



C A N A D I A N
Mennonite

March 22, 2004
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**Journey to
retirement**

page 6

**Mexico
partnership**

page 17

Back on track

Mennonite Church Canada leaders celebrated a budget surplus at the annual Leadership Assembly on March 3-6. In addition to that good news, there were reports of thriving programs and new initiatives from the General Board and the three councils: Witness, Formation and Support Services (see pages 20-21).

What a contrast to a year ago, when these same leaders were grappling with a budget debacle, forcing them to drastically cut programs and staff.

“We have had one year of solid performance,” declared treasurer Clare Schlegel. “Mennonite Church Canada made the right moves a year ago.” The pain of those cutbacks was not forgotten, however. One board member noted that when she walked into the room where those decisions were made a year ago, she burst into tears.

While MC Canada seems to be stabilizing, leaders are aware that the task of creating trust and a sense of ownership in national programs is far from over. Some council members observed that the “good news” of the budget surplus is only “the blessedness of reducing expenses.” Where is “the blessedness of increasing revenue?”

How can we move from trimming expenses to increasing giving? they were asking. How can we begin to fund new programs and respond to the many opportunities for mission? Some leaders are saying that it’s time to move away from the unified budget to capitalize on enthusiasm for individual projects. Others fear that the “less glamorous” aspects of conference program would suffer with that approach.

One group that never seems to have trouble with income is Canadian Women in Mission. Despite dwindling numbers, this organization exceeded its budget by \$30,000 last year! See page 24 for the story.

Area conference moderators who met during the Leader-

ship Assembly kept coming back to one theme: How do we talk about difficult issues? How do we deal with the diversity among us?

They found much common ground as they shared concerns and suggestions for working at divisive issues, especially homosexuality. The conflict over this issue has “derailed” some conferences from other urgent agenda, while other conferences seem to have found creative ways to continue the dialogue. The General Board also spent considerable time discussing how to manage the dialogue, especially at the delegate assembly this summer.

“Enough for all,” based on the story of Jesus feeding the 5000, is the theme of the assembly, to be held in Winkler, Manitoba. Plans include a festival in the park. Because there is no youth convention this year, youth are encouraged to be delegates, paired with an experienced conference-goer to guide them.—**Margaret Loewen Reimer**



Paper cross

The cover of this issue features an eight-foot-high paper cross made by a Kansas congregation for the Easter season last year. The cutout images blend Celtic and Lenten themes, including a crown of thorns at the top and a shape representing the trinity. The vertical panel is filled with interconnecting images of joy and life—vines, palm fronds and textured designs.

The cross was hung in the front window of the sanctuary. “Light and shadow played on the walls and on the cross itself, emphasizing different elements in constantly changing patterns,” wrote Esther Eash in *Leader* magazine. Illuminated, the cross was transformed “into a brilliant symbol of resurrection.”

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March 22, 2004
Volume 8, Number 6



Page 29

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 April 5 issue by April 1.

Cover: Paper cross (Lent 2003), Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, Kansas. Photo by Esther Eash.

4 UpClose
Retirement stories **4**

6 Faith&Life
Journey to retirement **6**

10 Arts&Culture
B.C. writers meet **10**
Arts notes **11**

12 InConversation
Letters **12**

16 WiderChurch
Treatment centre in Mexico **16**
Alberta sessions **18**
Leadership assembly **20**
Manitoba sessions **22**
Women in Mission **24**

28 LocalChurch
Story of a trunk **28**
Church planter **29**
Meeting Muslims in Metro **31**
Transitions **33**

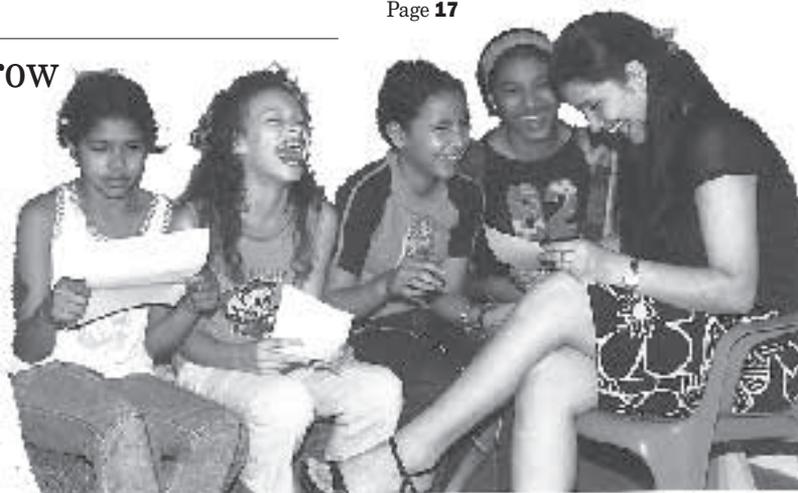
34 TheChurches

38 ToMorrow



Page 31

Page 17



Calgary, Alta.

Making clocks from rocks

Although Rudy Janssen never wears a watch, his hobby is clocks. His home is filled with clocks made of rocks he has collected. Rudy can tell you where each rock came from, usually with a geological description.

There are rocks of granite and some with fossils and coral. There are rocks with layers of colours and textures. For a hiker, rocks might be something to trip over. Rudy sees beauty in each individual rock, each with a story to tell.

One Sunday, to illustrate a sermon on Joshua 4, Rudy brought 12 rocks to the pulpit. He challenged people in the congregation to choose a rock that described them, and tell why.

Rudy worked in construction when he came to Canada after the war. After retiring—he built his last house in 1979—he adapted his carpentry tools for rock working. As he grinds, polishes and makes the cutout for the clock mechanism, he can visualize the finished product.

Rudy has made clocks for weddings and anniversaries, and other special occasions such as the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. He has given many as gifts and to charitable organizations for auction. How many clocks has he made? He has lost count.

Early in his career, Rudy designed and built several churches in western Canada, the first being Calgary First Mennonite. He designed and built the lodge at Camp Valaqua. He was involved in planning, building and later managing Menno Gardens and Menno Court, both senior residences.

Rudy has been active in various aspects of church life, except singing in the choir! A great storyteller, he used his talent as a Sunday school teacher and youth leader. He was ordained as a minister in 1988.

These days, he and his wife Elsbeth travel in their motor home through the mountains and to various lakes in the area. The Janssens have six children and sixteen grandchildren,

and family gatherings frequently happen at their cabin at Chestermere Lake.

Besides fishing and water-skiing, Rudy joins in windsurfing. Rudy is always on the lookout for interesting rocks.

When Rudy had a stroke 10 years ago he noticed problems with his vision but was determined to drive. With one eye covered, the other on the road—and Elsbeth beside him, probably in fervent prayer—they reached their destination. It must have been a challenge for Rudy's guardian angel.



Photo by Irene Klassen

Each of Rudy Janssen's clocks is distinctive, determined by the character of the rock.

Rudy has taken on a recent project that experts say is hopeless—repairing the old church organ. Who knows? The time and money Rudy gives to his church and family will never make him rich, at least not here on earth.

—**Irene Klassen**

Waterloo, Ont.

From pulpit to sales

On retiring after more than 10 years as pastor of Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church, Waldemar Regier went into business. He owns Wally's Commercial Mower Sales, a dealership for Deines mowers, designed in the United States 30 years ago.

Over 20 years ago, Regier's brother Ted, from Laird, Saskatchewan, was granted permission to manufacture the mower in Canada. Four years ago, Regier launched the first dealership in Ontario.

"It's lots of work, and a risky venture, setting up a business and launching a new product," said Regier. Although he has a diverse clientele, his target audience is people in agriculture—retiring and expanding farmers mowing farmyards, laneways or small airstrips. Golf course and landscape contractors, campground owners and conservation area people could also find the mowers useful, he said.

Regier grew up in rural Saskatchewan. Now he does mower demonstrations and attends farm shows in south-central Ontario and advertises in rural

papers such as *Regional County News* in St. Mary's. He has established a good customer base.

Running a business, says Regier, is a different way of relating to people than ministry. He is gratified by the level of trust people place in him. He would like to become a manufacturers' representative and get other dealerships to carry Deines mowers. —**Betti Erb**



Edmonton, Alta.

Creative couple exhibits art together

The walls of Peter and Katie Dyck's home provide colourful testament to the fact that they are enjoying a creative retirement. Katie specializes in vivid watercolour landscapes while Peter's preferred medium is pencil.

Peter and Katie grew up in Saskatoon and were married in 1952. They moved to Edmonton in 1971 when Peter's job with the oil refinery transferred there.

Katie has always loved art. "I've always been drawing and painting," she says. "As a girl, I used to spend time drawing the characters I found in the *Winnipeg Free Press* comics."

For about 20 years, when her three daughters were young, Katie had little time for her own art. She was trained as a teacher and spent many volunteer hours at school, teaching arts and crafts. She often spent her own money to buy supplies for the children.

One morning, Peter remarked, "Why don't you do something that brings money in instead of taking it out?" When he returned that evening, Katie was ready to go.

"I need a ride," she said. "I start as a sales clerk at Woolco at six." She worked at the store for the next 17 years, the last 8 as personnel manager.

Peter was a pipe-fitter and tool crib operator at an oil refinery. Although he could have retired in 1988, Peter stayed on for an extra year so that he and Katie could retire at the same time. At the end of every shift that last year, Peter marked his work calendar with a black X.

A co-worker remarked, "It's not fair that someone should have a smile like that on his face every day."

On May 31, 1989, Peter and Katie retired.

"We were very excited about retiring at the same time. We had a lot of plans for travelling, gardening, and all sorts of things. Until we retired, we did what we had to do. Now we do what we want to do and there isn't enough time!"

Katie began taking art lessons at a seniors centre. Because Katie does not drive, Peter tagged along. During



Katie and Peter Dyck enjoy an art show together.

lessons, Peter curled, played pool and visited with the other men at the centre. Eventually the art lessons moved to a church basement, and Peter was left without an afternoon activity.

After some encouragement and a few pointers from an art teacher, Peter began to draw. Keen interest, and considerable talent, soon emerged.

Currently, the couple is part of an informal art club at St. Luke's Anglican Church. They often exhibit their work together at the church's art shows.

Katie has also done some volunteering—for five years she taught English at the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and served on their board for three. She also sat on the board of the seniors centre where she took art lessons.

Peter and Katie enjoy travelling, and participate regularly in "art vacations" through the Elderhostel program. They have been to Europe, Hawaii and the Queen Charlotte Islands, among other places. On every trip, they visit as many art galleries as possible.—**Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**

Milverton, Ont.

Retirement gives time for 'people projects'

After retiring from 33 years of teaching elementary school in Milverton, Charles King has time for other kinds of "people projects."

Every Wednesday he assists at a dinner club at the nearby Brunner Nursing Home. About 30 seniors get a tasty meal, then play crokinole or cards. King helps to prepare and serve the food, wash dishes and clean up.

He also assists at Loaves and Fishes, a food bank in town. This past Christmas he helped prepare 27 Christmas baskets for people in need, including Mennonite families from Mexico who have settled in the area.

King, who attends Poole Mennonite Church along with his wife, Sharon, has also made seven or eight trips to Toronto General Hospital, accompanying a friend from the congregation who will be receiving a double lung transplant.

He dreams of going into Mennonite Disaster Service, to help others "as Christ would have us do." He says he could not stop learning new things even if he wanted to.—**Betti Erb**

Journey to retirement

Personal stories

The last issue explored retirement in terms of a Lenten discipline. This issue continues that theme with stories of people in different stages of the retirement journey.

Just beginning...

After 32 years of teaching economics at the University of Manitoba, combined with teaching stints in Africa and many consulting trips, Henry Rempel had no problem handing in his retirement notice at age 65.

In fact, "it was kind of funny," he laughs, "because of my relationship with the Faculty Union. I'd been critical of them over the years because they seemed to be trying harder to protect the rights of the 70-plus year-old professors than those of the 30 year-olds.... So I knew they'd be looking to see what I'd do!"

He delights in retirement: "The flexibility of the schedule is great.... Grace and I could take a month off to spend with kids in Ottawa when our daughter and family needed us last fall."

"The biggest shift came in work habits, especially the ability to manage time." It's harder to fit in consultancy trips (one to Kenya in February and another to China in

March). "I don't like this thing of being busier now than before."

Any surprises? "The CIDA people didn't call for 10 months." He has done a lot of work for the Canadian development agency over the years. Also, he's not doing as much leisure reading as he'd hoped. Maybe because his new book, *A High Price for Abundant Living: The story of capitalism* took up so much time.

While Henry recommends retirement, he cautions that it may be different for others.

"I've gone through life loving what I was doing...and have made a gradual transition." The university persuaded him to stay on as senior scholar for three years, with an office and grad students to supervise. In contrast, many people drop all job commitments when they retire and may feel lost.

Henry also notes that his church, which has no pastor, relies a lot on its retired members. Currently he chairs the Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship.

"When you're retired its assumed you can do it. But some retirees may not want to be there 11 months of the year." And there is a concern about the generation gap.

"We want the younger people involved too, rather than having older people running the show!"

As for Grace, "Life hasn't changed for me that much since Henry retired," she says. "I'm still doing what I always did in terms of my art, church and Sunday School work, involvements with family and friends."

She visits the sick as well as parents of new babies, bringing flowers and food on behalf of the church. And she



Photo by Leona Dueck Penner

Grace and Henry Rempel keep busy schedules as they ease into retirement.

loves gardening and reading. She also sews for her children and grandchildren.

She contributed art works for the “Peace on Earth” show at the Mennonite Heritage Centre last December and the “Unsilenced War and Land Mines” exhibit currently at the Fleet Street Gallery.

Henry being at home more did affect Grace at first. “I like my own time and have less time to reflect on things as a painter” because they do more things together now. Henry does the vacuuming since her surgery just before his retirement, which suits her just fine!

