

C A N A D I A N

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The truth that sets us free

Seek the truth, come whence it may, cost what it will” (Virginia Theological Seminary library plaque). That is a bold challenge today because truth is an elusive commodity in our post-modern environment.

Jesus says, “If you continue in my word...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.... I am...the truth...” (John 8:31b-32, 14:6a). Still, in churches there is also much disagreement about the “truth.” It often creates dissension, mistrust and anger, instead of setting us free. Mennonites historically refused the oath because we believe “yes means yes” in all circumstances. Yet we have as many flavours of truth that generate division as other faith groups.

How then do we get at the truth that sets us free?

In graduate school I learned four theories about communicating the truth:

- **Liberal or Liberating Theory**—believes when all sides of a truth are aired openly, we come to know and follow one whole truth.
- **Conservative or Tradition Theory**—believes we come closest to the truth when we hold fast to what we already know; it does not trust us to readily risk new ways.
- **Social Conscience Theory**—believes that when we hear the facts, we will respond ethically; full information will free us into making right choices.
- **“Social Communist” or Control Theory**—believes lay people are incapable of discerning truth; therefore, propagandize strongly for your cause because truth is safest in the hands of people in leadership.

These theories help me because I have heard church members claim the lordship of Jesus and yet argue diametrically opposing beliefs. Is one wrong and the other right? Possibly. But chances are that they are looking at Jesus from differing perspectives and experiences.

I have chaired the board of Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service since February. Communicating “the truth that sets us free” is most important to me. Based on Hebrews 10:23-25, our Mission Statement says: “*Canadian Mennonite*...provides channels for sharing accurate and fair information, faith profiles, inspirational/educational materials, news and analysis of issues facing the church.”

This may appear “liberal.” But Hebrews 10 adds a “conserving” dimension: “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering...” (v.23); and a “social conscience” dimension: “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds” (v.24), in light of the “Day” approaching (v.25).

Mennonite witness and service to Christ is remarkable in its extent for our small number. It is welcome and it is needed in God’s ministry of healing and hope for the world.

CM is the only “vehicle” that keeps us in touch with one another across the street and around the world. *CM* is committed to helping the Mennonite “body” grow together into more faithfully being and communicating the truth that sets us free.—**Bernie Wiebe**

New Column: We are launching another new monthly column this issue (see page 11). Organized by Manitoba Mennonites Will Braun and Aiden Enns, it will be a place for a group of younger Mennonites to share of their faith. “In the spirit of [former column] Old Order Voice—which included a peripheral slice of the Anabaptist community in the broader mix—a New Order Voice column would similarly contribute to a national church rich in constructive diversity,” Will wrote to me describing his goals. “NOV would pursue a constructive tone and develop topics that build on commonalities with ‘orthodox’ Mennonites, while also portraying new and unique expressions of Anabaptist faith. The fundamental underlying premise is that we all care about the same church.” Welcome, Will, Aiden and the others who will be writing.—**Tim Miller Dyck**

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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 on the Thursday before the issue date. So you can check out the May 2 issue by April 28.

Cover: Rajali, a tsunami survivor at Camp Bukit Soeharto, about an hour from Banda Aceh, Indonesia, receives a mattress purchased with MCC funding and distributed through Church World Service (CWS), along with an MCC relief kit and other items. See story on page 18. Photo by Emily Will.

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Det Udom, Thailand

From Winkler to Det Udom: Foot washing crosses cultural boundaries

When Cheryl Derksen returned to Thailand for a year-long mission internship in early 2004, she knew she'd be taking a deeper step into the lives of the Thai people. And that's what the Winkler, Man., resident wanted. A member of Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church, Derksen's appetite for service had been whetted during a five-month term with Youth Evangelism Service (YES) there the previous year.

This time she delved more seriously into Thai language study. She worked with the Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) team to set up an accounting system for the church's microeconomic development program, and she even got her feet muddy planting rice.

The 12 house churches that have grown out of EMM's work in northeast Thailand are composed primarily of the rural, rice-farming Isaan people.

"I thought I was coming to bless and serve the Thai people," Derksen told the EMM board on Feb. 4 in Harrisburg upon her return. "But I never expected to be so blessed myself."

She said that in 2003, when she originally went to Thailand, one of the YES team members felt strongly that God was asking them to wash the feet of the Isaan church leaders—literally.

"Now if you know anything about Thai culture," Derksen said, "you know how inappropriate and unclean feet are considered to be. For us to even suggest something like foot washing seemed foolish and culturally insensitive. We told our Thai pastor what we were sensing, and he shared this with the leadership council during one of their meetings. After his explanation, we started to wash the council members' feet, but it was extremely awkward.

'I never expected to be so blessed myself.'



Renee Shenk photo

At Cheryl Derksen's farewell, after a year-long mission internship in Thailand, Daeng, a house group leader from Det Udom, washes her feet and gives her a farewell blessing.

"These leaders are rice farmers. They hadn't washed their feet before coming—like we'd have done to prepare for a foot-washing service. And they walk dusty roads every day.

"But as we started to wash their dirty, calloused feet, they started to cry. This was surprising, because Thai people rarely cry. Some of them had to leave the room to gain control. And we started to cry. It was a powerful experience. We knew we had heard and obeyed God."

Two years later, when Derksen had completed her mission internship, she wanted a quiet goodbye. After the typical Isaan string-tying ceremony—symbolizing the way friends are tied to one another in love and friendship—she was shocked to see someone bring in a chair and a tub of water.

"I wanted to protest," Derksen said, "but I sensed the Lord telling me, 'Sit down and let them bless you.'

"The pastor explained the biblical story about foot washing to this group, which had not been present when the YES team washed the council members' feet. Six people, representing different aspects of church life, came and lovingly washed my feet.

"It was powerful and moving to feel them touching my feet. They were crossing enormous cultural barriers to serve and bless me. And I will never be the same."

Since returning from Thailand, Derksen is now serving as an administrative assistant at the Harrisburg Discipleship Center in Pennsylvania. —**Jewel Showalter** of Eastern Mennonite Missions

The article is reprinted from the March 15, 2005, issue of The Mennonite.

Evangelism is more than preparing people for heaven

Tony Campolo, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., renowned author and speaker, and founder of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education (EAPE), was the keynote speaker at the Youth Ministry as Sanctuary in a World of Violence Conference at Columbia Bible College (CBC) held March 18-19. In an exclusive interview with Canadian Mennonite's B.C. regional correspondent Angelika Dawson, he spoke about evangelism, social justice, addressing violence, and Mennonites.



Photo by Angelika Dawson

As he walked towards me down the hall at CBC, I was struck by how small he seemed. I'd seen him before, at youth workers conventions, Missions Fest in Vancouver, and on TV, and I always thought he was six feet tall. But as Dr. Tony Campolo made his way towards me I realized that he was neither six feet tall nor as young as I remembered him—he's an elderly Italian man of average height. But when he got on the stage later that evening to address more than 200 youth workers he seemed 10 feet tall and had more energy than all the young people in the room combined.

The goal of EAPE is to "build the kingdom of God by combining evangelism and social justice in the name of Jesus." When asked why it's important to do both he responded by saying that the kingdom of God, by definition, is the transformation of people and society. "Evangelism is not preparing people for heaven," he said. "I see it as a system for recruiting people through whom God can change the world."

That people focus on one or the other

simply stems from the fact that they tend to do what they're good at. Traditionally, Mennonites who have been "the quiet in the land" have not been known as great evangelists, he suggested.

"Mennonites are such sweet, quiet people," he said with a smile, suggesting this doesn't lead to "bombastic preaching in a coliseum."

Campolo believes there needs to be a greater awareness that evangelism and social justice are not mutually exclusive, but that they should complement each other. It was a theme he would raise over and over again as he addressed the convention, reminding youth ministers that their job was to prepare young people to respond to the needy in a world that is filled with violence.

He said that addressing the theme of this conference was a challenge. "The idea that you can protect kids if they're going to live countercultural lives is impossible," he said. "It's better to prepare them—'get ready—this is what it's gonna cost you!'"

But it is violence on the macro-level and how the world responds to that, that Campolo finds truly discouraging.

Where people recruit children to do violence, where people have the opinion that violence is a good way to do what's necessary—this is where the world is truly in need of people who confront violence with non-violent resistance.

"What's most alarming to me," he said, "is how often I meet Mennonite people who say of the historic peace position of the church,

Continued on page 6

'I find young people are more willing to embrace the value system of the Mennonite church than older people are!'



Evangelism *From page 5*

'Yes, but there are times when it doesn't work.' I find young people are more willing to embrace the value system of the Mennonite church than older people are!"

Campolo believes young people are drifting away from the institutional church because all they see is extreme Calvinistic dispensationalism. Most young people, he thinks, would love to know about the Mennonite church and its theology.

"In many respects, the Mennonite church has not understood its own attractiveness," he said. "Young people, youth culture is hungry for an alternative church that holds as one of its highest values the Sermon on the Mount."

Part of what Campolo sees as a difference between young and old is the influence of Christian media, which affects the ability of older Christians to think critically. "We're overpowered by these people who think for us—Jim Dobson, Jerry Falwell," he said. "They come across as larger than life so, if they say something, we can't critique it."

But young people don't have time for Christian media; they live in a different world.

Campolo doesn't have much time for Christian media either; he is irked when he sees the Christian community wasting its time condemning things like SpongeBob and the Simpsons.

I think SpongeBob is a lovely person," he says with a grin. "Here's a guy who's committed to family values, generosity, peace-making—he exemplifies the Sermon on the Mount!"

The Simpsons deal with one religious theme after another; it portrays a value system that Mennonites live by, especially Lisa [Simpson.]"

Campolo first came in contact with Mennonites in the 1960s during rallies protesting the Vietnam war.

Mennonites, who up until that time had largely chosen to remain passive, recognized the need to engage the world. They began to exchange pacifism for non-violent resistance.

"Mennonites came out of their shell and realized it's not enough to stay safe, but to leave the enclave and join those who are opposed to war," he recalled, adding that he believes the current times favour the Mennonite community.

"We're seeing the last vestige of extreme Calvinism," he said. "Calvinists read the gospel through the eyes of Paul. They read Paul, develop their theology, then see what Jesus said. Mennonites read Jesus, particularly the Sermon on the Mount, then read Paul and see if it's in line with Jesus!"

—**Angelika Dawson**

'The decade to overcome violence'

Our insights do not only belong to ourselves, but are our gifts to the whole church." With this, Dr. Fernando Enns challenged Anabaptist-Mennonites in his March 16 address at Conrad Grebel University College. The evening lecture, entitled "The Peace Church: Dialogue and Diversity in the Ecumenical Movement," was part of the annual Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies.

A professor of systematic theology and ecumenical studies at Heidelberg University and pastor in the German Mennonite Church, Enns served as a delegate to the World Council of Churches (WCC), playing a key role in the WCC's initiative to establish 2001-2010 as the "Decade to overcome violence."

Mennonites have been both "active shapers and sceptical observers" in the ecumenical movement, Enns said. Following World War II, German Mennonites were instrumental in the WCC's earliest efforts to promote alternatives to violence, and they continue to be a valuable resource in this regard. At the same time, they have also expressed concern that

ecumenical cooperation could pressure Mennonites to follow another group's agenda or lead to a loss of historical identity.

While acknowledging that genuine dialogue leads to mutual transformation, Enns argued that it frequently has the effect of affirming participants in their own identities. Valuable theological writing has emerged out of ecumenical encounters that challenged Mennonites to articulate shared ethical and theological views. In these instances, dialogue served not to dilute core beliefs and values, but to sharpen them.

Enns' second evening lecture was entitled "The Peace Church: Identity and Tolerance in a Pluralist Society." In his hospitable way, Enns proposed that real tolerance, as opposed to indifference, affirms both one's own and the other's identity. This sort of tolerance helps to sustain non-violent co-existence within pluralist societies as it is often when a group's identity is threatened that violence erupts.

Enns identified two ways in which Christian faith justifies genuine tolerance. First, faith is not a work of humankind, but is given by God through the Holy Spirit. While Christians must fulfill their

call to witness, should this understanding of faith not also be valid for people from other religious traditions? Christians must continue to tolerate and love others who choose not to adopt their beliefs. Second, Christians believe that every person is made in the image of God and that through salvation God is perfecting the whole of creation. Tolerance acknowledges the inherent dignity of every human being and our utter reliance on God.

This does not mean that Christians are to tolerate all actions and behaviours; intolerance is required at times. However, as Enns pointed out, the Bible insists that both Christian tolerance and intolerance be rooted in faith and a love that never allows the other to be reduced to his or her actions.

Through his historical, biblical, theological and personal reflections, Enns challenged all Christians, but especially the historic Peace Churches, to join ecumenical efforts toward the strengthening of identity and genuine tolerance as elements of non-violent coexistence.

—**Michelle Cameron**

Michelle Cameron is an MTS student at Conrad Grebel University College.

