



C A N A D I A N  
**Mennonite**

**February 23, 2004**  
Volume 8, Number 4

**Journey through Lent**

## From the annual meeting

Journalists always like a “good quote,” and I heard some memorable ones at the annual meeting of *Canadian Mennonite* in Winnipeg February 5-7. The meeting gathered the cross-country board of Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service, the group that publishes this magazine.

“*Canadian Mennonite* is like a congregational meeting,” said someone. “It includes a great variety of opinion and debate but we all speak as part of one church.”

“*Canadian Mennonite* is a messenger,” was another comment. “It carries the voices of Mennonite Church Canada and its area conferences.” Noteworthy is the emphasis on “voices” rather than on being “the voice of the church.” Another good comparison likened *Canadian Mennonite* to a “listening committee,” distilling the conversation and reporting on the progress of “the meeting.”

Another one that I like is thinking of *Canadian Mennonite* as a church bulletin. It is something we hand out to everyone who enters our church, whether they ask for it or not. Some read it avidly, some hardly at all, but it is offered to everyone as a guide to worship and to the life of the church community.

One board member warned against too much “fluff” from church communicators. We need to focus on the good things that are happening, but we also need to be honest about the difficulties and the differences within our body.

“I would rather see the church being imperfect together than being perfect separately,” commented one person.

Our board meetings included conversations with MC Canada staff, as well as representatives of Mennonite Church Manitoba. *Canadian Mennonite* has pledged itself to more discussions on the funding formula with area conferences this year.

Urgent business for 2004 includes finding new leadership for the magazine. The board hopes to hire a new editor/

publisher this spring.

The budget for this year is \$583,850. In the current funding formula, *Canadian Mennonite* covers 40 percent of that through advertising, donations and other means; MC Canada and the area conferences share the other 60 percent. The cost to the conferences is based on membership, not on subscriber numbers, so congregations are free to sign up all members and adherents without changing the cost to their conference.

The board said goodbye to two long-term members—Lloyd Koch of Pembroke, Ontario, who has been treasurer for 11 years, and Ron Loeppky of Winnipeg. Betty Dyck of Elmira, Ontario, stepped down after three years as secretary. The new treasurer is Ester Neufeldt of Kitchener, Ontario. (Board members are listed in the masthead below. Two conference appointees are still pending.)

Talking about good quotes, the comments that came back with the fundraising cards last year included a lot of provocative images. They described *Canadian Mennonite* as “a connective tissue,” “a cross-country connector” and “link to the international church.” (Others were not so positive, with words such as “disgusting” and “disturbed.”)

“It gives us a good picture of the church across the country... Still pilgrims and strangers, the ways it looks,” wrote an Ontario reader. “We enjoy the paper but do not always agree with certain issues in it. Thank you,” wrote a Manitoba couple. From a Saskatchewan senior: “People have to say what’s bothering them, and *CM* lets them do it.”

“I believe it is extremely important to build unity and foster communication across the church,” wrote a reader from B.C. Said another: “It is my link to the church... informative, provocative and inspirational.” One Alberta donor simply wrote, “Yes!”

Thank you again to all the generous supporters of this magazine. Please keep us in your prayers as we enter a year of change and challenge.—**Margaret Loewen Reimer**

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

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### Web site preview

Get a preview of the next *Canadian Mennonite* before it comes in the mail.

Selections are posted on our web site at

[www.canadianmennonite.org](http://www.canadianmennonite.org)  
on the Thursday before the issue date. So you can check out the March 8 issue by March 4.

**Cover: Sauble Beach Winter.**  
Photo by Paul Janzen



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Saskatoon, Sask.

## Manager brings ideals and energy to thrift stores

**T**he store is spacious, clean and brightly lit. There are designer names on the clothing—Simon Chang and Liz Claiborne. Is this The Bay? No, it's the new Village Green Thrift Store here.

Char Bueckert, general manager, begins her shift before breakfast. She takes an hour to go over her duties and prepare for what the day may bring.

"It's always the tyranny of the urgent," she jokes, referring to the many crises she must deal with.

As the only general manager in Ten Thousand Villages stores across Canada, Bueckert works with managers and staff of the other two Village Green outlets in Saskatoon, and interacts with almost 300 volunteers.

In three years, Bueckert and the board have updated one store, opened a second, and given their competition cause for thought. She has brought the stores into the 21st century.

She makes no apology for her style, and handles criticism with aplomb. There's always opposition to new ideas, she says. Someone once asked her when she was going to slow down. This *is* slow, she told them.

Her motto is simple—let's get our message out. Like any shrewd business person, she knows that you have to spend money to make money. The goal of the Village Green stores is to make money for Mennonite Central Committee and part of achieving that goal, Bueckert believes, is raising awareness in the community.

Village Green advertises on Saskatoon's most popular radio station. The sign on the new store is large, unmistakably Mennonite in its simplicity but noticeable on a busy retail strip.

Bueckert came on board in September 2000 as manager of the 20th Street store. She came with a degree in education, a stint in Native Ministries, five years of camp experience, and a strong business background.

"My first goal was to modernize,"

she said. Customers responded and sales began going up. The board continued to keep a close eye on the second downtown store, which was losing money. That store closed in 2002.

It became apparent that a volunteer board could not handle all the duties of running a business, and so they developed a general manager position.

"I wasn't going to apply," said Bueckert, but God intervened and she changed her mind. She began the general manager position in September 2002.

It's challenging to keep 300 volunteers informed and connected, she admits. But working with volunteers is also the most enjoyable part of her job.

"People are so committed," she says. She works closely with social agencies in the city. "We are not a mission, but giving is an integral part of who we are. Yesterday, we gave away a living room set to a family. Today we will give clothing to a refugee family. Tomorrow it will be something to a pregnancy shelter."

She trains her staff to be discerning, knowing that not all needs are as urgent as they may appear to be. Bueckert also enjoys the opportunities to connect spiritually with customers. Many conversations begin when people find out they don't have to pay tax on purchases. When asked why, Bueckert and the staff explain the Villages program.

"We work in 57 countries around the world, in the name of Christ," she replies. That opens a door. She is surprised how many customers begin to unload their problems.

"People will break down crying," she says. "There's lots of panic, lots of hurt."

A big challenge is finding ways to use all the donations that come in. The

store gives away thousands of pounds of clothing each year and it's a constant challenge to find creative ways to use the surplus.

She dreams of expanding the business so that more people can have access to inexpensive clothing and participate in the work of MCC. She and the other managers wonder about moving all three stores under one roof to reduce overhead.

And every so often, they receive a donation so valuable they can't sell it at the store. An internet auction site would be useful, she says.

Bueckert seems born to the role. She doesn't give an inch on her ideals. She is innovative and likes to get things done. But she is able to balance all of that with grace and sensitivity in her dealings with people. Perhaps she is helping to redefine the Villages concept and ushering in a new generation of thrift store shoppers.—**Karin Fehderau**



**Bueckert**

Winnipeg, Man.

## Mary Epp touched lives of many

**A** career missionary to the Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), Mary Epp influenced many students, and others, in the nearly 30 years she taught there.

Epp died on January 21 in Saskatoon. A service of remembrance was held there in her home congregation, First Mennonite, on January 26.

Epp went to Belgian Congo in 1959 with the Congo Inland Mission (now Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission). She was sent by Hanley Mennonite Church. Her first assignment was to work with primary school teachers at Kamayala. Less than a year later, she and other missionaries were evacuated because of the turmoil related to independence.

She returned in 1961 and spent a year in Kinshasa, the capital, teaching

Winnipeg, Man.

## Doodling leads to artistic vocation

**T**he world is charged with the grandeur of God. / It will flame out, like shining from shook foil....”

The energy of these words by Victorian poet-priest Gerard Manley Hopkins came to mind during a recent conversation with Lynette Schroeder Wiebe, communications coordinator and graphic artist for Mennonite Church Canada.

Like Manley’s words, Wiebe’s brilliantly coloured drawings, wall-hangings, colouring books and window art seem to burst with joy as they celebrate the “grandeur of God.” They virtually “flame out” of her whenever she picks up a pen and starts doodling. Which is all the time—in meetings, in church, on the phone.

“It’s not safe to leave bits of important paper lying around. I’ve always decorated everything,” says Wiebe. “My scribbles at school were chock-full of doodles in the margins and my notes often consisted of pictures, not words.”

While her children were taking music lessons, she’d drink coffee in the car and doodle on the styrofoam cups.

“I’d decorate them inside and out; I loved the feel of the pen on the foam.”

Yet Wiebe never thought she could draw and says it feels odd being interviewed in relation to creativity.

“We all bring creativity to our work,” she says. “For me it’s been a fun journey—a long winding path to get to what I’m doing now.”

That journey began in 1987, when she was hired as a receptionist at the Conference of Mennonites in Canada office. Co-workers soon noticed her illustrating skills, and began bringing requests to “make things pretty.”

After a two-year service assignment in Taiwan with husband Ernie and family, she returned to work at the conference office and landed in communications. Aiden Schlichting Enns was director at the time.

“Aiden pushed me towards graphic arts,” she says. “He kept saying ‘why not do something where your gifts are? Do what you love to do!’”



Wiebe

Others encouraged her artistic leanings, including a waitress at a Korean restaurant that Wiebe frequented.

“I always doodled on their paper placemats and she began to collect my stuff—she even displayed them under the glass table-tops and gave others to her son, who hung them in his room,” she said.

In 1999, Wiebe became communications coordinator for MC Canada and began taking computer graphics courses. Everything published by MC Canada now crosses her desk. It’s her job “to make things pretty” and ensure that they carry MC Canada’s visual identity.

“I love my work,” she says. “It’s a double blessing to be paid for doing it.” Wiebe designed the Lent 2004 bulletins for the Mennonite Publishing Network (see back cover).

“They gave me some themes/ideas, and let me go with it. I really liked that.... The opportunity to convey an understanding of a biblical idea to people so that they’d understand more of it is exciting.... I feel that is a gift I can give to the wider church.”

Wiebe feels more vulnerable about her personal art work.

“My drawings tend to look very native. They’re not about something I know. They seem creation-connected and come from deep inside. Mythical creatures and elemental contortions appear—certainly different than when I do graphic design.

“Perhaps they’re somehow linked to all those styrofoam cups I drew on,” she laughs. “I was limited by that pen sinking into the foam...my art flows out of the medium as well as the message. I’m really into textures.”

Wiebe’s family has been supportive throughout her artistic journey. In the three-generation household in which she lives, “we’ve designed our kitchen so that once I’ve developed an idea in my ‘alone time’ I can be part of the family as I fill it in. It’s wonderful to hear the kids practising music downstairs, my husband Ernie on the sofa looking at the birds, my parents in their favourite chairs...such a sense of oneness. Then, at any time, chaos erupts!”

Fertile ground for an artist. The conversation ends with laughter.

—Leona Dueck Penner

in the American school. The following year she moved to Nyanga and began what would be many years of teaching at the Mennonite Church High School and Girl’s School.

Epp wanted the best for her students. When she was assigned subjects for which she felt she had inadequate training, she took courses. She longed to help meet spiritual as well as academic needs.

Epp’s desire was to teach in a Bible school where she could draw on her training in Bible and Christian education. God granted Epp her heart’s desire in 1980 when she was appointed professor at the Bible institute of the Mennonite Church of Congo.

Epp did not hesitate to make sacrifices for her students. When a former



Epp

high school student who had become director of a prison described the horrible conditions there, she responded. She helped reinstate a program that had students from the Bible institute hold services at the prison.

But she was reminded that starving stomachs have no ears. So Epp not only asked her students to plan programs but consulted with them on how food could be a part of each prison visit.

The students, on restricted food budgets themselves, provided the staple manioc mush. Mary and other missionaries provided money for fish and greens, which the students prepared.

Epp returned to Canada in 1987.

Jim Bertsche, speaking for the Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission family, said: “We who knew and worked with Mary remember her as a gentle, sensitive, committed career missionary who, in her quiet manner, graced the lives of all who knew her, missionary and African alike.”—From joint release by MC Canada Witness and AIMM

# Meditations for Lent

## Time to give up

**F**oreigners have the watches, but Lao have the time.”

I had been in Laos only a few days when my new Lao colleague quoted this saying. I thought immediately about the two watches I had brought to Laos. I had replaced the batteries in them during my last weeks in Canada and had bought a new bracelet for one.