He also “cooks amazing things,” especially since daughter Ruth gave him a cookbook with precise instructions.

They continue to entertain—often international visitors and students. And they’re more busy with church.

“One views retirement as a...particular stage in life, a door you go through,” she reflects. “Some look forward to it. Others dread it. It takes a little while to identify yourself as an older person. You don’t want to be negative/down on yourself, but realistic about what you can do.”

She was surprised when, after her surgery, a nurse said to her, “You’re still very young.” Maybe it’s not necessary “to hang everything in the closet just yet,” she says. There is still a lot to explore.

The middle stage...

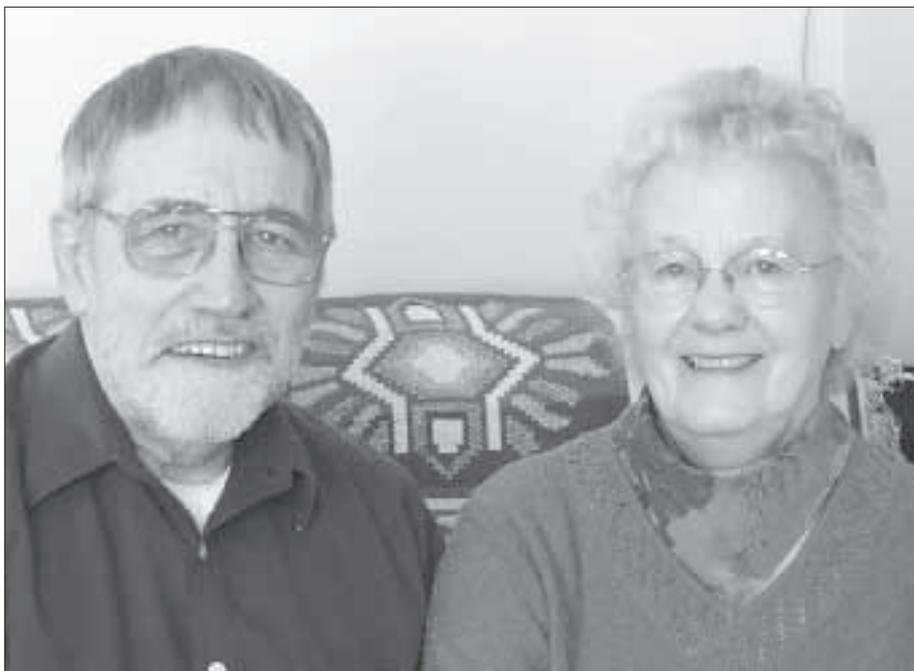
Neither Larry nor Jessie Kehler found the decision to retire difficult.

Jessie, a former chaplain at St. Boniface Hospital and earlier a nurse, says, “Once I decided to leave my work behind [in 1995], that was it. However, I did a lot of volunteering.” There was some sense of “restricted admission” once she handed in her keys, but overall the transition was easy.

She still does some chaplaincy work, and serves as a part-time counsellor at Canadian Mennonite University.

Larry retired as Commission on Overseas Mission director for Asia and northern Mexico in 1997.

“My careers have been sort of ‘go with the flow,’ so retirement isn’t that



Larry and Jessie Kehler continue to use their vocational skills in retirement.

much different,” he says. He too continues to be involved with his former professions, which include church administrator, pastor and editor (*The Canadian Mennonite* and *The Mennonite*). Recently, he edited *In the Image of God*, a book of photographs by Ray Dirks. He also edits “The Grapevine,” a monthly newsletter of Charleswood Mennonite Church.

Since his retirement, Larry has served as interim conference minister, MCC Manitoba director, and, together with Jessie, as pastor of the Altona Mennonite Church for a year.

“We’ve been very blessed with a variety of retirement opportunities,” he noted.

Jessie says she was more of “go-go-go” kind of person than Larry. That has changed.

“Now I read a lot...books on theology, prayer and reflection are important to me.” She is part of two interdenominational healing groups: The Guild of Health and the Order of St. Luke, and has a large network of friends from her chaplaincy work. She deeply appreciates this ecumenical aspect of her life, although it adds to her busyness. One of her friends, age 90, has no family in Winnipeg and depends on Jessie.

Larry and Jessie agree that Charleswood Mennonite Church has provided “wonderful continuity” for their lives. The Trailblazers group for seniors meets regularly for meals and activities.

Retirement is really “not so different, except that you have much more flexibility,” says Jessie. “I’m quite content and never bored!”

Travel has not been a big attraction “because it was part of our lives earlier on,” but a high priority is visiting grandchildren in Dryden, Ontario (ages 4 and 12). Until recently, Jessie went once a month to “help out” when daughter Faye, a doctor, was on call.

Larry travelled to Iraq with Christian Peacemaker Teams

Continued on page 8

Retirement is really ‘not so different, except that you have much more flexibility!’

Retirement *From page 7*

in 2002. “They were asking for grandpas and grandmas to volunteer,” he says modestly. A lot of speaking engagements followed. In March, he’ll be in Mexico, representing Mennonite Church Canada at the signing of a partnership arrangement with the conference there.

Any advice for other retirees? Jessie encourages hobbies and other interests “so you can fill your leisure time.” She dries and presses flowers for making pictures and cards. Larry works at genealogy and curls in an ecumenical chaplains’ league.

Jessie also emphasizes the importance of reflection and prayer. “For some this comes naturally, others have to work at it.... Develop these disciplines in your own way through nature, music, or whatever you enjoy and which draws you to God.”

Enjoying the present...

At age 77, Susan (Martens) Froese has an obvious zest for life and a willingness to try new things. For example, we met to talk at a restaurant because her home was being repainted in “bright unusual colours” chosen by a professional decorator.

Susan loves to travel, even if this means going on her own with tour groups. This was true even when her husband, Dave, was alive.

“His work as a pipeline inspector required a lot of travel,” she says, “so he wasn’t really interested in travelling beyond that.” He died three years ago of a heart condition. She adds quietly, “His work was his life so he didn’t look forward to retirement.”

Susan has been to Europe, China, Mexico, Hawaii and, last fall, to Brazil. In March she headed to South America.

Trained as a teacher, Susan taught for seven years, then married and raised four children (“married women weren’t hired as teachers in rural areas at that time”). Susan delights in her children and eight grandchildren, all of whom live in Winnipeg. One daughter with three youngsters works full time so Susan helps out on Saturdays with cleaning.

“It gets crazy there. I thought I’d always bring her a dish of food, but now my daughter who cooks in such large quantities sends food home with me instead.” She

finds these involvements “tiring but fun.”

Because her husband was gone a lot, she basically raised the children herself. “I became very independent,” she says, “and learned to do everything on my own.”

“I’ve always enjoyed life, whether retired or not,” she says, though when the children were small “I suffered from times of depression. But I don’t get depressed any more.... I look forward to the evening: going to bed with a book, and to the morning: getting up and reading the paper.

“But I dislike housework...it seems repetitive and mindless.” She is also “addicted” to Scrabble and enjoys competitive games with a friend. Susan still leads worship occasionally at Charleswood Mennonite, and for 40 years she provided flower arrangements! She also took a Toastmasters course on speaking and does some writing.

“Maybe I’ll form a writers group with others at church,” she muses.

The only thing she doesn’t like about aging is “all those medical appointments....” She should be thinking about moving into seniors’ housing but is not quite ready. She doesn’t want her children to take her in, nor to approve “heroic intervention” if she gets sick.

“My parents never talked about these things. So, when my father had a stroke, we had to come to decision about whether to tube-feed or not. That was difficult since we had differing points of view.... As it was, he was tube-fed for two years and four months without a sign of life except reflex actions. I don’t want that to happen to me.”

Any advice on how to prepare for retirement?

“When I realized I’d probably outlive my husband, one thing I did was re-establish old relationships. I entertained more and planned outings. I established a network of friends so I wouldn’t be so lost when Dave died. Since then, I haven’t felt left out.... I realize I have to take the initiative and call someone when I need companionship.”

“I feel very fortunate. So many others have a more difficult time.”

‘I realize I have to take the initiative and call someone when I need companionship.’



Photo by Leona Dueck Penner

Susan Froese maintains her independence while enjoying her family.

Photo by Leona Dueck Penner



Mary Dueck (right) visits with her sister-in-law Neta in the nursing home.

Nearing the end of life...

In the midst of writing this retirement feature, my 88-year-old mother, Mary (Harms) Dueck, had to move from the spacious seniors' apartment where she'd lived for almost 19 years into a nursing home.

It was a much-dreaded experience for her and for us as a family. We worried about how she'd respond, given that she was diagnosed with Alzheimers last summer and changes are becoming increasingly difficult for her. Also, we felt overwhelmed with all the work involved, given that most of her 11 children live outside the province.

The first stage of the move went well. Mom left her apartment without tears since she'd "prayed about it" the night before and decided she wouldn't be sad because "this was God's plan."

The next day was very difficult as she struggled with new experiences, such as new staff and making transfers from her wheelchair to a new toilet and new bed. Worst of all, due to a transitional oversight, she was left all day without being properly dressed or combed.

So, when my sister and I arrived, exhausted after cleaning out the apartment, my mother was distraught. "Nothing works. I don't think I can

stay here!" she said. We were able to sort things out, but for awhile we wondered if this move had been a huge mistake.

Next day, I drove back to Steinbach from Winnipeg just to see how Mom was doing. There she was, beautifully dressed, hair in a French braid, sitting at her tray-table praying aloud, the Bible open at Psalm 23 and the sunlight flooding all around her.

She was praying not for herself in the midst of transitions, but for her sister-in-law, Neta, who is in even more fragile health. Mom was asking God to give her strength and make her "worthy" to help lighten Neta's load!

My spirits lifted and I saw the resurrection hope of Jesus clearly present within that room and within my beloved Mom!

As we enter "the season of awakening," may the stories of these vibrant people on the retirement journey remind us that God's renewing spirit is available to us throughout our lives: "Behold...this moment it breaks from the bud; can you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19)—**Leona Dueck Penner**

'Aging is an ambiguous experience...we can discover freedom and simplicity but we experience losses that threaten to break us: spouse, friends, health and the identity that came from our work. These losses call us to examine again all the values that have sustained our lives.

Might my worth depend finally on who I am rather than on what I do? Can I find God in times of failure as well as success? How we answer those questions is crucial not only for ourselves but for all the generations whose lives are intertwined.' (From Kathleen Fischer, in *I Never Found that Rocking Chair*)

Abbotsford, B.C.

Writers inspired at B.C. gathering

Last spring, writer Elsie K. Neufeld came up with the idea of creating an anthology of Mennonite writers from British Columbia.

"Part of it comes from the feeling that I haven't really found my place in the 'non-Mennonite' world (for lack of a better term). I've always felt very alone," she says. "Another part of it was wanting to connect with other Mennonite writers."

She approached two other writers: Robert Martens, co-editor of a two-volume book about the town of Yarrow, and Louise Bergen Price, editor of the B.C. Mennonite Historical Society newsletter. Both were enthusiastic about the idea.

They recruited two advisors: poet Leonard Neufeldt and Maryann Jantzen, who teaches English at Trinity Western University. They pooled names, drafted a proposal for an anthology, and sent it off. The list of contacts grew to nearly 50. Then Neufeld came up with another idea.

"Contributors expressed a desire to connect with other Mennonite writers, so I decided to hold a gathering of writers and non-writer readers, as a time to interact...."

Forty-nine people attended a Sunday afternoon gathering in February at Neufeld's home here. Of those, 19 were writers, 12 of whom read from their poetry, personal essays or fiction. The readers included Andreas Schroeder, Barbara Nickel, Melody Goetz, Colleen Friesen, Connie Braun, Helen Rose Pauls, Lynda Philippsen, Ron Wiebe and Walter Neufeld, and the three organizers.

Schroeder put the gathering into historical context. The last time he attended a gathering of Canadian Mennonite writers was nearly two decades ago at the University of Waterloo, hosted by Hildi Froese Tiessen. At the time he was astonished by the number of professional Mennonite writers—about 30.

"What I remember most about that early gathering was how much struggle and conflict there was in the writing of those authors; how much they still seemed to be embroiled in a struggle with their churches, with Mennonite society, even with their families," said Schroeder.

"And when we read some of our work in local churches, there were people who left in protest over issues of language, over instances of uncomplimentary observations about Mennonite church life...just enough to remind us that Mennonite society still wasn't entirely comfortable with the idea of Mennonite writers."

Schroeder was struck by the difference in tone at this gathering. "I was astonished at how much humour there was—humour and self-satire. We laughed and clapped until we ached. Nobody seemed to be fighting or struggling with anyone anymore," he said. "Everyone seemed very comfortable with their Mennonite upbringing...."

What Neufeld found gratifying was the sense of camaraderie.

Ron Wiebe noted that the event was "a chance for all of us to share in and celebrate a wealth of creativity that often goes unrecognized because so many of us work in vacuums." Others expressed relief at being able to speak as a Mennonite and be understood.

Maryann Jantzen was encouraged to pursue the anthology. "I sensed the emergence of two contrasting but not contradictory thematic strands deeply rooted in Mennonite tradition: the comic and the contemplative," she said. "I think these can complement each other in interesting ways.

"As Mennonites we've not inherited much of a contemplative tradition. However, we've been well conditioned to understand the spiritual significance of carefully chosen language: we know words matter and have spiritual power. On the other hand, many of the readers seemed to have captured

powerfully in English the subversive power of earthy "Low German" humour to undermine pious pretentiousness and to celebrate our 'messy' humanity," said Jantzen.

The readings were "like hearing your own language in a foreign land; you lean into it, anxious for familiar words and phrases," said Louise Bergen Price.

For Neufeld, the afternoon was a sacred experience. "You can offer the ground, but you can't make that happen," she said. "It was a gift."

—Angelika Dawson

Kitchener, Ont.

Manitoba group offers musical variety

House of Doc, a well-known bluegrass group from Winnipeg, appeared in concert on March 6 at the King Street Theatre here.

