: Submissions/Readers Write/Milestones/Obituaries/Calendar" by postal mail or fax to our head office.

**Reprint requests:** [reprints@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:reprints@canadianmennonite.org)

**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).*

**Board of Directors (by appointing body):**

MC Canada: **John Goossen, Joon Hyoung Park, Les Klassen Hamm;**

MC B.C.: **Linda Matties, Ed Janzen;** MC Alberta: **Doris Daley Haysom;**

MC Saskatchewan: **Joe Neufeld;** MC Manitoba: **Al Friesen;**

MC Eastern Canada: **Larry Cornies;**

CMPS: **Margaret Ewen Peters, Joanna Reesor-McDowell, Tobi Thiessen**

**Board Chair:** **Larry Cornies**, [cornies@gmail.com](mailto:cornies@gmail.com), 519-854-9204

**Head Office Staff:**

**Dick Benner**, Editor/Publisher, [editor@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:editor@canadianmennonite.org)

**Ross W. Muir**, Managing Editor, [managinged@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:managinged@canadianmennonite.org)

**Barb Draper**, Editorial Assistant, [edassist@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:edassist@canadianmennonite.org)

**Dan Johnson**, Graphic Designer, [designer@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:designer@canadianmennonite.org)

**Lisa Jacky**, Circulation/Finance, [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org)

**Advertising:** **Lisa Metzger**, [advert@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:advert@canadianmennonite.org), toll-free voice mail: 1-800-378-2524 ext. 224

**Correspondents:**

**Rachel Bergen**, National Correspondent, [ca@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:ca@canadianmennonite.org), 204-885-

2565 ext. 259; **Amy Dueckman**, B.C. Correspondent, [bc@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:bc@canadianmennonite.org),

604-854-3735; **Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**, Alberta Correspondent,

[ab@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:ab@canadianmennonite.org), 780-436-3431; **Karin Fehderau**, Saskatchewan

Correspondent, [sk@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:sk@canadianmennonite.org), 306-933-4209;

**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**, Manitoba Correspondent, [mb@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:mb@canadianmennonite.org),

204-745-2208; **Dave Rogalsky**, Eastern Canada Correspondent, [ec@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:ec@canadianmennonite.org),

519-579-7258

# contents



## Come explore the spirituality of service 4

In our Focus on Mission and Service feature, Conrad Grebel University College grad **LEAH REESOR** reflects on her time spent serving in Jamaica as a peace intern. "We . . . recognize that what we have to give is not of ourselves, but is what God has first given us," she writes in this adaptation of her award-winning speech.

## Coming at peace from different directions 14

Mennonite Church Canada sits down with the Reformed Church of Canada to talk war and peace. During the symposium, **HELMUT HARDER** pronounces that 'extermination of life is always wrong.' Despite this, youths from both churches could see little difference in the two positions.

## Are we listening to the Spirit blowing? 18

**ROBERT J. SUDERMAN** leads MC Eastern Canada pastors and church leaders in an exercise designed to help them and their congregations listen to, for and with God.

## The meaning of ministry 22

Lethbridge Mennonite Church pastor **RUTH PRESTON SCHILK** and summer intern **TERRELL WIEBE** reflect on his time of service in the community and church.

## Singing for heart and mind, young and old 23

Eastern Canada correspondent **DAVE ROGALSKY** reviews *A New Heart: Songs of Faith for Small and Tall*, the latest CD by **BRYAN MOYER SUDERMAN**.



## Focus on Mission and Service 24

'A community like no other,' a reflection of time well spent serving at an MCC Thrift Centre by **GERALD SCHWARTZENTRUBER**, anchors our special advertising section. Plus, read about service assignments in Manitoba, California and Mississippi.

## Regular features:

Pontius' Puddle **6** For discussion **7** Readers write **8**

Milestones **12** Yellow Pages **28** Calendar **30** Classifieds **30**

## The (un)friendliness factor 2

**DICK BENNER**

## The last time 9

**MELISSA MILLER**

## The question of denominations 10

**ROBERT J. SUDERMAN**

## A season for gift-giving 11

**HAROLD PENNER**

## Christmas schedule

The next two issues—Dec. 21 and Jan. 11, 2010—will come at three-week intervals over Christmas and New Year's.

GIVING AND RECEIVING: FOCUS ON MISSION AND SERVICE FEATURE

# Come explore

BY LEAH REESOR

*In April 2008, Leah Reesor won the Conrad Grebel University College annual Peace Speech contest, including the \$300 first prize, for her speech about the lessons she learned through her experience as a peace intern in Jamaica. Her speech is published below in a slightly edited format.*

*I had to have faith that there was a purpose for my actions and that somewhere down the line the work of the Council for Human Rights would have an impact.*

*Give, and it will come back to you,  
Good measure, pressed down,  
Shaken together, and running over,  
Give, and it will come back to you.  
When you give, give to the Lord.*

**T**his song is sung every Sunday during the offering at Waterloo Mennonite Church in Kingston, Jamaica. During the year that I spent there with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the song came to have a lot of meaning for me as I struggled to understand what it means to give and to serve. I am using this song and my experiences in Jamaica as a starting point to explore what sustains us, as Christians, in our work for peace.

### **Something is better than nothing**

One of the first lessons I learned in Jamaica was that something is better than nothing.

In complex situations with limited resources, you cannot do the “best” thing all the time; you have to do what you can and be satisfied that you tried.

In Jamaica, I worked for the Council for Human Rights. One of our projects involved assisting Haitian

# the spirituality of service

boat people seeking refugee status in Jamaica. As a child, I lived in Haiti, where I learned to speak Haitian *Kreyòl*. I hadn't spoken *Kreyòl* since I had returned to Canada more than 10 years ago. But for these asylum-seekers who spoke limited or no English, I was the only person available who could interpret their stories and take their statements for their refugee hearings.

It was a responsibility that I struggled with for a long time. These asylum-seekers deserved a qualified, competent translator, someone who could be counted on to fully understand their stories of violence and persecution. I felt like I was in over my head. I couldn't even remember the words for "gun" or "shoot."

But there was no one else. And somehow I muddled through, asking questions and repeating things back to make sure I understood what the men and women were saying to me. My something was better than nothing. In the end, all of the asylum-seekers that I interpreted for

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEAH REESOR



*Leah Reesor, seated with guitar, was part of the worship band at Waterloo Mennonite Church in Kingston, Jamaica, during an internship there.*

were denied refugee status in Jamaica and were deported back to Haiti. I achieved nothing, but at least I could do the “something” of listening to their stories.

### **Expect to be treated like a servant**

But “something is better than nothing” doesn’t mean just any effort will do. When you give, you have to be prepared to go all the way.

Jeshana, a vivacious four-year-old, helped illustrate an important lesson in giving when I stayed with her and her family in the country for a week. The first day I was there, I helped her practise the alphabet on a piece of paper torn from my journal. After that first page she wanted more and more, and eventually I had to set a limit of one page a day, or my notebook would have been empty.

Since I had given once, she expected me to keep on giving. So often when I give I want to set up boundaries. I will give this, once, and you will appreciate it and thank me, with no expectations of anything else.

Unfortunately, that’s not how it works. My friend and fellow MCC worker, Nebyou Berhe, once said, “If you expect to serve, expect to be treated like a servant.”

If you expect to serve, expect to be treated like a servant. So often I want recognition for my hard work. I want to be thanked for going out of my way, for doing something instead of nothing. But as a Christian, that’s not why we serve. As nice as it is to be recognized and thanked for

servicing, that cannot be our motivation.

### **When pushing is enough**

We also cannot rely on seeing results as a motivation for serving. In Jamaica, a complex tangle of social, economic and historical factors has led to the current problems of violence, crime and corruption that are plaguing the country. The situation can’t change overnight. In working for an improvement in the human rights situation in Jamaica, I had to have faith that there was a purpose for my actions and that somewhere down the line the work of the Council for Human Rights would have an impact.

Another MCC worker once compared service in Jamaica to pushing a rock:

*As the story goes, a person was told by God to push a rock, a big boulder. Every*

*morning, the woman pushed that rock as hard as she could, leaning into it with all her strength. Each day she would return to the rock, determined to move it, and yet the boulder wouldn’t budge a centimetre. Finally, she couldn’t take it any longer.*

*“God,” she said, “I’ve failed. I can’t move the rock.”*

*God responded to her, “I didn’t ask you to move the rock, I only asked you to push it.”*

It’s not a particularly encouraging story. None of us likes to work without seeing any progress made. But it’s a reality that we can’t always expect to see the results of our service. And sometimes what matters is not that we actually get anywhere, but that we commit ourselves to the act of service.

### **More than a theology of service**

I came to Jamaica with a theology of service. By theology, I mean what I believe about God and God’s relationship to the world, and how I believe I should act. I was, and am, committed to following Jesus’ example of active peacebuilding, of listening to the call to free the captives and raise up the oppressed. At the Council for Human Rights, I literally did try to free the captives and raise up the

*But ‘something is better than nothing’ doesn’t mean just any effort will do. When you give, you have to be prepared to go all the way.*

oppressed.

I left Jamaica realizing that to live out a theology of service in a sustainable way, to be able to serve without burning out, I needed to go beyond theology and develop a spirituality of service. Hans Denck, an early Anabaptist leader, echoed the giving and receiving theme when he wrote that “no one can truly know Christ unless he follow him in life. And no one can truly follow Christ unless

## Pontius’ Puddle





*Leah Reesor, left, is pictured with some of her friends during her peace internship in Jamaica with the Independent Jamaican Council for Human Rights.*

he first know him.” The act of service can’t be sustained apart from the experience of a relationship with God.

Susan Claassen, in an MCC paper on the spirituality of service, writes that “a theology of service provides our foundation for action in the world, but we need the Spirit to give life to that foundation by rooting us in love and grace.” This is part of giving to the Lord: we serve, or we give, not just because we think that’s what Jesus wants us to do, but as we receive God’s love we naturally share it with others.

We also recognize that what we have to give is not of ourselves, but is what God has first given us. In Matthew 10:8, Jesus instructs his disciples: “*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons; freely you have received, freely give.*”

Freely we have received, freely we give. In this exhortation to serve, what we have to give is what we have first received from God.

With that mentality service is not draining, but energizing. Instead of a mentality that I am giving something of mine away, or that I am the one taking action, I have learned to see myself as more of a conduit—a channel—for God’s peace, for God’s desire for action in the world. A spirituality of service asks us to see ourselves not as the initiator of the

action, but as part of the process of showing God’s peace. True service is not just actions done for others, but in its fullest form is worship, praise and thanks to God who has first given to us.

In Jamaica, I learned that service is giving without holding back; it’s serving

without recognition, without thanks; it’s giving what you have, even when you feel inadequate. Service is committing to working even without being able to see results of your actions.

For an idealistic peace and conflict studies student like myself, there are so many things to be done in the world, so many places where I see the need for change, situations in our own community and in the global community where we need to actively work for peace. But to sustain ourselves, we need to ground our action and our giving in a spirituality of service, so that we’re giving as we receive, rooting ourselves in God’s peace as we strive to share peace with others. Give, and it will come back to you. When you give, give to the Lord. ❧

*After graduating from Conrad Grebel last year, Leah Reesor is currently working on a masters degree in development studies at York University in Toronto, where she attends the Jane Finch Faith Community. She represents MC Eastern Canada on the MCC Ontario board.*

*We ... recognize that what we have to give is not of ourselves, but is what God has first given us.*

### /// For discussion

1. What have been some of your service experiences? What motivated you to serve? How have you benefited or been enriched by serving others? What have been the challenges in your service experiences?
2. Leah Reesor quotes a line from a song, “Give, and it will come back to you.” Is it true that generosity results in a blessing for the giver? Is this a selfish motivation for giving? How can we encourage each other to greater generosity?
3. In reflecting on her own service experience, Reesor says that service should not be motivated by a desire for recognition or thanks. Do you agree? How idealistic is her theology of service? How does her attitude towards service compare with that of Mother Teresa?
4. Where and how do members of your congregation serve others? Is service still important in Mennonite theology? How are service opportunities different today than in earlier times?

## 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](mailto:letters@canadianmennonite.org) or by postal mail or fax, marked "Attn: Readers Write" (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.*

## ✉ MCC called to repent for anti-Israeli bias

LISA CATAFORD IS to be commended for her insightful response in the Oct. 5 issue, "MCC's anti-Israeli response goes against God's will for his chosen people."