I thought I was ready for Laos. Now I wasn't so sure. The words haunted me as I walked the unfamiliar streets around my new neighbourhood and heard the strange sounds that filled the air. Do I have the time for Lao people? Will I be connected to the culture? Is my agenda more important than others? Do I have the time?

Variations of these questions come to mind as I reflect on Jesus making his way to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, and continuing towards death. What kind of things did Jesus have time for?

I am struck by the fact that Jesus had time for what was important in the last week before his death. Three things come to mind.

1) Jesus had time to celebrate. Passover is full of tradition and symbolism. Jesus took time to get together with friends to honour this tradition. I don't imagine that he really enjoyed this Passover as much as some, but he didn't ignore it or sit in a corner. He led the ceremony and followed the rituals, expanding on the traditional symbols. He used that situation as a learning tool that is still followed by Christians today.

2) Jesus had time to were tired and slept. to do. When I suf- one of my first can under-

pray. The disciples That part is easy for me fer from culture shock, responses is to sleep. So I stand the disciples' response to the stress they experienced. But Jesus knew that the strength he needed to get through the next few days would come from prayer, not sleep. He needed to talk to God before he could finish his

task.

3) Jesus had time to heal a stranger. When Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, one of Jesus' followers cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest. Jesus took the time to heal the man's ear. Even while he was under arrest, Jesus healed someone.

How often are we in stressful situations and think only about ourselves? How often am I hot and hungry out in a village and feeling sorry for myself, with no concern for the people around me?

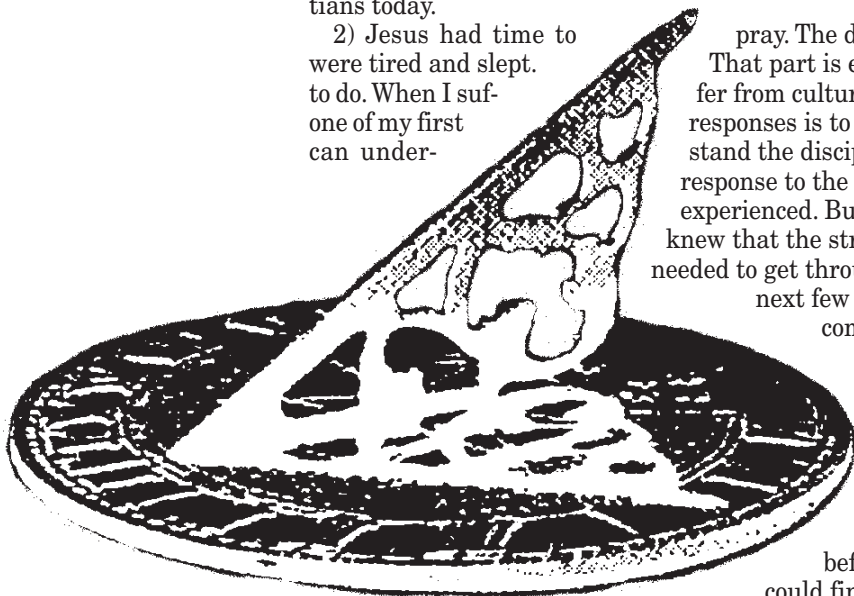
I need to take care that I have time for what is important. I often rush off, trying to do all the things I planned to do. I need to take time to celebrate with the people I am with, pray for strength and courage to face the future, and take time to heal relationships with those around me.

A few days after I first heard the Lao saying I took off my watch and put it away. I haven't worn a watch since. I wish I could say that I had successfully made the change from thinking about time constantly to actually having time, but I can't say that yet. However, I am on the way to being less conscious about time and more people-centred. Slowly, I am becoming more Lao.

Many Christians give up something for Lent. This Lenten season, consider taking off your watch as a symbol that you are making time for what is important. Each time you look at your bare arm to wonder what time it is, ask yourself what you are doing with time. Do you have time for what is important?

If you give up knowing the time, you may find you have more time.—**Phyllis Mann**

*The writer, an MCC Laos/Thailand representative, is a member of Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren Church in Winnipeg.*



## Dancing with the Holy Spirit

Last spring, when I was travelling to my home in Dhaka, Bangladesh, I got caught in a traffic jam. This is a pretty normal thing in Bangladesh.

As I looked around for something to divert my attention, I caught sight of a figure at the side of the road wearing a burka. (Many Muslim women in Bangladesh wear this head-to-toe covering, an indication of modesty and commitment to the virtue of purity.)

I watched as the small, old woman tried to cross at the busy intersection. She would venture out, see a car coming, hike up her skirts and then run back to the side. It looked like she was doing some kind of dance. She did this a number of times and finally, in frustration, she threw back her veil.

Her face looked panicked. She attempted to cross a few more times. Finally, she returned to the divider and slumped down, defeated.

A few moments later, she jumped up and scanned the area. I watched as she went over to a young man and said something to him. He reached down and took her hand. Her face was beaming. The young man and the old woman crossed the street together.

I haven't been able to get the image of that woman out of my head and wondered why. Recently, I've realized that it is because she reminds me of myself. We weren't born in the same place; we haven't lived the same kind of life. Our communication would likely be halting, but I do find myself at times in the same kind of dance.

That dance is a metaphor for the way I relate to God, in all of God's parts. Through Jesus, we gain access to the Father. In John 14, Jesus talks about the renewed relationship that we have with God, sealed by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Seeing the old woman in the burka showed me how to respond to God's gift of Christ and the Spirit. In the

beginning, she appeared brave, trying to cross the road on her own. Despite her efforts—her small acts of bravery—she was unsuccessful. The sight of her sitting down at the side of the road, shoulders slumped, is a familiar feeling for me. This happens when I forget to ask, forget to wait in expectation of the promises that God has given.

We need to wait and expect; we need to ask. And just like that woman went to the young man, we need to ask when we need help. One of the most incredible things was the transformation that took place in the woman. She straightened up and smiled. Not only did she get to where she needed to go, but for the next part of her journey the anxiety was lifted.

There are days I might have seen her action as a moment of weakness. That day, I saw it as a moment of strength.

These days I keep encountering new things. I am figuring out what it means to be dancing with the Holy Spirit.

—**Bethany Osborne**

*The writer, from Toronto, is a public relations coordinator with MCC Bangladesh.*

**Seeing the old woman in the burka showed me how to respond to God's gift of Christ and the Spirit.**

“

**could run a business, go to seminary, and pastor a church— all at the same time.”**

*(PSDE student)*

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## West Coast choir gives voice to the voiceless

It's Tuesday at Choices and Connections, a program of Mennonite Central Committee B.C. Supportive Care Services, and lively music can be heard in the meeting room. Telma, a worker here, plays the keyboard, accompanied by Kenny on his guitar.

The music may not be particularly tuneful, but for Kenny, who lives with a mental disability, this is the highlight of his week. Making music makes a difference in his life.

In another place, the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir makes music of a different sort. But it also makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. For more than a decade, these highly skilled singers have produced CDs, sometimes with world famous musicians such as Edith Wiens, Ben Heppner, and rising star Colin Balzer, to benefit MCC Supportive Care Services. They have raised nearly \$600,000 for programs like Choices and Connections.

Choir members get together about once a year. They might rehearse eight times before a recording session, do

one concert to introduce the CD, and that's it. Last year alone, they sold over \$75,000 worth of CDs.

Conductor Tony Funk feels that the choir has been successful because it is about more than performing or striving for awards. Recently a man wrote to say that "the CD brought comfort to him and to his wife as she was dying and later as he dealt with his grief," recalled Funk. "To be allowed into such a sacred space—this is bigger than me or the choir."

For Funk there is also a personal connection in that his family has a history of depression. He knows that support for people with mental illness or disabilities is important. Choir members share his convictions.

"We sing a challenging repertoire and we have fun. And the choir knows it's going to a great cause; that it's going to help people. The paradox is that we are using our voices to help people who have none. That's what Jesus did—he gave dignity to people who would otherwise be ignored."

For Steve Thiessen, executive director of MCC Supportive Care Services, the passion that the artists bring to the cause is extraordinary.

"I've been increasingly aware that there is a connectedness that artists feel towards people with disabilities," he said. "And it has created in us an interest in connecting the arts world with our cause—not to exploit it but to create an opportunity to share gifts."



**The West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir. Conductor Tony Funk is seated fourth from the left in the front row.**

Awareness of the choir and its cause is growing.

"What a fantastic group of singers!" wrote Bonnie Beth Derby, a radio host and organist in New York City, who received a copy of the latest CD. "It is somewhat ironic that this CD was sent to me—I am also a parent of one son who was diagnosed as bi-polar manic-depressive during his early teens and I can relate to people working with the mentally disabled."

Other radio stations across North America have also featured the music of the choir.

Back at Choices and Connections, Kenny's mom says that Kenny has no problem getting up on Tuesdays because he knows he'll be making music that day. And down the road, Funk is already planning the music for the next CD, which will go into production later this year. More information about the MCC program and the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir can be found at [www.mccscs.com](http://www.mccscs.com).—From release by **Angelika Dawson**

### CD focuses on peace

*And Night Shall End* is the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir's 12th recording. Conductor Tony Funk explains that the CD is an attempt to address the tensions that exist in the world by "framing our commitment to peace in the person of Jesus Christ, whose life exemplified peace and concern for all peoples."

The CD begins and ends with songs that focus on Christ as the source of sacrificial love. Between is music that describes the realities of war. The turning point comes with Walt Whitman's poem "Reconciliation" in which the author recognizes that God created him and his enemy. Brahms' "Create in me a clean heart, O God" is one of the songs of reconciliation.

CDs can be ordered from MCC at (604) 850-6608.—**Angelika Dawson**



## Arts notes

## Scholarship winner

Bethany Horst from St. Jacobs, Ontario, has received the \$1,000 Abner Martin Music Scholarship for 2003. The scholarship is offered by Menno Singers, a Mennonite community choir, in honour of its founder. Horst, a graduate of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, is in the vocal performance program at the University of Western Ontario in London. She has sung in the church choir, in community productions and school musicals, and has assisted with music at Vacation Bible School. For more information on the scholarship, e-mail: lbrubacher@sympatico.ca.



Horst

## Fundraiser features two groups

House of Doc, a band from Winnipeg, will present a concert at the King Street Theatre in Kitchener, Ontario, on March 6 at 8:00 p.m. A popular local group, Five on the Floor, will be opening for them. House of Doc member Matthew Harder, originally from Kitchener, says the group combines "choral singing roots coloured by old-time bluegrass, Celtic, folk, and blues to create a new sound that pays homage to a long and rich gospel tradition." Group members are the grandchildren of Mildred and David (Doc) Schroeder, well-known Bible teacher. This is the band's first trip to Ontario. Tickets may be purchased by calling (519) 741-8224 or e-mailing harder@sentex.net.—From release

## Call for artfulness

Vern Swaback spent 22 years working with famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The greatest lesson he learned from Wright was that "everything is artfully related and integrated." Today, as founder of the Swaback Partners architectural firm in Arizona, Swaback is continually asking, "Can we take

[Wright's] artfulness and put it in a production-driven society?" On January 23, Swaback shared his vision at Goshen College as part of the Yoder Public Affairs Lecture series. "We are at a place where we have exhausted doing things the easy way," Swaback said. "We have never had more clear warnings or more clear opportunities to do things a better way." Urban "sprawl" is about artless development and dependence on the automobile, he said. He encourages building community, which he defines as the "art of doing more with less; the conservation and amplification of resources." One essential ingredient is beauty. This "new urbanization" includes front porches, making streets for people and not just cars, creating buildings that fit the land. He advocates co-housing communities which mix business, recreation and homes. Swaback's recent book is *The Creative Community, Designing for Life*. —From Goshen College release

## Humpty Dumpty Revisited

Sunrise unsurpassed  
I planned to thank you for it, Lord  
but the news jarred my  
thoughts.

I'm like an egg, now, that has hit  
the floor  
Yolk mingled with white, shell  
crushed

Lord, my world is broken  
Totally beyond me  
Yet I remember the sunrise  
Morning! Newly created day  
You made order out of chaos at  
creation, Lord  
Recreate me

## Marianne Harder

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## How to win friends and influence editors

I'd guess that a few of you are like me when reading the Mennonite press—the first page we turn to is letters to the editor. In these gems, we can relive the controversies that stir the soup of the church.