The event was organized by Ron Harder, member of the popular local group, "Five on the Floor," which opened the evening with some of its trademark bluegrass gospel songs.

Five on the Floor began singing bluegrass—"rural music," according to spokesman Bob Janzen—a decade or so ago. Both Janzen and Harder had been part of a band called Rural Delivery. Five on the Floor began as a group at Rockway Mennonite Church and then began receiving invitations to sing at events in the community.

The focus of the evening was House of Doc—siblings Rebecca, David and Daniel Wiebe from Winnipeg—joined by Matthew Harder, originally from Kitchener, and Andrea Loewen, both of whom married into the musical family. The group is named after grandfather David ("Doc") Schroeder in whose house most of them live.

In fact, nine people from three generations share space in the Schroeder-Wiebe-Harder household. The siblings began singing at

Arts notes

Easter musical

Five Vancouver churches are joining to perform an Easter music drama on April 9 and 10. "The Choice" revolves around the relationship between a Jewish girl and a Roman soldier, and their experience with Jesus. Complete with period costumes, the production is suitable for all ages. The two performances are at John Oliver High School, 49th Avenue at Fraser Street, Vancouver, at 7:30 p.m. Participating churches are Vancouver Mennonite Brethren, Culloden Mennonite Brethren, Sherbrooke Mennonite, First United Mennonite and Pacific Grace Chinese Mennonite Brethren. Admission is by donation to the Mennonite Central Committee Refugee Food Bank. For more information phone (604) 742-0103.—From release

Charleswood Mennonite Church.

Ron Harder—Matthew's father—was in Winnipeg a year ago for the launch of House of Doc's new CD, "Sacred Blue." Harder invited the group to perform in Kitchener. The Wiebe parents, Lynette and Ernie, were present at the concert.

Whether old-time, toe-tapping gospel, traditional fare like "Green Pastures" by Bill Monroe, country, spirituals, blues, Dolly Parton songs or Celtic, there seemed to be nothing this multi-talented group could not do.

Matthew, leader and main songwriter, has command of most any stringed instrument. Rebecca plays flute, penny whistle and banjo. David—all six feet, nine inches of him—plays bass and jaw harp. Daniel plays harmonica and guitar, and writes music and lyrics.

The blend of the group's voices was achingly beautiful. They took classic words and added fresh harmonies or a new tune, or turned a song into the mournful yowling of rock. A hymn-like piece, "Lord lead me on," featured a solo voice, the others crooning an accompaniment.

House of Doc and Five on the Floor together tied a musical bow around the evening with "I'll fly away."—**Betti Erb**

Fundraiser draws musicians

An award-winning musician from Kansas joined Manitoba musicians for the seventh annual "Live music is better" coffee house on February 21. The coffee house raises money for Winnipeg Harvest, a food bank. Ben Regier, 22, who plays mandolin and hammer dulcimer, won the 2001 National Hammer Dulcimer Championship in Kansas. He works at Winnipeg Harvest under Mennonite Voluntary Service.—From release

Amish on TV

A new reality television show called "Amish in the city" is drawing protests from Mennonites and others in the United States. The show would bring Amish youth to the city to experience temptations of city life. "The show is insulting, promising to promote prejudice and to reinforce stereotypes about the Amish," says Cynthia Yoder, an author who is encouraging people to write to CBS executive Les

Moonves, e-mail:

leslie.moonves@tvc.cbs.com or through CBS Audience Services:

audsvcs@cbs.com. A similar program based on a rural group was pulled because of public protest. According to Yoder, Moonves had joked that the Amish "don't have quite as good a lobbying effort."—From Yoder release

Photography exhibit

A current exhibit at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery in Winnipeg (to April 17) features four professional photographers. Aldo Rempel from Curitiba, Brazil, features children from an impoverished region in Brazil. Scott Jost from Harrisonburg, Virginia, looks at the environmental movement in the Shenandoah Valley. Bruce Hildebrand from Winnipeg features portraits from Afghanistan. Karl Griffiths-Fulton, a former war photographer with the BBC, shows a series, entitled "Self-inflicted wound."—From Gallery release



AMBS photo

Beverley and Erick Sawatzky celebrate the release of *The Heart of the Matter*, a book about pastoral ministry that Erick edited. At right is their former pastor, Myron Schrag. The book was released at a banquet on January 28, during Pastors Week at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary where Erick taught pastoral ministry. The book, published by Cascadia Publishing House and Herald Press, includes essays by 17 AMBS faculty members. A driving concern for Sawatzky was a sense that the church has overemphasized the pastor as servant leader. Essays encourage the church to recover aspects of the pastoral office, establish a biblical and historical place of authority for the pastor, and call pastors and churches to be more public in their witness.—From AMBS release

The gift of taking minutes

Power is a peculiar thing. You can sit in a committee meeting and think you know who holds the power. You might think that it's the person who talks the most. You'd be wrong. You might think that it's the chair. Again, wrong.

The person with the power is the meek one over in the corner taking the minutes. Yes, like the historians who get to pronounce on who wins the war, it's the minute-takers who get to announce the final score of committee meetings.

But good minute-takers don't abuse their position. Their very power lies in being able to mask what actually took place. Take the following examples, culled from a variety of committee minutes, along with my interpretation of what actually happened.

If you read: "A healthy discussion ensued regarding the placement of the pulpit," it really means, people were yelling and banging their date books on the table.

If you read, "Jerry Friesen noted that he was in the process of evaluating his current commitments," it really means, Jerry Friesen threatened to resign from the committee if he didn't get his way.

If you read, "Levi Funk announced the formation of a new fellowship group which will meet Sunday afternoons at the high school," it really means, after years of threatening, Levi Funk has finally decided to divide the church and form a splinter group.

If you read, "The committee is continuing to struggle with finding ways to integrate the gifts of young adults into our church," it really means, the committee still can't figure out what it is that young adults want.

If you read, "Tom Dyck was not able to assist the committee in its attempt to locate the missing love offering," it really means, Tom Dyck refused to answer any of the committee's questions about the missing love offering, and, furthermore, he walked out of the meeting and slammed the door behind

him.

If you read, "The Stewardship Committee acknowledged Willy Reimer's generous gift of 40 years of



Emke Retro

Ivan Emke

back issues of *Gospel Messenger*, and will refer the donation to the church librarian for valuation of the donation," it really means, the Stewardship Committee couldn't understand what we'd want with 40 years of back issues, and refused to issue a tax receipt for the donation.

If you read, "The Social Committee

formally thanked Ernie Toews for his many years of service as chief greeter on Sunday mornings," it really means, the Social Committee felt it was high time Ernie Toews was replaced as chief greeter on Sunday mornings, as his scowl is really turning people off.

If you read, "The final item on the agenda received much prayerful consideration before the meeting adjourned," it really means, there were a lot of awkward silences and several people began to nod off, so the committee decided that it was getting nowhere.

By the way, according to some rule of physics related to the expansion of the universe, there are always more committee meetings beginning than adjourning. For example, during the time it took you to read this, 143 committee meetings began and 138 ended. A sobering thought, indeed.

—May 1, 1995

Letters

Mennonites might not be best police officers

This is a response to "Police officers focus on peace role" (December 22). The following are reasons why Mennonites may not make the best police officers:

1. Mennonites have a tendency to gossip. This would conflict with the strict confidentiality required of police officers, especially when dealing with sensitive information.
2. Mennonites might snap from the pressure. After experiencing years of oppression by Christians of other faiths, the violence involved in the work might cause us to snap and start shooting people—possibly even the "good guys."
3. Many Mennonites are a bit overweight. This would keep us from effectively chasing after the "bad guys."
4. Mennonites are "the quiet in the

land." Shooting guns would be far too noisy, and the siren on the police car would definitely be out of the question.

More seriously, although we have many things in common with police officers, such as reconciliation and conflict management initiatives, one serious issue remains. If you are a police officer, you are duty-bound to shoot to protect the innocent from death.

As Christians we are duty-bound to show love to those whom God loves, whether they are "good guys" or "bad guys." Moreover, we as Christians believe—or at least we ought to—that the Lamb who was slain is worthy to receive all power and glory.

If, in Jesus, we see how God is ruling the world (and even the cosmos), then how can we participate? Do we do this most faithfully by being police officers or by being witnesses to Christ's nonviolent love?—**Marco Funk, Rosthern, Sask.**

Global trade story is not whole picture

Thank you to Ed Epp for his article on global trade (Feb. 9). It is undeniable that we live in a global world and trade is integral to it. Although the article speaks to exemplary economic and environmental care, it convinces me even more of the damaging impacts of global trade.

Epp informs us that throughout the processing of the produce to be marketed in the “north,” workers are protected from toxic residues and contaminants by special cleaning agents and clothing. This means that the produce is being saturated with pesticides (in order to meet world market standards), which enter the human food chain. This doesn’t even include the fungicides usually applied to prevent spoilage in transport.

In summary, folks in the “world market” are consuming increased quantities of toxins. (Human health is within my thinking of environmental impacts.)

Then there is the increased air pollution caused by vehicles used to transport produce thousands of kilometres to the “market.” I fail to see how these two issues are environmentally benign, even if they are better than government standards.

As to the producers themselves, the example provided gives a positive view of “better prices,” but only over the short term. One area of debate among economists addresses how terms of trade for primary commodities always decline. In the long term, the price paid to farmers for snow peas will decline, but the cost of the required imported pesticides will increase.

In addition, the global economy has a powerful impact through exchange rates. Third world currencies fall in relationship to the US dollar. It takes more *soles* (currency of Peru) to purchase the imported pesticides, even without a price increase.

Thus “better prices” may result in decreased profit after several years. I have visited Guatemalan farmers who have experienced this phenomenon with the same product; they were powerless to control the terms of trade. Producing crops solely for export further impoverishes small

producers that have been forced to play by the global market rules.

I acknowledge that we live in a global world and that global trade does not have to be negative. But I desire that at least the church be truly informed consumers. This article, although encouraging, doesn’t provide a full picture.—**Jon Nofziger, Abbotsford, B.C.**

New camp policy not missional

I read with disappointment that Mennonite Church Manitoba has implemented a restrictive guest use policy for its camps (Feb. 9, page 15).

Much has been spoken and written about the missional church. Whatever is meant by missional, it must have something to do with reaching out in love to those around us. Thus it comes as some surprise that our church camps are off-limits to large numbers of people—people who are our friends and neighbours, people whom we purport to love.

A missional church should reach out to those of different faiths and beliefs. Yet our Jewish and Muslim neighbours, among others, are being told that they are not welcome in our facilities. It is ironic that the groups whom we are seeking to exclude with this policy are exactly those whose children we seek to reach with our summer camping program.

I would have thought that a missional church would make those who are different from us especially welcome. Such welcome might include special discounts to groups who are especially different from us, or who are despised or discriminated against in our society.

A missional church might offer gay choirs a special missional church discount. I can’t think of any group less threatening, or more in need of our love and hospitality, than members of a gay choir!

One also has to question the agenda underlying this new policy. Groups which discriminate against women, for instance, are probably free to use our facilities. Groups with homophobic, misogynist, or selfish political agendas will apparently be welcome.

Is that really the kind of church we want to be?—**Randy Brandt, St. Paul, Alta.**

Appreciation for Kraybill’s fairness

I read with great appreciation J. Nelson Kraybill’s article, “Four spiritual truths of God’s salvation” (Jan. 26).

In his discussion of the “Four Spiritual Laws” by Bill Bright, Kraybill points out its merits, recognizing how it has been used of God to benefit thousands. Then he points out how he (and many Mennonites) feels that this summary gives “too incomplete a view of salvation,” and offers a more holistic perspective. He does this in a way that shows respect for the view that he sees as not going far enough.

I lament how often this respectful treatment of others’ emphases is missing in the wider church. One denomination or group will ridicule or condemn the efforts or emphases of another group without bothering to look at how God might be at work there.

I find it encouraging to see one of our church leaders (and a trainer of church leaders) offering a model of how we might respond to the different ways people are doing God’s work in accordance with their sincere understanding of God’s word, even though it may not fit totally with how we read the Bible.

We need to acknowledge how God might be using this work, imperfect as it is, and then feel free to share and live out our view of what is closer to the essence of God’s will (realizing that it, too, is imperfect).

I think this spirit of integrity and humility can be a step to fostering unity among God’s people.—**Lawrence Siemens, Winkler, Man.**

Correction

A sentence in Pat Murphy’s letter (March 8) was printed as follows: “The late Bill Bright did not leave us with a complete view of salvation.” It should have read the opposite: “The late Bill Bright did not leave us with too incomplete a view of salvation.”

Disappointed in review of Swartley's book

Reading Paul Doerksen's review of Willard Swartley's book, *Homosexuality: Biblical Interpretation and Moral Discernment* (Feb. 9), I found myself annoyed and disappointed once again with the *Canadian Mennonite*.

Is it really so hard to make a constructive contribution to a difficult discussion?

Referring to Swartley's review of western culture as a "rant" could be read as discrediting Swartley's credibility—credibility gained over a lifetime of teaching, counselling, scholarship and mentoring the broken children of this age who are being equipped for ministry in our denomination.

Doerksen rightly identifies the critical issue in the book as "the authority of Scripture." Swartley is prepared to submit to biblical authority, and recognizes Scripture as foundational to insights from the social sciences, which are secondary.

Doerksen seems to imply that other sources of insight are on par with scriptural authority and in that has done us a service—he identifies the dividing theological issue in our denomination.

The *Canadian Mennonite* in allowing pejorative words such as "rant" and "homophobic" does nothing to contribute to the constructive dialogue we as a church need to have on this important subject.

Some editorial watchfulness could have added to the discussion. The *Canadian Mennonite* can and should do better.—**Walter Bergen, Abbotsford, B.C.**

Thrift shop story needs clarification

Thank you for featuring our Village Green Thrift Shop general manager, Charlotte Bueckert, in the February 23 issue. I would make several observations.