My wife and I were with a Christian group that visited Israel in April 2008. On the second day we ascended Mt. Carmel, heard about Elijah's routing of the priests of Baal and also viewed the vast plain below. As we descended, two Israeli jets took off from the airstrip below. Within seconds they were high above us. As I was watching, the Lord got my attention. No words were spoken, but the impression was clear: "There is power there, but I have infinite power, and I fight for Israel" (see Joel 3:1,2; Zechariah 2:8,9).

Months later, at home, while thinking about or praying for a local situation, I received the following very clear message: "If you don't soon have a heart for Israel, I will pass you by" (see Genesis 12:2,3). Another word came to me, equally to the point: "The time is short!"

The meaning of these messages is obvious and should be heeded by all. Mennonite Central Committee people responsible for the various anti-Israeli statements and releases need to repent—soon. Judgment is on the horizon.

Speaking of occupation, according to Joshua 1:12-15, the land now "occupied" by Jordan belongs to Israel as well. It was given to Gad, Reuben and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

ANDREW SAWATZKY, CALGARY, ALTA.

## ✉ Israel grapples with 'moral challenges' of self-protection

RE: SEPT. 21, Oct. 5 and Oct. 19 editorials.

Dick Benner fails to address a central issue: People who enjoy the fruits of American and Canadian sovereignty have no right to suggest that Israeli Jews should abandon their insistence on maintaining a sovereign Jewish homeland. This is what Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has done in the story it tells about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For its part, Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in the West Bank routinely confront Israeli soldiers and settlers. They rarely "get in the way" of—or draw attention to—violence perpetrated by Hamas and Hezbollah.

Israelis, on the other hand, have taken risks and have died for peace. Israel withdrew its soldiers from cities and towns in the West Bank in the late 1990s, only to see these municipalities used as terrorist recruiting grounds during the second intifada. Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 2000, only to be attacked by Hezbollah six years later. Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, only to see an increase in rocket attacks and attacks from Hamas the following year.

Israelis have struggled with the moral challenges that come with being a sovereign people responsible for their own safety. Mennonites in North America can maintain their distance from the moral complexity of the world because others use force to keep them safe.

Israel's history makes clear that pacifism is not the costly belief it once was. Mennonites in North America who support MCC and CPT are placing a burden on the shoulders of Israeli Jews they themselves do not carry.

If Benner feels blindsided by these observations, he should take it up with Mennonite theologian Ron Sider, who stated in 1984 that, unless Mennonites were willing to risk injury and death, they "dare never whisper another word about pacifism to our sisters and brothers in those desperate lands."

DEXTER VAN ZILE, BOSTON, MASS.

*Dexter Van Zile is a Christian media analyst who was quoted in the three editorials.*

Your Christmas Gift to *Canadian Mennonite*  
Is much appreciated.



Call our office at 1-800-378-2524, ext. 221,  
or donate online at  
[www.canadianmennonite.org/donate](http://www.canadianmennonite.org/donate).  
All gifts are tax-deductible. Thank you.



## ✉ In solidarity with Palestinians ... against 'Zionist hooligans'

ON OCT. 17, Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), Winnipeg, hosted "A conversation with Norman Finkelstein" in conjunction with Canadians for Peace and Justice in the Middle East, Independent Jewish Voice and Canada-Palestine Support Network – Winnipeg. Finkelstein, a noted author and political commentator, was speaking on the subject of Israeli war crimes in the so-called Gaza "war." As a founding member of the support network and an author of numerous articles on the Israel-Palestine situation, I commend CMU on taking this important step towards

building peace in the world's oldest conflict.

There are different ways to build peace. Where the road to peace is paved with dialogue, consensus-building and conflict-resolution, Mennonites have proven themselves very successful peacebuilders. But Mennonites may still have a few things to learn about peacebuilding in situations where one party or another refuses to deal in good faith.

The tendency of Zionist supporters of Israel, for example, to use accusations of anti-Semitism and other methods to intimidate and silence even mild criticism of Israel, is by now an established fact. Indeed, at the Oct. 17 event some young Zionist hooligans, presented with an invitation to sit down and converse

### FAMILY TIES

# The last time

MELISSA MILLER

Last spring, my mother made the long trip from Pennsylvania to Winnipeg, to join our family as we celebrated our son's graduation from university. At the end of the visit, as we said our goodbyes at the airport, Mom said, "I think this will be my last trip." A shadow crossed my heart. I gave her a hug and replied, "I understand." Happily, it wasn't the last time. A year-and-a-half later, she was back in our home, this time to witness my ordination as a Mennonite minister.

Once again, she thinks it's her last visit, and it may well be. I understand her reluctance to commit to such journeys. It's one whole long day of travel between her home and mine, and includes stuffy airplanes, time-crunched transfers and over-stimulating airports. I find it to be exhausting and I'm younger than her by more than two decades. While I'm saddened that my mother can't visit my home readily, I also respect her willingness to talk openly about "the last time(s)".

Our lives are filled with endings as well as beginnings. Those who have lived many decades may be keenly aware of last times, as they relinquish former

activities and pleasures, like gardening, driving, reading, playing the piano or living independently. Middle-aged adults might be aware of things ending in their lives: bodies that are increasingly stiff and creaky, and children becoming adults and leaving home.

Young people, too, may feel the loss



*Middle-aged adults might be aware of things ending in their lives . . . .*

of endings, as they bid farewell to their childhoods or say goodbye to high school friends. Perhaps the first stage of their marriage—just the two of them—comes to an end as they begin family life with their firstborn child.

Of course, all of us know endings caused by death, something we may remember keenly at this time of year in our Memorial Sunday services or as we approach the Christmas holidays. Grief counsellors encourage people to name their losses openly and to be conscious of the endings they are facing. Such openness is seen to help people in their mourning.

Not all endings are accompanied by

sorrow. Sometimes "the last time" comes with a sense of relief, with growth or with pleasure in success. An elder marks his 80th birthday with gratitude and satisfaction for a life well lived. The mid-life woman finds new horizons to explore. Young adults mark their maturity by making commitments to the church or by getting married. The ending of one stage brings the beginning of another.

In the gospels, we are told of Jesus facing a "last time" when "he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). The ministry and life he shared with his disciples

in his home area of Galilee was coming to an end as he set out for Jerusalem and his final confrontation with the powers that would bring about his death. His willingness to face the end gave new life to many.

There is bravery in facing the last time unflinchingly, naming what is ending, grieving the losses and being open to the newness that is emerging. Such a consciousness enables us to live more truly in the present, savouring the richness of the moment.

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

with the featured speaker, instead took crass advantage of the situation to try to intimidate Finkelstein and to menace him with their physical presence.

What can peacebuilders do when aggressive parties like these won't sit down and play nice? How can Mennonites "get tough" in such situations without condoning violence?

Some Mennonites remain suspicious of the word "solidarity," with its socialist connotations—not surprising considering Mennonites' ugly experiences with Soviet communism. But where good-faith conversation falls short, solidarity may succeed, and solidarity is exactly what the Palestinians need from us today.

Solidarity with Palestinians means standing with

them against Israeli aggression and apartheid by condemning Israeli war crimes in Gaza, by calling for an end to illegal Israeli settlement-building on Palestinian land, and by joining the growing Palestinian-led campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions.

EDWIN JANZEN, OTTAWA

### ✉ When it comes to religions, it's still either/or

RE: "IN DEFENCE of the institutional church," Oct. 19, page 11. While I share some of the concerns raised by Will Braun, I find his analysis simplistic.

#### FROM OUR LEADERS

# The question of denominations

ROBERT J. SUDERMAN

**D**enominational, non-denominational, inter-denominational, post-denominational, trans-denominational . . . anti-denominational.

Increasingly we hear strongly worded negative critiques that assume that Christian denominations are passé, anti-ecumenical, egotistic, competitive or rigid; have tunnel vision; or are simply unacceptable in our postmodern world. Why not concentrate on being "Christian," rather than focusing on a particular brand of Christianity?



"inscrutable," and this "unfathomableness" is experienced daily by those who want to know and follow God. In Paul's terms, the fact that we "see through a glass dimly" is an undeniable reality.

- One of the results of this is that no one person or church can claim to have got it all right. Many have tried and thus focused on particular pieces that seem to be missing or weak in the other expres-

*Many have tried and thus focused on particular pieces that seem to be missing or weak in the other expressions.*

I am increasingly uncomfortable with these growing—and largely unquestioned—assumptions. Allow me to point in some directions that would lead us down a different path:

- After 2,000 years of experience, we now know, without any doubt, that God's church is an incredibly rich, divine/holy project. But it spans geography, history, culture, creed and structure.
- It is also clear that the nature of God and God's plan for the church is truly

sions. This means that we complement, rather than compete with, each other.

- This perspective would align more closely with the Pauline insistence that the "oneness" of the church is part of what is given by God (Ephesians 4:3-6). Maybe, then, denominations are not a sure sign of failure, but signs of passionate, Spirit-filled efforts to be faithful to that which God has called us.
- Seen in this light, both the common foundations and the distinctives revealed

in the "dim glass" are gifts from God to the church and part of God's strategy to address the "inscrutability" of God. As such, they need not be signs of our—or God's—failure.

- The presence of multiple human expressions of faithfulness in time and space may function like the gifts of the Spirit given to the same body. For example, we don't think of the eyes as being a failure because they can't hear. This is an important lesson about the grandeur of God, and the rich patience and incredible diversity that form part of God's plan for the liberation and transformation of the world.

Having pointed to a different possibility, we must, however, readily acknowledge that denominations have not

always acted according to this higher calling. They have used their particular gift as a hammer of exclusivity, rather than a piece of a quilt embracing the oneness of the body. This we must confess and pray for added wisdom. But failure to live up to a calling does not negate the value of the calling itself. Indeed, it may simply serve to underline its importance.

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

First, I might question his conclusion that “individualized spirituality is not spirituality at all.” Look to the great mystics of the past or to even common folk from today. I believe in the axiom, “Beware of the individual without community,” and also, “Beware of community without the individual.”

Second, as for Braun’s illustration that some Mennonites are substituting yoga for small group meetings, I think some are participating in both small group meetings and yoga simultaneously.

William Closson James provides examples in his article, “Dimorphs and cobblers: Ways of doing religion in Canada,” that many Canadians are “cobbling” their religion with other religious disciplines. I suggest this is not what sociologist Reginald Bibby was referring to in his book *Fragmented Gods*, when he developed his metaphor of the consumer and the

marketplace, but something more profound. Theistic religions, however, have always had stern warnings against this. For example, an individual cannot be both a Christian and a Muslim simultaneously, but must choose to be either a Muslim or a Christian.

In conclusion, Braun quotes a spiritual advisor: “The act of going to church, aside from what actually happens there, is the most important spiritual discipline.” He continues: “I think of the value of choosing to spend time with people of various backgrounds, ages and viewpoints. In the intersection of our lives I believe I can find something that I cannot find alone.” This is an interesting concept and deserves open dialogue by both people on the fringe of the church and by those who have never questioned their participation.

MYRON D. STEINMAN, WATERLOO, ONT.

## GOD, MONEY AND ME

# A season for gift-giving

HAROLD PENNER

**T**hanksgiving in Canada has passed and our thoughts turn to the next holiday season of the year—Christmas—the time of year when we in the Christian community remember the birth of the Christ child.

The season includes church Christmas programs, banquets, family gatherings and, for some, family vacations. This has become one time of year when we in North America most emphasize the practice of giving gifts to others.

In our families many of us may pull tickets so that each person buys a gift for one other person. We may give our younger children money to purchase gifts for family, friends or teachers. In our churches we may speak of the baby Jesus as God’s gift to mankind, or of the gifts the Magi brought when they came to visit Jesus, and tie these to the idea of giving gifts to others during the Christmas season.

As this practice of gift-giving during the Christmas season has developed over the years, this has become a strong cultural concept that people from other

cultures emulate when they immigrate to North America. It has become a mark of being a member of North American society.

But what about other practices of gift-giving? Are there other times and places when gift-giving may be practised? Of course, we also give gifts to children on their birthdays and to adults on significant birthdays. We present gifts at weddings and anniversaries, or to commemorate other important life events.

As people of other cultures migrate into our neighbourhoods and we begin



*Of course we also give gifts to children on their birthdays and to adults on significant birthdays.*

to interact with them, we soon note that they also bring a variety of gift-giving practices unique to their cultural backgrounds. One notable practice is that of gifts related to travel. For people from some Asian countries, the practice is to take gifts along when travelling back to visit their families in their countries

of origin. While in their home country they will purchase items there to bring back with them to present to family or friends in North America as a token of friendship.