For example, a recent exchange in a rival publication was about whether birth announcements should list the father's name first or the mother's. (Of course, it should be the child's name—it's their announcement after all.)

But even more fun than reading these letters is writing them. And so, to assist you in setting up your very own letter-writing ministry, I will list a number of writing styles. It goes without saying that the following styles do not relate to any present or past letter writers to this publication.

- *The Mote Spotter*. Choose some minor fact to correct and then suggest that it casts doubt on the entire article.

For example, "While I agree that the history of Western imperialism may have its downside, Columbus first sailed with a crew of 70, not 68. Given this new information, you may wish to revise your argument."

- *The Indignant*. Start with some powerful cliché like "I am shocked and

appalled" or "this must surely be the last days." It may be accompanied by a subscription cancellation to make people really sit up and take notice.

But if you cancel your subscription, how will you find out if the editor publishes your letter?

- *The Scriptural Expert*. Cite a Bible verse, or at least its location, which may or may not relate to the issue under debate.

For example, "I have just this to say to those churches that use a piano in

worship—Revelation 1:18. And what's more, Matthew 16:19. Not to mention Isaiah 22:22. In conclusion, Judges 3:25." A good concordance helps to pull this one off.

- *The Grammarian*. Usually this style is employed by frustrated English teachers who are exasperated by the notion of English as a living language which changes and which is beginning to accept formerly-scorned grammatical strategies, including the use of run-on sentences.

Especially appreciated by editors are those letters complaining about spelling errors.

- *The Romantic Pastoralist*. Generally hearkens back to a simpler time when mail came right up to your door and the Jehovah's Witnesses didn't.

Starts with something like: "This problem of women in ministry would go away if we'd all just sit down and listen to that still small voice of the bishop, just like we did in the olden days."

- *The Boundary Guard*. Simply put, you try to discredit an opinion by arguing that the author is not "one of us."

For example, "Maybe Ken Stedman has a point about the loss of the Anabaptist vision, but was he born into a Mennonite church? And what kind of name is 'Stedman'? You won't find it in the *Martyrs Mirror*, that's for sure!"

- *The Protector of the Weak*. You claim that, while not personally offended by something, you are worried that it will lead weaker sisters and brothers astray.

A variation might be: "I know how my dear old mother would have been hurt by your editorial on deleting 'Onward Christian Soldiers' from the hymnal."

- *The Dismissive*. You discard a particular article as being unworthy of our time and attention. As in: "Why you'd waste a half-page on that expose of food additives in marshmallows is beyond me!" However, by writing about it you have given it even more notice than before.

- *The Yarn Spinner*. Use the letter as a way of telling one of your favourite anecdotes. For example, "Your article on slashing the conference budget reminded me of those precious days I spent planting trees in the Kootenays...."

- Finally, one last piece of advice. Always put in at least one irrelevant statement or fact. This allows the editors to eliminate that weakness, and feel that they are doing their job, without actually touching the important kernel of your thoughts.

I wonder what sort of letters will be used in responding to this item....  
—April 19, 1993



**Emke Retro**  
Ivan Emke

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## Letters

## Male and female should be equal

This is a response to "Ten reasons why men should not be ordained" (January 12, page 27).

When Paul wrote to the Galatians, he said, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (3:28).

Through all his teachings, Christ treated males and females equally. Why must *Canadian Mennonite* include articles by Ivan Emke, questioning ordaining?

Letters express the opinion of the writer, not necessarily those of Canadian Mennonite or the church. We publish as many as space permits, unless they attack individuals or become too repetitious. Letters are edited for length and style. See page 2 for address information.

I read the magazine from cover to cover, soon after it arrives. When I find articles of this nature, or the many articles that want to call homosexual unions marriages, I get "ticked off."

I have no problem with these unions but I do not think they should be called marriages. I realize that the news media use the word "marriage" loosely. Is that a good reason to do the same in our paper?

*Canadian Mennonite* carries many worthwhile articles and I really appreciate them, but I do find disturbing articles such as I have pointed out.

I have taught school for 27 years and found that we should be thankful that we have many excellent teachers, both male and female.

We should treat them on their own merits, not on whether they are female or male.—**John F. Wiebe, Winkler, Man.**

## High marks for humour column

I commend Tim Wiebe on his brilliant column, Pilgrim Pieces. I am continually amused and impressed by the keen wit he brings to each article. Here's hoping he will be a contributor to *Canadian Mennonite* for many years to come.—**Bertha Landers, St. Agatha, Ont.**

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## Decaf delights

I want to be clear from the start: I have never been addicted to coffee. Never. I know I could quit anytime I want. It's just that, well, I've never wanted to (at least until recently). I really looked forward to my morning cup, and I always got a headache if I missed it by a few hours. Other than that, I was not in caffeine's vicious thrall.

Okay, so I was addicted. But that's all changed.

It started when I noticed that some of my friends were giving up their morning jolt—one of them each year (just for Lent), several others for good. Their self-denying courage made Conscience ask Self: "Self, do you think you could give up the joe?"

"Anytime," said Self, confident that conscience was being rhetorical. "Well, how about now?" came Conscience's retort.

"Um, well," said Self, "I would, you know, but, I... (poor Self was casting about for an excuse and then lit up in joy upon finding one)...but I buy fair trade coffee from Ten Thousand Villages and I'd hate to give up my contribution to those in need."

There was a brief, smug silence. Then Conscience spoke again: "Fair trade coffee also comes in decaf." That was it. I had no more excuses.

January 10, my first full day without java. The first day went well. I was making a rich, thick, cream-and-sugared decaf



brew. (The fairly traded decaf is processed by the Swiss water method, so there are no chemical residues with which to concern oneself.)

After the second day, however, my system realized that it was being fooled. "What's this wimpy stuff?"

"I've given up caffeine," I said.

"And how far do you think you'll take your commitment?" asked my system

derisively.

A phrase from Pierre Trudeau sprang to mind: "Just watch me!" The headaches soon passed, and I've been feeling great. I've even been reading about the history of coffee.

Did you know, for example, that one of our favourite snacks came about several hundred years ago, when Turkish forces were threatening Vienna? Viennese bakers were up early to ply their trade and heard the sound of tunneling beneath the city. They alerted the military and the enemy forces were stopped and forced to flee.

To celebrate their good fortune, the bakers made special rolls, and used coffee beans left behind by the vanquished foe to make a victory brew. Thus emerged the continental breakfast.

On a more nonviolent, yet still-global Anabaptist note, I still enjoy grinding and carefully making my morning mug-full. I just do it with fewer jitters. I also do it with a deep sense of gratitude that when it comes to giving up caffeine, it's fine to say (in a humble, open-to-admonition Mennonite way): "I'm proud to be a has-bean!"

Chicago, Ill.

## North Americans seek place in global mission

**A** new era has begun in Mennonite mission work, and North Americans are trying to figure out how they fit into it. Churches that once received missionaries are now sending them.

Leaders of North American Mennonite mission agencies met on January 30-31, and made plans to form a regional mission fellowship that will take its place beside similar groups being formed in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Each region is a subgroup of the Global Mission Fellowship, created last August at Mennonite World Conference assembly to strengthen cooperation in mission work. About 50 conferences and agencies around the world have joined.

North America already has an inter-Mennonite forum—the Council of International Anabaptist Ministries. But its members, whose annual meeting in Chicago drew about 70 participants, decided that the North American part of Global Mission Fellowship needed a fresh start.

So they appointed Janet Plenert, executive director of international ministries for Mennonite Church Canada Witness, to lead the formation of a North American regional mission fellowship.

Plenert said a regional fellowship might help people see mission work in a new way.

“It breaks down the image that we’ve always had that mission happens only out there,” she said. “It challenges us to see North America as one of the global mission frontiers.”

At the meeting of representatives from 20 agencies and conferences, mission leaders often spoke of the changes.

North Americans, who have seen themselves as central to the global mission movement, are now, in many respects, “running to catch up,” noted



**Janet Plenert of Canada listens as Javier Soler of Honduras speaks during the meeting of North American mission agencies. Plenert will lead the formation of a North American regional mission fellowship.**

Richard Showalter of Eastern Mennonite Missions. “What North Americans are catching up to is a growing web of mission efforts crisscrossing the globe.”

“I feel uncomfortable now sitting in an area committee and deciding how mission in Africa should be done,” said Harold Ens, director of the Mennonite Brethren mission agency, “because I know the Brazilians are sending missionaries to Africa, too.”

Ens cited the examples of German Mennonites doing mission work in Brazil and Paraguay, Colombians evangelizing in Peru, Mexico and Panama, and Japanese in Thailand.

Representing the Honduran church at the meeting was Javier Soler, who chairs the planning committee of Global Mission Fellowship. Soler is president of Amor Viviente (Living Love), a group of churches in Honduras that grew out of work by Eastern Mennonite Missions, the Lancaster

Mennonite Conference agency.

Amor Viviente, founded in 1974, planted a church in New Orleans in 1983 and now has 12 congregations in North America. Participants said that North American Mennonites’ growing ethnic diversity is strengthening the church.

Samson Lo, a Chinese pastor and director of Multi-cultural Ministries for Mennonite Church Canada Witness, said 40 congregations in British Columbia represent cultures new to MC Canada.

“For us in North America, the challenge is how to partner effectively with the evangelistic vision that has emerged in churches around the world,” said Len Barkman, representing the Evangelical Mennonite Conference.

“It is good to see the doors open to a greater level of cooperation in international mission.”—Meetinghouse release by **Paul Schrag**

Intercourse, Pa.

## Good Enterprises repays all creditors

**G**ood Enterprises, Ltd. completed the repayment of its creditors on January 26. In addition to paying 100 percent of what was owed in the reorganization, the company paid additional bonuses of up to 50 percent.

Good Enterprises, founded in 1970, is the parent company of Good Books, The Old Country Store, and The People's Place.

"We're delighted that we've been able to reach our goal," said Merle Good, president. "It's been a long, hard trek, but we were able to complete our Plan of Reorganization in about half the time that was allocated for it. We sincerely regret the difficulty and uncertainty which this experience has brought to so many persons. But we're delighted that it has ended so well."

Good Enterprises paid off a total of \$9,763,609 to complete its obligations.

"We appreciate so deeply those creditors who had cool heads and

enough goodwill and faith to stand with us, in spite of our failure, to permit the company to be reorganized," added Phyllis Pellman Good, co-executive director of the company with her husband, Merle. Liquidating the company would have resulted in creditors losing most, if not all, of their money. "We're glad we didn't give up."

The company that comes out of the reorganization is considerably stronger. Publishing sales are more than 10 times what they used to be (with a staff half the size). This is due primarily to two bestselling cookbooks, *Fix-It and Forget-It Cookbook* and its sequel, *Fix-It and Forget-*



Phyllis and Merle Good

*It Recipes for Entertaining*, which have sold more than four million copies. Sales for the publishing house the past

two years have exceeded \$12 million per year.

"We've been fortunate to have strong publishing sales in other areas, too," Phyllis pointed out. "Sales in quilt books, children's Bibles, a peace and justice series, and in fiction have also been very strong this year."

Good Enterprises, Ltd. is now returned to its shareholders.

"It's not an experience I would recommend to anyone," Merle added, "but we're glad it's over, and with such happy results."—From Good Enterprises release

Waterloo, Ont.

## Worker brings thank you from Iraq

**R**ebuilding Iraq: challenge and change" was the subject of a talk by David Pankratz of Winnipeg on January 27 at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church.

Last summer, on short notice, Pankratz went to Iraq with Mennonite Central Committee. He spent six months as MCC's relief coordinator, evaluating projects in Baghdad.

Pankratz conveyed a hearty thank you from Iraqis to the people of North America for material aid received over the past months—for clothing, items sewed or quilted, blankets, canned beef and relief kits.

Although lots of organizations provide relief kits, the MCC kits are especially popular because the items they contain—towels, shampoo, toothbrushes, soap—are of high quality, and the buckets are of great value in themselves.

Pankratz enjoyed watching the faces of children as they examined their kits, smelled the soap and shampoo. The Iraqis had this to say: "You [in North America] gave your best. That shows that you respect us."