Bueckert has no connection with the Ten Thousand Villages stores. Both Village Green Thrift Shop and Ten Thousand Villages are operated at arms length from MCC, under separate boards.

While the article's focus is on Charlotte, the hard work of our three managers should have been acknowledged. Our thrift shops are not a one-person show. It would also have been nice to read how her faith impacts the work she does.

The explanation for not paying sales tax on purchases is problematic. There is no provincial sales tax on used items. The Goods and Services Tax kicks in at \$300 on a used item. If an item sells at, say, \$350 there would be GST on the \$50.

As I understand it, most of the discussions about MCC start by people seeing the MCC posters, literature and other identification marks and asking who we are and what we are about.

—**Jake Nickel, chair, Village Green Thrift Shop, Saskatoon, Sask.**

The sermon search

Every once in a while, one of my two boys will come upstairs and shout, "Dad! I reached the next level!"

What he means, of course, is that he has reached the final level of the Nintendo game he's been playing for days. He's ready to move on to the next, more difficult challenge.

I recently had a "next level" experience—of the absent-minded variety. For years, I'd been puttering along on cruise control. At best, I'd forget a set of keys, misplace some important papers or temporarily lose my wallet. I was able to maintain this steady level of forgetfulness, but there was something missing from my life.

Then came the last Friday in February. Like any good Mennonite, I felt restless after having relaxed for more than two hours. It was time to do some work! I trotted the block to the Mennonite Collegiate Institute where I teach, accessed my computer and typed "Altona Mennonite Church sermon, Sunday, March 14." I'd finish the sermon two weeks early and surprise our church secretary.

I took out my main sermon resource—Jim Reimer's wonderfully readable and theologically astute *The Dogmatic*

Imagination, checked my scrawled notes and began to work. Jim is one of my all-time favourite teachers, and writing the sermon brought back great memories of our weekly trips to Toronto in the mid-1990s. Jim was riding in to teach theology; I was heading in to study it.

Between us, we covered a good deal of theological ground and managed to keep his old car more or less on the road.

About six hours later, I had a sermon



ready to go. I surreptitiously left it on top of Marlene's "to do" pile, just in case she might want to read it.

On Sunday, I was just writing down the sermon title and the scriptures I would be using when I glanced at the "Upcoming speakers" list. Our pastor was listed for March 7. This was a good thing. He's a fine

preacher.

He was also slated for March 21. Even better. Someone else, however, was slated for March 14—and it wasn't me.

I chuckled, thinking to myself, "Oh, those bulletin bloopers. They'll getcha every time." I checked the worship schedule in the secretary's office just to confirm my suspicion that I'd been missed. The schedule gave the speaker's name. It wasn't me. Then the worship schedule listed the song leader's name. It was me.

I had spent all of Friday evening preparing a sermon that I wasn't scheduled to preach. At first, I felt angry. Then frustrated. Then discouraged. But then a little voice said, "Tim, you had a great time writing the sermon. You learned lots. You even triggered some great memories of travelling with a friend and mentor from days of yore."

"You know what, little voice," I said, "you're right. And best of all, I broke through to the next level. I have new heights of absent-mindedness with which to challenge myself!"

Oh—before I forget, if anyone out there should need a sermon on Lent, give me a call. I'll send it to you right away—if I remember...

Keep Emke's humour coming

I commend those who had the foresight to realize that the writings of Ivan Emke were far too valuable to collect dust when we have a new generation of readers who could benefit from his wit and wisdom. Not to mention the rest of us who mourned his passing from the *Mennonite Reporter* years ago.

To suggest that his insights now appear to be timeless might not be an overstatement. His "Ten reasons why men should not be ordained" (Jan. 12) is vintage Emke.

In a perfect "as God planned it" world, where the lamb and lion cohabit eating only grass, there would be no reason for the article. All would be equal—male and female, rich and poor, young and old.

Such, however, is not the case. We in the church have not taken a lead role in demonstrating God-given equality. We find it easier to focus on the

comfortable headship writings of St. Paul, so much a mirror of that day and even of our male-dominated society today.

Who still gets the majority of the best jobs at the highest rates of pay? Who still carries the heaviest load of family responsibility, juggling job, childcare and household tasks? I celebrate the young families among us

who are working to change this reality.

It is my understanding that it is not unheard of for Mennonite congregations in Canada and the United States in 2004 to disqualify pastoral candidates simply because they are women. Of course, to do so eliminates at least 50 percent of all candidates. When God sends a minister to us with a message we need to hear, let's not turn him or her off because it doesn't sound like traditional pulpit fare.

I celebrate Emke's humour (also that of his reincarnation, Tim Wiebe). Keep it coming!—**Glenn Steiner, New Hamburg, Ont.**

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



Support worker Ann Goertzen (right) with Frieda Letkemann (left) and Katie Harder of the Zaporozhye Evangelical Mennonite Church. After years of searching, this congregation in the Ukraine purchased its own building on Christmas Eve, with help from JoinHands.



Now we have our own building!

Because of your gifts, congregations such as the Zaporozhye Evangelical Mennonite Church in the Ukraine receive needed funds for church buildings. Through the JoinHands (formerly Tenth Man) church-building program, you can support the mission of new Mennonite congregations in Canada, the United States and around the world.

Yes, I want to help build meetinghouses for new Mennonite congregations.

- Send me more information.
- I'm willing to give \$100 twice per year. Sign me up.
- Call me with needs for volunteer labor.

Name _____

Street or Box _____

City _____ Prov. ____ Code _____

Congregation _____

Return to Marvin Baergen, 67 Millrise Drive, SW, Calgary, AB T2Y 2C6.

Manitoba Colony, Mexico

Low German colonies open treatment centre

Nearly 3,000 people gathered here on February 15 for the opening of Centro de Rehabilitacion, a drug and alcohol treatment centre for men.

The new facility, designed to accommodate up to 60 men, is nestled in a picturesque hillside overlooking several Mennonite villages, about 20 kilometres from the city of Cuauhtemoc. The centre will employ two directors, with paid and volunteer workers.

The numbers at the opening exceeded all expectations, said John Janzen, Mennonite Central Committee worker.

“It was an incredible experience to see and feel the high level of support and interest in this new work,” he said. Only 900 people were able to sit inside. The rest listened to the program from the courtyard.

Community discussion about a treatment centre began in 2000. The community requested management support from MCC as the building neared completion.

In September 2003, Janzen, a retired school superintendent from Manitoba, and his wife, Ruth, agreed to a two-year MCC term. They helped establish guiding principles and programs for the centre, and job training for local staff.

The centre is a collaborative effort, says Mary Friesen, director of the MCC Canada Low German program.

“Leaders in the different churches, including the Old Colony church, are working together for the first time in addressing a common goal,” she said. Mexican treatment centres have always been available for people suffering from addictions, but Low German Mennonites have made only limited use of their services. Differences in historical background, faith and language have been difficult to overcome, says Friesen.

Staff at Mennonite centre will treat clients in their own tongue. Most



Photo by Bram Siemens

An Old Colony youth choir sings at the opening of the new Mennonite rehabilitation centre in Mexico.

Mennonite men speak Spanish, but most women don't.

“Addiction is a problem that affects the whole family, and that means the healing process must include the women as well,” says Friesen.

Funding for the centre will be provided by the local communities, churches and donors. The mayor of Cuauhtemoc made a 1 million peso

(\$100,000 US) presentation at the opening ceremonies and praised local leaders for their initiative. The Low German communities have always made a significant contribution to the local economy and have good relationships with the government.

The centre will begin accepting clients within the next few months. —From MCC Canada release

Barranquilla, Colombia

Colombian couple returns to launch church

Last year, at the request of the Colombian Mennonite Church, Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers Gamaliel and Amanda Falla returned to their native Colombia to plant a church in Barranquilla, the fourth largest city in the country.

Now, *Iglesia Cristiana Encuentro de Renovación Comunidad Menonita* (Place of Renewal Christian Church, Mennonite Community) has an attendance of around 70 people, including 20 children. The church has established a children's feeding centre

in a neighbourhood nearby. Elena Olivares, a member of the church's ministerial team, coordinates the work there.

The Fallas are preaching and teaching Anabaptist theology, and working hard to prepare others for leadership.

“Fallas are high-energy and passionate people with a real vision for church planting, said Janet Plenert, executive director of International Ministries (MC Canada Witness). “They immediately involve new Christians in all aspects of church life.”—From MC Canada release

Winnipeg, Man.

Mexico and Canada form partnership

Canadian Mennonites who moved to Mexico in the 1920s recently formalized a fraternal partnership with Mennonite Church Canada. MC Canada moderator Henry Krause signed the agreement during Leadership Assembly here on March 4.

Larry Kehler, former general secretary of Conference of Mennonites in Canada (the predecessor of MC Canada), carried the signed documents to the annual meeting of Conferencia Menonita de México on March 7 for signing there.

Abe and Hannah Rempel have worked with Mexican Mennonites intermittently since the 1960s. Between 1922 and 1926, says Rempel, 6000 Old Colony and 500 Sommerfelder Mennonites moved to northern Mexico. In 1924, some 120 Russian Mennonite families founded a colony south of the original settlement.

Rempel commented on the challenges of founding the first Bible school in the 1960s. For several decades it was difficult to find teachers. From humble beginnings—eight students in 1991—the school has grown to its current enrolment of 150.

In 1991, the Conferencia Menonita de México was formed. Currently the Mennonite community operates a home for seniors, a home for disabled people, a rehab centre for alcoholics, and other social services. Mennonites have helped in disaster relief efforts,



Henry Krause (second from left) signs the partnership agreement with the Conferencia Menonita de México. Larry Kehler is in the centre. Hannah Rempel, Abe Rempel, and Jake Harms, left, have been instrumental in maintaining ties with the Mexico conference.

formed a Christian businessmen's group and started a credit union. Needs that remain are education and mission efforts with indigenous and Mexican people.

"Our dream 60 years ago was that we would be of help to the colony in renewal, and that is exactly what is happening now. I am very excited

about what's going to happen now in terms of partnership," said Rempel.

Dan Nighswander, general secretary of MC Canada, said that when Mennonite Church and General Conference were reorganized into MC Canada and MC USA, Mennonites in Mexico indicated that their ties remained with Canada.

"They expressed a desire to grow the relationship with Mennonite Church Canada. The partnership agreement is a formalized expression of that desire," said Nighswander.

The Mexico conference has given MC Canada Witness a sizeable donation, and has sent representatives to annual assemblies in Canada. MC Canada will send representatives to meetings in Mexico on invitation, and consider requests, as the partnership agreements states, for "teachers, preachers and other resource persons, and from time to time to request financial assistance for particular projects and ministries."—MC Canada release by **Dan Dyck**



A Sunday school class at the Place of Renewal Christian Church in Barranquilla.

Photo by Linda Shelly

Rosemary, Alta.

Alberta celebrates 75 years, adds two churches

Choir and congregation joined in praise as the words “Blessed are they” rang against the wooden rafters in the Rosemary Mennonite Church here on February 27. This annual delegate gathering marked the 75th anniversary of the Alberta conference.

Friday evening was a time of praise to God and remembrance of Alberta Mennonite history. The hosting congregation gave a polished power point presentation on the region and the church as it developed through the years.

The evening also included a memorial service, an in-character monologue of an early Mennonite immigrant by historian Henry Goerzen, and reflections on growing up and ministering in Alberta by Edmonton pastor Donita Wiebe-Neufeld.

Saturday sessions began with worship and the acceptance of two new congregations. Word of Life Christian Church was accepted as an emerging church. MC Alberta will form a reference group to walk alongside the church as it develops. This small Spanish church, approximately 25 adults and 6 children, is meeting in the basement of Calgary First Mennonite.

The congregation has a vision for outreach to Calgary’s Spanish population, a desire for an Anabaptist leadership style, and a thirst for biblical, Anabaptist education for its people. Pastor Elias Miranda and members Juan Gonzales and Myra Vargas were on hand to accept the membership.

Holyrood Mennonite Church of Edmonton was accepted into full conference membership. Last year, the congregation decided to move membership from the Northwest Mennonite Conference to MC Alberta because the former decided against membership in MC Canada.

Holyrood had been a member of the Northwest Conference for over 45 years, and the decision was painful. This pain was publicly acknowledged, along with the recognition that the changeover has been a catalyst for

other issues. MC Alberta dedicated itself to prayer for its sister conference, as well as providing a reference group to walk with Holyrood as healing continues for them.

Holyrood is exploring involvement in native ministries in Edmonton. Together with MC Alberta, it is beginning to provide support and accountability structures for a native outreach worker in the city. Pastor Keith Funk-Froese and members Paul Cook and Don Baergen accepted the membership on behalf of the congregation.

Conference pastor Jim Shantz and moderator Linden Willms presented the two congregations with a conference history book and a rock inscribed with the words “Building on Christ.”

Business consisted of three hour-long workshops in which six committees—congregational leadership, finance, congregational life, missions and service, youth—and Camp Valaqua gave presentations and answered questions. When delegates regrouped for comments and recommendations, the floor was largely silent, suggesting that most questions had been dealt with.

Two delegates expressed support for increasing the youth co-ordinator position to half time. The executive has been held back from this by finances. While giving has been good this year, there are serious concerns that drought and the ongoing BSE (mad cow) crisis continue to threaten giving. A cautious deficit budget was



Keith Funk-Froese, left, pastor of Holyrood Mennonite Church, is welcomed into Mennonite Church Alberta by Elwin Garland of the Congregational Leadership Commission. At right is Doreen Neufeld, also of the leadership commission.

Photo by Donita Wiebe-Neufeld

approved by delegates.

The resolutions committee—Irene Crosland and Hugo Neufeld—presented eight resolutions, including mutual support and prayer for each other and the work of kingdom building through conference programs and Camp Valaqua.