Bogotá, Colombia

Memorial service leads to peace reflections

White balloons and protest signs held high, traffic backs up behind our memorial procession. We arrive at the drab municipal building where young pastor Javier Segura González died. I feel for the first time the gravity of the sum of this year's tragedies for Sister Peace churches. Until today they have seemed a bit removed from my comfortable Bogotá existence. But I am present, walking with a Colombian faith community, a Mennonite Sister Peace church, as community members carry the casket of their loved and adored friend from his funeral to the site where a bomb took his life on Nov. 30, 2004.

There is a scar on the brick façade of the building and my friend points out the hole in the sidewalk at our feet, the remains of a metal parking barrier jutting out of the broken concrete. Colombian Mennonite Church leaders speak about this tragic loss of a precious life—yet another innocent victim of this country's armed conflict.

Balloons rise in silent flight. Mourners place their placards calling for peace and nonviolent resolution of the conflict on the security bars of the building's windows. Others place their wreaths of flowers on the sidewalk strewn with broken glass below some remaining blood dried on the brick wall.

The funeral caravan continues on to the burial service at a city cemetery, but I return to the office, shaken out of my sense of distance from the violence of this conflict.

A quick review of the many losses and traumas experienced only by 16 Colombian Sister Peace churches this year challenges me to overcome the calloused state that many of us experience after receiving news of so much tragedy:

- A Sister Peace church lost a member, who was likely removed, or “disappeared,” by an illegal armed group.
- A pastor of another church left his home and congregation because of threats from an illegal armed group.
- A pastor in Bogotá was approached

by a purported paramilitary fighter who wanted the church to accept his weapons so he could demobilize. The church, after discerning the correct advice to give, referred him to a nearby military base.

John Harder of Stirling Avenue Mennonite in Kitchener, Ont.—a Canadian Sister Peace Church, sent me an e-mail responding to the death of Javier. Having returned from a funeral himself, he shared with me how Rodney Sawatsky, a North American Mennonite leader, was told by someone shortly before he died of a brain tumour, “I am so angry with God that this is happening to you.”

Rodney was quiet for a while and said, “It is not God's will that I have cancer. I am a Christian, but I am also a mortal. Christians get cancer just the same as non-Christians. It is a part of being human. What God has given me is peace in my heart and hope knowing that my death is not the final chapter.”

John wrote, “A cure may one day be found for cancer, but not for death. A cure for violence may seem just as remote as a cure for cancer, but in the face of both we can embrace each other, we can remind each other of the faith we share, of Jesus who went before us in death on our behalf, and we can pray and encourage each other not to give up in our struggle for peace and justice.”

This is also the message of Colombian peace churches in this moment of loss: Javier's death is not the final chapter, although it pains us. His survivors are willing to carry on the torch of faith, hope in life, peace, and the struggle for a just society in Colombia.

I hope that I can grasp this lesson and find ways to deal with the trauma of our violent world without becoming calloused and removed. I want to be able to say that I too am helping to write the next chapter, helping to carry the torch forward.

Jesus went before us so that we would not be frozen by fear of death and suffering, but be liberated into a life of love; the greatest love, as he defined it, being the willingness to lay down our life for our friends (John 15:13).

Our friends in Colombia are dying. They need us to walk with them through this valley of death. Surely we as North American churches can offer to accompany them in their struggle toward the daylight.

—**Charlotte Shristi**

The author is a Mennonite Mission Network service worker who coordinates the Sister Peace Church program of Justapaz and the Commission for Restoration, Life and Peace of the Evangelical Council of Churches of Colombia.

I return to the office, shaken out of my sense of distance from the violence of this conflict.



Shristi

Menno blogs emerging on the web

In the *blogosphere*, that quirky shoal of the Internet where any wahoo with a computer can hold forth and stir dialogue, Mennonites are carving out their own ubiquitous places. There is no way to gauge how many Mennonite-related blogs are really out there, but a recent sampling of a dozen or two revealed an interesting variety.

William Loewen of Tavistock, Ont., a part-time youth pastor and student at Conrad Grebel University College, taps out *The Menno Melange*, an assembly of observations ranging from Anabaptist history to hockey.

For Loewen, 26, writing the blog helps him explore ideas that sometimes make it into sermons. “From a faith perspective, I think it’s important to be able to relate to others what your faith means to you,” Loewen wrote. (In true blogging fashion, some interviews for this story were conducted online.) “I’m not converting the masses with a small online venture, but the act of writing out my thoughts is great practice for formulating ideas and sermons.... Hearing responses from various readers is a gentle way of seeing how well my thoughts are laid out and how clearly my points were expressed.”

Ryan Schmidt uses his blog to keep friends apprised of his whereabouts, but also reports on his overseas service work.

Now working with World Relief in Indonesia’s tsunami-ravaged Aceh province, the 30-year-old from Langley, B.C., has spent time recently in Afghanistan, where he sent regular e-mail updates to a long list of supporters.

On this assignment, Schmidt decided it would be easier just to blog about his experiences, so he launched his Reasonably Jovial Scripts site in January.

“So far, people seem to like it, although some have said they miss the personal touch of a letter in their inbox,” Schmidt wrote. “It’s just a

really good way of allowing people who wouldn’t otherwise see places like this or do work like this, to have a glimpse into what goes on in the world. And I’m no hero or saint, so I give a pretty human perspective. I write about my bad days and my good ones.”

Jared Penner, 23, of Elm Creek, Man., who is pursuing a master’s degree in English literature at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ont., writes *The Jared Tracker*. Penner said his blog has evolved over the four years he’s written it, from online scavenging to reflecting his academic interests and other aspects of daily life.

“Blogging is such a dynamic, changing thing,” Penner wrote. “The first year...I published mostly links to the bizarre, intriguing or informative sites I came across, with maybe a witty line or two [to] keep things interesting....

“Then, about the second year in...my blog became mostly a collage of excerpts from the range of literature I was wading through for school.... My philosophy was just to put up stuff as weird and unconnected as the moods that took me.”

Penner also noted that blogging is ultimately a rather self-centred pursuit. “As I began to move around more—a trip to Europe, changing jobs, cities—blogging became a way of keeping up with everyone, letting them know where I was, what I was doing.”

He’s also mindful that what happens in the *blogosphere* can have the half-life of plutonium waste.

“Many people I know use blogs as a type of confession. I try to avoid the seduction of the diary entry,” he said. “I don’t blog when I’m depressed and I spare everyone the emotional details of this or that event I’m going through. That way I don’t need to worry about future employers stumbling across my entries or my parents reading it.”

—Robert Rhodes

From the March 21, 2005, *Mennonite Weekly Review*.

Bethlehem Bloggers online

“It is a window for people around the world to look in; to see past the walls and barbed wire fences, to hear from the people in Bethlehem themselves.” So says a new website that features voices from one of the most famous ghettos—Bethlehem. The Bethlehem Bloggers website is dedicated to bringing first hand insight into the life and politics inside Israeli-occupied Bethlehem. The site is managed by a diverse group of activists and professionals—both Palestinians and internationals—living and working in the area “who want to tell the world what it is like to be living in occupied territory, under an economic siege, encircled by a wall and military checkpoints: what it is like to live in a Palestinian Ghetto.” Those interested can visit the site at: www.bethlehemghetto.blogspot.com. —From *MennoLetter from Jerusalem*, Vol. IV, No. 3, April 2005



Photo by Elmer Heinrichs

Gerhard Ens, left, a teacher and founding member of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, was recently presented with an honorary life membership for his work in advancing the efforts of the society by acting president Roland Sawatzky. Delbert F. Plett, who died last November, was also honoured with a posthumous certificate of recognition that was accepted by his brothers Norman and Nathaniel.

Calgary

A hopeful start

Kim Thiessen, Darryl Neustaedter Barg and Craig Schellenberg sang to a full house at Foothills Mennonite Church on April 3, at the CD release for *Hope is...*, the third in a series of CDs produced by the Calgary church to raise support and awareness for MCC's Generations at Risk program.

Hope is... combines a variety of traditional and contemporary music in order to appeal to all generations. It follows in the musical footsteps of their two previous CDs—*To Such as These* and *The Light Shines*—which have reached far beyond the Mennonite community, with selections being played on radio stations across the country.

In 2001, Foothills Mennonite Church approached MCC Alberta with the idea of recording a CD as a fundraiser for MCC. Initially, dreams were modest and hopes were to sell about 1,000 CDs. With the release of their third CD, more than \$300,000 has been raised so far, and it is hoped *Hope is...* will raise the figures even higher.

Thiessen and Barg were initially asked to donate their time and talent for one small project. As the project has grown, so have their volunteer hours. Many others have also contributed in significant ways.

MCC's Generations at Risk program was designed to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and it now supports 60 projects in 30 countries. Funds raised help supply blood testing kits and medical supplies, along with educational resources and other items for orphaned children and volunteer doctors and counsellors.

Taking the stage alongside the performers was Jan Emswiler, a nurse with MCC in Tanzania, who shared first-hand information about the situation. She presented some staggering statistics: 45 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world; 15 million children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, with the number expected to double by 2010; and 8,000 death daily due to AIDS.

The evening ended with Thiessen singing *Amazing Grace* a cappella. The



Photo by Doug Unrau

Kim Thiessen, centre, Darryl Neustaedter Barg and Craig Schellenberg sang to a full house at Foothills Mennonite Church on April 3, at the CD release for *Hope is...*, the third in a series of CDs produced by the Calgary church to raise support and awareness for MCC's Generations at Risk program.

entire gathering of people spontaneously joined in and filled the sanctuary with rich harmonies. It was a solid reminder of God's grace being present in the midst of this tragic situation.

Hope is... CDs sell for \$18 apiece,

with all proceeds going toward Generations at Risk. To order CDs, call the MCC office in your province. For more information about Generations at Risk, visit www.mcc.org/aids.

—**Rose Klassen**

New for worship!

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Most of us believe it is more blessed to give than to receive. But how do we feel about being on the receiving end?

Accepting the kindnesses of others can bring its own insights, as our family has discovered. The nature of my husband's work means that his weekly pay cheque can vary greatly, and even though I'm also employed, it's still sometimes hard to stretch the money and pay all the bills.

I remember a time several years ago when our pantry shelves were especially bare. At that time we were a one-income family, the next payday was the following week, and we were out of some necessities. We were also down to only a few dollars in our chequing account. I thought I could make do on what we had on-hand for the most part, but I needed a few other things—peanut butter, milk, ground beef, fresh fruit.

I knew that probably any number of friends would be glad to help us, but I was too embarrassed to ask for help. So I prayed a simple prayer. "God, please let someone know of our need."

A box mysteriously appeared on our doorstep filled with a number of food items. Though none of the items I had specifically wished for were in the box,

a more thoughtful giver

its appearance was too much of a coincidence not to believe it was a direct answer to my prayer. We suspect members of our Bible study group were responsible, though no one took credit. Nonetheless, we humbly accepted the gift.

Grateful as I was for the food presented to us, I could not use everything in the box. Some were just not things that I would ever buy or cook. So I eventually passed these items on to our local food bank.

This got me to thinking: When we give to those in need, how do we give? Most of us have donated food at one time or other. Do we buy items for the food bank or for a needy family that we ourselves would never eat? Do we purchase premium brands for our own family, while picking up the often inferior no-name brands for the food bank, with the justification, "Well, if

they're really hungry, they should be grateful for this much"?

A few years later, we again found ourselves in a tight financial spot. This time, our church deacons came to our assistance, but with a different approach. They gave us a supermarket gift card.

Insight dawned on me. We were still being helped, but in a different way than if groceries had just been purchased for us. This seemed less like charity, and more like a gift. Lacking in funds did not suddenly render me incapable of shopping, and the gift card allowed me to both keep my dignity and purchase the most-needed grocery items for my family.

Of course it's satisfying for givers to shop for someone in need and present them with a gift box laden with items, but no one can determine better than a family what they can use most. Or is it that we don't believe they would spend the money as wisely as we would?

Receiving others' charity is not an easy thing. It means swallowing pride and accepting what is presented with love. For everyone who gives, someone has to receive. I pray that, having been a receiver, I will be a more thoughtful giver.

—Name withheld by request

Letters

Marriage is rightly defined by God alone

Darren Kehler's letter (*Canadian Mennonite*, March 7, 2005, page 12) is correct in stating that our country's laws have trivialized marriage. The Canadian government's decisions on moral issues, including the value of life itself and on social justice, have been poor and consistently benefit special interest groups. One should not be surprised about this; prosperity has a habit of corrupting the values of society (see Amos 1-6).

However, I must disagree with his letter in implying that Christians should tuck-tail-and-run back into the safety of their faith communities. How

This section is a forum for discussion and discernment. Letters express the opinion of the writer only, not necessarily the position of Canadian Mennonite, any of the five area churches or Mennonite Church Canada. Letters should address issues rather than criticizing individuals and include the writer's contact information. We will send copies of letters discussing other parties to the named individuals or organizations to provide the opportunity for a response. Letters can be sent to letters@canadianmennonite.org or to "Letter to the Editor," Canadian Mennonite, 490 Dutton Drive, Unit C5, Waterloo, ON N2L 6H7.

are we to be the salt and the light in the world (Matthew 5:13-16) if we simply back off from all threats and retreat from the world? Jesus spoke publicly about moral issues and as his followers we need to do the same!