MCC school kits are also appreciated,

he said. Because Iraqis read and write from back to front and from right to left, they make mental adjustments with a notebook that assumes a left-to-right orientation. The students expressed gratitude for the high quality of paper in the notebooks.

After the war, Iraq faced a tremendous shortage in medicine for tuberculosis. Because of the disruption throughout the country, the World Health Organization was unable to come through. Pankratz related how, in five days, MCC came up with \$75,000 to purchase medications for TB patients whose situation was desperate.

Some Iraqis still do not have clean, running water. Pankratz spoke of a water project in a part of Baghdad where some 50,000 people live illegally in makeshift dwellings without decent water. The Tigris River that runs through Baghdad is polluted, so water is trucked in from the Euphrates. Pankratz said he enjoyed getting up early just to watch the six trucks arrive with life-giving water.

Iraqis, he said, are ambivalent about handouts, and say, "We are not poor!" Iraq is rich in resources. He alluded to Iraq's "Golden Age" in the 1970s, when there was

almost 100 percent literacy. Then came war with Iran, the first and second Gulf War, years of sanctions, and the despotic behaviour of Saddam Hussein.

Iraqis cannot bear the American occupation, he said. For one thing, occupation disempowers. Iraqis are a proud people. Second, Iraq is being run by the American military. People trained to make war are not the best candidates to rebuild a country, set up a police force, and make neighbourhoods livable again.

A painted sign on a building near his hotel summed up the Iraqi attitude to the Americans: "All done—go home!"

Iraqis do not yet have a clear vision of their future, said Pankratz. Although they are fed up with foreigners deciding things for them, they are fearful of yet another extremist government.

When asked by someone in the audience what Iraqis want, Pankratz replied: Iraqis want foreign troops to treat them with respect. They wish violence against American soldiers by their own people would cease, because one violent act only leads to another.

Iraqis want to be in charge of their own country. They want a better police force. They do not want their country to remain a battleground for other nations' agendas.—**Betti Erb**

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

## Work in Haiti continues despite turbulence

**A**s political turmoil in Haiti increases, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) workers here are feeling the effects. Tension has been on the rise since 2000, when the Lavalas party swept disputed parliamentary elections.

Protests have turned deadly in the last two months, as opposition parties demanding that president Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign clash with government supporters.

“Roadblocks curtail our activities and demonstrations change our routes, but overall MCC’s work continues,” said Edwin Dening, MCC Haiti co-representative. Edwin and Sylvia Dening are from Edmonton, Alberta.

There are 35 MCC workers in Haiti, including 7 from Canada. They work in reforestation, health, education, water projects and human rights. These numbers include 10 full-time and 11 part-time national staff members. In addition to the Dening family, five live in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

MCC worker Kristi Vandewetering is supporting efforts to keep protests peaceful through her assignment with a Haitian human rights organization. The organization has monitored nearly all the recent demonstrations in Port-au-Prince, and provides emergency evacuation services for victims of violence.

Recently Vandewetering helped transport student protesters who were being threatened with violence to another area of the city. Demonstrations have become a near-daily occurrence.

“Just yesterday there was a big (some say 100,000 people) march on the streets calling for the president to step down,” reported Dening. He and his family had to search for alternative routes home from church to avoid the volatile crowds.

MCC workers in Bwadlorens, a remote village in the northeast, have also felt the effects of the situation. High school students, who must attend a boarding school in a nearby town, have returned to the village. Classes never resumed after Christmas break.

“Rumors abound at a time like this,” said Dening. Talk has included the possible intervention by troops from neighbouring countries, or even civil war.

Aristide returned recently from meetings with leaders of several Caribbean nations, and representatives from the Organization of American States, the European Union, Canada and the United States.

According to a recent CNN news story, the group “established a framework for continued negotiations, with a March deadline for concrete actions.”

Opposition leaders refuse to meet with Aristide himself, saying that they

will be satisfied with nothing less than his resignation.

The Dominican Republic, which along with Haiti makes up the island of Hispaniola, has also been plagued with unrelated demonstrations and strikes in recent weeks because of political scandals and a plummeting currency. Thousands of Haitians live and work in the Dominican Republic, where the economic situation has long been brighter.

“It is difficult to know what the final result will be,” said Dening. “Please pray for peace.”—MCC release by

**Rachel B. Miller Moreland**

Borabur, Thailand

## Chicken flu a concern for Thai workers

**T**he chicken flu has not yet reached northeast Thailand where Pat and Rad Houmphan are ministering, reported Pat in a recent telephone interview.

He says the government is taking the virus seriously, sending health authorities all over the country. Where they find the virus, they eliminate the chicken population completely.

Pat is keeping an eye out for unusual illness as he travels to different villages. Borabur county, with 203 villages, has very little commercial poultry production. This means that

people in the Houmphans’ village who are able must travel 90 km to the nearest supermarket to purchase poultry products they can trust. Others must rely on local markets, a source of concern. The average family of four earns the equivalent of about \$1,000-\$1,200 per year.

“We are not eating the chicken and eggs from the local market, because we have no clue where their source of chicken and eggs comes from,” said Pat. The Houmphans are Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers.—MC Canada release by **Dan Dyck**



**In better times, Rad Houmphan (centre) and her Sunday school class used eggs in teaching about Easter. The chicken flu in Thailand this year may change how eggs are used in many circumstances.**

MC Canada photo

Concepción, Chile

## Chilean church revels in Anabaptist identity

**E**merging Anabaptist congregations in Concepción met recently for their first formal study of Anabaptism. Speaker was John Driver—author, church historian and missionary for almost four decades in Latin America and Europe.

“Rarely, if ever, have I experienced such a lively exchange on these dimensions and applications of radical faith,” wrote Driver in a report.

The weekend event, held at *Puerta del Rebaño* (Door of the Sheepfold) church, was co-sponsored by Mennonite Church Canada Witness and its USA partner, Mennonite Mission Network. Begun in 1986, the congregation is stridently Anabaptist.

“We involved the whole congregation in the required duties—coordination, publicity, worship, cooking, cleaning, etc. It had to be our workshop, because we knew it would be a unique opportunity to uphold our identity as Anabaptists,” said planner Felipe Elgueta.

The group’s Anabaptist perspective frequently alienates them from other evangelical churches. “Every time we say we are Anabaptists to some brother or sister from another church, he or she asks us: ‘And what’s that Anabaptist stuff?’”

“It was very moving when Janet Plenert said to us, ‘I want you to know that you are not alone in your search for God.’”

Plenert, executive director of International Ministries (MC Canada Witness) attended the event. “I shared with them about the global Anabaptist family of faith. I told them that I would tell other churches about them and that we would pray for them.”

Elgueta said that the theological concepts Driver taught affirmed “that our community had been Anabaptist long before being in contact with the Anabaptist theology. We were very moved by the stories about those dissidents of 2nd to 16th centuries, whom we see now as our predecessors.... We are also not alone in history.”

Driver describes the Door of the Sheepfold as “a remarkably radical community that has gradually evolved

from a variety of evangelical currents.”

He notes in particular the impression made by Titus and Karen Guenther on leaders Carlos Gallardo and Monica Parada. The Guenthers served in Concepción from 1989-1994. Titus teaches theology and missions at Canadian Mennonite University.

Driver, retired for 15 years, remains amazed at the thirst for Anabaptist teachings. His teaching tour in Latin America spanned five weeks and several countries. He adds that the “This expression of Anabaptism offers a vision that stands in contrast to other traditional alternatives on both right and left.”

Plenert was equally impressed by the group’s enthusiasm. “From morning until evening we met and listened to [the] presentations. At every break John was surrounded by enthusiastic people, full of questions and comments. Both John and I were...amazed at the sincerity, knowledge, and depth of these people’s faith commitment and their eagerness to live out an Anabaptist understanding of their faith.”

The congregation has been working at integrating a theology of peace and nonviolence into its teaching. The church is working with Mennonites in Bolivia to become more active in encouraging government leaders to peacefully resolve a long-standing Chile-Bolivia border dispute. The group desires “a vision free of poisonous nationalisms.”

The tiny congregation has important links with evangelical churches and other ministries in the region.

“We believe that our work will have



**Natalia Contreras (left) and Pamela Ramos (right) share a joke with John Driver during the Anabaptist study course in Chile.**

Door of the Sheepfold, photo

a great influence, compelling them to follow Christ in community, looking for peace and justice,” Elgueta said. He encourages readers to visit their church website at [www.puertachile.cl/](http://www.puertachile.cl/). —MC Canada release

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Langley, B.C.

## Paintings capture experiences in Burma

For Chris Rollins, an artist and storyteller from Langley, painting is a way to process a year he spent in Thailand with Burma Issues, a group that works with communities in Burma.

While ethnic minorities struggle for independence, the government of Burma is fighting with rebel armies. Thousands have been forced to flee their homes, often to refugee camps along the border with Thailand.



**Rollins**

Burma Issues is devoted to a peaceful resolution in the struggle for human rights and democracy.

As a Mennonite Central Committee volunteer, Rollins worked with documentation and education, including editing a weekly newsletter. His year had a profound effect on him and he wanted to continue supporting Burma Issues back in Canada.

MCC often gives returning workers an opportunity to tell their stories. Rollins decided to use his training in fine arts. He hopes the paintings will educate and inspire others.

The largest painting—perhaps the most difficult one to look at—is “Human Hammock.” A man is bound

and stretched like a hammock, twisted in pain. Blood drips from either side of his body.

“I wanted to create a feeling of distortion,” Rollins said. “This man was a political prisoner and was strung up like a hammock between two trees...people actually sat on him as if he was a hammock.”

Documenting such stories is one way Burma Issues hopes to draw attention to human rights violations. In another painting, a villager tries to put out an enormous fire with only a branch. In another, a huge thundercloud hangs over villagers fleeing their homes.

“I was travelling on a bus during a thunderstorm and tried to picture what it would be like for people...as they flee their villages,” he said. The last painting, in which a boy holds a machete, is called “They destroyed my home, but I still have my knife so we can build another one.” Rollins said the resilience of villagers is astounding.

“Some villages have been burned down five times, but they still come back and rebuild,” he says.

Rollins’ experiences have made him reflect on his faith. The year with



**A detail from *They destroyed my home, but I still have my knife so we can build another one* by Chris Rollins.**

Burma Issues has given him a desire to work on injustice and human rights issues.

Rollins is touring Pennsylvania, Kansas and Ontario. To book him, call Jon Nofziger at the MCC B.C. office at 1-888-622-6337.—MCC B.C. release



**Human Hammock. Chris Rollins.**



Abbotsford, B.C.

## Program builds vocational foundations

**F**or Pam McFarlane, life has changed drastically in the past few years. Once a single mother with low self-esteem and living on income assistance, she is now a confident woman with a business of her own and a bright future, thanks to a program called Future Foundations.



**McFarlane**

Even when McFarlane began to work in a dental lab, she often felt discouraged.

Medical, dental and daycare costs were no longer covered.

"I was working really hard and not truly getting anywhere," she says. "Though I was able to afford to take my kids on a camping trip and have some extra money for clothing and some entertainment, I wasn't able to save very much money. I had a dream of owning my home and I was beginning to think that wasn't possible."

She heard about Future Foundations, a program that helps people with a low income to build security through savings and assets. The program is supported by VanCity Credit Union, VanCity Community Foundation, Co-Operators, Vancouver Foundation, Motz Foundation, Abbotsford Foundation, Thea & Leon Koerner Foundation, Fidelity, and Mennonite Central Committee British Columbia. Participants make an investment that is matched 3:1 over a two-year period.

Participants meet monthly to learn about building assets, financial planning, and money management. Savings go towards training for a career, education for a child, beginning or expanding a business, or purchasing a home.

James Siebert, program manager, says the project is helping people build assets and develop healthy saving and spending habits. Working as a group helps participants feel they are not alone and they hold each other accountable.

Future Foundations began as a pilot project in April 2002. Sixteen of the original twenty participants will graduate this spring, each having matched savings of \$4,800. McFarlane is excited about what the program has done for her.

"I have my own business, I bought my first vehicle on my own, I have a couple of RRSPs, a GIC and savings bonds. For the first time in my life I

renegotiated a loan," she said. "A whole new world has opened up...."