Businesspeople who do a lot of travelling to other countries to purchase or sell their products also learn the importance of giving gifts in some cultures as a part of business interactions. In some cultures it may just be an incentive to complete a financial transaction. In other cultures it may be a sign of relationship—and business is about relationships.

What motivates you to give gifts? Is it a business transaction, a cultural expectation, or an expression of love and gratitude? For followers of Christ, reflecting on the blessings we have received from God should naturally lead to a desire to pass on those blessings to others. One

way is through the giving of gifts.

*Harold Penner is a stewardship consultant at the Winnipeg 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](http://Mennofoundation.ca).*

## /// Milestones

### Births/Adoptions

**Bergen**—Vanessa Rosemarie (b. Nov. 2, 2009), to Stephen and Angeline Bergen, Niagara United Mennonite, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

**Derksen**—Cassandra Faith (b. Aug. 2, 2009), to Andrew and Mary Derksen, North Leamington United Mennonite, Leamington, Ont.

**Driedger**—Addison Skye (b. Nov. 4, 2009), to Jake and Justine Driedger, Niagara United Mennonite, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

**Driedger**—Isabella Kathleen (b. March 21, 2009), to Michael and Stephanie Driedger, North Leamington United Mennonite, Leamington, Ont.

**Dueck**—Drake Graham (b. Nov. 10, 2009), to Mike and Amy Dueck, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont.

**Dupuis**—Nora Violet (b. Oct. 19, 2009), to Stephen Dupuis and Helen Toews, North Leamington United Mennonite, Leamington, Ont.

### Baptisms

**Alex Albrecht, Braden Gerber, Vanessa Gerber, Nikki Gray**—Mapleview Mennonite, Wellesley, Ont., Nov. 1, 2009.  
**Bradley Edward Bergen**—North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., Nov. 1, 2009.

### Marriages

**Cook/Taves**—Andrew Cook and Linda Taves, North Leamington United Mennonite, Leamington, Ont., Sept. 26, 2009.

**Cornies/Salonen**—Brian Cornies and Sonya Salonen, North Leamington United Mennonite, Leamington, Ont., June 6, 2009.

### Deaths

**Albrecht**—Jacob Armand, 80 (b. Aug. 31, 1928; d. Aug. 9, 2009), Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont.

**Augustin**—George, 84 (b. Oct. 26, 1924; d. March 22, 2009), Waters Mennonite, Lively, Ont.

**Baschzok**—John Paul, 72 (b. June 18, 1937; d. Nov. 9, 2009), First Mennonite, Kelowna, B.C.

**Brownlee**—Bonita (Bonnie), 59 (d. Sept. 14, 2009), Waters Mennonite, Lively, Ont.

**Dueck**—David, 86 (b. May 30, 1923; d. Sept. 30, 2009), Hague Mennonite, Sask.

**Dyck**—Tyler, 24 (b. June 24, 1985; d. Oct. 4, 2009), Steinbach Mennonite, Man.

**Esau**—Mary, 85 (b. March 4, 1924; d. July 8, 2009), Steinbach Mennonite, Man.

**Fehr**—Melvin John, 50 (b. Jan. 7, 1959; d. Oct. 29, 2009), Blumenort Mennonite, Gretna, Man.

**Froese**—Arthur, 84 (b. Sept. 25, 1925; d. Oct. 22, 2009), First

Mennonite, Saskatoon, Sask.

**Gerber**—Nancy Mae, 63 (b. March 2, 1946; d. June 28, 2009), Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont.

**Good**—Raymond M., 89 (b. Jan. 17, 1920; d. Oct. 14, 2009), St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont.

**Harder**—Herbert, 80 (b. Feb. 13, 1929; d. Oct. 26, 2009), Niagara United Mennonite, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

**Janz**—Artur Albert, 76 (b. March 7, 1933; d. Oct. 29, 2009), First Mennonite, Calgary, Alta.

**Krahn**—Ruth, 78 (d. Oct. 14, 2009), Leamington United Mennonite, Ont.

**Lehman**—Fred, 76 (b. July 15, 1933; d. Sept. 11, 2009), Breslau Mennonite, Ont.

**Martens**—Evelyn, 75 (b. Oct. 4, 1933; d. June 30, 2009), Sterling Mennonite, Winnipeg.

**Nordheimer**—Anna (nee Dyck), 95 (b. Jan. 15, 1914; d. Nov. 5, 2009), Niagara United Mennonite, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

**Rohr-Cressman**—Erma (nee Schmitt), 96 (b. April 11, 1913; d. Oct. 13, 2009), Stirling Avenue Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont.

**Ruth**—Mary, 81 (b. Aug. 1, 1928; d. Nov. 4, 2009), First Mennonite, Kelowna, B.C.

**Swartzentruber**—Byron, 50 (b. April 17, 1959; d. Nov. 5, 2009), Sterling Mennonite, Winnipeg.

**Tiessen**—Ralph, 80 (d. Oct. 7, 2009), Leamington United Mennonite, Ont.

**Van Riesen**—Annemarie (nee Harder), 93 (b. Feb. 15, 1916; d. July 30, 2009), Niagara United Mennonite, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

**Wagler**—Freida (nee Nafziger), 87 (b. April 16, 1922; d. Oct. 28, 2009), Steinmann Mennonite, Baden, Ont.

**Wiebe**—Irvin Ashley, 96 (b. Sept. 29, 1913; d. Nov. 8, 2009), Hague Mennonite, Sask.

**Wiens**—Sophie, 72 (d. Oct. 7, 2009), Leamington United Mennonite, Ont.

**Woelk**—Susanna, 89 (d. Oct. 6, 2009), Leamington United Mennonite, Ont.

**Wolfe**—Leslie, 64 (b. Nov. 13, 1945; d. Oct. 16, 2009), North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask.

**Wolfe**—Maria, 97 (b. June 26, 1912; d. Oct. 23, 2009), North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask.

**Woolner**—Edith (nee Cressman), 92 (b. Dec. 1, 1916; d. Oct. 10, 2009), First Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont.

**Zehr**—Maureen, 87 (b. Oct. 25, 1921; d. Sept. 10, 2009), Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont.

### Canadian Mennonite welcomes Milestones

*announcements within four months of the event.*

*Please send Milestones announcements by e-mail to [milestones@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:milestones@canadianmennonite.org), including the congregation name and location. When sending death notices, please include birth date and last name at birth if available.*

## STORIES OF FAITH IN LIFE

# Jesus' Advent changed everything

BY JACK DUECK

**D**uring early Lent two storytellers—a Canadian Mennonite and a New York Jew—shared a stage bouncing stories of ethnicity, humour, faith and ironies between them. Over dinner after the event the two conversed over the topic of Israel and Palestine.

**M:** You're a practicing Jew. What's your view of Israel today and the six decades of warfare between Israel and the Palestinians?

**J:** Let's go back a few thousand years. The Advent of Jesus changed everything. He re-interpreted the Jewish Bible, calling on people to think differently.

**M:** So why didn't it take hold?

**J:** But it did take hold. Like Rabbi Jesus, the early Christians were Jewish. But the idea of a faith community inclusive of all peoples rankled the religious establishment. We weren't spiritual enough to understand that. Even early Christian leadership found the new perspective difficult. Peter received a vision with the voice-over: "Nothing that God has created is unclean." Suddenly he gets it: In Christ's kingdom there is neither Jew nor gentile.

**M:** But how does Jesus himself exemplify "neither Jew nor gentile"?

**J:** Jesus himself came of Jewish and gentile lineage. Matthew's Gospel opens with Jesus' genealogy.



*Although genealogies always followed the male line, Matthew includes four women: Tamar and Rahab are non-Israelite Canaanites; Ruth is a Moabite; a fourth implied is the Hittite Bathsheba, she of the illicit affair with King David.*

**M:** Mennonites often taught that since the Jews rejected Jesus' gospel, the faith found grounding elsewhere.

**J:** Not so. Jesus was a rabbi teaching in the synagogue, re-interpreting the Torah and the prophets. But Jesus' good news about the faith community was that it included all people. However, the most unpalatable core of his message was that the New Jerusalem would not be a nation-state, but the church.

**M:** But many Mennonites and evangelical fundamentalists interpret the biblical promise of the "land forever," linking it to the promise that God will bring about the re-establishment of a Jewish state.

**J:** But that's where the tenets of Jesus' gospel change everything. First, the New Jerusalem is the church. Second, Jesus' alert, "but I say to you," re-interprets many verses in the Jewish Bible. Think of all the verses we now reject, such as

*stoning disobedient children and many other utterances. People pay more attention to proof-texting their theologies of the end times than to Jesus' faith kingdom*



*message. Bibliolatry sidelines Jesus' gospel. Nationalism as a religion is idolatry; it's not at the heart of the Torah, Jesus or the Protestant Bible.*

**M:** I'm surprised by your views. Was the founding of the State of Israel a mistake?

**J:** For the Jews—so persecuted in their Diaspora—immigrating to Palestine was not a mistake. And it was lawful. But many of us urged our people not to form a separate state, but to co-exist with the diverse people, including Jews and Arabs, already living in Palestine. We urged that, in as much as we were the people of God, we should be so wherever we lived in the world. Founding a Jewish state on religious and prophetic grounds would be a tragically missed opportunity. But the nationalistic secular Jews won the day. We moved in with guns and tanks and God-ordained self-righteousness, bulldozers scraping cherished olive groves into oblivion and settlers into camps. Our Jewish Bible taught that we should welcome refugees, not make them.

**M:** So are you saying that our Protestant view of biblical prophecy is wrong?

**J:** My view is that it's bad biblical interpretation. Jesus' teaching about a New Jerusalem gives neither credence to nationalism or to Protestant Evangelicals quoting isolated verses to support the notion that a secular Jewish state is the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom. Jesus himself discovered that even the devil quoted Scripture to bless errant intentions. When people pursue bad interpretation, it often fosters enmity and forestalls the call to promoting peace and justice.

**M:** So what about the warfare festering between Israel and the Palestinians these past 60 years?

**J:** Personally, I favour a one-state solution. But we've probably destroyed that bridge. We must build new bridges pursuing arduous diplomacy, and build a political mechanism for peaceful co-existence. This is fundamentally in the faith tradition of the Jewish Bible and your New Testament. Surely, the eternal Galilean would applaud. ☸

*Nationalism as a religion is idolatry; it's not at the heart of the Torah, Jesus or the Protestant Bible.*

Mennonite storyteller Jack Dueck can be reached by e-mail at [eajdueck@gmail.com](mailto:eajdueck@gmail.com).

## GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD

# Coming at peace from different directions

STORY AND PHOTO BY DAN DYCK  
Mennonite Church Canada Release  
WINNIPEG

**W**hat happens when just war theologians and church leaders meet face to face with their pacifist counterparts to talk about war and peace?

Last month, 43 members of Mennonite Church Canada and the Christian Reformed Church of Canada (CRC) took part in the Symposium on War and Peace at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.

The Reformed Church has a long-standing tradition of just war theology—war should be used only as a last resort for the defence of the weak and vulnerable who are unable to defend themselves—and obligatory military service to one's country, because "government is a positive force in our society and divinely ordained," said Bruce Adema, director of Canadian ministries for the binational CRC, although he acknowledged that duty to obey the government is neither absolute nor unconditional, but subject to God's law.

Adema said that Reformed adherents live in a tension: In one hand they hold a deep desire to "never want war," and in the other hand they hold a desire to stand up for the weak and vulnerable, using redemptive violent military force if no other solution is evident. However, "if just war happens, we have not been effective agents of peace," he admitted.

Much passionate conversation ensued when Reformed and Mennonite participants were paired up and assigned the task of creating a Remembrance Day service palatable to both denominations. A common theme that emerged was that such a service would need to focus on lament for all war dead, rather than honouring only those who gave up their lives in military service.

Position papers from each denomination were also presented.

Herman Keizer, a theologically trained,



*"In the discussion we've had I felt like I was half Mennonite and half CRC," says Janelle Dykxhoorn, a Canadian Mennonite University student who grew up in the Christian Reformed Church.*

retired military chaplain from Grand Rapids, Mich., and a long-time high-level ethical advisor at the Pentagon, said, "As we walk through some of our history on war and peace, we have gained a deeper appreciation of the Peace Churches and what they can contribute to our efforts to be peacemakers," citing a recommendation from a 2006 synod calling for the CRC to work more closely with Peace Churches and learn from one another.