“Do we live as if God is good to us; are we blessed?” asked Jerry Buhler, pastor at Springridge, during Saturday worship. His answer was a resounding yes. We have seen God’s blessings on us throughout the changing generations. He encouraged delegates to continue to be a “missional, passionate, and loving” church, and to claim the blessings of God with confidence.—**Donita Wiebe-Neufeld**

Winnipeg, Man.

Two drown on CMU tour

Diane Kroeker and Walter Goertz, both on a tour organized by Canadian Mennonite University's Outtatown program, drowned on February 29 while swimming in the Pacific Ocean near Coatepeque, Guatemala. Kroeker was from Winnipeg and Goertz from Richmond, B.C.

Kroeker, 60, was administrator of



Kroeker

the Outtatown program (formerly School of Discipleship) and had organized the tour. She is survived by her husband, Irvin, present on the tour, and three daughters. Goertz, 77, is survived by his wife, Anne, also on the tour.

The Adventure for the Soul Adult Tour was midway through its two-week visit to Guatemala when the drownings occurred. The group was studying the country's history and working with local churches on service projects.

"Our entire community at CMU is in deep shock and grief over this terrible tragedy," said Gerald Gerbrandt, president of CMU. "Our prayers and sympathies are extended to the families of Diane Kroeker and Walter Goertz."

Around 350 people attended a chapel at CMU on March 1 which included prayers, scripture and reflections. Meetings were being held in support of students who worked with Kroeker.

Tour leaders, encouraged by Kroeker's husband, decided to complete the tour as a way of honouring her work. The group returned to Winnipeg on March 8. —From CMU release

Guelph, Ont.

Heifer sale exceeds expectations

The committee planning the 23rd annual Mennonite Central Committee Heifer Sale here February 20 considered cancelling the event.

In previous years, most animals were purchased for export, but the U.S. border has been closed to cattle exports for many months due to BSE (mad cow). No one knew if dairy farmers would be able to make donations or if there would be buyers for the heifers.

The committee decided to step out in faith and go ahead.

"If we give up, what hope is there for others in the world who need help?" asked Clarence Diefenbacher, chair of the sale committee.

The number of donated heifers far exceeded anyone's expectations. There were 116 head donated, up from an average of 75 to 85 over the past years, and many were from first-time donors.

"On the day of the sale, attendance

was overwhelming," said Diefenbacher. In spite of poor economic conditions, the farmers came out and bought heifers. They used the opportunity to upgrade their herds at prices much lower than in previous years. The average price per head was \$609, down significantly from \$1,917 last year.

The top price was \$3,000 for a heifer donated by Farm Credit Canada, a new corporate sponsor. The second top price of \$2,800 was paid by the Royal Bank of Canada, also a new corporate sponsor. The Royal Bank re-donated the calf.

Although the total of this year's sale, nearly \$90,000, was less than half of that raised last year, the committee was very positive about the result. In spite of a depressed domestic market, farmers were able to work together to help out those in greater need.

"It was a boost in morale for farmers," said Diefenbacher.—**Barb Draper**

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Winnipeg, Man.

MC Canada leaders plan for new year

The General Board and councils of Mennonite Church Canada met for the annual Leadership Assembly here March 3-6. Also meeting were conference ministers, moderators and secretaries, and Canadian Women in Mission.

General Board members breathed a sigh of relief when they heard the budget results for 2003 (see related article). Just a year ago, they were agonizing over financial cuts and staff layoffs. The pain of that meeting was still fresh as leaders cautiously planned for the future.

The Witness Council spent time defining its relationship to the new Mennonite Voluntary Service Adventure initiative (see March 8, page 14), and appointed a member to the steering committee that will oversee MVS units in Canada. It also debated an invitation from Colombian Mennonites (see related story).

The Formation Council is seeking a new executive secretary, with Justina Heese retiring. A quarter of the new executive's time will be given to

education issues, specifically the relationship between schools and MC Canada. Formation also spent a morning with Sven Eriksson, discussing the role of the denominational minister.

Support Services Council spent a good bit of time looking at resource development and other financial issues, such as pensions. The council also heard reports from its Communications staff and from *Canadian Mennonite* representatives.

The General Board spent considerable time discussing the church's stance on homosexuality. The Board reaffirmed the Confession of Faith while pledging to continue the dialogue with dissenting groups. Conference moderators also spent time talking about the various ways their conferences are working at diversity and conflict.

The moderators' free-wheeling discussion touched on a wide variety of topics, including unified budgets, privacy legislation, the function of

moderators on the General Board, and funding for *Canadian Mennonite*. A meeting this summer will further discuss funding and editorial content of the magazine.

Plans for the assembly in Winkler this summer are proceeding well. Delegates will work together in table groups, and more time will be given for discussion. The theme for the Ministers' Conference this summer will be "Pastoral leadership in a time of change and conflict," with speaker Keith Harder of Mennonite Church USA.

The General Board has launched a review of MC Canada structures and vision, facilitated by Aldred Neufeldt of Calgary. Delegates will be part of the review on issues such as mission statement and program priorities, General Board structure, frequency of assemblies and resource allocation.

Plans are also moving ahead for the binational convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2005 under the theme, "You can't keep quiet" (Acts 4:20).

More details of Leadership Assembly decisions will follow in future issues.—**Margaret Loewen Reimer**

In joining for regular worship—in chapel and the congregation—God meets me and informs not only what I believe, but who I am and who God is calling us to be.

— Dianne Hildebrand Schegel, AMBS student in the Master of Arts in Christian Formation program from Crystal City, Man., and St. Jacobs, Ont.



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Returning to financial health

Mennonite Church Canada is on the road to fiscal health, ending the year with a \$125,000 surplus (all figures unaudited).

Dan Nighswander, general secretary, says there are two primary reasons for the positive income results: "Congregations and individuals gave almost \$4 million, or 99.8 percent of the donation budget. Income from investments and other non-donor sources was also higher than expected. I am very thankful for the response of our membership in supporting our ministries."



Nighswander

The other reason for the positive year-end results is that conservative spending resulted in expenses totaling \$171,266 less than budgeted. The \$125,000 surplus will be used to replenish reserves which were seriously drawn down last year. Detailed statements will be available at the Winkler 2004 assembly.

Delegates at St. Catharines 2003 approved projections for 2004-05 that included \$130,000 in "Challenge Giving."

"Challenge Giving sets a goal for growing our ministries. God is...challenging us to grow Jesus' ministry of healing and hope for all people," said Nighswander.

To see a summary of the financial statement, go to www.mennonitechurch.ca/news/releases/2004/03/10-year_end.htm.—From MC Canada release

Correction

In a January 12 story on ministry in the Pearl River delta, the Hong Kong conference is incorrectly identified. It is "Conference of Mennonite Churches in Hong Kong," not the Chinese Mennonite Conference.—From MC Canada release

Canada invited to talks in Colombia

The church in Colombia has approached Mennonite Church Canada to be present at talks with Colombian armed groups. The talks are to explore disarmament and re-entry into civilian life.

The ecumenical council of churches approached the Colombian Mennonite Church, which participates in the council's peace advocacy, because of the Mennonites' peace perspective. The Mennonite church is seeking to create an international advisory council to demonstrate evidence of international solidarity in these conversations.

Colombia has been embroiled in a civil war for over 50 years. Various armed groups control different regions of the country at the peril of civilians. The government has not been successful in putting an end to the conflicts.

The invitation to MC Canada requested that Jack Suderman, executive secretary of MC Canada Witness, be the church's representative in these

conversations. Suderman's extensive experience with Colombia, his ability to speak Spanish, and his theological training will aid the negotiations.

The General Board has given approval for the initiative and for Suderman's role in it.



Suderman

agenda that is in the hands of the primary protagonists and ultimately in the hands of God."

A time and location for the meetings remain undisclosed for security reasons.—MC Canada release

God and Violence
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From the medieval crusades to the latest violence in the Middle East, warriors have long claimed the Bible's support for their battles. Patricia M. McDonald argues that many biblical stories, read as part of a canon from Genesis to Revelation, contain resources for turning violence in service of God and humanity. As varied and complex as life itself, these narratives can provide us with imaginative possibilities and steady motivation to move beyond the narrow defensiveness and self-interest that are becoming ever more problematic in an increasingly interconnected world.

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Boissevain, Man.

Manitoba delegates cautiously approve changes

Delegates came to the Mennonite Church Manitoba sessions here February 20-21 not knowing what to expect. The subdued atmosphere of the sessions prompted some to feel that past concerns had apparently been left behind.

Others said that a sharply-worded letter to churches from the MC Manitoba Board of Directors after the Plum Coulee delegate meeting last November rebuked and silenced many who had voiced their concerns at that meeting.

"We feel strongly that these comments were unwarranted, unjustified and have no basis in fact to support them," stated the December 18 letter from the board.

The theme "Engaging faith!" was introduced Friday evening with stories from congregations, announcements of births, deaths and baptisms from the past year, and recognition of people and programs that no longer are a part of MC Manitoba. Delegates also accepted Pembina Mennonite Fellowship into the conference (see page 34).

The sessions, hosted by Whitewater Mennonite Church, drew 239 delegates.

The evening culminated in a communion service led by Judith Doell, pastor of Whitewater Mennonite Church, and Albert Durksen, board member.

On Saturday, the ministry directors presented updates on their programs and visions for the future. The sessions demonstrated the hard work of board and staff, and the desire of delegates to be part of the decision-making.

"The MC Manitoba board sees its role as shaping the vision for MC Manitoba in dialogue with congregations, and...as setting priorities and direction for ministries within that vision," stated the board. Delegates emphasized the need for congregations to play a greater role in this partnership.

One delegate expressed what others had noticed: "I feel a sense of joy that congregations in MC Manitoba represent at least 11 different lan-

guages and yet sadness that we don't see that diversity reflected here."

Questions were raised about the budget line that cuts *Canadian Mennonite* funding by 50 percent. Ongoing discussion will take place between *Canadian Mennonite* and MC Manitoba, said the board.

During discussion of the budget,

majority. In discussion over coffee, several delegates indicated that it was the first time they had voted against a budget because of concerns about changes.

Beside reduction in *Canadian Mennonite* funding, the 2004 budget reflects the cancellation of the Abundant Life radio program, transfer of



Photo by Evelyn Rempel Petkau

About 15 young adults came to Mennonite Church Manitoba sessions "to listen and learn and see what the conference is doing." Some of them met over lunch with veteran delegate Esther Peters. From left: Stephen Redekop, North Kildonan Mennonite; Peters, Bethel Mennonite; Anita Fust, North Kildonan; Elizabeth Redekop, Home Street.

delegates from the Niverville Mennonite Church made a motion "to discontinue support of *Canadian Mennonite* until it is fully accountable as a denominational magazine and the area conferences assume 100 percent control over the editorial content."

With a reduction of 50 percent already in the budget, delegates decided to table this motion, realizing that it was an "unfinished conversation."

After the budget vote, board chair Bernie Tiessen announced that delegates had approved the budget by a "considerable majority." Executive director Edgar Rempel later explained, "It was decided not to make the numbers public. We thought it might dampen the spirit of the conference."

It was later learned that the budget was approved with a 64 percent

the recording studio operation from Evangelism and Service Ministry to the Church Community Building Ministry, and a 4.6 percent increase in giving over what was received in 2003.

Delegates expressed concern that individual congregations maintain relationships with native communities, and that guidelines be in place for use of the recording studio.

Bob Wiebe, director of Education Ministries, explained Winnipeg School Division's negative response to the new Camps with Meaning guest group policy (see Feb. 9, page 15). The withdrawal of the school division has resulted in a loss of \$47,000 in revenue and in the opportunity to minister to over 500 children. Wiebe called for prayers as Camps with Meaning pursues restoration of the relationship

Continued on page 23

Manitoba *From page 22*

with the school division and looks for new sources of revenue.

One of the dreams proposed to the delegates was a process of study and action on “Embracing our identity.” Over three years congregations will receive study resources and hold meetings to discern the church’s future (see related article). Delegates affirmed this proposal and MC Manitoba was encouraged to share its initiative with other area conferences.

The constitutional changes regarding a smaller quorum solicited some enlivened discussion.

“Rather than reducing our numbers how can we instill the importance of this in our youth and children?” asked one delegate.

“We should be stressing the importance of these meetings but now we are saying they are not so important,” said another.

In the end, delegates passed a motion to change the quorum requirement from 60 percent to “50 percent plus one of the maximum number of delegates and 60 percent of the member congregations represented by delegates.”

A motion to reduce the number of delegates from member congregations was referred back to the board for more consultation.—**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**

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Photo by Evelyn Rempel Petkau

Delegate sessions included a credentialling service for Edgar Rempel who began as MC Manitoba executive director 10 months ago. From left are: Bernie Tiessen, MC Manitoba board chair, Edgar Rempel, Bernie Wiebe, interim pastor at Bethel Mennonite, and John Klassen, director of Leadership Ministries.

Manitoba launches identity study

Delegates at the Mennonite Church Manitoba sessions in February approved a study process entitled, “A people sent by Christ: Embracing our identity.”

The multi-year study hopes to shift identity from “doing” mission to “being,” and participating in God’s mission in the world.

“This process is designed to help us, as a community, align with God’s work and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in culturally relevant ways, inviting others to join in God’s mission to reconcile all creation,” says the proposal.

The study will begin this fall with the question, “What does it mean for us to be a community reflecting God’s desire to reconcile all creation in Jesus Christ?” Congregations will be supplied each year with curriculum and worship resources to assist in their discernment.

Annual regional meetings will assist congregations and leaders in the process. The annual delegate sessions will include time for reporting and offering further resources.

A listening committee will collect congregational insights to identify

stories, emerging ideas and areas for further development.

Events will be held every other year to inspire effective witness.

Year two will focus on learning to read our culture, being relevant and building bridges to effectively communicate the gospel.