Plans are being made to begin another two-year program. The program is open to people on income assistance, and it may become available to people with disabilities. For more information, contact James Siebert at (604) 504-1988 or go to [www.mccemployment.bc.ca](http://www.mccemployment.bc.ca).—From MCC B.C.



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Truro, Nova Scotia

# MCC addresses youth suicide

**T**anya Fifield knows you can't work with youth without talking about suicide. It's one of the more challenging issues she deals with in her job at HighRock Youth Ministries, a position partially funded by Mennonite Central Committee.

Suicide is a popular topic of Extreme Talk, daylong discussions sponsored by HighRock in four area junior high schools each year. Fifield coordinates these discussions. Of the 20 topics to choose from, suicide is at the top of the list when she asks students what they want to discuss.

"This country is full of hurting kids who just want to know that they are valuable and have something to contribute."

To help facilitate discussion, MCC is offering a new resource. *Talk About It: Youth and Suicide*, designed for young people.

"It is not talked about enough," says

Fifield. Young people believe talking encourages suicidal behaviour, and it's something they avoid discussing with their friends, she says. But "if you don't reach out, they are likely to become even more convinced that they are alone."

The brochure was produced in response to the success of a brochure released by MCC two years ago on youth and depression. Both brochures look like a CD cover, but instead of lyrics they



**Tanya Fifield says it's not enough to tell kids how they should live. We need to show them, she says.**

contain questions and comments: why someone would consider suicide, warning signs, what not to do.

According to Statistics Canada, approximately 13 out of every 100,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 19 take their own life each year. Only car accidents claim more victims.

"It's very tragic when youth live with such despair," says Irma Janzen, coordinator for the mental health and disabilities program at MCC Canada. Janzen hopes MCC's youth-friendly resources will kick-start the much-needed dialogue.

Copies of the brochure have been sent to regional MCC offices and some Mennonite schools in Canada.—From MCC Canada release by **Jonathan Tiessen**



## Fierce Goodbye

What does the Bible say on the topic of suicide? What does it not say? **G. Lloyd Carr** began to ask these questions after a daughter-in-law died by suicide. He embarked on a thorough canvassing of the scriptures and church history on this topic. **Gwendolyn C. Carr** found solace in writing out her responses and thoughts in moving, sensitive poetry. Their combined efforts meld the pain and poignancy of the devastating experience of a family member's suicide.

This book is first and foremost a penetrating account of a family dealing with suicide, and offers solid guidance for those who worry about

the eternal fate of a loved one. It also provides a reliable and readable summary of Christian thinking about suicide, useful for pastors, counselors, students, and teachers.

Paper, 168 pages, \$15.49



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## Wiebe addresses the tasks of aging

**O**n January 10, Erb Street Mennonite Church here was filled to capacity for “The spiritual tasks of aging,” this year’s workshop for ministers, deacons, elders and caregivers in Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. It was unfortunate that some 50 people had to be turned away from what was a challenging and humour-filled day.

The speaker was Katie Funk Wiebe, now retired from teaching at Tabor College in Kansas. Wiebe, 79, mother and grandmother, has a deep love for the church, women’s issues and the spiritual development of older adults. She is the author of many books, including *Life After Fifty* and *Bridging*

*the Generations*.

Wiebe’s morning talk was entitled, “The spiritual invitations and hazards of the later years.” Society dreads old age and disregards the wisdom of old persons, even in the church. She feels that being old means always moving towards maturity in Christ Jesus.

She offered three categories of “old:” young old, middle old and old old. (She prefers “old” to “seniors.”) The tasks of aging include finding an identity and a role in church and society; retraining and finding new options; transcending the

losses that accompany aging; and maintaining a vital faith.



Wiebe

Spiritual hazards include thinking that spiritual development in older people happens as a matter of course. Older people are tempted to sin like anyone else, and, like anyone else, are open to God’s breakthrough of grace. She challenged the misconception that change in older people is

impossible. Many older people deal with more change than young people do, she said.

Wiebe believes the first year of retirement should be spent in discovering “what I want to do” and “what God wants me to do.” So many devote themselves to spending the money they have accumulated. Is consumerism at any age an acceptable lifestyle? she asked.

Older people should continue learning. Becoming encouragers of others makes one feel useful. Take some risks! Old age is a good time to get rid of useless possessions and clutter, she said, also in the soul. Hang on to love, truth, honesty, joy and beauty.

Give intentional soul care to older people when doing pastoral visits, she advised. Don’t just talk “pious words.” Older persons are “devotionalized” to death!” she said. Churches should budget more money to work with older people, not just to youth. There should also be rites of passage and programs for older persons, just as there are for youth.

We should see our elders as “the crown of the congregation,” she said.

Several people from the Community Care Access Centre gave a presentation on “Connecting with other caregivers.” Seven workshops were offered after lunch on topics such as elder abuse, dying, visiting those with dementia and parish nursing.—From report by **Martha Snyder**



Photo by David Franklin

**The Spiritual Healing Church youth choir, wearing T-shirts proclaiming a message of peace, sing at the opening of Bopaganang Basha ba Semowa (Unity is the Power Youth Centre) on November 29 in Francistown, Botswana. The centre, which focuses on reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, offers youth fellowship, Bible study, information and peer counselling. The centre is managed by youth, under the African Independent Churches. Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission and Mennonite Central Committee have supported the development of the centre. MCC provides funds for staff and administration.—From AIMM and MCC release**

# Adventure in service

**A** missional project of Lethbridge Mennonite Church in Alberta is its Service Adventure program. Mennonite Church Canada ended its administration of the program in January but the church continues to sponsor this energetic service and learning adventure with five participants. Kevin Rempel of Kitchener, Ontario, works at the Miracle Channel television. Krystal MacFarlane of New Hamburg, Ontario, works with seniors at the Coaldale Health Centre. Miriam Schwartz of Braunschweig, Germany, works at L'Arche and Park Meadows Baptist Daycare. Unit leaders are Sandra Sinnaeve and Ryan Siemens. Following are glimpses of their activities. The report and photos were submitted by Fred Unruh and Ryan Siemens.



**Cross-country skiing in the mountains of the Crowsnest Pass.**

**Krystal, Sandra and Miriam (right) welcome you to their home.**



**Service Adventure participants help prepare lunch at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen.**



**Kevin almost loses his head as Dennis Neufeldt leads a session on visual arts.**

Newton, Kan. and Winnipeg, Man.

## Letter apologizes to MPH retirees

**T**here's no way to alleviate all the pain that retirees from the former Mennonite Publishing House (MPH) have felt in the transition that led to Mennonite Publishing Network.

But the Joint Executive Committee of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada has taken steps to show it cares about the retirees, whose supplemental health benefits were cut due to the financial struggles of MPH.

The Joint Executive Committee (JEC) recently sent a letter to the retirees, acknowledging that JEC didn't do enough to help their denominations understand emotion and financial costs. The letter offered to make the retirees' needs better known and to invite further giving from their constituents to the retirees, even though the MPN barn-raising campaign ended in December.

The former MPH board decided the financially troubled agency in January 2001 would stop monthly payments toward retirees' supplemental Medicare insurance policies. Compounding this loss was the loss of respect retirees felt in how abruptly they heard of this decision, some retirees said.

"Many of us were trying to understand what was happening, but there wasn't enough information available to clarify the situation," said retiree David E. Hostetler, who worked for MPH for 19 years, as editor of *Purpose*, and news editor of *Christian Living* and the *Gospel Herald*.

His wife, Rose Hostetler, worked for MPH as manager of a Provident bookstore from 1976 to 1996. "We don't question the need for reform, but the pain came in wondering why there was no communication about that need and why the change was done so abruptly," she said.

The JEC acknowledges that it didn't take its share of the responsibility in responding sensitively, said D. Duane Oswald, moderator for MC USA.

"I think when leadership makes mistakes or errors, it needs to step up and take responsibility and ask forgiveness," he said.

Henry Krause, moderator of

Mennonite Church Canada, said, "We wanted to convey that we understood the retirees' concerns and to show that we care and want their situation to have a just end."

The letter, signed by Oswald, Krause and Ervin Stutzman, past moderator of MC USA, also thanked the retirees for their longsuffering during their time of stress, upheaval and transition.

The retirees' plight began when the former board decided to stop monthly payments on their benefits. MPH paid only about half as much as other church agencies toward medical benefits, so it was a policy to continue to help with supplemental medical insurance for those who worked to retirement.

The former MPH board discontinued these benefits during financial stress and was not willing to list this \$1.3 million actuarial liability on the FYE 2001 audit sheet. These factors led 72

of the affected retirees to enact the MPH and General Board grievance process.

"We regret that the transitions during the denominational merger made the grievance process more complicated and time-consuming than it would have been otherwise," the JEC letter stated.

When JEC took over MPH in 2002, the business was on the verge of bankruptcy. "Funds for the retirees' benefit took third place behind the debenture problem and the rescue of MPH from bankruptcy," the letter states. "Further, the JEC was attempting to handle current employee layoffs and other issues."

But it's never too late to thank people for their dedication and faithfulness, said Oswald.—From joint MC USA and MC Canada release by

**Laurie L. Oswald**

### Retiree couple calls for honesty

**T**he journal entry that David E. Hostetler, a retiree of the former Mennonite Publishing House (MPH), wrote in 1957 rings as true for him today as it did then.

Hostetler—one of many who lost their supplemental health benefits when the publishing ministry floundered financially—wrote about his search for truth, for the integrity to keep the will of God in sight.

"And isn't that what I still need today...and what we need in the life of the church—the desire to seek the truth and the integrity to follow where it leads?" he asks.

But uncovering the truth of the situation is no easy feat, he said. Nevertheless, he and his wife, Rose, also a retiree, strive to see the loving hand of God bringing healing out of the hurt. The hurt came after faithful years of service when they saw the demise of their former work place in Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, and the effects that had on the community.

"The chain of events seemed so incomprehensible at first, because it happened so fast and people had no idea

it was coming," Rose said. "Our community felt traumatized by what was happening."

David said, "On some levels, I recognize the need for restructuring and am not questioning the need for reform. But I've continued to ponder why it had to be done in the way it was—quickly and abruptly. We were told that that is the way things are done today in business. But isn't this the church?"

The loss of jobs meant the loss of some people in the community and the loss of the need for two Mennonite congregations. He sees this "downsizing" as a good thing.

"It's kind of exciting, the fact that we can get together like this," he said. "Now, we have just one congregation, which means we will pool our resources in new ways."

"My faith has been tested, leaving me to question and wonder and hope to regain confidence in our leaders," Rose said. "Some anger has been replaced by sadness. I want to believe in our church—the church that taught me that being open and honest was important."

—From report by **Laurie L. Oswald**

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## Mennonite Church Canada

### Resources available for Lent

The 2004 materials for Lent, compiled by a team in eastern Pennsylvania, are available in the Winter issue of *Leader* magazine. The theme is "I will arise and go to Jesus." *Leader* magazine is the joint publication of Mennonite Church USA and MC Canada that provides resources for pastors and congregations.

"It's uncanny how much the Spirit of God leads the process," said Marlene Kropf who has guided the teams preparing these worship materials since 1993.

"For instance, the New York team who wrote Advent 2002 met to do their work a year and a half before the season—long before 9/11. The images that kept coming to the team members were flowing tears of repentance, followed by a stream of God's restful river that restores and renews us....

"I told them I thought that was a heavy theme for Advent, but they kept insisting.... Five minutes after 9/11 happened, I remembered that theme, and thought, 'How fitting for this Advent.'"

Brand new in 2004 are the Easter-to-Pentecost materials, spanning seven weeks, which are in the Spring issue of *Leader*. One may order the Lenten and Easter-to-Pentecost materials by calling Mennonite Publishing Network at 1-800-245-7894. Additional resources for Holy Week services and a Lenten prayer retreat can be found online at [www.leaderonline.org](http://www.leaderonline.org).