With a Purple Heart pinned to his lapel, Keizer advocated for a re-examination of attitudes about conventional weapons. "In World War II, only 20 percent of the fighting force shot to kill," he said. "Today, that is up to 85 percent. . . . We, the U.S. and Canada, have trained—and have fielded—the deadliest and most lethal force in the history of war fighting. I am concerned because soldiers are more concerned with

killing than being killed."

Helmut Harder, emeritus professor of theology at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, and former general secretary of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada (the precursor to MC Canada), addressed the question of how Mennonites have responded to contemporary challenges on issues of war and peace, and how this has shaped and reshaped its identity. Challenges to absolute pacifism by some of those in attendance were rewarded by Harder's simple explanation that "extermination of life is always wrong."

CRC members would not disagree with Harder's assertions that "we believe that peace is the will of God," and it is most fully revealed in Jesus. However, exegetical differences showed fissures on how peace can be achieved. Jesus' claim in Matthew 10:34—"I have not come to bring peace, but a sword"—were filtered through both CRC and Mennonite lenses. Mennonites interpret this story as the suffering servant model: Jesus sought to bring peace by making himself a sacrifice of the sword, instead of wielding it, while the CRC understands that the text does not forbid the use of violent force.

The event inspired better understanding between the two denominations—and perhaps a renewed valuing of those who have different understandings of peace and how to achieve it.

Jeremy Segsto, a CRC representative in Grade 12 at a Mennonite school, said, "Before today I saw very different and distinct views of Christianity, but they're actually very similar and they're exactly the same in the most important aspect of it, in that we all have the same goal in mind."

Natasha Plenert, a Mennonite student at CMU, observed that among her peers it was very easy for her to write off people with non-pacifist viewpoints as being pro-war. "There's a very big distinction to be made between not thinking war is wrong and thinking war is the right answer," she said.

The symposium was the product of discussions between MC Canada general secretary Robert J. Suderman and Adema, following a May 2008 Canadian Council of Churches' event in which Suderman presented a paper entitled "Faith and the public square: The church's witness to peace." ❧

# Keep disaster relief a priority, pastor tells MCC

*Details of new 'dream' facility also unveiled at Mennonite Central Committee Ontario session*

STORY AND PHOTO BY DICK BENNER

Editor/Publisher

ST. CATHARINES, ONT.

The sometimes muffled divide between the generations surfaced at a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Ontario-sponsored pastors breakfast on Nov. 14 in St. Catharines, when MCC leaders sought feedback on the “new wine” projected by MCC as a year-long consultation with stakeholders.

“MCC should be a continuation of the old,” said Jacob Reimer, an Old Colony Mennonite pastor from Aylmer, in response to moderator Dave Tiessen’s question as to how the “new wine” resonates with local congregations. Speaking for the previous generations’ recipients of MCC relief from soup kitchens in Ukraine in the 1920s, Reimer said MCC represents the compassion of Christ for those most in need around the world, but allowing, too, that “our young people get much more excited about the peace and justice issues.”

“Justice resonates with every young person in my congregation,” insisted Gordon Alton, youth pastor at Erb Street Mennonite, Kitchener.

Patrick Bartley, pastor of Scott Street Mennonite Brethren Church in St. Catharines, called for more stories, a little more “unpackaging of how MCC carries out justice and disaster relief around the world. “We need to be able to use all means of communication to tell the story,” he said, “electronically on the web, in print and on DVDs.”

Paul Adams, pastor of Tavistock Mennonite, suggested making room in Sunday morning worship for PowerPoint stories by MCC, to “show young people this is a part of their calling as Christians.”

The same sentiments of keeping the “in the name of Christ” mantra central to MCC’s ministries, and in bringing more

“justice resources like helping persons deal with alcoholism” to local congregations, were voiced in a seminar later in the morning.

In that same seminar, MCC Ontario officials invited Bonnie Klassen, the MCC Colombia representative for the past 12 years, and her national counterpart in Colombia, Jenny Neme, the director of the Mennonite Center for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action (JustaPaz), to discuss how MCC brings together relief and justice in that conflicted part of the world.

“We do our ministry entirely through the local congregations,” said Klassen, explaining how they partner with pastors in confronting many kinds of issues such as listening to war victims, offering psychological support, giving emergency supplies, and even offering legal support when necessary.

Neme, who in her role travels to the most remote parts of this country of four million internally displaced refugees, said that it is a very workable team effort. “We pray together, think together, always complementing each other,” she said. And what makes it especially effective, Neme added, is that “each knows his or her role.”

In this setting “we have even gotten into political advocacy,” Neme said. And that is every bit as contentious as it is in any other setting where politics is a very sensitive part of the ministry, she observed. “We have learned to disagree, but at the same time trust each other,” she said, proposing that theirs could be a model for reconciliation around the globe.

## **New building proposed**

In other reporting, Paul Gilbert, chair of MCC Ontario’s Building Needs Task



*Showing off their Gift and Thrift “fashion” outfits during Nov. 14’s plenary session of MCC Ontario’s annual meeting are Jan Adams, left, and Elna Coetsee. “A woman got a whole outfit like this for only \$40,” said Patty Ollies, Ontario thrift shop coordinator.*

Force, presented a “dream” for combining its two thrift shops and central office in Kitchener into one location at 851 King Street East, within sight of their present location on Kent Street. The proposed \$8 million facility would also house a number of Mennonite organizations under one roof, such as the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, Mennonite Foundation and Mennonite World Conference.

A lower level entry on Charles Street would provide easy access for loading and unloading, and a parking lot, to be shared with First Mennonite Church across the street from the complex, would provide more adequate parking than is now available for these facilities.

Funding for the new facility would come from the sale of the three current properties, monies from the capital improvement fund, a selective fundraising effort and a mortgage.

“This is very much in the preliminary stages,” Gilbert said, “but we just wanted to let you know our thoughts for the future.” ❧

# Winnipeg churches sponsor 14 'most-in-need' refugees

BY ELMER HEINRICHS  
Special to *Canadian Mennonite*  
WINNIPEG

Two Mennonite congregations and the Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land are currently involved in resettling 14 people in Manitoba.

Fort Garry Mennonite, Aberdeen Evangelical Mennonite Church and the Anglican diocese are in the process of bringing to Canada Palestinians who have been living on the border between Iraq and Syria for some time now. The adults and most of the children were born in Iraq, although some of the youngest were born in refugee camps.

Saddam Hussein welcomed Palestinians to Iraq during his stay in power. But when he was ousted, they were no longer welcome. They tried to move to Jordan, but were turned back at the border.

"This sponsorship started about a year ago when we got an indication from the

*In addition to other help, the churches have undertaken to support the refugees financially for one year.*

Canadian government that they would consider allowing Palestinian refugees to come from some refugee camps on the border between Iraq and Syria," says Brian

Dyck, refugee program coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Manitoba. "We in MCC were particularly concerned about this group because the United Nations refugee agency had identified them as being in one of the most difficult refugee situations in the world and no one seemed to be willing to take this on. . . . These people can only come to Canada if they have private sponsors."

In addition to other help, the churches have undertaken to support the refugees

financially for one year. The recommended budget for a family of five is \$25,100.

A six-member family hosted by Fort

Garry Mennonite arrived on Sept. 30. Another family of five from this inter-related group, to be hosted by the Aberdeen congregation, was expected in October, with a third family, to be hosted by the Anglicans, likely arriving towards the end of November.

As well, two Mennonite and two United churches in southwestern Manitoba are sponsoring another family of five Palestinians to settle in their community. ❧

## BONHOEFFER STUDY TOUR

14-24 MAY 2010

Visit Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic and see the major sites important in Bonhoeffer's life and work.

Stops on the tour include his birth place, boyhood home, university attended, archives in Berlin, pastorates, Confessing Church seminary which he directed, the monastery where he stayed during his involvement with the conspiracy against Hitler, and prison and concentration camps where he was incarcerated and executed. Places to be visited include Berlin, Zingst, Finkenwalde, Köslin, Breslau, Auschwitz, Prague, Flossenbürg, Regensburg, Munich, and Ettal.

This tour is open to anyone interested, available both as a credit and non-credit course.

### TOUR COST: Can\$ 2295

- Included:  
All Hotel Accommodations  
All Breakfasts  
7 Dinners  
Entrance fees  
Not Included:  
Airfare  
Personal Expenses  
Travel Insurance

University College, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

### INFORMATION/REGISTRATION

Dr. Peter Frick, [pfrick@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:pfrick@uwaterloo.ca)  
Tel. (519) 885-1465, ext. 214

Itinerary and Registration Form:  
<http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/~diebon06/2010StudyTour.pdf>



### TOUR LEADERS

Dr. Peter Frick is Associate Professor and Academic Dean, St. Paul's University College, University of Waterloo, and Dr. James Reimer is Professor Emeritus at Conrad Grebel





# Community Snapshots

HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP PHOTO



*House of Friendship, Kitchener, Ont., has received \$5,700 from the Trinity Global Support Foundation for its four community centres. The grant—announced in person by Joseph E. Fontana, right, chair of the Trinity Global board, on Nov. 5—will ensure children in the after-school programs at the community centres receive nutritious snacks in a safe and healthy environment. With the donation, House of Friendship joins more than 400 other breakfast, lunch and snack clubs helped through Trinity Global's Show Kids You Care program. Standing at left is John Neufeld, House of Friendship's executive director.*

MENNOHOMES PHOTO



*These riders from St. Agatha Mennonite Church, Ont., were the youngest of a group of riders that raised \$68,000 in the recent MennoHomes Ride for Affordable Housing, to help build a series of homes for large families in Wellesley and Woolwich in Waterloo Region. Their goal was to raise \$66,000. A total of 27 riders biked for varying distances. The St. Jacobs crew of five riders cycled about 80 kilometres. Twelve Mennonite Church Eastern Canada churches were represented.*

PHOTO BY DAVE ROGALSKY



*Naomi Epp stands with her father Tim after completing a 70-kilometre bike ride on Oct. 17, that raised \$700—enough to plant 2,800 trees in Haiti. Epp was inspired by Matt Van Geest and Esther deGroot, former Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) workers in the Caribbean island nation, at her congregation of Welcome Inn Church in Hamilton, Ont. She wanted to do something to help, so her mother, Karen Denison, suggested raising support through a bike ride. Naomi and her dad rode from Hamilton to the MCC Ontario offices in Kitchener, and were joined by Trevor Adams, material resource co-ordinator at MCC Ontario, and his children for the last five kilometres, a real encouragement at the end of a long, cold day.*

## GOD AT WORK IN THE CHURCH

# Are we listening to the Spirit blowing?

*MC Eastern Canada pastors, leaders ponder 'being a faithful church'*

STORY AND PHOTO BY DAVE ROGALSKY

Eastern Canada Correspondent  
BADEN, ONT.

As the wind whistled around Steinmann Mennonite Church with an autumn gale, Sue Steiner wondered aloud, "Is the Spirit trying to break in?"

Steiner acted as moderator as Mennonite Church Eastern Canada pastors and leaders gathered on Oct. 31 to hear MC Canada general secretary Robert J. Suderman speak on discernment and then practise a variety of spiritual discernment tools. Suderman shared from his paper "Being a faithful church," that he first presented at the MC Canada assembly this summer in Saskatoon, Sask.

"If we together believe, then the prophet's voice has a place," Suderman told the gathering, but, "if we together do not believe, then the prophet's voice is silenced because then it doesn't matter what we

believe."

Suderman's paper was divided into three presentations:

- Listening to God: Who are we in God?
- Listening for God: Why are we here?
- Listening with God: What shall we do?

Key to Suderman's paper is the "reality that, while different parts of our body are reflecting on the same foundational scripture, guided by the same Holy Spirit, revealing the mind/will of the same God, we are discerning what appear, at times, to be contradictory and irreconcilable directions in understanding Christian faithfulness."

This led Scott Brubacher-Zehr, pastor of Rockway Mennonite Church, Kitchener, to wonder at the microphone if the MC Eastern Canada leadership had a hidden agenda in holding this day, and whether

there were specific issues to discuss.

MC Eastern Canada executive minister David Martin replied, "The issue today is discernment. . . . Do we stop to ask, 'What does God want the church to be, to do?'"

In the afternoon's discernment exercise, "Listening together with God," individuals were asked to write what they had heard from God's Spirit during the day. Each table group then took those statements and wrote down one statement that gathered the ideas together. Five summary statements were finally arrived at.