There are at least three good reasons why Christians need to defend a biblical definition of marriage:

Canada is a democracy and we are citizens. Why should the special

interest groups have the lone voice on the issue when most Canadians would agree that same-sex marriage is morally wrong or, at least, unnatural. We have allowed our legal system, which is thoroughly impotent in other matters, to dictate the basics of God's creation.

To believe that this legislation will not affect Bible-believing Christians is foolish. Our public school systems are

rampant with stuff that marginalizes moral authority, Christianity and anything to do with God. Our children do not need to be confused with more erroneous moral teaching!

Our generation may not feel the pressure to accept same-sex legislation, but I can guarantee that our children will be labelled intolerant and be persecuted if they will not accept it. It is only a matter of time before the outside world finds the right issue to pick apart our conferences and churches. In many countries it is illegal to evangelize; Canada is going in that direction.

The Canadian government will make changes to marriage laws, if not now, then later. The good news is that only God really decides who is truly married—not the government, not even the faith communities. Our sole purpose is to serve God and present

his truths to those who do not want to listen to us! Always defend the biblical interpretation of marriage (even if it is unpopular) because our own measurement of success and failure mean little if we are doing what is right in God's eyes.

—Murray Hiebert, Gladstone, Man.

Charlotte assembly is good value for the price

Some other congregations and committed conference-attenders share Peter Peters' concern about the cost of the Charlotte assembly (April 4, pages 8-9). It is heartening to know that Peters (and others) are doing such significant thinking about stewardship.

The cost of attending the assembly will be about \$625 Cdn per person (registration, full meal package, lodging—shared double room, and

airport shuttle service) plus transportation to Charlotte. Currently it costs about \$650 to fly from Winnipeg, for a total cost of about \$1,275, rather than "in the neighbourhood of \$2,000," quoted by Peters. From Vancouver, the cost would be about \$100 more, from Calgary about \$60 more, from Toronto about \$190 less—and driving from Ontario would be even cheaper.

Peters is also concerned about the amount of time that will be given to Canadian agenda at a joint assembly. In fact, Canadian delegates will meet in separate sessions for a total of 12 hours—exactly the same as in Winkler, Man. There will be one additional 3.5-hour joint session with MC USA. Worship, seminars, fellowship, recreation, meals and displays will be shared jointly.

We are working hard to ensure that

Continued on page 12

Too many grey hairs at the AGM?

Institutional angst about the future is part of Mennonite reality.

Concern lingers over the church as younger generations fail to show the loyalty their parents had for meetings and mission events. Institutions are perennially stumped by the challenge of getting youthful Anabaptists out to AGMs and assemblies.

As a 31-year-old Mennonite I don't find the matter particularly baffling, though I do have my own angst about the future of the faithful.

Allow me to provide a glimpse into one segment of younger Mennonites, of which I consider myself a part. We are committed and creative, but when it comes to future involvement we hang in the balance. The chance to keep us from wandering out in frustration is an opportunity to enrich the Mennonite church now and into the future.

The group I speak of is a subset of the 20-to 30-something crowd (at least we are at heart). If you were to eavesdrop on us in the church foyer you might hear about canning pickles, Christian Peacemaker Teams, world issues or maybe even schemes for returning to rural roots. You probably would not hear about TV (we generally don't do TV), cottages (not our style), or the MC Canada annual assembly (our

issues don't always make the agenda).

With us, malls are out and thrift stores in. We like good hymns, and can sing the harmony (or wish we could). Men are affirmed for abilities in preserving food and childcare. Car ownership comes with a stigma, though we believe in grace too! We understand the language of Michael Moore's film *Fahrenheit 9/11* better than the language of "missional church" (which sounds a bit like something found at the



end of an institutional maze). For our potlucks it's best to bring an item that is both homemade and vegetarian (though I am not about to give up farmer sausage).

I provide the above sampling of traits at the risk of overstating the uniformity of a varied group with blurred borders. The point is not that the traits and values of our group are the best or highest—just that they are one contribution to the rich Mennonite mix.

Some of the characteristics I describe are in line with more "orthodox" Mennonites, others less so. But we all share a fundamental similarity: we care

about the same church and want to be a part of it. Though some of us are outside the Mennonite mainstream, our Anabaptist identity is important to us.

Many of our values can be traced in part to the Mennonite institutions that have shaped us: camps, schools or MCC. Though concern about the current direction of these institutions is a given among us, I suspect many of us would consider committing significant parts of our lives to them if they choose to include us and our values.

We don't ask what the church can do for younger generations, but vice versa. The issue is not how to get our segment into existing church institutions, but is there room for us to join in shaping the ways we as a church live out our faith? Currently we hang in the balance, at varying distances from the brink of disenchantment, looking for nooks and crannies in the church where our expressions and passions can find a home.

I see among my peers vibrant expressions of faith and worship. My prayer is that we will find a niche in the Mennonite Church. I envision us as one colourful little square on a beautiful patchwork quilt stitched together with God's infinite grace.

Will Braun is editor of Geez Magazine, coming Fall 2005 (www.geezmagazine.org). He attends Hope Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.

Charlotte *From page 11*

delegates will get the maximum value for their investment. We are sure that they will experience inspiration and blessing as they participate in shaping the priorities, ministries and identity of Mennonite Church Canada and in the joint activities. Good value for the price.

—**Dan Nighswander, MC Canada general secretary**

Same-sex marriage court ruling clarified

I can't believe that Mr Eriksson could be so wrong in his very first sentence of his pastoral letter (*Canadian Mennonite*, March 7, 2005, page 15). The Supreme Court did not rule that Parliament must decide on the new definition as the union between two persons. This is a complete distortion of the ruling.

What they said was:

- Parliament has the exclusive power to change the definition of marriage.
- Same-sex marriage is consistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Freedom of religion is protected.
- Lastly, on the important question of whether opposite sex marriage violates the Charter, the court refused to answer.

His mistake distorts the entire meaning of the ruling. Please rectify this egregious error in your next issue.

—**Leslie Tallosi, Richmond, B.C.**

Pastors, congregations must be like-minded

I have a question that grows out of a problem. I observe that there are quite a few pastors entering our Ontario

pulpits who come from the western provinces or other Mennonite branches of the church.

In some cases they come from very different theological backgrounds. Some are more fundamental and literalist in their orientation. When such persons are asked to minister to people of a different orientation, hurt is bound to happen to them and to the congregation they are to serve.

My question is, what is being done—or could or should be done—to alleviate this problem, if indeed there is a problem? Perhaps some courses at Conrad Grebel, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Emmanuel College in Toronto or the Toronto School of Theology could serve to bridge the gap. It is important that disappointment and hurt for all concerned be avoided where possible.

—**Milton Schwartztruber, Beamsville, Ont.**

MPN director clarifies article

Thanks for articles in the last several issues featuring significant new resources that are being published by Mennonite Publishing Network.

However, a news story in the April 4 issue (pages 11-12) mentions that the new Gather 'Round Sunday school curriculum will include a piece on "Understanding Canadians" by Elsie Rempel, Mennonite Church Canada director of Christian Education and Nurture. The curriculum itself will not include an article about understanding Canadians. However, a presentation with this title was given by Rempel at a recent conference for writers of the new curriculum, which is being jointly developed by Mennonite Church Canada,

Mennonite Church USA (both of which are represented by Mennonite Publishing Network), and the U.S.-based Church of the Brethren.

—**Ron Rempel, executive director, Mennonite Publishing Network, Waterloo, Ont.**

Church called to repent over homosexual stance

It was with great sadness that I read the articles in the March 7, 2005 *Canadian Mennonite* regarding same-sex marriage. I cannot escape the feeling that my church, in whose theology I usually take so much pride, has chosen to emulate George Wallace standing defiantly in the schoolhouse door, rather than Jesus of Nazareth.

I have spent a great deal of time studying this issue, reading the Bible, and speaking to people who are able to read our sacred texts in the original languages, and I am convinced that one cannot find a prohibition against monogamous homosexual relationships without doing violence to those sacred texts. There is a significant intellectual and moral dishonesty inherent in defending exclusion and discrimination on the basis of the traditional definition of marriage. If we are to be honest with each other in this debate we must acknowledge that the definition of marriage has never been fixed or immutable.

King David was a polygamist. More recently, many Christians felt that interracial or interfaith marriage was wrong and offended traditional principles. We need to seek the wisdom of God rather than pretend that custom justifies a reactionary stance; throughout history custom has often stood in opposition to the will of God and our call to kingdom living.

My sense of discouragement goes much deeper, however, than a disagreement within the church on this issue. I worry that the church's energy has been diverted from core Mennonite values and our essential witness to the world. Over the last several years innumerable articles and letters to the editor in this magazine have dealt with the issue of same-sex marriage and homosexuality; I would welcome a similar sustained discourse about pacifism, our relationship to the

Pontius' Puddle



state, and the meaning and content of a modern peace theology.

We, as a church, need to re-engage our radical tradition. I have little doubt that just such a return to fundamental Mennonite precepts would lead us to step out of the schoolhouse doorway and, not unlike George Wallace, publicly repent of the hurt and harm we have caused.

—D. Joel Dick, Toronto

Advertising supplement shocks reader

Canadian Mennonite often runs its own book review sections. These books tend to be of quality, not splashy and mass-marketed.

You can imagine my shock when I opened my March 7 *Canadian Mennonite* to find full-colour advertising supplements from non-Anabaptist Christian bookseller clubs. These

booksellers are selling right-wing American ideologies that have no place in *Canadian Mennonite*. There were five books connected with George W. Bush's buddy and former Moral Majority ideologue Tim LaHaye, whose interpretations of the Bible are practically heretical. Yet his Left Behind series has sold 60 million copies and has successfully galvanized the "Christian soldiers" behind George W. Bush and against Iraq, and the UN, for good measure. In addition, other books in the supplement are part of the Passion of the Christ marketing machine, while others are "grocery store check-out aisle" pop-spirituality.

It disturbs me that these kinds of fluff books have become acceptable in our homes and churches. Do we not have time to read serious theology or books that push us out of our comfort margins?

I suggest *Canadian Mennonite* pull

all advertising of this sort or seriously solicit advertising from smaller Christian publishers like Orbis Books that can act as a counter-balance.

I fear our Anabaptist founders would have much harsher words to say about these advertisements than I. —Derrick Martens, Winnipeg MVS Unit, Winnipeg

Correction

The passage, "More than conquerors with Christ," on page 8 of the March 21, 2005, issue of *Canadian Mennonite*, is actually from *Soli Deo Gloria: A Daily Walk Through Romans* by Myron S. Augsberger, and not from *Earth Trek: Celebrating and Sustaining God's Creation* by Joanne Moyer, as stated. *Canadian Mennonite* apologizes to the authors for the error.

Inspired by dessert

A couple of weeks ago my youngest son decided that he didn't like what was offered for supper. "No dessert unless you eat your main course," said his mother. "That's okay," says he. "I don't want dessert anyway." So he sat looking at his plateful of displeasure. When dessert entered the room, however, the eyes of our culinary zealot grew wide with wonder. "That looks good!" erupted the four-year-old, hoping his parents had very short-term memories. "You said you didn't want dessert," said we. "I don't mean it now," was his response.

O that the followers of Christ in this day were inspired by dessert! The disciples of Jesus engage the here and now because the best is yet come. In ChurchNext, Eddie Gibbs says that the inspiration of Christ's return is a key indicator of a Christ-centred, missional body of believers.

The inspiration of dessert—of Christ's return—has enriched the church in every age (not without the odd detour), and the certain mystery of this hope must breathe mercy and zeal into our souls, else we will soon find ourselves in institutional palliative care.

What might happen if we reawakened the hope-filled proclamation that Jesus Christ will return? Like my wide-

eyed son, I believe a revitalized church inspired again by Christ's return would result in our own "I don't mean it now" statements:

I don't mean it now that evangelization is only about good deeds. Our necessary good deeds must be accompanied by good news, for it is ultimately this news that awakens faith! Could it be that sometimes we hide Jesus behind the good deeds we do



Outside the box

Phil Wagler

in his name? Can they believe in him if they have never heard about him (Romans 10:14)?

I don't mean it now that worship is about the songs we sing. True worship is a life given entirely to God in obedience, sacrifice and service. Singing, or any other expression of the gathered, for that matter, is to worship what love-making is to marriage—an expression of a deep, abiding, devotional reality, not the reality itself. And, it might be added, for the purpose of bearing fruit!

I don't mean it now that my money is

primarily for my pleasure. I confess, hopefully along with you, how often my use of money is inspired by utter selfishness, laziness, and apathy, as opposed to kingdom values and need. We need to invest in the certainty of heaven, not retirement.