The Easter season theme, developed by a team from British Columbia, is "Season of awakening." Canadian team members for the Easter-to-Pentecost resources in British

Columbia are Betty Klassen, Laura Sportack and Heidi Yusuf of Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond; and Edith Krause and Jane Grunau of Langley Mennonite Fellowship. Marilyn Houser Hamm of Altona Mennonite Church and Lynette Wiebe of Charleswood Mennonite Church in Manitoba also gave input.—From joint MC USA and MC Canada release

### Prayer requests for workers

- Hundreds of house churches (with as many as 65,000 Christians) are praying and fasting on behalf of church leaders in Vietnam. The trial of pastor Bui Van Ba was recently postponed, probably due to vigorous appeals by house church leaders to authorities. Pray for justice and religious freedom in this country. Pray also for protection for activist Mennonite pastor Nguyen Hong Quang.

- Samson Lo, director of Multi-cultural Ministry, has reported plans for strengthening the ministry of ethnic congregations by connecting them with each other, with other MC Canada churches and with international groups. Pray for a spirit of unity and cooperation.

- Gerald and Rie Neufeld give thanks for last year's study time at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, equipping

them for further ministry in Japan. Pray especially for their outreach initiatives in the Kyushu area as they build relationships with the Sadowara, Oyodo and Kirishima Mennonite churches. The Neufelds seek church unity, renewal, and growth in understanding of Anabaptist/Mennonite ways.

- Cliff and Natasha Dueck in Ukraine are thankful for emotional restoration for Natasha. Continue to pray for her wellness and for God's protection for them and the church they serve.

## Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

### Transitions in leadership

Nancy Brubaker Bauman began a one-year term as interim pastor at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church in September. Nancy and her husband, Brian Bauman, moved back to Ontario from California in the summer.

Anne Champion has resigned as associate pastor at Avon Mennonite Church, effective the end of February. Jim and Ingrid Loepf Thiessen began serving at Avon in early February as interim pastors, replacing Gary Horst. Jim and Ingrid previously pastored at Shantz Mennonite Church.

Anita Schroeder Kipfer has been on maternity leave from

her position as part-time pastor at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church. She has decided not to return when her leave ends on February 29.

Willard and Ann Shertzler are leaving as pastors of Niagara United Mennonite Church on April 15, after serving for more than four years. They plan to return to the United States and will be pastoring a small church in Pennsylvania.

### Youth retreats draw crowds

Countryside Camp near Ayr was overflowing with youth during two weekends in early February as youth groups from across Mennonite Church Eastern Canada gathered for their annual winter retreats. A total of 300 youth and sponsors attended over the two weekends.

Guest speaker was Stuart Williams of Canadian Mennonite University, answering the question, "Does God love technology?" The youth enjoyed lots of outdoor activities and worship, but not a lot of sleep. Thank you to Heather Gallian and the Mennonite Youth Council of Eastern Canada for planning this well-attended event.

Two buses of youth will be traveling to the Peace-It-Together (PIT) conference in Winnipeg for March 12-14.

**Continued on page 24**

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**Mennonite Church  
Manitoba**

**Family retreat  
on disabilities**

Camps with Meaning is sponsoring a retreat for families with a mentally or physically handicapped person at Camp Assiniboia on March 5-7. MC Manitoba has been offering this retreat for the past 28 years. The network of support that has grown over the years continues to grow.

“Special sacred moments are created when a real depth of sharing takes place,” said Bob Wiebe, director of Education Ministries. This retreat provides an opportunity for worship, fellowship, reflection and refreshment.

The speaker for the retreat is John H. Neufeld of Winnipeg. He will provide insights and encouragement on the theme “Our story, God’s story,” examining how God’s word intersects with our life experiences.

For more information contact the MC Manitoba office at 896-1616.

**Mennonite Church  
Saskatchewan**

**Meetings on  
global food issues**

Mennonite Central Committee, together with the Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, will be holding meetings in Saskatchewan churches to talk about global food issues.

Willie Reimer from MCC Canada and Dave Meier from the Foodgrains Bank will bring information about food needs and the work of the Foodgrains Bank in Saskatchewan. Bruno Baerg and Wilmer Froese will also be presenting.

On March 3, the meeting will be hosted by Bridgeway Community Church in Swift Current at 1:30 p.m. and by Clearview Brethren in Christ in Kindersley at 7:30 p.m. On March 4, the meeting will be at Rosthern Mennonite Church at 7:30 p.m., and on March 5 at Nutana Park Mennonite Church in Saskatoon.

**MCC sale**

MCC Saskatchewan is planning a larger promotion of

the June Relief Sale this year. People who are donating handmade items should have these finished by March 15 so that pictures of the items can be taken. A booklet will contain a list and pictures of all the items donated. For more information, call Harve Martens at (306)373-9086.

**Mennonite Church  
Alberta**

**Trinity awaiting word  
on new church site**

Trinity Mennonite Church has conditionally purchased approximately 10 acres of land just south of Calgary city limits, near the #2 highway. The sale is awaiting approval of finances and a site specific amendment to allow for building a church on the property.

Trinity has been given approximately two and a half months to obtain the amendment from the municipality.

Two previous attempts to procure an amendment for a different piece of land were denied when neighbours objected to the building of a church. One of the chief

concerns had to do with the possibility of increased traffic in the area. This property will be sold, and the money put toward the current purchase.

Members of the congregation have met with neighbours and are optimistic that this amendment will be approved without significant opposition.

**Mennonite Church  
British Columbia**

**Women celebrate  
65 years**

British Columbia Women in Mission are celebrating 65 years of service this year. The annual Inspirational Day on April 25 will reflect this with the theme: “Telling the next generation,” based on Psalm 78:1-7.

The speakers this year are Kendra Loewen from Peace Mennonite Church and Louise Bergen Price from Langley Mennonite Fellowship. The event will be held at Sherbrooke Mennonite Church in Vancouver. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m.

For more details contact Veronica Thiessen at (604) 823 6101.

**An encounter of hope and joy**

January 14 was a momentous occasion for seven people in Mennonite Church British Columbia. Here’s how it developed.

The search for vitality and purpose of Mennonite Church Canada brought 50 participants from area conferences together for three-day seminars four times last year. We sought again to understand our biblical and theological roots, our church’s development over its 2000-year history, the present culture/s our church lives in. We explored ways to apply what we learned in our area conferences.

“Missional church,” a mere wisp of the Spirit two years ago, was becoming a wind, blowing across the land.

In another set of meetings, the search for vitality and purpose of the church in British Columbia brought some 30-50 participants from numerous denominations together on two occasions last year. We sought to

understand ways to measure and move our church to greater health under the “all-by-itself” principle.

Mark 4:26-29 says, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts, and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

We explored ways to apply what we learned in our respective denominations. “Natural Church Development,” born out of a comprehensive research project 10 years ago, caught our imaginations anew.

Stimulated by those meetings, the above-mentioned group of seven met in Vancouver on January 14. They represented Church Ministries Committee (three members), Evangelism and Church Development Committee (three members)

**From our  
leaders**

and Mennonite Church Canada staff. They came together in faith that God is doing something fresh in our midst. Sharing reflections, experiences and potential direction for our area conference and committing our church and these insights to God in prayer, we departed with anticipation and new hope for MC B.C.

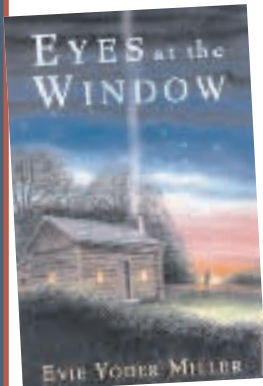
Our committees and executive will meet to discern how to implement these ideas. Presentations and conversations in larger meetings are to come. Even now participants are available to share with congregations or boards the stirring of the Spirit we encountered in these training events.

*Henry Kliever, Conference Minister, Mennonite Church British Columbia*





# Good to Read, Good to Discuss



## **Eyes at the Window** by Evie Yoder Miller

A gripping historical novel, set on the Pennsylvania-Ohio frontiers from 1810-1861.

The murder of an Amish baby goes unsolved for more than 50 years, greatly disturbing these settlers and their newly formed communities.

This is a startling story of judgment and misplaced responsibility, of attempts at love and forgiveness, and finally of grace despite unspeakable loss. The story unfolds lyrically from within the Amish world, an often-idealized but sometimes-scarred human community.

"Miller crafts a narrative that seizes the reader's imagination from the beginning and never lets go. A rewarding read, a rich portrait!" — Publishers Weekly

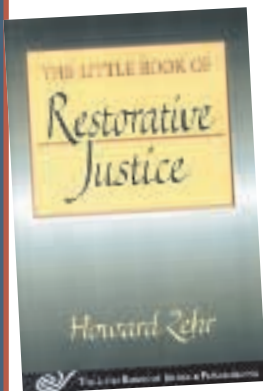
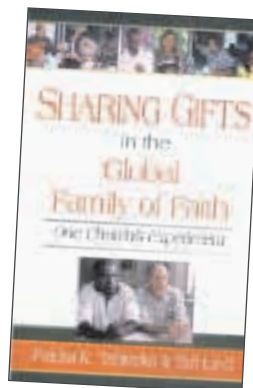
"Miller is particularly skilled at conjuring the internal lives of people who might seem stoical but, upon deeper examination, prove as passionate as anyone." — Booklist Starred Review

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## **Sharing Gifts in the Global Family of Faith** by Pakisa K. Tshimika and Tim Lind

As the "center" of Christianity has moved south to Africa, Asia, and Latin America, what gifts can churches in different parts of the world truly share with each other? Are churches in Europe and North America willing and able to *receive*, as well as *give*? An African and a North American reflect together. Full of many insights and examples. *Study Guide* available.

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## People & Events

**Akron, Pa.**—Rolando Santiago has been named new executive director of Mennonite Central Committee U.S. He will succeed Jose Ortiz, who will retire this summer after five years in the position.

Santiago, from Silver Springs, Maryland, is a public health



**Santiago**

analyst in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He has long used his skills to assist families struggling with poverty and injustice. Santiago was born to a Mennonite family in Puerto Rico. He studied at Eastern Mennonite College and has a doctorate from the University of Albany. As MCC U.S. director, he will coordinate four regional offices, as well as the Washington office and peace and justice staff.—From MCC U.S. release

**Harrisonburg, Va.**—The booming voice of George R. Brunk II is silent, but memories of the evangelist, educator and churchman are collected in *All Praise Be to the Lord*, compiled by his widow, Rhoda Brunk Peifer. The book contains tributes by more than 50 people, along with photographs, sermons and articles. Between 1951 and 1981, the Brunk Evangelistic Association held more than 100 tent crusades across the United States and Canada. Brunk was dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, Virginia, from 1967 to 1976, and edited *Sword and Trumpet* magazine. He died August 21, 2002, at the age of 90. The book is part of a larger effort to preserve Brunk's memory. One of the tractor-trailers used to haul tents and equipment has been refurbished. The rig will house historical photographs and documents, a video presentation, and other memorabilia.—From EMU release

## Transitions

### Births/adoptions

**Bolderson**—to Melanie, of Victoria, B.C., Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite, Laird, Sask., a daughter, Hannah Marie, April 2.

**Dyck**—to Kim and Gerald, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a son, Reid Elias, Jan. 20.

**Heinrichs**—to Wendy and Kurt, Sherbrooke Mennonite, Vancouver, B.C., a daughter, Kiara Mae, Jan. 27.

**Janzen**—to Christina and Jay, Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite, Laird, Sask., a son, Brock Aaron, Oct. 17.

**Klassen**—to Pauline and John, East Zorra Mennonite, Tavistock, Ont., a son, Thomas James Clifford, Jan. 9.

**Klassen-Saito**—to Chris Klassen and Akio Saito, Olive Branch Church, Waterloo, Ont., a son, Maxwell Jee-Yong, arrived Dec. 23 (born in Korea, Aug. 6).

**Martens**—to Corrie and Rodney of Sarnia, Ont., North

Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Faith Elizabeth, Jan. 29.