While this was just an exercise, MC Eastern Canada leadership is taking these statements very seriously. Jim Brown, pastor of Riverdale Mennonite Church at Millbank, on the other hand, found the exercise hurried and forced, and wondered about its worth.

By the time the event was over, the wind had died down, and the doors—jammed shut with cardboard—had stopped whistling, but the energy of the discussions and conversations made many feel the Spirit had made it into the building. ❧

## /// Our congregations celebrate

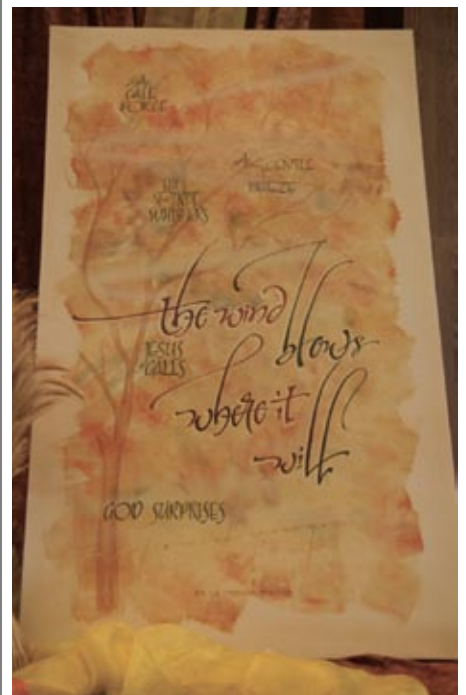
### Six decades of God's faithfulness at Sargent Avenue Mennonite

WINNIPEG—The weekend of Oct. 3-4 was very special for past and present members of Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church, as the congregation celebrated 60 years of ministry with the theme, "God's faithfulness to all generations." On Saturday night a capacity crowd enjoyed a Thanksgiving banquet followed by a program that included a docudrama telling how the church came into being. Over the years, worship styles have changed, as have the demographics, while a rich heritage of choral music has remained. In Sunday's service, Pastor Edwin Epp said, "God has been faithful to the generations who have gone before. God will be faithful to the generations still to come. And God is faithful to us now." A Sunday evening songfest closed out the weekend. Epp has announced his plans to retire at the end of next June after more than 40 years of ministry.

—BY ANNE THIESSEN



*Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church celebrated its 60th anniversary on Oct. 3 and 4.*



*Artwork by Cheri Good of Baden, Ont., declaring 'the wind blows where it will,' provided a visual backdrop for an MC Eastern Canada event focused on listening to God, for God and with God.*

## Play hockey for credit at MCI

BY EVELYN REMPEL PETKAU

Manitoba Correspondent  
GRETNA, MAN.

**M**ennonite Collegiate Institute (MCI) in Gretna is offering a hockey academy for the first time this year. The program is created in partnership with Hockey Canada, which sets the curriculum and guidelines for the course. Two MCI staff members received the required training in Calgary this past summer from certified instructors through Hockey Canada.

"It provides a different avenue for learning," says Jeremy Siemens, MCI communications director. "It has been at the back of our minds for awhile. We knew the program existed and since it is such a part of

the culture here, we decided to offer it for credit."

The program consists of off-ice fitness training, a classroom component and on-ice instruction. Twenty-three Grade 9 and 10 students are taking the program as an elective and 19 Grade 12 students are enrolled in the program for credit.

"The response from the students has been extremely positive," says Siemens. "It has piqued the interest of some students who might not have come to MCI."

"Hockey has always been a large part of my life, so getting to play hockey at school for a credit was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up," says Grade 12 student Keenan Wiebe. "I am hoping to improve some basic skills, learn some new techniques, build on some strength and have a lot of fun. So far I've had a great time and I can see some improvement [in my skills]."

As a Christian school, MCI seeks to imbue Christian values in all its instruction and activities, says MCI athletic director Chris Regehr. This emphasis is also brought to the new hockey academy.

"Sportsmanship, fair play, positive attitude, perseverance, leadership, team building are all attributes that we teach and develop in our students each and every class," Regehr notes. "We encourage students to . . . use their abilities and talents in ways that glorify God, wherever that might be."✠

MCI PHOTO BY CHRIS REGEHR



*Grade 12 MCI students Keenan Wiebe, left, and Eric Thompson are participants in the Manitoba school's new hockey academy, a credit course for seniors.*

### ✠ Briefly noted

#### New pastors coming to Grace Mennonite, Regina

Grace Mennonite Church in Regina has new leadership. The urban church, with an average Sunday morning attendance of 120, had been without a full-time pastor for just over a year. Now, Dan and Rose Graber from Redhill, Penn., will serve together as co-pastors beginning in December. The Grabers have served extensively in Mennonite communities. "They have a long history of working in Mennonite churches," said church chair Peter Neufeldt. One of those pastorates was in Tofield, Alta., a decade or so ago; another was a 10-year term in Brazil. Described as having a "complimentary vision," the Grabers both attended Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind. The congregation is also feeling pleased with recent renovations at the church. During construction, the sign on the outside of the church confessed the following idea: "May the renovations in our building inspire renovations in our hearts."

—BY KARIN FEHDERAU

Vancouver School of Theology

## Take the Next Step on your Journey

Vancouver School of Theology

### Summer School July 5-16, 2010



*Learn to love, intelligently and faithfully, the world God loves.*

**VST** [www.vst.edu](http://www.vst.edu)

## 16<sup>th</sup> Mennonite Heritage Cruise

Ukraine: Sep 30 - Oct 16, 2010

**The ultimate roots adventure voyage**

Odessa to Kyiv via Crimea on the Dnieper River & Black Sea

with

Senior Historian Paul Toews  
Architectural Historian Rudy Friesen  
Genealogist Alan Peters

Guides include Olga Shmakina and Lyudmilla Karyaka

contact:

Marina Unger  
Vision 2000 Travel, Toronto  
1-800-387-1488 ext. 2827  
[marinau@vision2000.ca](mailto:marinau@vision2000.ca)

<http://home.ica.net/~walterunger/>  
or  
Google Mennonite Heritage Cruise

# Hockey binds Colombian, Canadian congregations

STORY AND PHOTO BY CATHERINE HUNSBERGER

Special to *Canadian Mennonite*

MADRID, COLOMBIA

**H**ow does an English-speaking Canadian boy make friends with Spanish-speaking children in Colombia, in spite of a language barrier? They play hockey, of course!

Eric Entz, 11, was part of an inter-generational delegation from First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ont., to their sister church, Comunidad Cristiano de Monte

Santo, Madrid, this summer. He packed 14 red mini-hockey sticks as his gift to the children at Monte Santo. After the Sunday morning service, the chairs in one section of the sanctuary were stacked. The rules of ball hockey were explained by Eric and his father—and translated by David Neufeld, who is currently living in Colombia—and the game was on.

## /// Briefly noted

### Living Gift Festival launches for holiday season on Nov. 28

NEW HAMBURG, ONT.—Whether you're looking for a fresh way to surprise your spouse, a present that will satisfy your globally minded teen, a classy thank you for an inspiring teacher, or a gift to give as a group, finding the perfect way to share this season is easier than you think. The Ten Thousand Villages' Living Gift program offers Canadians the opportunity to give meaningful gifts while inspiring conversations that will continue well into the new year. Six special projects make up the 2009 Living Gift selection, including specific items like seeds as well as lasting services like classroom support. With every Living Gift, friends and family receive a detailed description of the present chosen for them, while the actual gift goes to the people who need it most. The Living Gift Festival kicked off at Ten Thousand Villages stores across the country on Nov. 28. For store locations, or to purchase a Living Gift online, visit [TenThousandVillages.ca](http://TenThousandVillages.ca). In 2008, \$841,426 was raised, supporting children and families around the world.

—Ten Thousand Villages Release

### Christmas gifts transform lives with joy

STOUFFVILLE, ONT.—How can the gift of a goat this Christmas season transform the life of a child in Africa? "Through cbm [Christian Blind Mission] Canada's 'Give Joy' catalogue, Canadians can choose gifts that can heal, empower and mobilize families who are trapped in poverty by disabilities," says Ed Epp, executive director of cbm Canada. Gifts such as goats, pigs and chickens can provide a good source of nutrition for children and generate income for parents in the poorest communities of the world. Even medical procedures and wheelchairs can be given as life-transforming gifts providing sight (cataract surgery), or the ability to hear. Inexpensive stocking-stuffers include gifts of baby chicks, a school tool kit, sight-saving Vitamin A capsules for children, or mosquito nets for protection for families against malaria. By giving parents with disabilities micro-financing loans to start their own businesses, Canadians are empowering families to break the cycle of poverty and disability to live more productive, joyful lives. Canadians have an opportunity to give a "joyful" gift by visiting [givejoy.ca](http://givejoy.ca) or calling cbm Canada at 1-800-567-2264.

—cbm Canada Release

The children were enthusiastic about playing and have since asked for a copy of the rules in Spanish.

In addition to introducing hockey, the Canadian group worshipped with the people of Monte Santo, met members in their homes and learned their stories, toured the city, slept in the church, exchanged gifts and enjoyed new foods. The group quickly felt connected to these brothers and sisters.

A highlight of the time at Monte Santo was meeting two women who had once been very ill. First Mennonite had prayed for these women in their monthly Monte Santo prayer time and the women's group had sent them prayer shawls as a symbol of those prayers. It was moving to hear the women's testimonies of God's care and healing. They seemed quite willing to share stories about their life and faith.

After four days in Madrid the delegation moved on to Bogotá, to learn about the history and ministries of the Mennonite church in Colombia. There were several opportunities to meet people who had been displaced by violence from outlying parts of the country.

In October, Monte Santo's pastoral couple, Cecilia Obregon and her husband Genaro Gonzalez, visited Monte Santo's two sister churches in Canada—Altona Mennonite, Man., and First Mennonite—to learn about our Canadian ministries and meet our people. ☘



*Using miniature plastic hockey sticks brought from Canada by a sister church delegation from First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ont., the children of Monte Santo Mennonite Church in Madrid, Colombia, play their first ball hockey game.*

### /// Briefly noted

#### MAX Canada appoints new executive manager

BADEN, ONT.—Timothy Wagler has been appointed as executive manager of MAX Canada, to take effect no later than Jan. 1, 2010. “Tim will be the highest executive officer for MAX Canada and the other two Canadian entities, the MAX Canada Share Fund and the Mutual Aid Insurance Brokers Company,” says David Wine, president and chief executive officer. The move provides much greater autonomy to the Canadian operation, Wine adds. Wagler is a chartered accountant who has served as auditor for a number of Anabaptist institutions and churches in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. He has served on the MAX board of directors since 2004 and as chair since 2006. Wagler and his wife Cheryl Kuepfer are charter members of Living Water Community Christian Fellowship in New Hamburg, a congregation of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, where he has served as treasurer. He also chairs the MC Eastern Canada Administrative and Financial Services Council and is a member of the area church’s executive council.

—MAX Canada Release

#### Columbia welcomes return of faculty member

ABBOTSFORD, B.C.—Carey Penner is returning to his post as director of caregiving and counselling at Columbia Bible College, where he will also be teaching core courses related to this program. The return of Penner marks the end of a three-year study leave to work on his Ph.D. His dissertation direction is focusing on the “counselling process,” he says, adding, “My dissertation research investigates the interactions of young adult clients and professional counsellors. . . . The findings will inform counsellors who work with young adult clients who are experiencing difficulty with the transition to adulthood.”

—Columbia Bible College Release

# TFSA TAX-FREE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Term Deposits and Savings Accounts available



A Fresh Approach to Your Savings

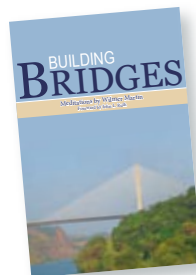
1.888.672.6728  
www.mscu.com

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



Mennonite Savings and Credit Union

Your Values Your Credit Union



## BUILDING BRIDGES

Meditations by Wilmer Martin

Take a virtual world trip with an experienced traveler who adds his own faith-building insights. President of TourMagination, Wilmer Martin shares lessons learned leading tours around the world, and in his work as a Mennonite minister. Part devotional, part memoir, *Building Bridges* will encourage faithful readers to consider how they live in the world today.

*Building Bridges* appeals to people of faith, those who enjoy travel, and those interested in building bridges with others of different faiths and cultures.