I don't mean it now that the church exists to meet my needs. Selfishness is subtle in the mirror, obvious in others, and more unsettling than gorging on a bucket of KFC. Our needs are met in Christ the returning Lord, not the church. To believe otherwise is to idolize ourselves and mock the church, which exists primarily to glorify Jesus until he comes again, not to keep me happy till I push up daisies.

I don't mean it now that my suffering is pointless. Trial and suffering—we pray them away and in the process ask God to remove grace from us so that we can avoid Christlikeness and wallow in temporary comfort. But we're being made for a glory that may well require suffering and our gaze is fixed beyond the here and now (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Truth is, dessert is always best when the main course swallows hard. Come Lord Jesus.

The writer, after having his dream of a professional hockey career ended by reality, has gone outside his box to serve Christ, now labouring as the leading servant (pastor) of Zurich Mennonite Church, Ont.

Winnipeg

Mennonites pay tribute to Pope John Paul II

The news of Pope John Paul II's final illness and death has provided an occasion for reflection on the impact of his life and ministry by Mennonites and other Christians around the world.

"As the most highly visible face of Christianity in the world, his witness to the convictions and values of Christian faith as understood within the Roman Catholic Church, has affected Christians of all denominations, adherents of other faiths, and people of no faith," says Dan Nighswander, general secretary of Mennonite Church Canada. "We join with people the world over in mourning his passing and thanking God for his service."

Nighswander notes that, during the time of his papacy, many Mennonites have grown in their appreciation of the Roman Catholic Church. "The formal dialogue between representatives of the Mennonite World Conference and the Roman Catholic Church's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity has furthered John Paul II's passion for reconciliation, forgiveness and the lived expression of the gospel of peace," he states.

On behalf of MC Canada, Nighswander offers condolences to Catholics around the world while recalling "our shared hope in the resurrection. Together we pray that God will call forth a worthy successor to the office, through whom the whole family of faith, and indeed the whole world, may be blessed."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Mennonite World Conference representatives. Nancy R. Heisey, president, and Larry Miller, executive secretary, wrote a letter to the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, stating, "We believe that the International Dialogue of the Catholic Church and the Mennonite World Conference, with its joint recognition that we are 'Called Together to be

Peacemakers,' stands as a tribute to John Paul II's exemplary spirit of repentance and his deep desire to heal divisive memories."

While expressing gratitude "for his service on behalf of reconciliation," Heisey and Miller assured the pontifical council "of our love and prayers...for your church in these days of momentous transition.... May God grant you extraordinary wisdom and discernment as you choose a new leader called to be a servant of God and of unity in the Body of Christ."

Both the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the Canadian Council of Churches, to which MC Canada belongs, issued statements praising the Pope as an ecumenical statesman.

—**Ross W. Muir**



Photo courtesy of the Catholic Register

Pope John Paul II

Elgin, Ill.

U.S. military draft unlikely to affect Canada

Three representatives from MCC in Canada joined a group of American Mennonites, Brethren in Christ, Brethren, Friends and Amish in Elgin on March 4 and 5 to discuss and plan for the possibility of a military draft in the United States. They were there to learn how such a possibility might impact Canada in the future.

While representatives of the U.S. Selective Service System indicated that there were no plans to implement a draft, J.E. McNeil, a lawyer with the Centre on Conscience and War in Washington, disagreed, suggesting that low recruitment quotas for the army, navy and National Guard all point to the possibility of a draft. Others noted that there already is an "economic draft" for people of colour and people living in poverty.

How would a formal draft impact Canada?

At this point, it appears that the Vietnam War scenario is unlikely to be repeated, as Canada's refugee and immigration system is much tighter now than it was in the 1960s and 1970s. Most experts are highly doubtful that the doors would be thrown wide open to American draft dodgers, if they remain relatively closed to tens of thousands of others seeking refuge in Canada, especially when American youth of military age do have legal options for conscientious objection and alternative service in the event of a draft.

Nevertheless, Canadian Mennonite churches should be deeply concerned about and attentive to developments in the United States. The three Canadians attending the consultation affirmed the importance of prayer and moral support for their American sisters and brothers during these uncertain times, and the desire to be open to other responses in the future. They also affirmed the ongoing need for peace education in Canada.

—**Esther Epp-Thiessen**

The author was one of three Canadian MCC representatives at the consultation in Elgin.

New Hamburg, Ont.

MCC executive director reflects on tsunami relief

As Ron Mathies nears retirement in June from his nine years as executive director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), his demand as a keynote speaker around his hometown of New Hamburg is on the rise.

“Ron Mathies is a peacemaker and an activist,” said Lowell Ewert, as he introduced Mathies to the audience at Hillcrest Mennonite Church on March 21.

In taking the podium, Mathies noted, “The name ‘New Hamburg’ on my passport has travelled to 80 countries!”

One of his most recent trips was to the tsunami-devastated region of south Asia. “The stories are just beginning to come forward,” he related. “Post-traumatic stress disorder will be part of the scene for years to come,” he said, recalling one man’s plea, “Help me to find my missing son, or help me to die.”

Still Mathies sees sources of hope for people in the region affected by the tsunamic, earthquake and flood, citing stories of “human compassion, courage and generosity.”

He is also heartened by people’s unparalleled outpouring of their resources. From an MCC perspective, it took two months to get \$7 million of donations during Hurricane Mitch. That figure was surpassed in two weeks after the tsunami struck. Much of that money came from grassroots supporters: children raising money by selling hot chocolate, a hairdresser

who gave a month’s worth of tips to MCC, and the fundraising concert put on by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

Mathies also noted MCC’s unprecedented media coverage, noting that the organization was featured in Maclean’s magazine twice in January.

However, there are other bigger causes of death than the tsunami, he said, referring to depression, war and poverty. They too have to be addressed, Mathies stressed, calling on governments to fulfill their pledges and

cancel the debts of the world’s poorest nations.

“Let’s not let this big thing—the tsunami—overshadow the smaller creeping ‘tsunamis’ in the south,” he urged. “Hunger and poverty continue in many places in the world, and need our attention,” Mathies said, reminding listeners that HIV/AIDS results in the death of 8,000 people each day.

He concluded by calling on Christians to pay attention to these ongoing issues “in the name of Christ.”

—Maurice Martin

New Hamburg, Ont.

Reps help MCC look into crystal ball

After listening to Ron Mathies speak about his time as executive director of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) at Hillcrest Mennonite Church late last month, congregational reps, pastors and other interested persons got together to brainstorm future priorities for the work of MCC Ontario.

After looking back on the major societal forces at work in the MCC Ontario organization over the past 10 years, the group then projected the major forces that might be seen in the next decade.

From these discussions, three aspects were identified as the most significant:

- An increasing feeling of insecurity and vulnerability, with people reverting to a self-protection mode. This reality

may have impact on giving and volunteerism.

- A healthy and wealthy aging population will make resources and volunteer time available.
- Racial, cultural and religious pluralism will have an impact on how MCC constituency does its work.

A lively conversation followed.

To deal with these issues, it was suggested that young adults could be connected with older Mennonites in service projects.

Risk taking and an alternative lifestyle of sacrificial giving were suggested, rather than being obsessed with hoarding. Ideas on how to share in the risk through mutual support were discussed, as was the need to instill this vision in Mennonite youth, in order to get them to move beyond their individual rights and social security, to a lifestyle of service.

The need to clarify theological assumptions was addressed. It was felt that the MCC needs to keep “in the name of Christ” as a “deeds” ministry, while maintaining interfaith dialogue. Concern was expressed that people on either side of this issue of Christian identity could be lost.

MCC Ontario promises to continue to dialogue with its constituency as it envisions how to do its work in the future.

—Maurice Martin

Congregational reps, pastors and others got together last month to brainstorm future priorities for the work of MCC Ontario at Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg.



Photo by Maurice Martin

Winnipeg

Church in Ukraine struggles with myths and old politics

Christianity and the church have a decades-long record of deep suspicion among the people of Ukraine. This residual wariness—left over from old political ideologies and an affinity for witchcraft—persists and frustrates the evangelism efforts of foreign and local Christian leaders alike.

So says Cliff Dueck. Dueck and his wife Natasha, Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers in Ukraine, were in Winnipeg recently to talk about where their ministry challenges and hopes lie. Ukraine lives on in the hearts and minds of many Mennonites whose ancestral roots can be traced there.

Biggest among the challenges is trying to forge relationships with distrustful local residents who perpetrate myths and discourage children and youths from attending church related events.

“A fair number of Ukrainians practice magic, and children and youth often consider rituals involving the calling of evil spirits an interesting pastime,” Dueck noted. “The lies that were spread [in the old political regime] about the church are very much...alive in the minds of people.”

Seeking Christian pen pals

When Cliff Dueck, Mennonite Church Canada Witness worker in Ukraine, told his youth group that he was coming to Canada, he asked them to share something of their lives with the Canadians he would be visiting. Fifteen year-old Katya responded with the following letter.

Greetings:
My name is Katya. I am 15 years old, and in grade 10. I go to church and study in Sunday school and I love Jesus very much.

I can't remember when I first started going to church, but I do remember that as a young child I would occasionally attend the Sunday services held by Christians at the

said Dueck in a presentation to colleagues. He was referring to the previous political era when Christians were often sent to prison on false charges.

An additional challenge is the switch to a free market economy. In the old political regime, foreign mission money would help support local pastors—a sort of second job for the indigenous church leaders. This eventually morphed into fully salaried local pastors, sponsored by North American dollars.

But perceptions in the West—that everything is all right in the wake of Ukraine's new free market economy—have resulted in foreign mission money drying up. Meanwhile, high unemployment and a devalued Ukrainian currency have combined to consume every waking moment for citizens. If they are not busy earning a living, they are looking for paid work.

“Churches got used to the pastor doing a lot more and being a lot more.... They got used to the idea of [Westerners] giving the salary to the pastor. Now it's a little bit different, where not every church or pastor can find a sponsor,” said Dueck. Despite the difficulties, Dueck is full

cultural centre in our community. Later on, Cliff bought a house and organized a church, and I started to come more frequently. I got so used to church that now I can't live without church. I enjoy being part of the church, because church is a place full of joy, a place where one can find many wonderful friends, and there are great songs....

I really love worshipping God in songs and that is why I take voice lessons so that I might learn to sing well. Not too long ago I repented, but I have not yet received baptism, but I hope to take this step soon. I am very glad that I found God and that I now live with Him. I am very thankful that I can commune with



Kolya, with masters level education in athletics, provides a sports ministry to Ukrainian children and youth twice a week. He had a vision to rejuvenate dilapidated playground equipment in a local park which had been repeatedly vandalized.

of hope for a ministry that takes years to see results. He has already begun to partially realize his vision of developing local, maturing Christians. What he needs most now is to spend time discerning and selecting leaders with immediate potential, and then to find ways to shift the local culture to a point where congregations see value in supporting their pastors.

Dueck estimates it costs about \$200



Katya

Him in prayer and that I can learn about Him from good people like Cliff and Natasha.

I really like socializing with Christians. I would like to share a Bible verse with you: "... and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds..." (Hebrews 10:24, NASB).

If any of you would like to write me, I would be happy to answer you.

Katya
Those wishing to correspond with Katya can send a message to her c/o: cndueck@mennonitechurch.ca. Please include a mailing address.

Abbotsford, B.C.

Youth violence addressed at youth pastors conference

More than 200 youth pastors and sponsors from many denominations attended the annual Youth Ministry as Sanctuary in a World of Violence Conference at Columbia Bible College (CBC) on March 18-19. Many came to hear Dr. Tony Campolo speak to this important theme.

Campolo addressed the difference between power and authority. Power is maintained by the use of fear, threatening people with violence if they do not comply, he said, whereas authority is built on loving sacrifice, pointing to Jesus as the ultimate example.

“When we talk about violence, there's no escape. But Jesus showed us that we can't control what people do. We can only control how we react,” he said. “There's three ways to confront violence in our world. One, you overcome evil with good. Two, you develop community; if you teach a counterculture value to your youth group, you must create a supportive community for them. Three, you must

find time for quiet and stillness. Learn to pray.”

Campolo challenged youth pastors to earn their authority not by being cool, but by modelling sacrificial love through work with the poor and needy. Tim Froese, the middle school pastor at Emmanuel Mennonite in Abbotsford, said, “I was challenged to examine my own life, to evaluate what is really important, and to find ways that I can be involved in caring and loving the poor and marginalized in our world as Jesus did.”

The conference also included several workshops that spoke to various aspects of youth ministry as it relates to addressing violence in our society.

One of the most popular sessions was called “Kissers and killers,” described as “a fishbowl discussion on developing a theology of adolescent passion and the passion of Christ.”

For an exclusive interview with Tony Campolo, see page 5.
—CBC release by **Angelika Dawson**

Newton, Kan.

Chilean pastor to get study grant

Monica Gallardo of Chile is one of 11 Mennonite women from around the world who will receive church leadership training this year through the International Women's Fund (IWF). Gallardo has served as an Anabaptist leader in Chile for years, working in conjunction with Mennonite Church Canada Witness and Mennonite Mission Network; she also co-pastors a church with her husband. In this unpaid role Gallardo preaches, leads an outreach artisan woman's group, supports youth ministries and leads spiritual retreats.