Year three focuses on reclaiming a sense of vocation and identifying what we need to help us live our faith in every situation in life.

Delegates suggested that young adults be an integral part of this process. Norm Voth, director of Evangelism and Service Ministry, said he has been meeting with a “Council of Wise Ones” which includes young adults.

Delegates also suggested the study process be “hands-on rather than theoretical,” that different options be available for the study because of the diversity of churches, and that the study materials have “accessible language.”

Congregations will receive more information this spring and final details at the fall delegate session.—**Evelyn Rempel Petkau**

Winnipeg, Man.

Women in Mission greatly exceeds budget

The Canadian Women in Mission (CWM) executive had much to celebrate during its annual meetings here March 3-6, held in conjunction with the Mennonite Church Canada Leadership Assembly.

Dodie Lepp, CWM president, noted that CWM was "very thrilled" that the budget of \$42,000 was exceeded by \$30,000, totalling \$72,000 in income last year! The increase involved mainly designated gifts. She also reported that CWM women had made approximately 7,262 quilts and comforters, 4,351 health, school and sewing kits, as well as layettes, bandages and baby blankets for Mennonite Central Committee.

CWM sponsored three Canadian Mennonite University female students



through its Service and Internship Program, and seven women studying at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary through the CWM Spiritual Growth Assistance Fund.

In addition, the CWM contributed \$10,000 to the Botswana AIDS Counselling Centre through its International Ministries project. The project focus for 2005 will be on women theologians in Latin America.

Meeting alongside CWM at its March meeting was the Editorial

Advisory Committee, which oversees the joint publishing projects of CWM and Mennonite Women USA. These projects include the Bible studies for women's groups and *Timbrel* magazine. The 2004 Bible study is being written by Ann Weber Becker of Ontario, focusing on images of shelter.

Canadian members of the advisory committee are Melissa Miller (chair) and Delores Lohrenz. USA women are Elaine Somers Rich, Juel Yoder Russell, Rhoda Keener (director of Mennonite Women USA) and Cathleen Hockman-Wert (editor of *Timbrel*).

—Leona Dueck Penner



Nicole Enns (left) and Miriam Harder thanked the Canadian Women in Mission executive for supporting them through the CWM Service and Internship Program and shared highlights of their experiences in Alaska and Egypt. Both are attending Canadian Mennonite University. Enns, who grew up in Brazil where her parents worked with MCC, spent seven months in Anchorage, Alaska, last year with Service Adventure. Her job was at a women's shelter. Harder, whose parents served with MCC in Egypt, spent a semester in Cairo last fall with MCC. Her job was to interview refugees for English study at the St. Andrews Centre. She lived at the Coptic Orthodox Centre which also housed an orphanage for 65 girls and a residence for nuns.



Martin Buhr at the first unit being built by MennoHomes, an initiative of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in the Waterloo region of Ontario. Although neighbours originally objected, the eventual agreement to build 16 units was so fully accepted that the neighbours have offered to participate in a community garden behind the units. The garden idea came about when the city sold some frontage to MennoHomes, then bought back a portion for parkland. Buhr, president of MennoHomes, will be honoured at a Mayor's Dinner on April 3.—From reports

Rosthern, Sask.

Campus renewal approved for RJC

On March 1, the Rosthern Junior College Corporation overwhelmingly passed a motion to begin a campus renewal project proposed by the board.

About 75 members, meeting by audio hook-up at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon and at Foothills Mennonite Church in Calgary, debated plans to refurbish the present facility, and construct a new office area and chapel over the next few years.

The lengthy motion outlined three phases for construction and set guidelines for funding required to begin each phase. Although a few members expressed doubt that such extensive changes were advisable “given the economic situation,” the motion passed with four dissenting votes.

The RJC Chorale, travel-worn after a tour through Alberta and Saskatchewan, stopped in Saskatoon to present a number of songs at the meeting.

Principal Erwin Tiessen spoke about the history of campus development, noting that a meeting to begin construction on the current facility was held 49 years ago, almost to the day.

“It was their turn to build the school then,” said Tiessen. “Now it’s our turn.”

Board chair George Epp outlined construction plans. Key objectives: moving the office adjacent to the public entrance, enlarging the public area, building new public washrooms, upgrading laboratory facilities, music and computer areas, and providing a chapel conducive to worship and musical performances.

The school needs to upgrade to remain competitive, said Tiessen.

“With half of our students coming from non-Mennonite backgrounds, we are currently in a situation where prospective students shop among three similar schools in the province. Campus enhancement will directly affect enrolment numbers,” he said.

A hurdle for some was understanding the relationship between a legacy fund being raised by alumni for the school’s centennial in 2005 and the building fund for which donations are also being solicited.

Paul Tiessen, board treasurer, explained that the “Live the legacy—sustain the future” endowment campaign predated current plans but

fits well with them since half of the million dollars to be solicited was earmarked for capital improvements and operations. This will form the financial foundation for phase one.

The motion prohibits the board from doing any further long-term borrowing without the approval of the corporation membership. The board has determined that the operational budget cannot support new long-term indebtedness. The current rural economic malaise was on the minds of some members.

Former principal Ernest Epp reminded the group to keep their eyes firmly on the students, and that parents want to know what the school can offer. Surveys done in the late 1970s indicated that leadership in our churches comes overwhelmingly from the 25 percent of Mennonite youth who attend Mennonite schools.

The board is authorized to proceed with phase one as soon as 75 percent of the estimated \$500,000 cost has been raised. Similarly, phase two—office area and chapel additions—may begin as soon as 75 percent is secured. The final phase, refurbishing classroom space and improving the academic wing, will also begin that way.

For further information, go to www.rjc.sk.ca/—**George Epp**



On March 5, 1979, Bud Cullen, federal minister of employment and immigration (third from left), and J.M. Klassen of Mennonite Central Committee Canada signed Canada’s first private sponsorship agreement. To the right of Klassen are John Wieler and Art Driedger of MCC. Since that signing 25

years ago, Mennonite churches have sponsored about 15,000 refugees and contributed over \$50 million to the program. “Canada continues to be the only country in the world to maintain such a program,” says Tim Wichert, who coordinates refugee programs for MCC Canada (see Jan. 12, page 12).

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School note

Courses at CMU

Winnipeg, Man.—Two short courses are being offered by Canadian Mennonite University. Michael Hryniuk will be the leader of a youth ministry course on May 24-28 entitled, “A contemplative approach to youth ministry.” Hryniuk, a graduate of the University of Manitoba, teaches Christian spirituality at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in California. From July 19-23, John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland will be teaching a course on “Worship as the people’s work.” It can be taken for undergraduate or seminary credit, or for audit. Lodging and meals are available. For more information on either course, call (204) 487-3300, extension 328, or go to www.cmu.ca.—From CMU release

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Abbotsford, B.C.

MDS gathering a family affair

More than 450 people from all over North America attended the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) all-unit meeting at Emmanuel Mennonite Church here on February 13-14. They gathered to worship, fellowship, tell stories and envision the future.

The theme for the weekend was "Responding, Rebuilding, Restoring," based on the words from Nehemiah. Using this scripture, several local pastors shared reflections.

Dan Unrau from First Mennonite Church in Yarrow reflected on what it means to respond to a hurting world. Just as Nehemiah wept for Jerusalem, MDS volunteers weep with the hurting in North America.

"You MDSers have wept and walked and worked with those whose house walls have burned or blown down," said Unrau. "You have seen them wonder...where God is in their tragedy."

Ingrid Schultz from First Mennonite Church in Vancouver continued with the theme of rebuilding.

"Rebuilding is not just about restoring walls and homes but also about restoring people and communities," she said. "Both, I believe, are important components of the work of MDS."

The MDS gathering felt "like a giant family reunion," said Waldo Neufeld, MDS British Columbia unit chair and one of the event organizers. "The annual meetings are...where volunteers with MDS reconnect with others that they have served with on various assignments."

It was a good opportunity to meet long-term volunteers face to face, said Lois Nickel, administrative coordinator for MDS in Winnipeg. "It makes doing the paperwork here in the office so much more personal."

The storytelling began with stories of people who were hurting, followed by stories of responding, rebuilding and restoring. Representatives from each region talked about the disasters that MDS responded to in the past year.

The event included the installation of Kevin King as new executive

coordinator, and Rocky Miller as board chair.

Local involvement included music by the Abbotsford Male Choir, Clearbrook Instrumental Group, Columbia Bible College, the Young Street Vocal Band and the Pacific Mennonite Children's Choir.

Women's groups from King Road Mennonite Brethren, West Abbotsford Mennonite, South Abbotsford Mennonite Brethren, Eben-Ezer Mennonite and Emmanuel Mennonite churches provided meals. The Friday evening banquet was



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

catered by Columbia Bible College.

At the final celebration on Saturday, Unrau reminded the crowd that they are to be like Nehemiah who listened

to the call of God and fixed brokenness in the world.

"While the action of MDS is to rebuild the physical and emotional walls of a people victimized, what you are in fact

giving them is the hand of God, lifting them up, touching their faces, healing their wounds, binding their sores, and saving their souls. You can do no better than this."—MDS release by

Angelika Dawson

Barriere, B.C.

MDS helps Louis Creek rebuild

Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers from British Columbia and the prairie provinces have completed five new homes in four months in the community of Louis Creek and neighbouring North Thompson First Nation, north of Kamloops. Last July, wildfires destroyed 80 homes and all businesses in the area.

The rapid construction is an extraordinary accomplishment given the time it normally takes to build a single home with paid contractors, advance planning and readily available materials. Volunteers had to set up their own truss-building factory.

On February 10, twenty volunteers, including MDS board members from

B.C. and binational coordinators Tom Smucker and Kevin King, participated in a dedication for all five houses, along with the new homeowners and their extended families and pastors.

The new owners, who contributed to a potluck lunch, could hardly find words to thank God and the volunteers who had helped them rebuild their homes and lives.

They were presented with a Bible, keys, a copy of *The Hammer Rings Hope* and paintings donated by Mennonite artists from B.C.

MDS will offer landscaping and other help to the community this summer through a two-month youth project.

—From MDS release by **Gord Friesen**

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Abbotsford, B.C.

Aussiedler struggle to find place in Germany

Heinrich Loewen was born in Kirgizstan, Soviet Union, where his father was active in the underground church. The father spent eight years in a Soviet prison. The family moved to Latvia in 1966 and to Germany in 1976.

Loewen, currently archivist at the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Winnipeg, told his story during a lecture to the B.C. Mennonite Historical Society in February. About 400 people attended.

Loewen saw his father struggle in the new culture. "My father knew how to survive in a persecution culture, but not [how to survive] in Germany," he said. The question of Christian survival in Germany's "non-persecuting" environment persisted for Loewen. His doctoral dissertation explored the nurturing of young Mennonites in the church.

We Mennonites "see ourselves as a family," said Loewen, "and the concern I have is that we will lose this biblical aspect of the kingdom, the kingdom of God is a family."

Loewen traced the migratory patterns of Mennonites to and from Russia, noting the traumatic effect of persecution and turmoil in the 1914-1970 era. The *Aussiedler* (emigrants from Russia in the past decades) bring this martyred past into their new congregations in Germany.

The Russian Mennonites now in Germany don't care about politics and are suspicious of anything socialist, said Loewen. The first groups that came to Germany 30 years ago had no difficulty finding work and succeeding economically. More recent arrivals from eastern bloc countries are more highly educated and unlikely to find work in their chosen field. They're also entering a Germany with a high unemployment rate, partly due to German reunification.

Aussiedler in the early 1970s were welcomed in Germany. Now, as their numbers increase and unemployment

is higher, social problems develop. The older people live in enclaves and some young people, caught in the cultural clash, turn to drugs, alcohol and prostitution.

Mennonite churches among the *Aussiedler* are growing. The conservative groups "which clearly tell people what to do are growing the fastest,"

Loewen said. He believes this is a result of years of conditioning in communist regimes where people were told what to do. These groups, he said, were effective in involving children and youth in church activities.

"They learned from the communists how to work with children," he said.

—Henry Neufeld

Elmira, Ont.

The story of an immigrant's trunk

A year or two ago, a German couple from Dühren, Germany, was visiting the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. Looking through the exhibits, they were astonished to find a trunk with the inscription, "Johannes Frey, von Dühren, 1848."

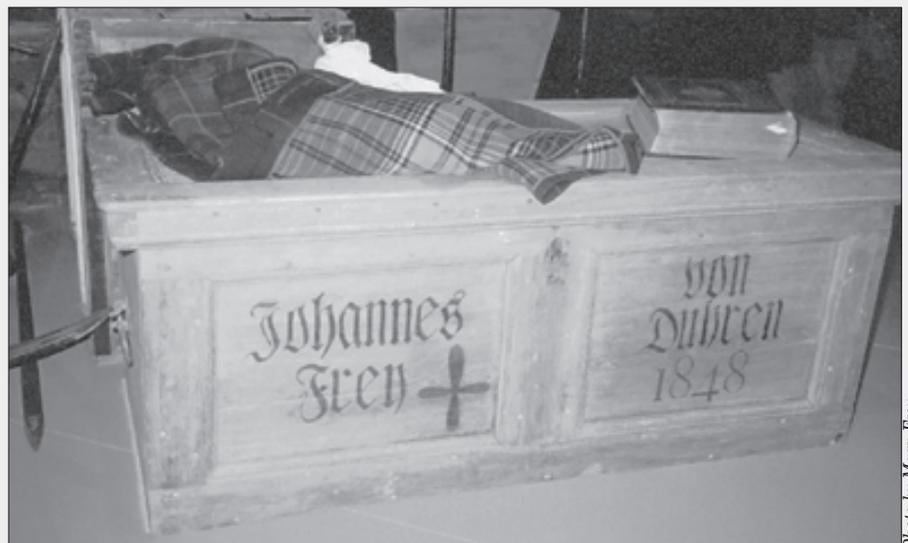
When the couple returned home they looked up the church records and found that Johannes Frey did indeed emigrate in 1848. They informed a family they thought might be related.