To purchase a copy for yourself or as a gift, call 1-800-565-0451.

\$11.95 US or \$13.95 CDN plus shipping/handling.



## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

# The meaning of ministry

*Terrell Wiebe, a third-year student at Canadian Mennonite University, spent the summer as a pastoral intern at Lethbridge Mennonite Church, Alta. Pastor Ruth Preston Schilk and Wiebe both reflect on his experience as part of the congregation.*

## From pastor to intern

Lethbridge Mennonite Church was very blessed by God in having Terrell Wiebe as our half-time summer pastoral intern. We have a close relationship with L'Arche Lethbridge, a community for mentally challenged adults, and gladly shared Terrell with the wonderful people there, where he worked at his other half-time job.

Even though the internship program is only 12 weeks long, he got to know our congregation quickly in a variety of settings which, besides Sunday school and worship, included a church camp-out, dinner invitations, ping-pong games, a church swim night, a men's breakfast, making pizza with the Sunday school kids, organizing Ultimate Frisbee and helping our congregation serve at the local soup kitchen.

We were enriched by the "formal"

things he did as an intern, including his leading of worship, visitations and sermons, and also by who he is as a Christian. He came to us with Christian maturity, depth of character and leadership experience, so we thank his family, home congregation and Christian educators for their powerful and positive influence.

And thanks, Terrell, for responding to the Holy Spirit at work in your life and in our congregation.

—Ruth Preston Schilk

## From intern to congregation

Looking back on my summer as an intern at Lethbridge Mennonite and L'Arche Lethbridge, the one word that comes to mind is "ministry." What is ministry?

This summer I learned that ministry is not just what comes from the pulpit and ministry does not solely have to come from one called to lead God's people. Ministry is actually quite simple. I see it as embodying and sharing the love that God gave us to those around us.

This summer I was able to experience some of the height and depth of God's love, and take part in, as well as experience, different forms of the ministry of God. Although I do appreciate the honour that was bestowed upon me in letting me stand behind the pulpit, I have come to realize that the pulpit is not where the majority of the ministry of a church takes place.

It is in relationships that God's love shines through. It is in the coffee and cookies after the service, the church visitations and the daily meetings with church members where I was able to

minister and, more importantly, where I was ministered to. As a church we minister to one another in the hope that we would each then minister by showing God's unfailing love to those outside the church.

L'Arche was an entirely different experience, yet one where I also found ministry foremost in my thoughts. Working with adults with developmental disabilities was an incredible way of sharing God's love for all his children, yet it was the love and unconditional acceptance that was given to me that sticks out most clearly in my mind. Although I entered L'Arche expecting to be a conduit of God's love and ministry, I found that the L'Arche community as a whole already was a place where God's love and acceptance were evident. As I became immersed in the community I could feel the love and ministry that was present in every relationship.

It was a great experience and it gave me a good understanding of how the body of Christ ought to function—as a group of people who have unconditional love for each other and who are not afraid to show it.

I am quite interested in pursuing a position in the church and I know that this summer has given me a better understanding of what that position will look like. However, more notably, this summer has taught me the meaning of ministry by showing me the need for community, for relationship and for fellowship. I have always known that we are all called to minister to one another through love, but I thank L'Arche and Lethbridge Mennonite for showing me what that really means. ✻

—Terrell Wiebe

PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRELL WIEBE



*Terrell Wiebe, left, spent his summer in Lethbridge, Alta., splitting his time between Lethbridge Mennonite Church and L'Arche Lethbridge, a community for mentally challenged adults. Wiebe is pictured with Brad Flaig, a resident at L'Arche.*

## ARTBEAT

## MUSIC REVIEW

# Singing for heart and mind, small and tall

*A New Heart: Songs of Faith for Small and Tall.*

Bryan Moyer Suderman. SmallTall Music (SmallTallMusic.com), 2009.

REVIEWED BY DAVE ROGALSKY

Many have pegged Bryan Moyer Suderman of Markham, Ont., as a children's performer. But many of the songs on *A New Heart*, his fourth CD on his SmallTall label, cover themes, use vocabulary and conceptualize in ways that make them adult material.

"Infiltrating the World," done in a bossa nova style that shows the influence of his time with Amós López, a Cuban Mennonite pastor, at Sounds in the Lands, lulls listeners into "declaring who we follow,

pledging our allegiance, enlisting in the cause, of the One who was crucified, infiltrating the world with the love of God. So welcome to the body, the body of the Lord, this ragtag band of misfits." Not your usual hum-along music.



The CD is full of songs carrying good theology of the church and missions that are for adult participants of the body of Jesus Christ. In "Listen Up People," Moyer Suderman sings, "Worship and justice go hand in hand."

He notes that a number of the songs on *A New Heart* are prophetic, challenging the church to be the people of God in the world. To convey his messages, Moyer Suderman uses many styles.

But songs like "What Do These Stones Mean?" with its children's voices, are clearly directed towards children and their parents. The humour of "It Takes All Kinds, with lyrics like, "I can't really tap with my behind," will have children giggling and singing along, learning of the giftedness of each person in the church.

This is truly a CD of "songs of faith for small and tall" . . . songs for the church . . . which is an intergenerational community" Moyer Suderman writes.

This strength might also be a weakness, limiting the range of Moyer Suderman's audience. Perhaps it's time for him to produce a CD for "small" and another for "tall."

*Dave Rogalsky is the Eastern Canada correspondent for Canadian Mennonite.*

During the 16th-century's tumultuous years of religious reformation and revolution, there was a man who stood up to the ruling powers, called for freedom of religion and separation of church and state, planted churches, preached nonviolence, was persecuted for his faith and advocated equality for women in the church.

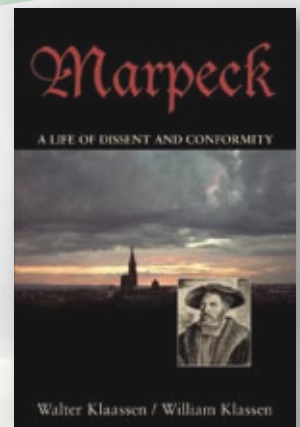
## His name was Pilgram Marpeck

In this popular telling, authors Walter Klaassen, adjunct professor of history, University of Saskatchewan, and William Klassen, adjunct professor and principal emeritus at St. Paul's College, University of Waterloo, show how Marpeck gave up his position of power and influence to become an Anabaptist and a man on the run. They also show how Marpeck, more than Menno Simons or Conrad Grebel, helped lay the foundation for the Believers' Church—the forerunner of today's Mennonites, Baptists and Quakers. **Hardcover, 423 pages. \$32.99 U.S./\$37.94 Cdn.**

"Only in recent decades has Marpeck's life fully reemerged from the shadows, and Klaassen and Klassen have been key figures in allowing his witness to speak again."—*Steven M. Nolt, from the foreword*

"An engaging blend of scholarship and readability."—*Wally Kroeker, Marketplace Magazine*

"Exceptionally well-written and popularly accessible . . . an interesting entry-point for anyone seeking knowledge of the history of the period."—*Edmund Pries, Kitchener-Waterloo Record*



To order, call 1-800-631-6535 or visit [www.mpn.net](http://www.mpn.net)

 Mennonite Publishing Network  
The publishing agency of  
Mennonite Church USA and  
Mennonite Church Canada

## FOCUS ON MISSION AND SERVICE

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

# A community like no other

BY GERALD SCHWARTZENTRUBER

As I reflect on my volunteer involvement at the Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Centre in New Hamburg, Ont., the following observations have become significant



to my understanding of the experiences that make it such a special place:

## 1. We are a community within a community

The term “community” is commonly used in relation to various settings where groups of people who have a common purpose gather. This bringing together confirms both creative and positive relationships within our geographical community. It also helps to build constructive relationships with our customers and business organizations from the surrounding areas.

## 2. We are a team

The tasks to be done throughout the week may at times appear insurmountable, but we find strength and courage to joyfully assume the countless responsibilities because we are convinced it is our work. Working together as a team nurtures a common desire to succeed, to make improvements and to celebrate positive results.

## 3. We celebrate

A celebratory atmosphere exists throughout the workplace. Birthday milestones are recognized, whether 35, 65, 85, or, in

one case, 91! We celebrate each other’s successes, special events, trips, vacations and anniversaries. These times of celebration become an opportunity to engage in reflection and conversation.

A jovial and hilarious mood may erupt at any moment, as strange and funny things show up during sorting times at the work tables.

## 4. We take time to listen

Opening ourselves to the interests of each other becomes a wonderful opportunity to extend our love, and share our concerns and personal support. At times, it even feels that we are helping to solve some of the so-called larger world challenges, particularly as they relate to us personally. We need this opportunity to find our personal checks and balances.

## 5. We are mindful of each other’s need for care and prayer

As a result of personal discussions, whether along side each other during work or breaks, we become aware of the opportunity to intentionally try to be a support to each other. Our managers are sensitive to our times of need, such as health challenges, hospitalizations, family concerns, disabilities and bereavements. This becomes the practical answer to the invitation given in the biblical text: “*Bear one another’s burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*”

## 6. We volunteer because it meets our personal needs

It is apparent that there are many and varied reasons for our participation as volunteers. There is the need for social contact. There is the feeling of “reward,” in that we are helping to alleviate some of the pain and inequities in our world. It is a way to be God’s love and the good news of the gospel of our Lord in “shirt sleeves.” The retirement years actually become a re-focused time, as our energy is available.

## 7. We are exited about being intergenerational

It is a delight to work alongside younger people who are gaining a passion for the thrift enterprise. It is an encouragement to know that various church and social groups of young people volunteer in the evening hours and in this way are also choosing to become a part of this delightful community. A brightly lit torch will thus be carried on.

## 8. We are from varied traditions and religious backgrounds

It is mutually beneficial to gain new appreciation for each other’s personal beliefs, understandings and traditions. While we have varied motivations for offering our time and abilities in this way, yet a common and respectful thread of appreciation is woven into each relationship. Our common purpose is demonstrated as we serve together under the same banner.

## 9. We have an opportunity to express our Christian calling

We have the chance to show our concern for fellow human beings, especially the less-fortunate, in a practical way. By serving at the thrift centre, we are doing hands-on work to alleviate the needs of the hungry and clothe the naked by providing money and material goods. For those of us who are not able to go abroad, serving at home is a wonderful opportunity to live out our personal call to serve. It is a call in which we can use the talents and giftedness entrusted to us by our Creator God. ☸



## FOCUS ON MISSION AND SERVICE

# On assignment in Canada

*Brazilian Mennonite serving at Camp Assiniboia as an IVEPer*

STORY AND PHOTO BY EVELYN REMPEL PETKAU

Manitoba Correspondent  
CARTIER, MAN.

**H**eidi Wedel always wanted to visit Canada. Fortunately for her, she said that in the last year or so she has found “one door after the other opening up,” leading her here.

“My desire to visit Canada began many years ago when Canadian relatives visited us in Brazil,” Wedel says. “More recently, I heard about the IVEP [International Visitor Exchange Program] program through a friend of mine, who had a good experience in the program.”

Growing up in the rural German Mennonite colony of Witmarsum in the southern province of Parana, Wedel has come a long way from home. After she trained as a nurse for five years at the university in Curitiba, and then worked as a nurse in Witmarsum for three years, Wedel felt the timing was right to follow her dream to come to Canada.

Wedel arrived in Toronto in August as part of this year’s Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) IVEP contingent. “The main goal of this program is to promote peace between cultures, to live a simple life and serve other people,” said Wedel. Eleven young people from countries around the world joined her there for a week of orientation before leaving for their respective year-long service assignments across Canada.

Wedel’s assignment is with Mennonite Church Manitoba’s Camps with Meaning, where she serves as a food services assistant at Camp Assiniboia.

“To work at a camp was my first choice,” she said. “My decision to follow Christ was first made at camp.”

Wedel gained leadership skills working as a counsellor at a teen camp in Brazil. She is excited about being a part of a program that can help children meet God and make new friends. “I understand that camps are holy places set apart with the goal that people might meet God in different ways:

through nature, through fellowship and communion with others, and through the silence. In this way, even our work here becomes holy. If we do it for God, that’s amazing.”

“It is a challenge to adapt to a new culture in many ways,” Wedel acknowledged. Language, the quiet lifestyle of a camp setting away from public transportation, and being far from family and old friends, are among the challenges.