With IWF funding—courtesy of Mennonite Women USA contributors—Gallardo will continue her studies at a theological school in her home of

Concepcion.

Other new recipients include Grace Nyanyika Samweli of Tanzania, who will enter a two-year theology program at the Kampala School of Theology, Uganda; America Beomont, Venezuela; Lucia Pabon Diaz, Colombia; and Rosario Joaquina Rosales, Honduras.

Six previous IWF recipients will receive grants this year as their studies continue: Sandra Campoz Cruz, Costa Rica; Reena Tandi, Veena Wankhade and Preeti Chauhan, India; Darleen Ratzlaff, Paraguay; and Patricia Rosero, Colombia.

The 2005 IWF grants total more than \$6,500. Since the founding of Mennonite Women in 1997, the IWF has channelled nearly \$40,000 to women worldwide.

—MC USA news service release by **Cathleen Hockman-Wert**

Nias and Simeulue islands, Indonesia

Second major earthquake strikes in Indian Ocean

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is exploring possible responses to a massive earthquake that struck off the coast of Indonesia on March 28, while continuing to provide relief for the killer tsunami that occurred on Boxing Day 2004. The latest quake occurred on the same fault line as the Dec. 26 quake, which created a tsunami that killed tens of thousands of people in 12 countries around the Indian Ocean.

The Indonesian islands of Nias and Simeulue were hit hardest by the March 28 earthquake.

In response to destruction in Nias from the Dec. 26 tsunami, MCC supported health initiatives through a partner organization—YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU), the emergency response arm of an association of Indonesian Christian hospitals and clinics. MCC also provided funds for emergency tsunami relief to Nias, including mobilizing personnel to deliver relief supplies and clean water equipment.

MCC workers in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, reported that they were shaken by the March 28 quake, but are safe. MCC worker Steve Steiner said he was sound asleep when the quake hit, shaking him from his bed. He ran outside. "The ground shook for three to four minutes," he said, adding that the streets in front of the MCC

News brief

Celebration to bring churches together

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is initiating Celebration 2005 from May 21 to June 12. During these three weeks, churches are asked to work with each other in their communities to celebrate the love of God by praying and reaching out in creative ways. The goal is to encourage and strengthen the influence of all churches by working together. A national celebration event is planned for June 12. For more information, contact the website at www.Celebration2005.ca.

—EFC release



MCC photo by Emily Will

Sari Mutia Timur of Yogyakarta, a doctor for YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU), the emergency response arm of an association of Indonesian Christian hospitals and clinics, examines Afid, 30. MCC supports YEU medical teams' work in camps for people displaced by the tsunami.

house flooded with people, "moving in both directions," some in tears. "We're fine," Steiner said.

MCC and its partner agencies in

Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Somalia are continuing a long-term \$15 million response to the Dec. 26 tsunami.

In one of several camps for tsunami survivors about an hour from Banda Aceh, Indonesia, YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU) nurse Humani Kristawan re-bandages a wound for Akhirna, as her five-year-old daughter Nurul Fadri looks on. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) provided some \$253,000 for YEU, the emergency response arm of an association of Indonesian Christian hospitals and clinics. These funds have provided, and will continue to provide, mobile health clinics, medical staff, water and sanitation equipment, food, transportation and trauma counselling.



MCC photo by Emily Will

Waterloo, Ont.

Grebel to offer missional church course

Conrad Grebel University College in Waterloo, Ont., is offering its first course on the missional church this summer. Entitled “The Missional Church: From Vision to Practice,” Jack Suderman, executive secretary of Mennonite Church Canada Witness, will lead Grebel students, pastors and interested church leaders in a week-long investigation of “the ongoing nature and purpose of the church and its potential to be re-contextualized and thus reborn” in a missional church paradigm.

The course, scheduled to run from July 18-23, with a stand-alone Friday night and Saturday workshop, will review the origins of the missional church concept’s biblical and theological foundations, engage scripture in order to motivate the church to discern the context it finds itself in while being faithful to its vocation.

“We’re delighted to get Jack to teach this course,” says Tom Yoder Neufeld, director of graduate theological studies at Grebel. “He’s carried the torch on this [missional church] agenda.” The course and its topic are “clearly rooted in Mennonite-Anabaptist faith,” he adds.

This is made clear in many of the texts chosen by Suderman for the course. For example, in *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, the authors state, “In numerous places, the Epistles urge Christians to share with the needy.... Indeed, they even suggest that it is impossible for God’s love to be in anyone who has the world’s goods, sees a brother or sister in need, and yet refuses to help....”

Suderman, who has taught a variety of missional church courses across Canada and will teach two more at the Canada/U.S. bi-national convention in Charlotte, says it is important to “keep inspiring, motivating and providing resources that will be helpful” for Mennonite Church Canada’s pastors and lay leaders.

“Given that the missional church paradigm speaks to and about the entire church, from ushers to Sunday

school teachers...it is important for active congregational participants to engage this paradigm,” Suderman says.

In order to facilitate such engagement, MC Canada Witness has “what we call a ‘Missional Tool Bag’ into which we keep popping materials, tools, instruments...that can be useful for this work,” Suderman says.

For his part, Suderman is currently working on a two-part series called *Missional Ecclesiology and Leadership: Essential Understandings for the Emerging Church*. “These are essays, fairly well documented and somewhat academic, that hopefully can serve as springboards from which others can generate tools and materials that are helpful,” he says, adding, “I also hope this will have sufficient depth to be a resource for pastors who can ‘invent’ popular-style sermons based on particular material in these essays.”

To date, Suderman says MC Canada’s “journey down the missional church path has been both very exciting and somewhat ambivalent

and cautious.” The excitement, he says, has come mostly from those in the pews. “I always have the sense that, for the average person in our churches, this paradigm is a ‘home-coming,’” as “it names and addresses key things important to the church that our people are yearning for.”

The ambivalence and cautiousness has come, according to Suderman, more from the introduction of new language including the term “missional,” and the “perceived agenda behind the language, than from the concepts themselves.” He believes courses like the one being offered this summer at

Conrad Grebel help “very much to consolidate the perceptual issues that are still out there, and provide legitimacy and authority, and validate the importance of the agenda that is being worked at.”

Those interested in taking the *Missional Church: From Vision to Practice* course should visit the Conrad Grebel website (<http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/>) and follow the links.

—**Ross W. Muir**



Suderman

Altona, Man.

CO memorial proposed by Manitoba group

A group from southern Manitoba, which met recently in Altona, has announced plans for a memorial to commemorate the service of conscientious objectors (COs), especially those who served in World War II.

Work has already begun to the names of those who served in various ways. Some COs worked in hospitals, lumber camps, farms, coal mines, national parks, and as farm labourers. A few were sent to prison. To date, more than 700 names have been collected in Manitoba.

Conscientious objectors came from the historic peace churches as well as from a broad range of other congregations. A total of more than 10,000 young men claimed conscientious objector status in Canada. Of these, some 7500 were of Mennonite or Anabaptist persuasion.

The proposal of the group calls for a Manitoba marker and the possibility of bronze plaques for individual congregations in Manitoba and beyond.

Committee members noted the importance of this memorial not only for those who served, but equally importantly for the generations that follow. There was some optimism that this might provide an opportunity for the biblical teaching of peace.

—**Dave Derksen**

Winkler, Man.

Global Trek hooks kids on development education

Kids who think geography is just boring maps and confusing names find themselves passionately engaged when those places are connected to issues they can relate to. A group of teachers in Garden Valley School Division in Manitoba has developed just such materials for the Grades 3 and 7 social studies curriculum in Manitoba.

GlobalTrek is a virtual travel experience promoting basic human rights and responsibilities by exposing children to different world communities. It includes over 400 pages of lesson plans, activities and

simulations, along with numerous video segments. The curriculum has received more than \$40,000 in orders from across the province and was recently honoured with the Manitoba Association of School Trustees award for innovation in education.

The real success of the program, though, is what is happening in the classroom. Kath Penner, a Grade 3

teacher, is enthusiastic about her students' responses. She and her students made preparations before Christmas for a virtual trip to India. They were planning to "leave" right after Christmas break, but then came Dec. 26 and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

Usually the first day back after Christmas bubbles with excitement. However, this time was different. "I greet them at the door, they go to take their jackets off, and they are disputing some facts—the number of people that have died and are hurt," she recalled. "And they are passionately discussing whether they want to go to India or not; they are wondering what we will do. How will we get there? Can we still go?"

By the end of the day, the class had begun to come to terms with what had happened, and decided to take action.



With his passport in hand, Jesse Dueck, a Grade 3 student at Border Valley School, is ready for a great GlobalTrek to India.

"We made posters to challenge the rest of the students, and still the kids wanted to do more," said Penner, "and so we wrote home to see if our moms would bake cookies to sell."

Their efforts netted almost \$1,200.

Such responses are what GlobalTrek is designed to promote. It connects Canadian students to the global community, to become informed, active and responsible global citizens, as well as teaching students that their actions make a difference, says program coordinator Mary-Anna Aaldyk-Doerksen.

And teachers really appreciate the lesson plans, and the fact that every-

thing—books, lesson plans, videos, everything—is right there all ready for them to start teaching, she adds.

The concept for GlobalTrek began in 2002 when a group of eight teachers received a grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In the following two years, 10 teachers put in many hours viewing and selecting videos, producing lesson plans and activities, and interacting with Manitoba teachers who piloted the program. The goals were to produce easy-to-use materials that would be consistent with the new provincial social studies curriculum, and that would take students beyond their everyday worlds.

Partnerships with non-governmental groups like Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) have been essential. MCC provided videos and activity materials, including the refugee simulation "In exile for a while." Other partner agencies included the Food Grains Bank, Red Cross, Oxfam, UNICEF and World Vision.

CIDA has featured GlobalTrek on its website and has asked that the program be marketed nationally. GlobalTrek teachers have applied to present the program at the National Middle Schools Conference in Philadelphia, Pa., next fall, and the Saskatchewan Department of Education has asked to review the materials to support its curriculum.

—**Al Loeppky** and **Bernie Loeppky** with additional information from **Ellie Reimer** and the *Pembina Times*

'We made posters to challenge the rest of the students, and still the kids wanted to do more.'



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Asia

Churches celebrate new ministry spaces

Two Mennonite congregations in Asia recently dedicated new church buildings.

The Yayoidai Church in Tokyo, Japan, held its dedication service on Feb. 12, replacing a deteriorating meeting place built from cheap post-World War II materials. The congregation, affiliated with the Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches and Japan Brethren in Christ, overflowed the 80-seat sanctuary, according to Mennonite Church Canada Witness representatives Kazuhiro and Lois Enomoto.

Kaz led the service and translated greetings from partner churches. He assists the lead minister, Pastor Tojo,

through preaching and teaching while his wife serves on various committees, teaches Sunday school and children's English class.

In Taoyuan, Taiwan, the Zhong-Ping (Middle Peace) Mennonite Church dedicated its facilities on Feb. 20. Three years ago, this church plant had no members; today, about 30 adults attend the church, with sizable children's and youth groups. In November 2004, the church bought the seventh floor of an office building and converted it into a church, complete with a sanctuary, youth and Sunday school rooms, a pastor's study and a babies room.

—MC USA release



Photo by Sheldon Sawatzky

The son of Pastor Titus Liao, chair of the Board of the Fellowship of Mennonite Churches in Taiwan, pins a flower on Joshua Chang as part of the dedication of new facilities at Zhong-Ping (Middle Peace) Mennonite Church in Taoyuan.

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Olds, Alta.

Joyful servant dies at 80

Johan Nicolaas (Han) van den Berg, a long-time worker for the Commission on Overseas Mission (COM) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), died at the age of 80 on Feb. 21 in Olds.

Born in the Netherlands in 1924, Han escaped a Nazi concentration camp and hid in a false attic. During World War II his convictions as a conscientious objector and pacifist strengthened.

After briefly working in the financial profession following the war, van den Berg put his beliefs into action and joined the MCC in Amsterdam, helping to resettle refugees and distributing food and material aid. At one point, he creatively smuggled refugees from the Russian section of Austria to the American section, where they went on to settle in other countries. Other MCC assignments included Indonesia, India, Vietnam and

Taiwan—where he met his future wife, Martha Boschman, for the first time.

While still valuing the spirit of service embodied in MCC, he also came to the conviction that “you can help a person from the cradle to the grave, but unless there is a spiritual dimension, a person’s needs are not truly and fully met.”

This led him to join COM (a predecessor of Mennonite Church Canada Witness) and return to Taiwan in 1962 to serve in evangelism and church planting with his wife, Martha, who he married in 1961. Here, Han and Martha engaged in sharing Christ’s love with the Taiwanese people, forging lasting friendships, nurturing

emerging congregations, encouraging Chinese pastoral leadership, and mentoring new mission workers. Han and Martha had a unique way of balancing family and work, resulting in a home marked by hospitality, joy and laughter.