**Riddall**—to Anita and Corey, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Benjamin William Alexander, Jan. 28.

**Schwartzentruber**—to Janet and Greg, Bloomingdale Mennonite, Ont., a son, Tanner Blake, Jan. 27.

**Shantz**—to Lara and Jim, Nith Valley Mennonite, New Hamburg, Ont., a son, Taydon James, Jan. 11.

**Traendlin Borghese**—to Emilie and Chad, Nith Valley Mennonite, New Hamburg, Ont., a son, Jaxon Wallace, Jan. 11.

### Marriages

**Dupuis-Toews**—Stephen and Helen, North Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., Jan. 24.

### Deaths

**Dyck**—Mildred, 74, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., Nov. 19.

**Forbeck**—Donald, 71, Waters Mennonite, Lively, Ont., Jan. 25.

**Good**—Joseph, 97, Nith Valley Mennonite, New Hamburg, Ont., Jan. 15.

**Gossen**—Henry, 74, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., Jan. 29.

**Hiebert**—Helena, 82, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Jan. 5.

**Klassen**—Jacob, 93, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Jan. 21.

**Lebold**—Edith, 85, Tavistock Mennonite, Ont., Jan. 25.

**Preston**—Thomas Christopher, newborn son of Marilyn and Fred, Rosemary Mennonite, Alta., born and died Oct. 26.

**Sawatzky**—Rachel Kathryn, 24, Bergthal Mennonite, Didsbury, Alta., Dec. 16.

**Stauffer**—Freda Marie, 87, First Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont., Jan. 20.

**Taves**—Richard, 82, North Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., Jan. 21.

**Wall**—Katarina, 84, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Jan. 12.

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LANDS of the BIBLE (September 17-30)

CHINA (October 3-19)

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## Employment opportunities

Goshen College Department of Sociology/Anthropology and Social Work seeks applicants for a tenure-track position in

### SOCIOLOGY

beginning August 2004. We are seeking a candidate who has a curricular focus in the areas of sociological theory and methods. Consideration will be given to any specialization within Sociology. Additional background in Anthropology is preferred. Candidates must exhibit strong teaching credentials. A PhD in sociology is required by Fall 2004.

To apply, visit the specific position announcement on the Goshen College web page [www.goshen.edu/employment](http://www.goshen.edu/employment). Women and minority persons are encouraged to apply. Goshen College, an affirmative action employer, is committed to Christian beliefs and values as interpreted by the Mennonite Church. Closing date for applications is February 27, 2004.



### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Salem Home Inc.

Salem Home Inc., a 145 bed, accredited, Mennonite, personal care home located in Winkler, MB requires a Chief Executive Officer on or before August 23, 2004. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Board of Directors for the overall operation of the Corporation consistent with the mission, vision and strategic plan developed by the Board. The successful applicant will provide leadership to the Senior Management Team, ensure the appropriate delivery of services in accordance with required standards, and demonstrate accountability using an evidence-based Quality Management program.

#### Applicant Requirements:

- University Degree in Health Care Administration or a related entity.
- Demonstrated record of successful leadership in an integrated health care system.
- Strong communication, problem-solving, negotiating and public relations skills.
- Aptitude to relate to the Mission and Value System of the Corporation.

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- Application of the Mission and Value Statements to the decision making process.
- Implementation and evaluation of Services and Programs.
- Compliance with applicable legislative and public policy directives.
- Delivery of evidence-based decision-making, accountability reporting and sound risk management.

Interested candidates should forward their resume in confidence on or before March 19, 2004 to:

**CEO Search Committee**  
Salem Home Inc.  
605-350 4th Street  
Winkler, MB R6W 1J8  
Phone: (204) 325-4494  
Fax: (204) 325-4658  
E-mail: [abeens@mts.net](mailto:abeens@mts.net)  
[www.salehome.net](http://www.salehome.net)

### RESIDENCE COORDINATOR/ADMINISTRATOR POSITION Menno Simons Centre Student Residence

The Menno Simons Centre is a residence for 22 students attending the University of British Columbia and Regent College. The Centre is seeking to employ a married couple, one of whom would work three-quarters time as Residence Coordinator for a minimum of two years. The couple, both of whom are important to the Centre's community and student life, would live in the one-bedroom suite in the residence. Preference will be given to applicants who have attended university and are familiar with the Anabaptist tradition (e.g., Mennonite, Baptist). The couple is expected to participate in the Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship which meets at the Centre.

The coordinator oversees the room bookings, correspondence, book keeping, building maintenance, Residence Assistants, and weekly community meal. The coordinator is guided by the Menno Simons Centre Committee, which is responsible to the Society's Board of Directors. This position will be available starting June of 2004 but must begin no later than September 1.

Letters of application and résumés may be sent to

**E-mail: [kreider@arts.ubc.ca](mailto:kreider@arts.ubc.ca)**  
**Fax: (604) 221-0497**

**The Menno Simons Centre**  
**4000 West 11th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6R 2L3.**

For more information about the position, visit [www.mennosimonscentre.com](http://www.mennosimonscentre.com) or contact Stacy Folk, Residence Coordinator (604-224-6551) for a tour of the Centre. Applications will be reviewed in March and thereafter until the position is filled.

OTTAWA MENNONITE CHURCH is inviting applications for a full-time

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTER

We are a growing congregation of approximately 200 people, situated in Canada's capital city. The primary responsibilities of the Youth and Young Adult Minister position include relationship building, program development and coordination, elements of congregational ministry and community service.

This is a full-time position, commencing in August, 2004. Applicants should have (or be nearing completion of) a post-secondary education in Christian theology, at least at the Bachelors level. Resumes will be accepted until March 26th, 2004. An information packet will be sent to all applicants.

Please direct inquiries and resumes to:

**Peter Farris-Manning**  
c/o Ottawa Mennonite Church  
1830 Kilborn Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1H 6N4  
Phone: (613) 733-6729  
E-mail: [farris-manning@bellnet.ca](mailto:farris-manning@bellnet.ca)

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Needed to work with the pastors. 5-8 hours/week to lead and/or accompany worship music, organize special music, etc. Send resume to:

**Grace Mennonite Church**  
677 Niagara St.  
St. Catharines, ON L2M 3R4  
Phone: (905) 935-6112 for inquiries.

**Employment opportunities**

Goshen College is accepting applications for the position of

**DIRECTOR of the  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP LEARNING CENTRE (ELC)**

in the Business Department at Goshen College. The successful candidate will provide leadership for the new ELC. The Director has responsibility for strategic planning, program operation, marketing, budgeting, curriculum, communication, and teaching two courses annually. The position will be highly visible in the surrounding community. The initial time frame for this grant-funded position is three years (July 2004- June 2007). Masters or PhD degree preferred with experience as an entrepreneur or experience working with entrepreneurs.

To apply, visit the specific position announcement on the Goshen College web page [www.goshen.edu/employment](http://www.goshen.edu/employment). Women and minority persons are encouraged to apply. Goshen College, an affirmative action employer, is committed to Christian beliefs and values as interpreted by the Mennonite Church.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WELCOME INN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Applications are invited for a full-time Executive Director who is committed to an Anabaptist understanding of faith. The Centre, located in North End Hamilton, offers programs to various segments of the community and collaborates with agencies and the Welcome Inn Mennonite Church.

Primary responsibilities of the applicant include: administration, fundraising, supervision, visioning and planning, relating closely to Welcome Inn Church, working with diverse participants. Responsibility is to the Board of Directors.

Inquiries and applications should be forwarded by February 28, 2004 to:

**J. H. Cornies, Chair of Search Committee**  
26 Lynden Ave., Dundas, ON L9H 4J9  
Phone: (905) 627-4482  
E-mail: [corniesp@interlynx.net](mailto:corniesp@interlynx.net)



Mennonite Central Committee Ontario invites applications for the full-time position of

**GENERAL MANAGER of CARE & SHARE THRIFT SHOP**

in Stouffville, Ontario. Responsibilities include administration, overseeing staff & large volunteer base, promotion of good stewardship and raising funds for MCC through the operation of this busy thrift shop. Ideal candidate demonstrates strong leadership & interpersonal skills, awareness of second hand market trends, and retail or business experience.

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

For more information and a full job description, contact:

**Cath Woolner: 1-800-313-6226**  
**Lloyd Hogg: (905) 640-3834**  
[www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org)



MCC Canada has the following opportunity in the Winnipeg Office:

**IVEP CANADA COORDINATOR**

The IVEP Canada Coordinator is responsible for administering the International Visitor Exchange Program (IVEP) in Canada in cooperation with provincial IVEP coordinators. Annually, the IVEP brings approximately 65 international young adults for a year of Christian service, cross-cultural living experience and on-the-job vocational training in the US and Canada. This person will have a degree in a related field. He/she will have networking, communication, presentation, administration and computer skills. Some experience with foreign languages and cross-cultural living preferred. Significant travel is required during the months of July, August, and February.

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

Contact:

**Marsha Jones**  
Phone: (204) 261-6381  
E-mail: [mgj@mennonitecc.ca](mailto:mgj@mennonitecc.ca)  
To view the assignment description visit:  
[www.mcc.org/servicetree/st\\_frame.html](http://www.mcc.org/servicetree/st_frame.html)

Trinity Mennonite Church is inviting applications for a full-time

**LEAD PASTOR or CO-PASTOR TEAM**

We are part of a rapidly growing community in southwest Calgary and have a congregation of approximately 100 with diverse ages and occupations.

We seek a pastor(s) who will provide strong leadership and focus on the vision, mission, and values defined by our congregation, working together with our members and participants to foster a faith community that is open and welcoming to new participants and is founded upon the Anabaptist understanding of the Christian faith.

Please send resume or inquiries to:

**Pamela Fast**  
234 Everglade Way SW  
Calgary, AB T2Y 4N2  
E-mail: [pamelafast@hotmail.com](mailto:pamelafast@hotmail.com)



**MCC EAST ASIA DIRECTOR**

in Akron, Pa. This person is responsible for programs and workers in Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Japan, North and South Korea and Taiwan. Experience in East Asia required, preferably at primary and management levels. Demonstrated administrative, supervisory and relational skills needed, along with a Christian faith, active church membership and commitment to nonviolent peacemaking.

Contact:

**Charmayne Brubaker**  
Phone: (717) 859-1151  
E-mail: [cdb@mcc.org](mailto:cdb@mcc.org)  
or your nearest MCC office for a job description.

Application review begins immediately. Position available June 1, 2004.

Elkhart, Ind.

## Pastors encouraged to draw authority from God

**E**ffective leadership for the church requires a clear sense of vocation and a willingness to exercise authority and embrace power," said Nelson Kraybill, president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, to 155 participants in Pastors Week, January 26-29.

The theme was "The heart of the matter: Effective ministerial leadership." Using contemporary parables, Kraybill illustrated the importance of strong leadership.

"Our vocation and our power spring entirely from Christ. They do not come from office or ordination or techniques or charisma, but from a life-giving conviction that all of human history pivots on the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ," he said.

Throughout the address, Kraybill referred to familiar passages that note Jesus' power and authority in ministry. Jesus was decisive; he taught people with authority and he gave his disciples authority when he commissioned them to go into the world. It is a clear sense of call that empowers people for ministry.

"The blending of authority and power and vocation move us in a missional direction for the reign of God," he said.

Three other speakers explored aspects of leadership. Arthur Paul Boers, who teaches pastoral theology, explored the role of pastor as spiritual guide. Lee Snyder, president of Bluffton College, spoke on the pastor as organizational leader. Martha Scott of the United Methodist Church spoke on the pastor as community developer.

"All pastoral duties should be judged by...how well they point people to God," said Boers. Worship shapes our longing to be united with God and aligned with God's purposes.

Scott urged participants to be public in their ministry, to organize or join community groups to address social issues in their neighbourhoods.

In worship during the week, three preachers—Neftali Torres, Betty Kennedy Puricelli and Regina Shands Stoltzfus—focused on Jesus' baptism and temptations. Workshops centred on leadership issues, including "Purpose-driven Mennos," resources from the seminary's Church Leadership Center, helping youth listen for a call to ministry, and praying the Daily Office.—From AMBS release

### School notes

#### New staff at AMBS

**Elkhart, Ind.**—Leanne Farmwald has been hired as development associate at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Farmwald, who began her assignment in January, will meet with people in Mennonite Church USA and Canada, encouraging support for the seminary. For the past two years she has done consulting work in communications. Before that she worked for Mennonite Board of Missions, in communications and education. Farmwald and her husband, Rich Preheim, attend Hively Avenue Mennonite Church.