“The Mennonite community here seems to be a stronger, bigger, more popular organization,” she noted. “Here you can find Mennonites almost everywhere. This is just my impression. At home, we are a smaller group. We come together more often for regular small group meetings during the week.”

Wedel, in her reading and experiences, is learning about the differences between a “hot climate culture and a cold climate culture.”

“At home, people are very kind and welcoming,” she said. “They will give what little they have to make you feel welcome. Our visiting is more casual and you don’t need to plan visits ahead. But it is faith in the same God that binds us together. I’m happy to serve in a place where people share the same faith in an almighty God.” ☞



*Heidi Wedel, who hails from the Witmarsum Mennonite Colony in Brazil, is working as a food services assistant at Camp Assiniboia as part of MCC’s International Visitor Exchange Program.*

## Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure

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

[www.mvsa.net](http://www.mvsa.net)

Lethbridge Winnipeg  
Toronto Montreal



## FOCUS ON MISSION AND SERVICE

# CMU students put disaster recovery studies to good use

BY RACHEL BERGEN

National Correspondent  
WINNIPEG

Jordan Braun is no ordinary third-year Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) student. Married and a father of three, he recently went with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to southern California to build houses for the victims of the 2007 Harris fires in order to fulfill his CMU practical service requirement.

Some of the worst fires known to California occurred in and around Dulzura, a rural community 40 kilometres southeast of San Diego, and 16 kilometres north of the U.S.-Mexico border in the autumn of 2007. The fires were named after the ranch where they were ignited. Five people were killed, more than 36,000 hectares were burned, and 250 homes were destroyed in the Harris fires.

That's where Braun, a disaster recovery student at CMU, and the rest of the MDS team working in Dulzura came in handy. The crew included two other CMU students, seven Hesston (Kan.) College students, and a leadership team. They worked together to build three houses from the ground up during their time there.

Unable to afford to rebuild their homes, many people in Dulzura are living out of temporary shelters and trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). MDS is providing free labour to those who lost homes there, people who generally do not have home insurance and who cannot afford to rebuild their homes themselves. Loans from the government—or donations from FEMA



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BRAUN

*John Braun, a Canadian Mennonite University disaster recovery student, spent eight weeks in southern California rebuilding homes that were burned by wildfires in 2007.*

or local churches—are insufficient to cover more than the cost of building supplies.

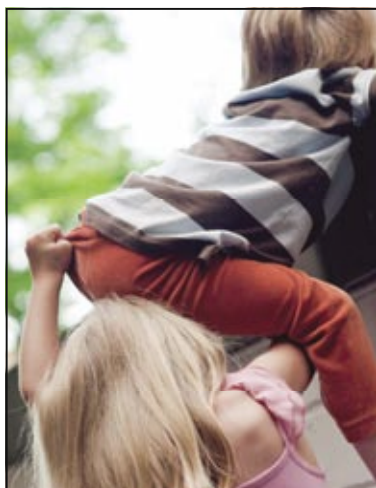
The joint MDS/CMU disaster recovery studies program focuses on the four phases of disaster management: preparedness, emergency response, mitigation and recovery. The goal is to allow students to “understand the nature of disasters, their aftermath and the best ways to help people and communities recover physically, psychologically, socially and spiritually,” according to the CMU website.

Along with classroom studies, the program involves two terms of field work, one of which must be done with MDS. The hope is to instill in students leadership qualities for working in disaster situations and the tools to be analytically adept.

The whole experience was wonderful, Braun said of his time in Dulzura, but the most difficult part was “being married with three kids and being away from them for eight weeks. . . . That was harder than I expected it to be.”

Lois Nickel, the MDS director of programs and region relations in Winnipeg, says she was “very impressed” by Braun. “He was able to keep up a cheerful spirit and encourage people,” she says, despite being separated from his family for so long.

After he completes his bachelor of arts degree with a major in international development and a minor in disaster recovery, Braun hopes to go into medicine and work overseas on disaster-related issues. ❧



## We give your giving a *boost*

We are all recipients of God's varied grace. MFC encourages and enables giving that is faithful and joyful and our expert consultants make it easy.

Call us today to explore your charitable gifting options:

- Gifts of stocks & mutual funds
- Endowments
- Bequests through wills
- Family foundations
- Life Insurance
- RRSPs, RRIFs & TFSA's.

## Mennonite Foundation of Canada

*your charitable public foundation*



1-800-772-3257

Mennofoundation.ca

Faithful Joyful Giving

## COVER STORY

**'The storm is passing over'***Hurricane Katrina survivor an inspiration for RJC volunteers*STORY AND PHOTO  
BY JESSICA BUHLERSpecial to *Canadian Mennonite*  
ROSTHERN, SASK.

Centrepieces of safety goggles and carpenter pencils adorned the tables as the annual appreciation and fundraising banquet commenced at Rosthern Junior College (RJC) earlier this month.

In March of this year, a group of 26 students and six chaperones partnered with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to help rebuild homes in Pass Christian, Miss. A relationship based on storytelling and gratitude was also built between the RJC students and homeowner Billy Morgan.

## FOCUS ON MISSION AND SERVICE

Morgan's tales of his determination to become a priest and his military service in Vietnam fascinated the students. Morgan had been working at the local dockyards when a shipment of lumber fell on him, leaving him with limited use of his legs.

Years later, in 2005, as evacuation orders

were broadcast, Morgan travelled to a shelter in Diamond Head, Miss. Along with other safety-seekers, Morgan waited for a week until help actually came. It was not until he was interviewed by the media that his family knew he was alive and well. Upon his return, Morgan found that his



Check out the Service Adventure and Radical Journey programs online at:  
**Service.MennoniteMission.net**

Locations include Australia, England and South Africa




## Mennonite Disaster Service needs YOU. Here at home.

- Could you volunteer in your town or province?
- Could you help investigate disasters in your province?
- Could you serve on the Unit (provincial) board?

### Let your MDS Unit leaders know!

British Columbia: Leonard Klassen . . . 604-855-2542  
 Alberta: Harold Friesen . . . . . 403-999-4637  
 Saskatchewan: Ed Buhler . . . . . 306-220-4543  
 Manitoba: Dan Klassen . . . . . 204-324-7355  
 Ontario: Orlan Martin . . . . . 519-589-4406  
 Québec: Yves Bourgeault . . . . . 450-754-1755  
 Atlantic Canada: Peter Bunnett . . . . . 506-534-2752

You may also contact MDS in Winnipeg at 261-1274 or toll free below.

[www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net)  
1-866-261-1274



**FOCUS ON MISSION AND SERVICE**

home had been covered with six metres of seawater and was broken into three pieces.

Despite his loss, Morgan views Hurricane Katrina as a blessing, and he continues to say, "They could have gone somewhere else, but God chose for [the MDS volunteers] to

come to our town, our house."

As part of the appreciation evening, the RJC Chorale sang a rendition of the traditional, "The Storm is Passing Over," reminding listeners of the hope that comes after the storm. ☘



*The Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and Rosthern Junior College (RJC) logos hang from scaffolding during the college's recent appreciation and fundraising banquet. Twenty-six students travelled to Mississippi in the spring to help MDS rebuild the home of Billy Morgan, a Hurricane Katrina survivor.*

PHOTO BY DAVE ROGALSKY



**Crokinole board-maker Willard Martin** holds up one of his creations at a public celebration of the work of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) on Oct. 23. MDS held its Region V (Canada) annual meetings at Crosshill, Ont., from Oct. 23-25. The evening doubled as a fundraiser, with some of the funds going to \$5,000 bursaries for students who spend their summer working in the field while studying in the new CMU disaster recovery program.



Be sure and check out NEWS UPDATE, the newest feature on *Canadian Mennonite's* website: [www.canadianmennonite.org](http://www.canadianmennonite.org). It highlights important breaking calendar events of the week across the provinces, significant personnel changes and other happenings that are of significance to you, our readers. It is updated each Friday.

**Yellow Page Business Directory**

**Education Resources**

Mennonite & BIC Resource Centre  
519-745-8458 x225 [www.mbicresources.org](http://www.mbicresources.org)

**Financial Services**

Gerber Financial Services, Waterloo, ON  
519-772-5867 • [mgerber@dundeewealth.com](mailto:mgerber@dundeewealth.com)  
Guaranteed Investments & Life Insurance

 **Menonite Savings and Credit Union**

ACCOUNTS • LOANS • MORTGAGES  
ONLINE SERVICES • FINANCIAL PLANNING

<b>Aylmer</b>	519.773.9559	1.877.773.6728
<b>Elmira</b>	519.669.1529	1.800.265.1994
<b>Kitchener</b>	519.576.7220	1.800.565.6801
<b>Leamington</b>	519.326.8601	1.888.285.5501
<b>Milverton</b>	519.595.8796	1.800.952.2217
<b>Mount Forest</b>	519.509.6728	1.888.509.6728
<b>New Hamburg</b>	519.662.3550	1.800.567.4047
<b>St. Catharines</b>	905.646.9223	1.866.405.8590
<b>Waterloo</b>	519.746.1770	1.800.265.4513

*Serving members of Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches across Ontario. [www.mscu.com](http://www.mscu.com)*

**Your Values Your Credit Union**



**EBY FINANCIAL GROUP Inc.**  
*Listen. Understand. Plan.*  
Duane Eby, MBA, CFP, CLU Financial Advisor

410 Conestogo Road, Unit 208, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 4E2  
tel 519.725.2006 fax 519.725.2003  
email [deby@ebyfinancial.com](mailto:deby@ebyfinancial.com)

*Sound Advice, Excellent Products, Peace of Mind*

John Thiessen, BA, BTh, CFP  
Tel: 1.866.324.9574  
[john@ipcmanitoba.com](mailto:john@ipcmanitoba.com)

 **Investment Planning Counsel™**  
IPC INVESTMENT CORPORATION



Insurance Provided by IPC Estate Services Inc.

**Insurance**



**MAX**<sup>TM</sup>  
 Creating and Sustaining  
**WHOLENESS**

---

**MAX Canada Insurance Company**  
 is committed to serving the Anabaptist community with  
**INSURANCE protection** and **MUTUAL AID care**.

HOME • FARM • CHURCH • BUSINESS  
 MUTUAL AID MINISTRIES

877-770-7729 • [www.maxcanada.org](http://www.maxcanada.org)  
 Products available in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario & Saskatchewan

**Proud to Represent**  
 More than 20 companies,  
 including:



**MAX Canada Insurance Company**

**Elmira**  
 519•669•1611

**Kitchener**  
 519•893•7008

**New Hamburg**  
 519•662•1644

**Tavistock**  
 519•655•2377

**Wellesley**  
 519•656•2065

**1•888•JOSSLIN**  
 (1•888•567•7546)  
[www.josslin.com](http://www.josslin.com)

**JOSSLIN INSURANCE**  
 BROKERS LIMITED

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

**Roth Nowak**  
 INSURANCE BROKERS


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

**Auto, Home & Business Insurance**

Dennis Roth ♦ Ed Nowak  
*Serving the Mennonite community throughout Ontario.*





**Real Estate**




**Commercial/Investment/Residential**

**EDMUND PRIES PhD**  
 President / Broker of Record

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



**Erwin Tiessen**  
**306-262-3833**  
 #5 - 3012 Louise Street  
 Saskatoon SK S7J 3L8  
 Phone (306) 477-0111  
 Fax (306) 477-2228



*Buying? Selling? I'll help put the pieces together!*



419 Sandringham Dr., Waterloo, ON N2K 3L8  
 Telephone 519-746-1714  
 Cell 519-580-5711  
 Website: [www.hunsbergerrealtyhd.com](http://www.hunsbergerrealtyhd.com)  
 E-mail: [merrillhunsberger@rogers.com](mailto:merrillhunsberger@rogers.com)

**Merrill Hunsberger, Ph.D.**  
*Broker of Record*



"CHINESE ALSO SPOKEN" 中文服務



Independently owned and operated



**Margaret Shantz**  
 519-747-0231  
[margaret@mmrealestate.ca](mailto:margaret@mmrealestate.ca)

Sales Representative

**Gerri Penner**  
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE



**RE/MAX**  
 Real Estate Centre Inc., Brokerage  
 Independently Owned and Operated

766 Hespeler Rd., Cambridge, ON N3H 5L8  
 Direct: 519-497-1569  
 Bus: 519-623-8200 Fax: 519-623-3841  
[gerri@gerripenner.com](mailto:gerri@gerripenner.com) [www.remaxcentre.ca](http://www.remaxcentre.ca)

**Retreat/Accommodations**



**Maison de l'amitié**  
 House Of Friendship

Student Residence and Summer Guestrooms

120 Rue Duluth, Est (514) 843-4356  
 Montreal, QC [experience@maisondelamitie.ca](mailto:experience@maisondelamitie.ca)  
 Experience hospitality in the heart of Montreal's Plateau!