Caroline Wöllner, a German university student, read the story of this discovery. Caroline's grandmother, who was born a Frey, knew there were distant relatives in Canada and that some had visited a few years ago.

Caroline found an address and wrote a letter, asking for information.

Martin Frey of St. Jacobs, Ontario, was delighted to receive a letter, written in English, from a girl in Germany. He knew nothing about a trunk, but he knew that his great-grandfather, Johannes Frey, had come from Dühren, Germany, to Ontario in 1848. Martin's great-uncle, Levi Frey, had maintained a correspondence with relatives in Germany, but that connection lapsed in the 1930s.

In the 1970s, while travelling home from an MCC assignment, Martin's son, Marv Frey, spent a few days in Germany and found a Frey connection. In 1982, Martin and his wife Selina had the



This trunk in a Calgary museum is connected to families in Germany, Ontario and Alberta.

Photo by Marv Frey

Abbotsford, B.C.

Pastor ponders decade of ministry

As Lorin Bergen thinks about the past 10 years, he is astounded at the blessings he has encountered as the pastor of Living Hope Christian Fellowship.

A decade ago, a small core of families planted this church as an outreach in Surrey. It has grown to about 100 regular attenders, with a vibrant ministry in the community. As Bergen reflects on seeing a church plant move to an established congregation, he is overwhelmed by the sense of God's call in his life and in the life of the church.

opportunity to visit Freys in Sinsheim, Germany.

Although the Freys in Germany were no longer Mennonite, they remembered that the Frey ancestors had been Anabaptists who migrated from Switzerland in the 17th century. Martin and Selina still spoke the German dialect of their ancestors.

Martin couldn't travel to the museum because of his wife's ill health, but his son, Marv, visited the museum where the staff provided information.

When Johannes Frey came to Canada in 1848, he settled on a farm between St. Jacobs and Hawkesville and joined the Mennonite church. He died of cholera in 1860, leaving behind five daughters and three sons. Christian and Martin Frey remained staunch Old Order Mennonites. In five generations their families have made Frey one of the more common names in the area.

Johannes, the middle son who inherited his father's trunk, lived on a farm near Breslau. From 1911 to 1915 most of his children moved to Alberta. A great-grandson (also named John Frey) donated the trunk to the museum in Calgary.

Today the descendants of Johannes Frey are scattered across Canada, but a large part of the family has remained in the Mennonite community where Johannes first settled. Over the years, these people lost all connections with the relatives who moved to Alberta. It was a real surprise to find pieces of family history in Calgary! And to make connections with a German student who is interested in family history.

—**Barb (Frey) Draper**

When Lorin and Jeanette finished their ministry at First Mennonite Church in Kelowna in 1993, they planned to seek refreshment at seminary, but were approached about becoming church planters.

"My first reaction was 'No way! I have no desire to start a church from scratch'—that sounded way too scary," said Bergen. "Over the course of the year at seminary God worked in our hearts."

The Bergens went to a church planter assessment centre to see if they had the necessary gifts. Bergen remembers praying that they would be rejected. He

didn't get the answer he had hoped for.

"It was a critical point in our lives whether we would obey God's clearly revealed will or walk our own way. It was amazing that as we walked in God's way, he put a joy and passion in our hearts for this task."

When did the church begin to feel like an established congregation?

"It seemed to ebb and flow...for a period of years," he said. Due to financial constraints at Mennonite Church British Columbia, the church was taken off a subsidy a year early.

"It forced us to spend a lot of energy and time on funding questions instead of outreach and ministry," he said.

He believes the biggest transition was his change from church-planter to pastor.

"As the church grows there is a clear need to have the leadership epicentre...move from the planter to a group of leaders," he says. "This is difficult for everyone involved. The planter needs to be able to graciously train and equip leaders and then release responsibilities to them, and the church needs to be willing to...permit the planter to be less

centralized."

It took about three years for Living Hope to make that transition. That fact was confirmed when Bergen took a four-month leave last year. The group

knows that when Bergens are called elsewhere, the church has the maturity and leaders to continue.

The process has had its low points. For about two years, "people moved away regularly," he said.

"It was so hard because we would start approaching critical mass numbers and another key family would move away." Financial pressures were also difficult, as well as criticism

because Living Hope did not have the word "Mennonite" in its name.

But Bergen is not one to dwell on difficulties. He is excited about the future. The congregation is planning to reach out to its neighbourhood with the movie, "The Passion of the Christ." A new youth group is "really taking off" in ministry to the Mandarin-speaking community.

The church has English-language classes and two discipleship groups and is looking to expand this ministry. In the past year, a family from Africa has joined, and they hope to minister to the African community.

Currently the church shares a building with Cedar Hills Mennonite. Although Bergen feels that pastoring Living Hope is his calling, he and Jeanette are determined not to hold on "with a closed fist." Meanwhile, they feel blessed to serve a church "whose heart so mirrors our own, a group of people that are committed to each other, to living out community and to the task of reaching out to others with the good news of Jesus."—**Angelika Dawson**



Jeanette and Lorin Bergen, with daughters Natasha (left) and Emilie, have been at Living Hope since its beginning.

Prince Albert, Sask.

Church celebrates housing partnership

Worship at Grace Mennonite Church here on February 29 was a little different than usual. The morning included a tour of an apartment block, part of a project that the church is involved in.

Grace is partnering with Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan and River Bank Development Corporation to renovate two apartment blocks and to develop community among the people who will live there.

River Bank, created by the husband/wife team of Ray Funk and Shirley Falstead, identifies community needs and tries to match them with government funding. River Bank has done creative work in job training for marginally employable folks.

Grace Mennonite celebrated this partnership in its worship service on February 29 after the congregation toured the first 19-unit apartment block that is being renovated for good, affordable housing. Brian Howell, general manager of River Bank, led the tour and participated in the worship.

Two of the 19 units have been combined to make room for a day care. Another unit will become a resource centre and common area. The vision is that the church people will become mentors and friends to the new tenants.

Through this partnership, River Bank has purchased two apartment blocks on the “rough side” of town. The buildings are run down and barely fit to live in. Together with MCC support and help from Peter Schroeder of Saskatoon (retired after a career with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), the first building is almost ready for “re-peopling.”

Members at Grace Mennonite will give energy to creating a community that tenants can feel good about: helping create tenant pride and self-governance, possibly arranging child care, and offering such things as literacy, budgeting advice, and home-making skills.

At the celebration, Schroeder expressed excitement about the project, noting that already there are changes in the community as people



The first apartment block is almost ready for “re-peopling.”

realize that this project seems to offer more stability for the community and school.

While evangelism, outreach or being missional were never mentioned, organizers have been dreaming about

the church being involved in this kind of community. Even as they were celebrating this partnership, the church is in the process of renovating and expanding its own facility.—**Jake Nickel**

Elmira, Ont.

Quilting project attracts all ages

The missions commission at Elmira Mennonite Church wanted an intergenerational mission project that would supply Mennonite Central Committee with comforters to send overseas. Such a project could also teach quilting skills and people could donate new and recycled material.

Classes for those who wished to learn to cut, piece, design and sew comforters were offered on Friday evenings last October and November. Karen Martin, co-coordinator of missions, worked with individuals and families, as well as youth to create comforter tops.

The activity involved people of many ages—from 4-year-old Naomi Janzen to 88-year-old Olive Brubacher and Alice Buehler. Three sisters—Rebecca Bauman, age 8, and her 5-year-old twin sisters, Sylvia and Emily—created and sewed an entire top.

Donations of time and materials made the project memorable. Six bags of blue jeans from thrift shops were used, as

well as yarn from garage sales and thrift shops. Six baby quilt tops were pieced and donated by a 98-year-old woman in the community.

Ruth Anne Bauman sewed donated drapery and upholstery material into 10 comforters. Beulah Bearinger Weber, a member of Erb Street Mennonite, donated 20 tops. (Weber died on February 15 at age 91.)

A grade 5/6 class at Elora Public School worked on this “learning through life experience.” After an introduction to the tradition of quilting, students were invited to bring in fabric squares. They learned patterning and cooperation in creating a 60- by 80-inch comforter.

Joyce Roth, mother of one of the students, sewed the squares together and bound the comforter. Her daughter and her friends from church enjoyed tying the comforter.

About 90 men, women and children gathered to tie comforters on February 10 and 11. In the end, 84 comforters

Kitchener, Ont.

Mennonites and Muslims meet in Metro

On February 13-15, about 20 Mennonite and 20 Muslim young adults gathered at Danforth Mennonite Church and at the Jaffari Islamic Centre in Toronto for a groundbreaking weekend of dialogue and hospitality.

This was a chance for young adults (not only leaders) to get to know each other and better understand our respective faiths. The model was one of hospitality.

Henri Nouwen writes, “When hostility is converted into hospitality then fearful strangers can become guests, revealing to their hosts the promise they are carrying with them. Then, in fact, the distinction between host and guest...evaporates in the recognition of the newfound unity” (*Reaching Out*).

We were welcomed warmly at the mosque on Friday and Saturday, and served wonderful food—shwarma, Tandouri chicken and curried rice. Imam Rizvi and Tim Reimer, pastor at Danforth Mennonite, gave a frame-

work for understanding Islam and Christianity.

Most of the time was spent in small groups, discussing a full range of topics: the history of Islam and Christianity, halal foods and potluck traditions, dating and marriage practices, politics, Hijab and head coverings, prayer and worship, and university classes. There was much laughter.

We returned the hospitality on Sunday at Danforth with Sunday school, worship, a potluck lunch and a closing discussion.

In hospitality one discovers commonalities. We both take faith seriously. The separation of genders and restrictions about drinking and playing cards reminded us of our own history. Both Shia Muslims



Katharine Albrecht (left) converses with a Muslim friend during the Toronto event.

and Mennonite Christians have lived as minority religious groups and faced persecution. We both struggle about how to live as people of faith in a secular Canadian society.

In hospitality one receives gifts from the other. The dedication to five daily prayer times invited us to look at our own spirituality. We came away challenged on how we integrate our faith with all of life. The weekend ended with an exchange of gifts and photo taking.

In hospitality, one clarifies one's own identity. Over the weekend the Mennonite young people became more articulate about explaining Christian faith. Our focus shifted from cultural descriptions of Mennonites to claiming core confessions and what they mean for practical life.

Because our weekend was built on trust, we were able to respectfully discuss our significant differences—how we understand Jesus, pacifism, revelation, and our understanding of scripture.

We parted as friends, appreciating our diversity, with a challenge to live out our faith in a multi-faith society.

—**Mark Diller Harder**

This writer is Minister of Student and Young Adult Ministries for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.



Jeffrey Weber and Sara Wyngaarden knot a comforter while Sara's mom, Arlene (right), sews comforter pieces together.

were tied for MCC. On Sunday morning, pastor Ruth Anne Laverty gave a prayer

of dedication and blessing to those who would be receiving them.—**Betty Dyck**

Waterloo, Ont.

Bechtel lecturer considers Anabaptist identity

The fourth annual Bechtel Lectures in Anabaptist Mennonite Studies were held on March 4 and 5 at Conrad Grebel University College. The speaker was Nancy Heisey, president of Mennonite World Conference. She teaches biblical studies and church history at Eastern Mennonite University.

Her overall theme was “Life and witness within the global Mennonite World Conference community.” The lectures were titled, “Shaped and being shaped: Anabaptist identity(ies) past and present,” and “Martyrdom as metaphor: Aspects of global Anabaptist witness.”

“The temptation for Christians,” said Heisey, “is always towards a universal identity.” That process was going on from the beginnings of the Christian movement, well before Constantine’s toleration of Christianity.

There was considerable discussion about a new statement on “Shared convictions” which Anabaptists throughout the world will be studying over the next three years. Some churches have no written confession. Some are more Pentecostal than Mennonite.

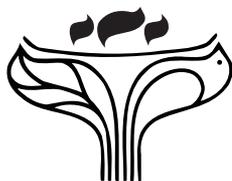
In the global north, she observed, assimilation has taken away our particularity. European and North American Mennonites are much more at home in the world than ever before.

Might Mennonite World Conference contain within it the seeds of a new Constantinism? someone asked. Yes, said Heisey—if we define rigidly what we must all agree to. A universal identity could be dangerous, she said, for a worldwide body with multiple cultural identities. There must be an “over and against” tension between universality and particularity. (“That tension sometimes keeps me awake at night,” she said.)

“Sometimes we must toss our ‘givens’ up into the air,” she said—the structures, institutions and theology that has defined the church in the north. We need to pool money so that people from the south can meet more often, even within their own regions. There are more effective means to

communicate—among others, electronically—than in the past.

Heisey’s second lecture generated lively discussion about martyrdom.



Heisey

For Clement, Tertullian and Origen, all of whom wrote in the 3rd century, martyrdom was rooted in love for God,

she said. What does martyrdom mean in a 21st-century culture where the highest goal is comfort?

The point of martyrdom is witness, she said, as distinct from suffering for suffering’s sake. One thinks of martyrs in our time defending victims of injustice, she said. The germane question is: Would I have enough love and hope to be a martyr?

The basic question of the worldwide Mennonite community today is: How do we live? That is a question more of practice than belief.