Farmwald

teaching and serving as registrar and business manager at Canadian Mennonite Bible College. "Ron's contribution to WMES, through his tireless work ethic and interpersonal skills, will leave a lasting legacy for our schools," said Bob Peters, board chair. "We are grateful for his service."—From WMES release

#### CMU radio program

Winnipeg, Man.—On February 1, Canadian Mennonite University launched *Sunday at CMU*, a weekly 15-minute radio program on the Golden West Broadcasting network. The program airs Sundays at 8:30 a.m. on CFAM in Altona, CHSM in Steinbach and CJRB in Boissevain. The format will include Bible teaching, music from CMU choirs and groups, stories, interviews or meditations, and news of campus events. This time slot was previously held by Abundant Life, a program of Mennonite Church Manitoba. "This is an important opportunity for CMU to serve the people of southern Manitoba through biblical teaching and worship," said CMU president Gerald Gerbrandt.—From CMU release

#### Loeppky retiring

**Winnipeg, Man.**—Ron Loeppky, principal of Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools (WMES), has announced his retirement for June 30. Loeppky became vice-principal and business manager in 1996, and began his present role in 2000. Loeppky's career includes

#### Employment opt.

LIBRARIAN urgently needed in Asmara, Eritrea, AFRICA. Contact Anna at <wiens@gemel.com.er> or phone Rudy at (416) 252-2824

#### For sale

Fellowship Book Centre, 1751 Pembina Hwy, Winn. MB. Well established Christian Book Store. Selling due to retirement & health needs. Available anytime. Phone/Fax: (204) 269-3589.

#### Announcements

**Centennial Celebrations** at Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church July 2 & 3, 2005 at the Lowe Farm, Manitoba. We are working on a History Book, so if you have any pictures or memories that you would be willing to share, send them to:

**Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church**  
Box 10 Lowe Farm, MB R0G 1E0

or submit them at <http://mnochurch.mb.ca/events/>  
Centennial Celebrations at Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church

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#### For rent

Furnished house for rent, 3-bedroom May–Aug. Winnipeg (River Hts.) \$750/mo. plus utilities. Rempel-Burkholder 204-831-5208; melby@mts.net



**Showing items for this year's auction at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Kitchener, Ontario, are Bernie Burnett, with a gift basket from Ten Thousand Villages; Dawn Zehr, a crokinole board; and Jodie Woolner, an autographed Lucas Snider jersey from the Canadian men's volleyball team. Over 1,000 items will be up for bid at Rockway's tenth annual Dessert Social and Auction Extravaganza on February 28. Behind the three are a quilt made by Judy Gascho Jutzi, autographed hockey jerseys (by Todd Bertuzzi and Mats Sundin), and a hockey stick autographed by Darryl Sittler. The social begins at 4:30 p.m. Call (519) 743-5209 for tickets. The auction begins at 6:30 p.m. Go to [www.rockway.on.ca](http://www.rockway.on.ca) for a complete list of auction items.—From Rockway release**

## Pax Christi hymn-a-thon

**Toronto, Ont.**—Pax Christi Chorale, an 85-voice oratorio choir whose members are mostly from Mennonite churches, will host a hymn-a-thon at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church in Markham on March 27.

From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., choir and guests will sing through the Mennonite hymnal. Guests can pledge an amount for each hymn sung, for each hour sung by a particular chorister, or for a favourite hymn. A lunch of traditional Swiss Mennonite food will be served.

The hymn-a-thon is a fundraiser for the choir's spring concert. On April 23 and 24, the choir, along with Menno Singers from Kitchener-Waterloo, will perform Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* and the

*Durufle Requiem*, with orchestra.—From Pax Christi release

## Correction

An incorrect e-mail address was printed for details on the consultation on spiritual powers to be held April 15-17 at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (February 9, page 38). The correct e-mail for Bev Sawatzky is [bsawatzky@ambs.edu](mailto:bsawatzky@ambs.edu). People may also call (574) 295-3726.

## Calendar

### British Columbia

**March 5:** MCC Relief Sale Dessert Evening at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford.

**March 6:** MCC Relief Sale lunch at Garden Park Towers, Abbotsford. Banquet at Bethel Mennonite, Aldergrove.

**March 12-13:** Youth workers conference at Columbia Bible

College, Abbotsford on worship and discipleship, with Tom and Christine Sine. Phone (604) 853-3567, ext. 323.

**March 13:** MC B.C. delegate meeting at Bethel Mennonite Church, Aldergrove.

**April 3, 4:** Abendmusik Lenten Vespers at Evangelical Free Church, Abbotsford (3), and Knox United, Vancouver (4), 8:00 p.m. Benefit for Menno Simons Centre.

**April 25:** B.C. Women in Mission Inspirational Day at Sherbrooke Mennonite Church, Vancouver, with speakers Kendra Loewen and Louise Bergen. For details, phone (604) 823-6101.

### Alberta

**March 19-20:** Missional Church training at Camp Valaqua.

**April 23-24:** Conference and annual meeting of Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta in Edmonton, at Lendrum Mennonite Brethren Church (23) and First Mennonite (24). Speakers: John B. Toews, Tena Wiebe, Lorne Buhr.

**June 18-19:** MCC Alberta Relief Sale in Coaldale.

### Saskatchewan

**March 3, 4, 5:** MCC and Canadian Foodgrains Bank meetings, at Bridgeway Community Church, Swift Current, 1:30 p.m. (3); Rosthern Mennonite, 7:30 p.m. (4); Nutana Park Mennonite, Saskatoon, 7:30 p.m. (5).

**March 5-6:** "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" by Superb Mennonite Church at Station Arts Centre, Rosthern, 8:00 p.m.

**March 5-6:** Songfest at First Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, with Henry Engbrecht and Joanne Wiens.

**March 27:** Shekinah fundraising banquet and auction at Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon.

**April 2:** Evening of Quartets

fundraiser for MCC at Nutana Park Mennonite, Saskatoon, 7:30 p.m.

**April 19-23:** Seminary class on "Becoming a missional church."

**May 16:** Rosthern Junior College spring concert.

**June 6:** Shekinah Bike-a-thon. **June 11-12:** MCC Relief Sale in Saskatoon.

**June 24-27:** Rosthern Junior College musical and graduation (27).

**July 2-4:** Shekinah 25th anniversary celebrations.

**September 10-12:** Junior high retreat.

### Manitoba

**March 5, 7:** Benefit concert by Mel Braun and Laura Loewen for mental health programs of Eden Health Care Services, at First Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg (5) 7:30 p.m.; Winkler Bergthaler church (7), 3:00 p.m.

**March 5-7:** Retreat for families with mentally handicapped members, at Camp Assiniboia.

**March 7:** Choral Connections concert at Canadian Mennonite University, 7:30 p.m.

**March 8:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate board banquet. Phone (204) 775-7111 for details.

**March 11, 12, 13:** Musical "Annie" at Mennonite Collegiate Institute, Gretna, 7:30 p.m. March 13 includes supper at 6:00 p.m. Donation only. For ticket information, call (204) 327-5891.

**March 12-14:** Junior high retreats at Camps Koinonia and Moose Lake.

**March 12-14:** Peace-It-Together for high schoolers at Canadian Mennonite University. Speaker: Dave Worth on "Food as a peace issue." Call 1-877-231-4570, e-mail: [bgrunau@cmu.ca](mailto:bgrunau@cmu.ca).

**March 13:** Celebration Jamboree at Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, for Native Ministries work in

Riverton, 3:00 p.m.

**March 31:** Open house at Canadian Mennonite University.

**April 2-4:** Marriage Encounter weekend in Winnipeg. Contact Peter and Rose Dick at (204) 757-4705.

**April 15-17:** Senior high drama at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, Winnipeg.

**May 27, June 3:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate concerts at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Senior high (May 27), junior high (June 3).

**June 28:** Westgate Mennonite Collegiate graduation at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.

**Ontario**

**February 27-28:** Alumni operetta at United Mennonite Educational Institute, Leamington.

**February 28:** Tenth dessert and auction at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener, 4:00 p.m. Go to [www.rockway.on.ca](http://www.rockway.on.ca).

**February 29:** Menno Singers concert of Canadian composers at St. John the Evangelist Church, Kitchener, 3:00 p.m.

**March 4-5:** Bechtel Lectures at Conrad Grebel University College with Nancy Heisey.

**March 5-7:** Marriage Encounter weekend at Niagara Falls. Call Marjorie Roth at (519) 669-8667.

**March 6:** Concert with House of Doc and Five-on-the-Floor at King Street Theatre, Kitchener, 8:00 p.m. Phone (519) 741-8224, e-mail: [harder@sentex.net](mailto:harder@sentex.net).

**March 10:** Family night at United Mennonite Educational Institute, Leamington, 6:30 p.m.

**March 13:** DaCapo Chamber Choir performs music by local composers, at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Kitchener, 8:00 p.m.

**March 15, 16:** Grandparent-Grandchild Days at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp. Leader Dorothy Bowman on "Patchwork stories." Call (519) 625-8602, e-mail: [laura@hiddenacres.ca](mailto:laura@hiddenacres.ca).

**March 18:** MEDA Breakfast at Stone Crock, St. Jacobs, 7:30

a.m. Speaker: Steve Rannekleiv.

**March 26:** MCC meat canner fundraiser dinner at Hamilton Mennonite Church, 5:00 p.m. Music by Hope Rising. Call Martha Wells at (905) 679-6506.

**March 26-27:** Engaged Workshop at Hawkesville Mennonite Church. Call (519) 656-2256.

**March 27:** Pax Christi Chorale Hymn-a-thon at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church, Markham.

**March 27:** Menno Singers second Hymn Sing Fundraiser at W-K Mennonite Church, Waterloo, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 576-9853.

**March 27:** Mennonite Aid Union Management Association annual meeting, Bingemans, Kitchener, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Register at (519) 634-5267, ext. 210.

**March 30:** Rockway Mennonite Collegiate gr. 6-8 drama, "Charlotte's Web," 12:30 p.m. matinee.

**March 30:** Mennonite Savings and Credit Union 40th annual meeting at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church. Speaker Henry Paetkau; music by Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir, 7:30 p.m.

**March 31, April 1:** Rockway Mennonite Collegiate gr. 6-8 drama, "Charlotte's Web," 7:00 p.m.

**April 17:** Women of MC Eastern Canada Enrichment Day at St. Catharines United Mennonite Church, 10:00 a.m. Theme: "Not a laughing matter" with speaker Anna Lisa Salo. Call (519) 356-2387.

**April 19-23, 26-30:** MCC meat canning in Leamington (19-23) and Guelph (26-30).

**April 23, 24:** Menno Singers and Pax Christi Chorale perform Vaughan Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem" and Durufle's "Requiem" at Benton St. Baptist, Kitchener (23), and Yorkminster Park Baptist, Toronto (24), 8:00 p.m.

**April 23, 24:** Mennonite Church Eastern Canada annual delegate session, United Mennonite Educational Institute, Leamington.

**April 30:** MEDA spring banquet at Conrad Grebel University College with speaker John Fast.

**April 30:** Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Envirathon-Servathon.

**April 30-May 1:** Engaged Workshop at Living Water Mennonite Fellowship, New Hamburg. Call (519) 656-2256.

**May 8:** Springfest at Niagara United Mennonite Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**May 16:** Spring concert at United Mennonite Educational Institute, Leamington, 7:30 p.m.

**May 20:** Spring concert at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener.

**May 28-30:** "Sound in the

land" music festival/conference at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo.

**United States**

**March 22-25:** Mennonite Camping Association convention at Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, Oregon.

**March 25-28:** Mennonite Health Assembly in San Francisco. Phone: (219) 534-9689, e-mail: [info@mhsonline.org](mailto:info@mhsonline.org).

**April 16-18:** Connecting Families Weekend on minority sexual orientation issues at Antiochian Village, Ligonier, Pa. Call (301) 864-6633, e-mail: [larandsteph@aol.com](mailto:larandsteph@aol.com).

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## **Come, ye sinners**

**Come, ye sinners, poor  
and needy,  
weak and wounded, sick  
and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to  
save you,  
full of pity, love and pow'r.**

**I will arise and go to Jesus;  
he will embrace me in  
his arms;  
in the arms of my dear  
Saviour,  
O, there are ten thousand  
charms.**

**This hymn by Joseph Hart (1759), with added verses on the "Elder son" by Glenn Lehman, is central to the Lenten worship resources provided in *Leader* magazine this year. Lynette Wiebe of Winnipeg provided the above bulletin cover for the first Sunday in Lent.**