[www.residencema.ca](http://www.residencema.ca)

**Travel**

Mennonite Your Way Tours  
 1-800-296-1991; [www.mywtours.com](http://www.mywtours.com)  
 Travel with a purpose!

## Calendar

### British Columbia

**Until Jan. 3, 2010:** "A Common Thread: Textiles from Sto:lo First Nation, South Asian and Mennonite Communities" exhibition at the Reach Gallery, Abbotsford.

**Until Jan. 3, 2010:** "Mennonites: People of Faith and Action" exhibit at the Reach Gallery, Abbotsford. The collection of images captures the 75-year history of the Mennonites who pioneered in the Abbotsford area.

**Jan. 15-16, 2010:** "FaithQwest 2010: Found in Translation," Peace Mennonite Church, Richmond. Speakers: Jeanette Hanson, Pat and Rad Houmphan and Vic Thiessen from MC Canada Witness, and Jonathan Neufeld of Seattle, Wash.

### Alberta

**Dec. 31:** African-style New Year's Eve service, Holyrood Mennonite Church, Edmonton; 9 p.m. to midnight. End the year with testimonies, confession, prayer and praise.

### Saskatchewan

**Jan. 15-16, 2010:** Prairie Winds

worship and music retreat, "Encountering the unsung Jesus" at Shekinah Retreat Centre with Marlene Kropf and Ken Nafziger. Contact [www.shekinahretreatcentre.org](http://www.shekinahretreatcentre.org) for information.

**Feb. 12-13, 2010:** MDS all unit meeting and gathering. Focus is on MDS's 60th anniversary through stories and worship. Visit [mds.mennonite.net](http://mds.mennonite.net) to register after Nov. 15, or call 1-866-261-1274. Daytime meetings at Warman Berghaler Mennonite Church; banquet and program at Valley Christian Academy, Osler (12).

### Manitoba

**Dec. 13:** Join MCC Manitoba at Sam's Place, 159 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg, for presentation and discussion "Christmas around the World."

**Dec. 17, 18:** Mennonite Collegiate Institute Christmas concert, (17) 7: 30 p.m.; (18) 1:30 p.m.

**Jan. 15-17, 2010:** MMYO senior youth retreat at Camp Koinonia.

**Until Jan. 16, 2010:** "Congregational Fantasies" art exhibit by Ruth Maendel is on display at the Mennonite Heritage Gallery, Winnipeg.

**Jan. 22-24, 2010:** MMYO junior youth retreat at Camp Moose Lake.

**Jan. 28-29, 2010:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate junior high presentation of three one-act plays, at the Franco-Manitoban Centre, Winnipeg.

**Feb. 3, 2010:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate open house, 7 p.m.

**Feb. 5, 2010:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and Mennonite Collegiate Institute gala event, at Westminster United Church, Winnipeg.

**Feb. 5-7, 2010:** MMYO junior youth retreat at Camp Koinonia.

**Feb. 7, 2010:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate and Mennonite Collegiate Institute gala event, at Buhler Hall, Gretna.

**Feb. 12-14, 2010:** Young adult retreat at Camp Koinonia.

### Ontario

**Dec. 12:** Pax Christi Chorale and the Gallery Choir of the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene and orchestra present "The Children's Messiah," Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, Toronto; 4 p.m.

**Dec. 13:** Menno Singers and the Menno Youth Singers present "Christmas: Lessons and Carols," St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, 3 p.m. Event includes a release of Menno Singers' new CD, *Cloths of Heaven*. For more information, visit [mennosingers.com](http://mennosingers.com).

com.

**Jan. 16, 2010:** Grand Philharmonic Choir present Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*; Centre in the Square, Kitchener; 7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 7:** Menno Singers presents a gospel hymn sing, Elmira Mennonite Church.

**March 6, 2010:** Menno Singers present Rachmaninoff's "Vespers," St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, 8 p.m. For more information, visit [mennosingers.com](http://mennosingers.com).

**March 20, 2010:** Grand Philharmonic Choir presents "A Springtime Choral Potpourri" with the Grand Philharmonic Chamber Singers; St. George Hall, Waterloo; 7:30 p.m.

**March 25-26, 2010:** Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies; Conrad Grebel Great Hall; 7:30 p.m. each evening. Keynote speaker: James Harder, Bluffton College, Ohio, president. Topic: "Mennonites and development: The impact of the current economic crisis on our communities, countries and churches."

**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](mailto:calendar@canadianmennonite.org).**

## UpComing

### Learning to minister in a politically polarized world

HARRISONBURG, VA.—Western culture is becoming increasingly polarized around political and social issues. In turn, these issues find their way into congregations and heighten tension. The 2010 School for Leadership Training at Eastern Mennonite Seminary will give pastors and church leaders tools for dealing constructively with these concerns. The theme for the January 18-21, 2010, program is "Centred on Christ in a right and left world," with plenary discussions, worship and workshops focusing on this theme. Plenary speakers are Greg Boyd, pastor at Woodland Hills Church, St. Paul, Minn., and author of 18 books, including *The Myth of a Christian Nation*, and Jennifer Davis Sensenig, lead pastor at Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg. David R. Brubaker, associate professor of organizational studies at EMU's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, will lead a special "Dialogue on difficult issues" training session. To register online, or for more information, visit [emu.edu/seminary/slt](http://emu.edu/seminary/slt).

—Eastern Mennonite Seminary Release

## Classifieds

### Church Anniversary

**Aberdeen Mennonite Church**, Aberdeen, Sask., is planning a **100th Anniversary Celebration** June 5 & 6, 2010. Join us for music, sharing and tours as we celebrate God's goodness to us over this century. For more details, contact Harvey Klassen, Box 207, Aberdeen, SK S0K 0A0, or by e-mail at [kathy@bitlink.ca](mailto:kathy@bitlink.ca).

### For Sale

**HOUSE FOR SALE - ARCADIA, FLORIDA.** Fully furnished 4-year-old Mobile Home, 3bed/2bath. Double lot with citrus/palm trees. Part of Sunnybreeze Christian Fellowship community, founded by the Hallman family. \$100,000 USD. For information and photos, call 705-444-5107.

### Advertising Information

Contact *Canadian Mennonite*

Ad Representative

Lisa Metzger

1-800-378-2524 x.224

519-664-2780

advert@

[canadianmennonite.org](http://canadianmennonite.org)

## Special Offers

**Get closer to God through Rejoice!** Be inspired and encouraged through daily Scripture readings, messages and prayer. Subscribe now and save 20%! [www.mpn.net/offer](http://www.mpn.net/offer)

**What are you doing to live more simply and sustainably?** Share your ideas through Mennonite Publishing Network's upcoming book, *Simply Sustainable*, at [www.mpn.net/offer](http://www.mpn.net/offer).

## Employment Opportunities

### ARCHIVIST

**Mennonite Church USA** Historical Committee seeks an **archivist** to lead its Goshen, Ind., archives. The archivist is responsible for acquiring, preserving and making accessible archival collections related to Mennonite Church USA. Job description and qualifications can be found at [www.mennoniteusa.org/jobs](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/jobs), or contact the Historical Committee at [archives@mennoniteusa.org](mailto:archives@mennoniteusa.org) or 574-523-3080.

To apply, e-mail a cover letter, resume/vita and three references to the above address or mail to Mennonite Church USA Historical Committee, 1700 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526. Consideration of applications will begin Jan. 4, 2010. The Historical Committee is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women and racial/ethnic people to apply.



### MCC BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS THE FOLLOWING OPENINGS:

**MATERIAL RESOURCES COORDINATOR**, Abbotsford, B.C. The Material Resources Coordinator manages and handles material resources at our warehouse, relates to our constituency and provides volunteer education. This is a full-time salaried position with benefits, requiring some evenings and Saturdays.

**THRIFT SHOP MANAGER**, Vancouver, B.C. The Thrift Shop Manager keeps the shop running smoothly, assists customers, trains volunteers and engages the local constituency. This is a full-time salaried position with benefits, requiring some evenings and Saturdays.

For a complete job posting, please visit: [mcc.org/bc/serve](http://mcc.org/bc/serve) or contact Marie Reimer at 604-850-6639 or toll free at 1-888-622-6337, or e-mail [hrdirector@mccbc.com](mailto:hrdirector@mccbc.com).



### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SILVER LAKE MENNONITE CAMP

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp is a children's summer camp located in Hepworth, Ont. The Assistant Director will work in cooperation with the Director to prepare, supervise and facilitate the summer camp program, taking a leadership role in developing strong program areas as well as directing and supervising the summer staff.

This role is part-time February through April and September, and full-time May through August, 2010.

**Qualifications:** Mature person with proven leadership abilities in the church and/or other organizations. Possess excellent communication skills, both oral and written. Some post-secondary education.

Apply by Dec. 31, 2009, with cover letter, resume and references to Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, RR1, Hepworth, ON N0H 1P0, or [silverlake@slmc.on.ca](mailto:silverlake@slmc.on.ca). Interviews in January with Feb. 1, 2010, start date. For more information, contact David Erb, Director, at 519-422-1401 or [silverlake@slmc.on.ca](mailto:silverlake@slmc.on.ca).



**Rosthern Junior College** invites applications for:

**RESIDENCE STAFF** - full-time position for residence staff in boys' dormitory beginning Jan. 3, 2010. (For complete job description, please visit [www.rjc.sk.ca](http://www.rjc.sk.ca).)

Qualified applicants should forward resumes to:  
c/o Principal  
Rosthern Junior College  
Box 5020  
Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0  
Fax: 306-232-5250 E-mail: [administration@rjc.sk.ca](mailto:administration@rjc.sk.ca)  
Website: [www.rjc.sk.ca](http://www.rjc.sk.ca)

Closing Date: December 7, 2009.

### FREE-LANCE CURRICULUM WRITERS WANTED

The **Gather 'Round** curriculum, a project of Mennonite Publishing Network and Brethren Press, is accepting applications to write for the 2011-12 year. Writers are needed for Preschool (ages 3-4), Primary (K-grade 2), Middler (grades 3-5), Junior Youth (grades 6-8) and Youth (grades 9-12). All writers will attend an orientation conference in April 2010 and begin writing thereafter, with deadlines staggered quarter by quarter. Writers prepare weekly materials for teacher's guides, student books, and resource packs. Compensation varies according to the age group and the number of weeks (12-14) in a given quarter.

For more information and to apply, visit the "Contact us" page at [www.gatherround.org](http://www.gatherround.org). Extended deadline for applications: December 18, 2009.



**Mennonite Church Canada** invites applications for the position of **GENERAL SECRETARY**.

The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer of Mennonite Church Canada, accountable to the General Board, and responsible for the total program of Mennonite Church Canada.

The successful candidate is a person of vision with a strong Mennonite-Anabaptist ecclesiology; demonstrates strong leadership qualities with the ability to balance competing responsibilities; is able to relate effectively with a diverse constituency; can oversee the management of financial, human and physical resources; and demonstrates excellent oral, written and interpersonal communication skills. Education, work experience and computer skills suitable to the responsibilities of this ministry are required.

This is a full-time position, located at the Winnipeg, Man., denominational offices, and requires considerable travel within Canada, as well as occasional travel outside of Canada. The preferred starting date is in late summer or early fall of 2010.

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.

The job description is posted at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/getinvolved/jobs/>. Inquiries, nominations and applications can be directed to Andrew Reesor-McDowell, Moderator, c/o Mennonite Church Canada, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4; (ph. 204-888-6781; toll-free 1-866-888-6785); or e-mail [moderator@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:moderator@mennonitechurch.ca).

# Another act of



PHOTO BY DONITA WIEBE-NEUFELD

# public peace

*Taryn Haluza-Delay stands at the Ghandi memorial on the way to Edmonton's city hall on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, one of more than 130 people who marched in the belief that "to remember is to work for peace." The peace walk was sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee Alberta and organized by Holyrood Mennonite Church and the Quakers. Lendrum Mennonite Brethren and Edmonton First Mennonite churches supported the event. "I felt very affirmed by that kind of presence," said Arlene Fuhr, pastor of First Mennonite. "We need to do something that publicly shows that not everyone supports the war effort."*