In 1993, Han and Martha retired from 38 years of service in Taiwan and relocated to their home in Saskatoon. In 1995, their home church, Cornerstone Church—Mennonite, invited them to serve as ministers of visitation, which they did with the same love that characterized their ministry in Taiwan, until Han was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in early 1997. In November 1999, Han and Martha relocated from Saskatoon to Olds, Alta., to be near family.



Johan Nicolaas (Han) van den Berg was long-time worker for the Commission on Overseas Mission and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Han is survived by his wife Martha, children Tobia Veith (George), Susan Reynar (Rod), daughter-in-law Monica, and grandchildren Matthew, Michael and Marika Veith, and Anika and Joya Reynar. Han was predeceased by his son John (Monica) in 1998.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 24 at Bergthal Mennonite Church, Didsbury, Alta.

—From a eulogy by his daughter, **Tobia Veith**

‘You can help a person from the cradle to the grave, but unless there is a spiritual dimension, a person’s needs are not truly and fully met.’



Westgate Mennonite College photo

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate’s Marsh and Mountain Club enjoyed beautiful, if not too warm, weather during the winter camp-out Feb. 11-12. Fifteen senior students, including Grade 10 student Natasha Plenert, followed some staff into the Canadian Shield just east of West Hawk Lake to build quinzees, cook their meals, gaze at the brilliant stars, and lounge in front of smokey fires. The students acquitted themselves well as they spent a good night sleeping in their snow huts, whereas the teachers had to scramble for accommodations as one of their quinzees collapsed during construction.

Baden, Ont.

Grace Schwartzentruber: A life

Grace (Bender) Schwartzentruber of New Hamburg, Ont., a Mennonite mission worker in Brazil for 32 years and faithful servant at Steinmann Mennonite Church, Baden, has died at the age of 74 years.

Schwartzentruber knew from a very young age that she was destined to follow God's call into international ministry, and never wavered from that call. She served with the Mennonite Board of Missions, the predecessor (in Canada) to Mennonite Church Canada Witness, and worked behind the scenes with her husband Kenneth, who operated a bookstore in Brazil for many years.

Schwartzentruber remained true to her convictions as she made many life choices, including choosing her life partner. "She had dedicated herself to foreign missions, and unless I sensed a similar call, she felt our relationship could not continue," said Kenneth, her

husband of 54 years, in a tribute.

Her hospitality was legendary in Brazil—a family guest book records over 3,000 visitors—as she made time for people, encouraging them to exceed their own expectations.

Schwartzentruber was an active participant in Mennonite congregations in Valinhos, Campinas and Taguatinga, teaching, worship leading, preaching, playing organ, leading women's groups, organizing singing groups, and encouraging others to use their gifts. She was also active at the English-speaking interdenominational Campinas Community Church. For a time she was the bookkeeper for Associação Evangelica Menonita (AEM), the Brazilian organization of churches.

Schwartzentruber simply did whatever she could, over and over. She was known as a woman of adventure,



Schwartzentruber

always ready to accept a challenge and make the best of any situation. When a Volkswagen bus carrying 12 passengers would go no further up a steep climb in Brazil, she had her passengers disembark and walk up the hill while she nursed the vehicle to the crest in low gear.

As a mission worker in Brazil, she was progressive and challenged the local cultural norms where men are not expected to do domestic work. At a youth gathering she enlisted a gang of resistant young men to help with cleaning up the dishes after meals. She made sure the job got done and engendered respect along the way.

Schwartzentruber passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Freeport Health Centre, Kitchener, Ont., on March 9. She is survived by her husband Kenneth, three daughters, one son, numerous grandchildren, and siblings, and is fondly remembered by many friends.

—From MC Canada release

News brief

Missionaries killed

Missionaries Richard and Charlene Hicks were killed last month while on assignment with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Guyana. Their bodies were found on their rented farm a 12-hour bus ride from Guyana's capital, Georgetown, on March 30. The farm had been set on fire, and Richard Hicks' body was badly burned. The body of Charlene Hicks was found near the house. "Local officials have indicated that robbery is the most likely motive behind this killing," the mission agency reported on April 4. The Hickses lived on the remote farm and were translating the Bible into Wapishana, a local language. Richard Hicks was born in South Africa to missionary parents, worked in Nova Scotia, studied in Saskatchewan and met his future wife in Dallas. They were married in 1992, and had no children. A memorial was planned for him in Whitby, Ont., and for her in Minnesota.

—From HJCB, CBC websites

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Mennonite school athletes excel

The Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Flames 2005 senior boys basketball team won the Ontario Federation of Secondary Athletic Associations (OFSAA) A championship for the first time in the school's history.



Photo submitted by Rockway Mennonite Collegiate



CMU photo

Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg honoured its top athletes from the CMU Blazers 2004/05 sports teams at the annual athletic banquet held on March 28. They include: volleyball player Nikki Mercier of Winnipeg (Female Rookie of the Year), soccer player Naomi Lang of Squamish, B.C., and volleyball player Erin Wiebe of Winnipeg (Female Athletes of the Year), hockey player and coach Derek Funk of Vineland, Ont. (CMU Trail Blazer Award), hockey and soccer player Chris Thiessen of Abbotsford, B.C., (Male Athlete of the Year), and soccer players Aaron Janzen of Coaldale, Alta., and Anthony Eisses of Lacombe, Alta., (Male Rookies of the Year).

Over the past month, the celebration of athletic and artistic talents has energized both individual students and the entire school population at Winnipeg Mennonite Elementary Schools. At the Bedson campus, the Grade 7 and 8 boys basketball team celebrated their first divisional championship (pictured right), while the middle school students presented their creative work at the second annual Festival of the Arts. Performers from the Bedson and Agassiz campuses combined to make the annual WMES spring banquet a memorable event. And Agassiz campus students filled the gym with their science projects during the recent Festival of Learning.



WMES photo

People & Events

Winnipeg—A search committee for Mennonite Church Canada's next general secretary has been announced. The committee consists of: Karen Martens Zimmerly (pastor, Grace Mennonite Church, Regina); Andrew Reesor-McDowell (member at large, General Board, MC Canada, Stouffville, Ont.); Louie Sawatzky (outgoing chair, Support Services, MC Canada, Winnipeg); Doug Epp (moderator, MC British Columbia, Abbotsford, B.C.); and Henry Krause (moderator, MC Canada, Langley, B.C.). Recommendations and applications can be mailed to Henry Krause, Moderator, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4, or sent by e-mail to hkrause@uniserve.com. Mark correspondence "Confidential."

—MC Canada release
by **Dan Dyck**

Transitions

Births/Adoptions

Aguiar—to Delfina Funk and Nelson, North Kildonan Mennonite, Winnipeg, a son, Dylan Augustin, March 21.
Dueck—to Nettie and Walter, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a son, Reese Garner, March 28.

Friesen—to Michelle and Michael, Arnaud Mennonite, Man., a son, Joshua George, Feb. 5.

Heide—to Amanda and Richard, Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Brooke Kennedy, March 21.

Kasdorf—to Tanya and Henry, Steinbach Mennonite, Man., a son, Bauer James, April 2.

Madter—to Hilana and Scott, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Brenna Dawn, March 22.

Musselman—to Bianca and Paul, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Alysia Nicoleta, Dec. 17.

Nikkel—to Michele and Steve, Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a daughter, Kaylee Jenna, March 18.

Neufeld—to Andrea and Rick, Valleyview Mennonite, London, Ont., a son, Jack Archelaus Peter, Jan. 26.

Redekop—to Janice and Michael, Emmanuel Mennonite, Abbotsford, B.C., a son, Keoni Micah, March 19.

Riddall—to Anita and Corey, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Eden Anne Frances, March 5.

Riehl—to Teresa and Chris, Tavistock Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Skyler Lynn, Feb. 28.

Schultz—to Becky and Jeff, Poole Mennonite, Milverton, Ont., a daughter, Avery Elizabeth, March 17.

Sharp—to Vivian and Phil,

Coaldale Mennonite, Alta., a son, David Timothy, March 24.

Snyder—to Pam and Barry, Shantz Mennonite, Baden, Ont., a daughter, Isabella Peyton, March 26.

Unrau—to Cheryl and Derek, Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a son, Mason Taylor, March 23.

Unrau Woelk—to Catherine and Andrew, Stirling Ave. Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont., a son, Nathaniel Jacob, Jan. 14.

Weber—to Cheryl and Robert, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Macy Altana, March 27.

Zacharias—to Andrea Penner and Sheldon, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., a son, Owen John, March 23.

Marriages

Bailie-Penner—Pete and Kara, Altona Mennonite, Man., March 26.

Dyck-Miller—Timothy and Myrna, Steinmann Mennonite, Baden, Ont., April 2.

Feil-Wideman—Larry and Marilyn, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., Feb. 19.

Deaths

Bartel—Erling, 83, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., March 17.

Bartel—Melfred, 80, North Star Mennonite, Drake, Sask., March 12.

Dick—Arthur D., 71, Hamilton Mennonite, Ont., March 8.

Enns—Elizabeth (Betty), 85, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Feb. 20.

Epp—Mary, 97, First Mennonite, Edmonton, Feb. 10.

Fehr—Brittany, 18, Grace Mennonite, Winkler, Man., Feb. 27.

Fehr—Jordan, 21, Grace Mennonite, Winkler, Man., Feb. 27.

Friesen—Cornelius, 81, Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Feb. 26.

Froese—Meta (nee Regier), 88, First Mennonite, Saskatoon, March 31.

Funk—Tina, 92, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Feb. 5.

Kaenhofen—David, 76 (b.

Dec. 27, 1928), Steinbach Mennonite, Man., March 24.

Klippenstein—Roy, 61, Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., Jan. 25.

Kroeker—Heinrich, 77, Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg, March 7.

Laskowski—Mabel (nee Bartel), 83, North Star Mennonite, Dec. 20.

Musselman—Reuben, 81, Stirling Ave. Mennonite, Kitchener, Ont., Feb. 9.

Peters—Maria (nee Wiebe), 91, First Mennonite, Saskatoon, March 23.

Schellenberg—Anna (nee Klassen), 91, First Mennonite Saskatoon, March 28.

Snyder—Melvin, 77, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., March 7.

Verhage—John (Jan), 78, Hamilton Mennonite, Ont., March 30.

Yantzi—Wayne, 62, Hillcrest Mennonite, New Hamburg, Ont., Jan. 1.

Zacharias—Owen John, 1 day (b. March 23, 2005), Altona Bergthaler Mennonite, Man., March 23.

Baptisms

Altona Mennonite, Man.—Kirsten Hamm, Amy Hiebert, April 3.

St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont.—Daniel Bigham, Alisha Martin, Bonnie Parsons, Suzanne Smith, March 27; Abby Horst, Paul Metzger-Oke, Kaitlin Sauder, April 3.

Steinmann Mennonite, Baden, Ont.—Sara Erb, Brandon Gingerich, Kevin Gingerich, Sarah Kennel, Jon Lebold, Tyler Scheerer, Christina Steinmann, March 27.

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

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Mennonite Church Canada

Prayer Requests

- Give thanks for prayers answered on behalf of Janessa Otto, Benin, who recently returned to Canada for urgent surgery. Doctors are unable explain the fact that she lives. We know God is present and has heard the prayers on her behalf, in her deepest hour of need. Glory be to our transforming Lord.
- Pray for Phil and Julie Bender, China, who teach English at the Chongqing University of Medical Sciences. They write of a student coming to church with them after Christmas. Upon hearing the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet, he was shocked at the servant role of the great teacher. Pray for these students as they learn about Christianity's way of being an "upside down kingdom."
- Pray for Erv and Marian Wiens, South Korea, who will be leaving their ministry at the Jesus Village Church (JVC) at the end of this month. They will return to Canada in August to begin pastoral ministry. Pray for a rich benediction on their closing time with this Anabaptist congregation and for new servants to continue in courageous faithful leadership.

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Congregations discuss new ministry models

Congregations in MC Eastern Canada are in the mood for change! That is, to change how congregational life and work is structured.

At MCEC Spring Assembly this year, delegates are being invited to discuss and take ownership of a proposed new structural guideline for the

Area Church. At the heart of the proposal is the mandate to assist congregations in their ministries as they identify, enable and release the gifts that exist in the local people who work alongside their pastors in the life of the church.

The current model—which has served the church well for over 40 years—is really a business model, to administer the programs of the church. In this model, the core leadership group has been called church council or, in some cases, cabinet. Then the elder model was placed alongside it, often replacing deacons to care for the spiritual life of the congregation. The problem became, What then is the mandate of church council? Has this model created a false dichotomy?

A second concern is for efficiency and flexibility. Congregations are looking for a balance of church life—between their walk with God and each other in the life and programs of the church, and their outreach of service and evangelism in their surrounding community and the world.

Often, as congregations discovered a need for new programs to make their life together more complete, they would add committees, but seldom deleted what already existed! This simply compounded the problem of "filling the slate," and made congregational structures cumbersome.

Nancy Brubaker, interim pastor at Mannheim Mennonite Church, Petersburg, notes that people are now doing more "asset-based" thinking, rather than needs-based.

Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg, has greatly reduced its committee structure, and given the various working groups new names to better reflect their ministry mandate. What used to be the Gifts Committee is now called

Stewards of Gifts. Their mandate is not to "fill the slate" but to identify, enable and release gifts of people in the congregation, often for one-time or shorter-term assignments.

Laurence Martin, interim minister at Tavistock Mennonite Church, reflects on how language about these things shifts. The language of "ministry" takes seriously Mennonite theology that all members of the church are "ministers" and have a role to play in the church. "The language invites and captures energy, action, participation," says Martin.

Tavistock Mennonite Church does not speak of a visioning process. It rather speaks of "turning our face toward God," and has created "a road map to the future."

St. Jacobs, Mannheim, Hagerman, Waterloo North, Shantz, and Tavistock Mennonite churches are just a few congregations within MCEC that have adopted the language of "ministries" to describe their life together and their newly emerging congregational structures.

Stewardship a new Milestone Ministry

Jeff Steckley, stewardship development staff person for MCEC, is working with the Canadian Interchurch Stewardship Committee to develop a new Milestone Ministry resource. Milestone Ministry Resources had, in the past, been developed to "plant seeds of faith" in children from infancy to 18 years. The working group realized that an essential aspect of spiritual formation is to teach Mennonite children the joy and responsibility of stewardship. The proposed new resource, to be called "Wrapped in God's Love," will include the original "Planting Seeds of Faith," and add the mandate

"Growing Generous Hearts." Just as Christian faith is formed in Mennonite children, so too can the spirit of generosity be shaped through various Milestone Ministries in the life of the church.

Mennonite Church Manitoba

CMU to host Witness worker

Glenn Witmer, serving with Mennonite Church Canada Witness and Mennonite Mission Network in Jerusalem, will be at Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) on May 18. Witmer's ministry seeks to promote points of inter-religious dialogue between Jewish, Christian and Muslim people, and peace building projects in the region.

His publication—MennoLetter from Jerusalem—seeks to help those in the West understand the complex political issues in the Middle East. Witmer has established a relationship with the Mar Elias Campus, known best for its founder, Father Elias Chacour; Witmer is eager to facilitate connections between Mar Elias and Mennonite educational institutions in North America.

Witmer will speak about his work at 1:30 p.m. in the CMU Large Boardroom at 500 Shaftesbury.

Camps with Meaning: Hospitality ministry

Bob Wiebe, director of Education Ministries for MC Manitoba, says that guest group services at Camps with Meaning are "a ministry of hospitality."

A school group from northern Ontario returned for a second time to Camp Moose Lake after a very positive visit last year. This year, a number of "at risk" students with deep needs and vulnerabilities were

a part of the group.

Will and Alvie Martens, Moose Lake staff, responded above and beyond the call of duty, said Wiebe. Sleeping bags were provided to those students who had none to bring. The group was assisted with their various activities. Great food was provided. One boy is reported to have said, "I hope I fail so that I can come back next year and eat the best food I've ever had."

The Martens continued on how respectful the students were in their communication and in their actions, and how clean they left the camp.

"Let us continue to pray for our staff in their ministry of hospitality," said Wiebe.

First-ever hike set for May 29

The first ever "MMYO Spirit Sands Hike" will take place on May 29 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Spruce Woods Provincial Park trail will take hikers through the magnificent Manitoba desert.

"This event is intended to be very simple organizationally," said Sandy W. Plett, director of summer camp and youth ministries. "The act of hiking in, worshipping, eating lunch together and hiking back out is the extent of the event." Each hiker should bring a bag lunch, good hiking shoes, a hat and a bottle of water.

Participating groups can indicate their plans by phoning 204-896-1616 or e-mailing: swplett@mennochurch.mb.ca.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Putting feet to the vision

On April 2, the MC Sask executive met at First Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, together with the Commissions and the Envisioning Team, to brainstorm on how the future might look for Saskatchewan Mennonites.

Although the "Vision for 2010" approved in principle at

the delegate sessions is still being changed and adapted, tentative first steps are being taken to put feet to the vision. The fluid nature of the document will remain for several months while Ken Bechtel, conference minister, and others gather feedback on the statement from the Saskatchewan constituency, but plans are being made now to work with the basic tenets of the vision.

A memo sent out to pastors and congregational chairs on April 1 asks for further refining of the vision by written comments from churches. The delegate motion passed during the Rosthern sessions stated that "further congregational and leadership feedback is solicited by June 15 so that the Envisioning Team may prepare and distribute a final draft by the fall of 2005."

"The hard task is to translate goals from the vision into concrete steps," observed Allan Klassen from Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon.

Mennonite Church Alberta

Inter-Mennonite Good Friday services held

In both Calgary and Edmonton, Mennonite Brethren and MC Alberta congregations have a long history of coming together for a joint worship service on Good Friday.

In Calgary, the service was organized by the interdenominational Mennonite ministerial group. Approximately 700 people came to Bethel Chapel, where the theme for the morning was "Darkness is the cradle of the dawning." Scripture readings from the Gospel of John, short meditations and hymns preceded a meaningful time of communion. Proceeds from the offering were forwarded to MCC's Generations at Risk project.

Edmonton's inter-Mennonite service attracted approximately 450 people to the Myer Horowitz Theatre at the

University of Alberta. Guest speaker Mary Ann Isaak, associate pastor at College Community Church (MB) in Clovis, Calif., spoke on the "drama of embrace," describing Jesus' life, passion and resurrection in terms of the invitation, response and release sequence of a loving embrace. Isaak was kept busy with a weekend schedule including a Maundy Thursday communion service at Holyrood and speaking at a Saturday morning breakfast at First Mennonite, among other engagements. The offering was given to the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers.

While many people greatly value these inter-Mennonite services and the connections they foster, the services are becoming more difficult to plan in both cities. In Calgary, school children are on spring break immediately before Easter, resulting in a shortage of capable volunteers for things like music leadership. The bigger issue for both cities, however, is a trend toward Mennonite Brethren churches forming separate ministerial groups and putting less emphasis on the importance of joint services. While there is no immediate end in sight for either service, the planning for these large events seems to be falling to a smaller group of committed leaders each year.

Correction

The MC Alberta All Committees meetings were held at First Mennonite Church in Calgary on March 18-19, and not at Camp Valaqua, as incorrectly reported in the April 4 issue of *Canadian Mennonite*.

Mennonite Church British Columbia

Upcoming events of note

- BC Women in Mission will hold their annual Inspirational Day at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford on May 1 beginning at 2 p.m. Janet

Bergen and Irene Reimer will speak and participants will enjoy special music, a time of sharing and, what has become an anticipated tradition, the memorial of women who have passed away within the last year. For information, please call Veronica Thiessen at 604-823-6101.

- On Aug. 20, Camp Squeah will host an alumni gathering for all who have ever been on staff, summer staff or served as camp committee members. Come spend the day remembering good times as you view the picture gallery, hike the camp trails or tour the property. Visit the archery range, challenge yourself on the climbing wall and bring your swimsuit for a dip in the pool. We'll have lunch together, sing some camp songs and have fun as we auction off camp memorabilia. Proceeds from the auction will fund a new "high ropes" course being planned for Camp Squeah.

"This is a great opportunity for people who have some history with Squeah, to reconnect with the place and hopefully with the people there," says Eileen Neufeld, event organizer. "We hope to rekindle memories and remind people what a wonderful place Squeah still is."

For complete details and to register, visit: www.squeah.com/alumni. For more information, to volunteer, or to donate an item for auction, contact: Eileen Neufeld at er.neufeld@shaw.ca, Angelika Dawson at ajdawson@telus.net, Jennifer Burkholder at extrastrength@shaw.ca, or Sandra Wall at fredd-wall@uniserve.com.

Unless otherwise credited, the articles in TheChurches pages were written by: Leona Dueck Penner (Mennonite Church Canada), Maurice Martin (Eastern Canada), Evelyn Rempel Petkau (Manitoba), Karin Fehderau (Saskatchewan), Donita Wiebe-Neufeld (Alberta), Angelika Dawson (B.C.). See page 2 for contact information.

Employment opportunities

Christian Alliance International School (CAIS) in Hong Kong requires the following full-time teachers:

- Grade 2 (1.0)**
- Grade 5 (1.0)**
- Secondary Mandarin (1.0)**
- Teacher Librarian (1.0)**
- Guidance/Career Counsellor (1.0)**

Applicants should possess a minimum B.Ed. (or equivalent) with the relevant major. Further details about the positions and the application process may be found on the school web site at: <http://www.cais.edu.hk>.

Emmanuel Mennonite Church invites applications for a

FULL TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR
(Youth and Young Adults)

Emmanuel is a multicultural, intergenerational congregation with a membership of approximately 225 people. We are looking for a dynamic individual to work predominantly with our youth, young adults and their families. This individual would be committed to and educated in Anabaptist theology and polity. Experience would definitely be an asset.

If you have questions or wish to apply contact:

Emmanuel Mennonite Church
3471 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford, BC V2T 5C1
Phone: 604-854-3654
Email: office@emmanuelmennonite.com

YOUTH PASTOR

Niverville Mennonite Church, Niverville Manitoba is currently accepting applications for this position. Starting date to be negotiated. This would be a 3-year renewal term beginning as 3/4 time - subject to review after one year. The Youth Pastor would provide general oversight and care of youth and children and the respective programs and volunteers. Further information concerning the church and job description is available upon request.

Please submit inquiries and resume to:

Search Committee, c/o Pastor Paul Adams
Box 117 Niverville, MB R0A 1E0
Phone: 204-388-4645
E-mail: padams@mb.sympatico.ca

CAMP VALAQUA, 1 hour NW of Calgary, is seeking a mature individual or couple to act as

INTERIM CAMP MANAGER

this June through August. This is a volunteer position with room and board included. Duties will include hosting rental groups, general maintenance, working with staff and summer volunteers, etc. If you are interested in being part of Valaqua's ministry for all three months or just a portion of this term, contact:

Paul Neufeldt
Phone: 780-439-4376
E-mail: neufeldt@ualberta.ca

Goshen College invites nominations and/or applications for the position of

PRESIDENT

expected to assume office sometime between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. Goshen College is a fully accredited four-year, liberal arts college located in Goshen, Indiana affiliated with Mennonite Church USA. Additional information about the college can be located at www.goshen.edu.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate for President will exhibit three essential qualities:

- Embrace and energetically promote the mission of the college, "to educate servant leaders for the church and the world."
- Support and implement the strategic priorities of the institution, including Goshen College's new strategic plan.
- Embody core values of the college and exemplify a mature and vibrant Christian faith, characterized by the gifts of the Spirit.

A terminal degree from an accredited college or university is expected.

Search Process: Nominations and/or letters of application with CV or resume may be submitted to

Rick Stiffney, Chairman of the Search Committee
E-mail: andreas@mennoniteeducation.org
GC Presidential Search Committee
Mennonite Education Agency
63846 County Road 35 Suite 1
Goshen, IN 46528-9621

The search committee will begin reviewing applications in Spring 2005 and continue until the position is filled.

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.



Mennonite Central Committee Canada seeks applications for the position of

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE DIRECTOR
(60-80% time)

The Director of Administrative Services is responsible for the supervision and support of the following departments: Building Services, Computer Services, Financial Services, Records Management and the Central Warehouse in Plum Coulee, MB. All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith and discipleship, active church membership, and nonviolent peacemaking.

Preferred start date: June 1/05
Contact:

Marsha Jones
Phone: 204-261-6381
E-mail: mgj@mennonitecc.ca
View job descriptions on the web:
www.mcc.org/servicetree/st_frame.html

PASTOR

Olivet Mennonite Church is currently having its faith tested as we seek new pastoral leadership and deal with having lost our church building to a recent fire. We would ask the community of faith for your prayers as we seek God's will and learn to trust Him for all our needs.

Phone: 604-853-2139

Mennonite Central Committee is looking for a

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

based in Akron, PA. The director leads a 14-member department that carries out much of the human resource function of MCC, including recruitment, screening, placement, training and care of workers; compensation and benefits administration; personnel policy development; and maintenance of personnel data.

Qualifications include experience in personnel management and administration; knowledge of human resources policies, practices and tools; and solid skills in writing, problem-solving and negotiation. Cross-cultural experience and prior Christian service preferred. Candidates from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and /or bilingual (Spanish/English) candidates, and women are encouraged to apply.

For a copy of the job description contact:

Prem Dick
E-mail: psd@mcc.org

HALF-TIME YOUTH PASTOR

North Leamington United Mennonite Church, in Leamington, has an opening for a half-time youth pastor position. We are prepared to assist with finding suitable accommodation and further half-time employment. NLUMC is a congregation of 450 members and a youth component of approximately 27 young people. Leamington is located about 35 minutes from Windsor and Detroit.

For a copy of job description and congregational profile or to apply, please contact:

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
4489 King St. E., Kitchener, ON N2P 2G2
Attn: Muriel Bechtel
Minister of Pastoral Services
E-mail: muriel@mcec.on.ca

Niagara United Mennonite Church, a 600+ member congregation in Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON invites applications for a

FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR of YOUTH and EDUCATION

The applicant should be a devoted follower of Jesus with a passion for youth and young adults. The individual should be committed to anabaptist values and be willing to work as part of the ministry team. A minimum bachelor's degree is required. Relevant experience is preferred. The position is available in early summer 2005.

For additional information or to apply, please contact the chairperson of the search committee by May 15, 2005.

Fred Teichgraf
E-mail: fteichgraf@wurthcanada.com
Phone: 905-468-4798

Hesston College and Mennonite Disaster Service seek a full-time

DIRECTOR OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

at Hesston College to begin July 2005. Primary responsibilities include: developing and administering the program, recruiting and admitting students, advising students, teaching courses, and directing field experiences. Qualifications: teaching experience; innovative spirit; love of students; and commitment to Mennonite higher education, the Mennonite church, and the missions of Hesston College and Mennonite Disaster Service. Master's degree required, doctorate desired.

Please send a letter of application, resume, and reference list to:

Marc Yoder, Academic Dean
Box 3000, Hesston, KS 67062
E-mail: marcusy@hesston.edu

Review of applications will begin May 16, and continue until the position is filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Zion Mennonite Church in Swift Current, Saskatchewan invites applications for the position of

HALF-TIME YOUTH PASTOR

Duties:

- 20 hours/week focused on Children and Youth ministries
- develop and coordinate a junior and senior youth program
- work with volunteer sponsors

Qualifications:

- keen interest and ability in working with children and youth
- an Anabaptist/Mennonite expression of the Christian faith
- biblical education, youth ministry training and experience are an asset

Starting Date: end of August 2005

Application deadline: May 2, 2005

For additional information or to apply with three references, please send resume to:

Search Committee
c/o Zion Mennonite Church
78 6th Ave. NE
Swift Current, SK S9H 2L7
Phone: 306-773-4770; E-mail: zion@sasktel.net

ROSTHERN JUNIOR COLLEGE, Rosthern, SK invites applications for the following positions beginning August 2005:

I) BOYS' RESIDENCE DEAN

II) TEACHER

in any or a combination of the following areas; Christian ethics and Drama with possible assignments in other teaching areas including Core French, English, Physics or Art.

III) ADMISSIONS/ALUMNI ASSISTANT

Rosthern Junior College is an independent Mennonite high school offering an academic and residential program for Grades 10-12. Theological training is desirable for all above positions. Teachers are expected to be certified or eligible for certification in Saskatchewan. Further qualifications include a commitment to Mennonite education and strong communication and relational skills. The school is supported by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan and Mennonite Church Alberta.

For more information please contact

Erwin Tiessen, Principal
Phone: 306-232-4222; Fax: 306-232-5250
E-mail: principal@rjc.sk.ca
www.rjc.sk.ca

Explore faith, justice in a 'small world'

Kitchener, Ont.—MCC Ontario is offering an interactive day for exploring issues of faith and justice in our globalized world.

Entitled "Small World After All: Faith, Globalization, and the Pursuit of Justice," the event includes drama, worship,

analysis, and story-telling.

Small World After All takes place on April 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kitchener Mennonite Brethren Church, Kitchener, Ont. Lunch is provided. A free will offering will be taken.

For more information and to register, call Anne Brubacher at 519-745-8458 or Tim Schmucker at 416-423-9229.

Employment opportunities



B.C. REGIONAL CORRESPONDENT

Canadian Mennonite is seeking a part-time (20% time) Regional Correspondent for the bi-weekly Mennonite periodical. Resumes will be considered starting April 30 and the position will be open until filled. Remuneration is salary plus expenses.

Responsibilities include filing bi-weekly reports and features on B.C.-based events; being a Canadian Mennonite contact person for B.C. churches and Mennonite organizations; assigning stories to others; and developing and assisting other writers in B.C.

Applicants should have strong knowledge of and a passion for the MC B.C. church and for Canadian Mennonite's ministry and mission to B.C. readers; strong listening, interviewing, news writing and photography skills; and an ability to work independently and as part of our cross-Canada staff. Come and serve the wider church in this exciting way!

Direct inquiries and applications to:

Timothy Dyck, Editor and Publisher, Canadian Mennonite
490 Dutton Dr., Unit C5, Waterloo, ON N2L 6H7
Phone: 1-800-378-2524, x225
E-mail: editor@canadianmennonite.org



Mennonite Central Committee Ontario invites applications for the position of

GENERAL MANAGER

Global Closet Thrift Shop, Don Mills, ON

This position requires a person with a commitment to Christian faith, active church membership and non-violent peacemaking. MCC is seeking an individual who has experience/ interest in retail merchandising, strong leadership and interpersonal skills, including the ability to lead volunteers in this diverse shop location.

This full-time position is available on a salaried basis beginning May 30, 2005. Application deadline is May 7, 2005.

Send resume and cover letter to:

Cath Woolner, Mennonite Central Committee
50 Kent Ave., Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
Phone: 519-745-8458
E-mail: cathw@mennonitecc.on.ca

British Columbia

May 15: Mennonite Concerto performed by Irmgard Baerg, at Central Heights MB Church, 3 p.m. Sponsored by Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

July 1-3: North American Vietnamese Mennonite Fellowship bi-national conference, Vancouver.

Alberta

May 6: Camp contact meeting, 8 p.m., at Camp Valaqua. Contact Don at 403-637-2510.

May 7: Camp Valaqua work day. Contact Jeff Schellenberg at 403-637-2510.

May 28, 29: Songfest in Rosemary. Theme: "Can't keep quiet."

May 30-June 2: Theological Studies Week at Camp Valaqua. Lecturer John Neufeld on marriage and family.

June 4: Hike-a-thon to raise money for new lodge roof at Camp Valaqua. Call Don at 403-637-2510 for pledge forms.

June 5: MCC fundraiser "Glimmers of Hope." An evening with Stephen Lewis, UN Secretary General's special

For sale

Home for sale in a great neighbourhood. First floor of an owner occupied, stacked duplex close to Kitchener's Victoria Park. Main floor is three bedroom unit, hardwood floors, hot water heat. Ample storage space in shared basement. Large, fenced lot with mature trees, backs onto Iron Horse Trail (walking and biking trail). Great for first time buyers, perfect location for families with young children. Close to downtown, city pool at end of the street, public school only a few blocks away. Call 519-745-0027.

Caskets and urns handmade in Winnipeg. Call Rick at 204-228-4741 or visit www.thevillagecasketmaker.com

envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. 4 p.m. MacEwan Hall, University of Calgary. Call MCC Alberta at 403-275-6935 for tickets.

June 7-9: Seniors heritage retreat at Camp Valaqua. Guest speaker: Rick Plett of the Refuge Range, Linden.

June 10: Grade 9 graduation at Menno Simons Christian School, Calgary.

Saskatchewan

May 1: CAMS concert of Mennonite school choirs at Bethany College, Hepburn.

May 2-6: AMBS seminary course in Saskatoon with Karl Koop.

May 14-15: 40th anniversary celebration at Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon. RSVP by April 15 to 306-374-1364, e-mail:

h.b.neufeldt@sasktel.net.

May 15: Spring concert at Rosthern Junior College.

May 18: Prairie Falcon motorcycle rally—MCC fundraiser.

May 25: Work day at Rosthern Junior College.

June 5: The Great Shekinah Adventure Challenge camp fundraiser.

June 10-11: MCC relief sale and auction in Saskatoon.

June 17-19: Youth Farm Bible Camp 40th anniversary celebrations.

June 23-25: Spring musical at Rosthern Junior College.

Housing

Mennonite Voluntary Service Intentional Community in Toronto. Call 416-422-2406 for details.

Housing wanted

Four 2nd year Western University students are looking for a female to share a 5 bedroom townhouse in London, ON. Non-smoker and no pets allowed. If interested, contact Pam at 519-263-5422.

June 25-26: Camp Elim 60th anniversary celebrations.
June 26: Graduation at Rosthern Junior College.

Manitoba

April 30: Young adult volleyball tournament at Mennonite Collegiate Institute, Gretna. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Call Chris at 204-261-0033 to register.

May 1: North Kildonan Mennonite Church Quartet spring concert, 7 p.m.

May 7: Women's Enrichment Day at Altona Berghaler Mennonite Church, 8:30 a.m. Theme: "Secure in God's house." Bring a lunch.

May 20-22: Camp Moose Lake workathon.

May 24-28: Youth ministry course on sexuality with Roland Martinson at Canadian Mennonite University. Visit www.cmu.ca for details.

May 26: Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Senior 2-4 spring concert, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.

May 27-29: Birding Retreat at Camp Moose Lake, with Adolf Ens and Fran Giesbrecht.

May 28, 29: Benefit concert for Mennonite Heritage Village Museum by Manitoba's Faith and Life Male Choir and Women's Chorus, 7:30 p.m. MCI, Gretna (28), Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg (29).

May 29: MMYO Spirit Sands Hike at Spruce Woods Provincial Park, 10 a.m. For more information, call 204-896-1616.

May 30- June 1: Plus 55 Retreat at Camp Moose Lake with speaker Jim Brown. Theme: "Our story as part of God's story."

June 1: Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Grade 7-Senior 1 spring concert, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.

June 6-8: Plus 55 Retreat at Camp Koinonia with speakers Jake Neufeld and Jake Harms. Theme: "Parables of Jesus."

June 6-10: Congregational Peacebuilding training with Nan Cressman and Dean Peachey at Canadian Mennonite University. Contact

Shirley Plett at 204-487-3300.

June 12: Eden Foundation, Big Brothers/Big Sisters charity golf tournament, Winkler. For information or to register, call 866-895-2919.

June 17-18: MCC Festival and Relief Sale at Canadian Mennonite University campus.

June 25: Camp Koinonia golf tournament, Winkler Golf Club. Contact Matthew at 204-534-2504 for more information.

June 27: Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Senior 4 graduation at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.

Ontario

April 23: MEDA banquet at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, with speakers Robert and Lisa Shuh.

April 23, 24: Pax Christi Chorale presents Sometimes a Light Surprises concert at Grace Church-on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd., Toronto., 8 p.m. (23), 3 p.m. (24).

April 25-29: MCC meat canning in Guelph. To volunteer call Earl J. Martin 519-664-2528.

Apr. 28-May 2: MCEC young adult trip to Chicago: The Blowing of the Spirit in the Windy City—From Inner City to Mega Church. Contact Mark Diller Harder at markdh@mcec.on.ca for more information.

April 29-30: Engaged Workshop at Living Water Fellowship, New Hamburg. Call Delmar and Mary Bender at 519-656-2256.

April 29-30: Women's retreat at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre. Theme: "Remember who you are." Speaker: Wendy Janzen, St. Jacobs Mennonite. E-mail info@hiddenacres.ca for more information.

May 1: DaCapo Chamber Choir performs at Open Ears Festival, St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Kitchener, 2:30 p.m.

May 7: Riverdale Mennonite Church's 9th annual Goods and Services Auction in Millbank, 4-7 p.m. All proceeds for mission outreach.

May 7: Shalom Counselling Services fundraising breakfast and AGM at Steinmann Mennonite Church, 8:30 a.m. Call 519-886-9690 for tickets.

May 13-14: Winnipeg's House of Doc performs at the Church Theatre, St. Jacobs, 8 p.m.

May 14: Springfest at Niagara United Menonite Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 15: Menno Singers perform Bach's Mass in B Minor at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Kitchener, 3 p.m.

May 15: DaCapo Chamber Choir performs a new work by conductor Leonard Enns at Guelph Spring Festival, Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church, 8 p.m.

May 16, 17: Seniors spring retreat at Hidden Acres Camp. Topic: Mercy and do justice. (Same program each day.)

May 25: MCEC retreat for retired and retirement age pastors and their spouses at Hidden Acres, 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

May 28: Ontario Mennonite relief sale, New Hamburg.

May 28-June 2: Father Elias Chacour, Palestinian peace-maker, priest and educator, is speaking in Kitchener-Waterloo, the GTA and St. Catharines areas. More details to follow.

May 29: Willowgrove Primary School, Stouffville, Ont., 10-year celebration and open house, 2-4 p.m.

Subscriber services

How to subscribe:

- Individuals who are part of Mennonite Church Canada or one of its five area conferences can ask to be placed on their congregation's group subscription list. The subscription is paid by the conferences.
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Photo by Ian Watson (church member)

Easternmost Easter

Members of the Mennonite House Church in St. John's, Nfld., were the first North Americans to celebrate Easter with a sunrise service at Cuckhold's Cove on March 27. The hardy parishioners, who got up at 5 a.m. NST, include Judith Klassen, Wendolyn Schlamp, Vernon Regehr, Simon Neufeld, Natsuna Masuda (visiting from Japan), Anne Munier, and Scott, Aidan, Maya and Melody Morton Ninomiya.