The Bechtel Lectures were established in 2000 by Lester Bechtel, an area businessman and farmer, in honour of his late wife, Alma.—**Betti Erb**



Grade nine students from Ecole Viscount Alexander school in Winnipeg recently spent three hours loading a container with 386 bales (7,720 blankets) for earthquake victims in Bam, Iran. Most of the kids who helped don't have a church connection, said Daniel Lepp-Friesen, director of Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba. “Their energy level was amazing. They even had enough energy for a snowball fight after they were finished.” The blankets were donated by people in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.—MCC Canada release

People & Events

Akron, Pa.—Mennonite Central Committee is sending nine containers—135 metric tons—of canned meat to North Korea, the largest single shipment in half a century of canning. Each 20-foot container holds 800 cases, with 24 cans in each case. The meat is scheduled to arrive in mid-April. MCC is also providing funds for milk powder for families and the more than 1,000 children orphaned in the December 26 earthquake in Bam, Iran. Field showers provided by MCC are ensuring hygiene and health around Bam, where some 20,000 families lost their homes.—From MCC releases

Transitions

Births/adoptions

Bartel—to Becky and Rick, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Julia Elisabeth, Oct. 29.
Braun—to Edna and Allen, Ottawa Mennonite, Ont., a son, Samuel Lucas, Feb. 14.
Britton—to Sheri and Trevor, Tavistock Mennonite, Ont., twins, a son, Evan William Lloyd and a daughter, Melia Lynn, Feb. 8.
Buhler—to Marilyn and Conway, Grace Mennonite, Winkler, Man., a daughter, Kristin Paige, Dec. 30.
Campbell—to Lisa and Mark, Grace Mennonite, Prince Albert, Sask., a daughter, Aliyah Raye, Nov. 28.
Dau—to Audrey and Joachim, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Joshua Hermann, Nov. 12.
Derksen—to Mary and Allen, North Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Blake Cornelius, Feb. 16.
Dube—to Nancy and Zach, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Allison Taylor, Feb. 14.
Dutchak—to Coralee and Trevor, Grace Mennonite, Prince Albert, Sask., a son, Nicholas Michael, Jan. 11.
Ens—to Carla and Steven,

St. Catharines, Ont.—In late February, St. Catharines United Mennonite Church experienced a spiritual renewal weekend that was well attended by adults and youth. The speaker was Arnold Snyder, who teaches Anabaptist history and spirituality at Conrad Grebel University College. The three-day session dealt with: “Choosing the Christian journey,” “There is one spirit and one body,” “There is one body with many members,” “Faith grounded in scripture,” and “Press towards the goal” (Philippians 3:12-20). It was interesting to hear of Snyder’s coming to Christ after a colourful youth. —**Henry Hildebrandt**

Fort Garry Mennonite, Winnipeg, Man., a son, Harrison John Leoppyk, Feb. 28.
Harder—to Gert and Viktor, of Bolivia, Sherbrooke Mennonite, Vancouver, B. C., a daughter, Megan Jaylin, Feb. 26.
Froese—to Elizabeth and George, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Fabian Wall, Dec. 23.
Funk—to Christine and David, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Alexander David Maximillion, Nov. 12.
Khatri—to Pramilla and B.B., Grace Mennonite, Prince Albert, Sask., a daughter, Tripti, Feb. 26.
Koop—to Sarah Hostetler and Paul Koop, Waterloo North Mennonite, Ont., a son, Henry Benjamin C.C., Feb. 8.
Krahn—to Lisa and Paul, Nutana Park Mennonite, Saskatoon, Sask., a daughter, Savanna Marie, Jan. 27.
Mullet Koop—to Laura and Chris, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Timothy, Jan. 27.
Neufeld—to Hannah and David, of Winnipeg, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Solomon John, Feb. 18.

Schachowskoj—to Angela and Kent, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Erin Alexis, Nov. 19.
Stobbe—to Barbara and David, of Munich, Germany, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Jonathan James Richard, Feb. 20.
Peters—to Thu and Ted, Winkler Berghaler Mennonite, Man., a son, Michael Frank Tom, Feb. 16.
Reimer—to Catherine and Kevin, of Winnipeg, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Megan Elizabeth Chloe, Feb. 23.
Sawatzky—to Herb and Lorrie, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., a son, Colton Abraham, Oct. 19.
Schmitz—to Lisa Schmitz and Chris Beauchamp, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., a daughter, Brooklyn Lovina, Feb. 29.

Marriages

Bezzo-Shantz—Greg and Margaret (St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont.) at Waterloo North Mennonite, Ont., Feb. 14.
Hamm-Hamm—Jake and Erica, North Leamington United Mennonite, Ont., Feb. 28.
Kloostera-Connolly—Kevin and Lori, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., Jan. 24.
Nickel-Janzen—Erik and Jessica, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., Aug. 16.
Schmidt-Brubacher—Brent and Corrie, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., Oct. 11.
Sevigny-Klassen—Rick and Amy, Vineland United Mennonite, Sept. 27.
Vernon-Froese—Jay and Beth, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., Sept. 13.
Wilson-Wiens—Bryan and Bev, Grace Mennonite, Regina, Sask., Feb. 21.

Deaths

Boldt—Lydia, 91, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., Feb. 12.
Brochu—Jhaslin, 48, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., Mar. 6.

Cressman—Alvina, 93, Nith Valley Mennonite, New Hamburg, Ont., Feb. 18.
Dahl—Jacob (Jake), 82, Berghal Mennonite, Didsbury, Alta., Feb. 19.
Dyck—Helmuth, 79, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., Oct. 1.
Ediger—Selma, 97, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., Nov. 24.
Epp—Katherine, 87, Zoar Mennonite, Langham, Sask., Feb. 28.
Enns—Eric, 84, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., Feb. 1.
Friesen—David G., 90, Altona Berghaler Mennonite, Man., Feb. 10.
Heinrichs—Ina, 84, Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite, Ont., Feb. 4.
Holst—Beatrice Marie, 71, Pioneer Park Christian Fellowship, Kitchener, Ont., Oct. 26.
Kaethler—Elizabeth, 94, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., Sept. 27.
Maekelburger, Jakob, 100, First Mennonite, Calgary, Alta., Feb. 5.
Martin—Almeda (Schallhorn), 91, St. Jacobs Mennonite, Ont., Feb. 15.
Neufeld—Katharina, 96, of Cambridge, Ont., Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., Oct. 17.
Schroeder—Helen, 79, Vineland United Mennonite, Ont., Nov. 10.
Unger—Anna, 98, Springfield Heights Mennonite, Winnipeg, Man., Mar. 4.
Vanden Berg—Wilma, 76, Grace Mennonite, Winkler, Man., Feb. 22.
Wiebe—John, 98, Niagara United Mennonite, Ont., Dec. 26.
Wiens—Nicolas, 75, Sargent Avenue Mennonite, Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 22.

Baptisms

Rosemary Mennonite, Alta.—Jessie McNabb, Feb. 8.

Canadian Mennonite welcomes transitions announcements within four months of the event. When sending by e-mail, please identify congregation (name and location).

Mennonite Church Canada

Theme set for Winkler 2004

“Enough for all” is the theme chosen for this summer’s annual Mennonite Church Canada assembly in Winkler, Manitoba (July 7-11). It is based on the story of Jesus feeding of the 5,000 as



recorded in John 6: 1-14. The focus is on verse 11: “Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.”

The theme was partly inspired by the Mennonite World Conference assembly in Zimbabwe. In a climate of scarcity, planners were concerned about being able to feed 5,000 guests, yet they managed to feed over 7,000. The sacrifices made there by many people could be compared to the boy with the loaves and fishes.

The logo was designed by Dan Dyck and Lynette Wiebe of MC Canada Communications.

There will be reflection on the theme in preparation for Winkler 2004. Ideas of enough, want and need are ways the theme can be explored in a North American context. Exploration need not be limited to physical resources—do we pray enough, or only as much as we need to? Is there enough forgiveness? At Winkler 2004, we will explore our search for enough, and we will celebrate God who provides enough for all.

Registration materials,

posters, and prayer cards will be distributed to congregations in April. Congregations are also encouraged to visit www.mennonitechurch.ca/ for information. A draft of proposed actions will be finalized at the General Board meetings, April 15-17, and distributed to congregations.—MC Canada release

Pray for people of Spain

Take a moment to pray for Madrid, and for all the people of Spain, wrote Mennonite mission worker Dennis Byler right after the March 11 bombings in that country. Byler works with five Anabaptist congregations in Spain, and teaches in a seminary in Madrid.

“Over the past 20 years or so, our small congregation in Burgos has prayed...for an end to terrorist violence in this country,” wrote Byler. “We have a vision for this country: a vision that the true, defenceless, nonresistant gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ will one day penetrate the darkness and wickedness which freezes human souls and turns us against each other.”—From MC Canada release

New partnership in Ukraine

An exciting partnership is emerging in Ukraine, announced Janet Plenert at Witness Council meetings in March. Mennonite Church Canada, Mennonite Brethren Service International and LOGOS International have agreed not to let historic separations continue there, but to work together to form a united Mennonite conference.

“This is a significant historic reality in which there is a sense of coming back together after many years of separation,” said Plenert, executive director of international

ministries for MC Canada. Daniel Genest, Witness member from Quebec, led in a prayer of blessing for the new venture.

Prayer requests

- Tim and Karen Froese are trying to adopt twin girls from Mongolia prior to their departure from Korea.

However, a moratorium on all international adoptions that was supposed to be lifted in January has still not been lifted. Froeses have a Christian lawyer who is working on their behalf. They ask for prayer so these twin girls and other children can find homes.

- Pray for the Manitoba congregations who are talking with native church leaders and MC Canada Witness about establishing partnerships to support ministry initiatives among native people.

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Ministers explore church and academy

The School for Ministers at Conrad Grebel University College on February 17-19 explored how the church and the academy are gifts to each other. Sixty pastors and leaders attended the event.

Among the resource people were professors from Grebel who outlined how the college can be a resource to congregations. Other workshops explored how congregations can come to terms with theological ideas and issues. Once again the pastors found the music and worship a highlight.

This annual event is planned jointly by the college and the Pastoral Leadership Training Commission of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

Pastoral transitions

Will Loewen is serving as a half-time interim pastor at Tavistock Mennonite Church, working primarily with youth and young adult ministries. Loewen, who is also pursuing studies, began his term in January and will be at Tavistock until the end of August.

Beth Ann Lichti began as part-time associate youth and young adult pastor at Listowel Mennonite on February 1. Rudy and Sharon Dirks, returned Witness workers from Botswana, are pastors for a year at Niagara United Mennonite Church in Ontario.

Trakoon (Yoel) Masyawong is a new pastor at Grace Lao Mennonite Church in Kitchener. Yoel, from Thailand, began at Grace Lao at the beginning of February. It has been five years since the congregation moved into its own building on Lancaster Street in Kitchener. The congregation recently raised \$2,700 in egg roll sales to help pay for a new roof.

Executive meets with schools and camps

Most of the schools and camps affiliated with MC Eastern Canada are owned and operated by their own organizations. While the conference provides nominal funding, it’s a challenge to provide an effective link between the conference and the schools and camps.

In an effort to provide an ongoing connection, the MC Eastern Canada executive board invited representatives from Conrad Grebel University College, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate and United Mennonite Educational Institute to join them at their December meeting.

In February, the executive board met with representatives from Hidden Acres Camp, Silver Lake Camp, Mennonite

Music Camp and Willowgrove, which runs Fraser Lake Camp and Glenbrook Day Camp. The board believes it is important to meet periodically to discuss common concerns.

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Women to meet on May 1

Manitoba Women in Mission is having its Enrichment Day on May 1 at Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg. Formerly known as the Women's Conference, the day has become less of a business meeting and more a time of worship and enrichment.

The theme is "Beside still water: The journey of prayer." Pam Driedger and Marilyn Houser Hamm will be keynote speakers.

"Pre-registration is not necessary," said Myrna Bergen, program committee member. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch.

Church planting workshop at Douglas

The third annual church planting workshop will be held on April 17 at Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg. Congregational repre-

sentatives and others are invited to explore church planting as a way to engage faith and present Jesus Christ to the world.

The first two church planting workshops and congregational visits encouraged Evangelism and Service Ministries to provide resources to congregations rather than to plant churches themselves.

Evangelism and Services Ministry continues to look for people to participate in a church planter assessment process and is in conversation with some interested couples. Several congregations have provided funds to help achieve this. The goal is to have people with church planting training and experience as a resource to congregations exploring church planting.

A necessary extension of church planting is helping new congregations grow and develop. Leadership training, congregational linkages, financial assistance, finding facilities and service opportunities are all part of this.

This past year, Evangelism and Service and Leadership Ministries offered the first unit of a Leadership training course developed by Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. More than 25 participants from the Lao, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese congregations participated.

The second unit of this course began on January 17. These courses offer leadership training in various languages from a Mennonite theological perspective.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan

Pastoral transitions in Saskatchewan

At least six MC Saskatchewan churches will be undergoing leadership changes and adjustments in the next year.

At the Aberdeen Mennonite Church, David Neufeld retired at the end of January, and Henry and Erna Funk began serving as interim pastors on February 1. The Eyebrow Mennonite Church hired student intern Sharon Shultz to pastor its tiny congregation. Shultz is a student at nearby Briercrest Bible College.

In June, Fred Heese will be retiring from Emmaus Mennonite Church in Wymark, and Mel Letkeman is finished his term as associate pastor at First Mennonite in Saskatoon. Both congregations are looking for replacements.

Grace Mennonite in Regina and Hague Mennonite are looking for youth pastors. Due to an ongoing struggle to find a permanent pastor for Osler Mennonite, the church has decided to develop a leadership team of four individuals to share preaching duties. Interim pastor Menno Epp will continue at Osler but with reduced hours.

Mennonite Church Alberta

Senior youth elect new leaders

The annual Senior High Snow Camp at Camp Valaqua on February 20-22 attracted 31 youth and 19 sponsors to play in the snow, fellowship together, and worship God. Speakers Rod and Susan Reynar, from the Bergthal Mennonite congregation in Didsbury, spoke about Christian service.

Rod suddenly found himself in a wheelchair and the Reynars have found themselves on the receiving end of service. They spoke frankly about their experiences and feelings, helping the youth to understand that service is something we need to learn to accept from others as well as offer to them.

On Friday evening, Susan Wade talked about her work as a missionary in Hong Kong with her husband Andrew.

Elections for a new Youth Leadership Team resulted in the following committee: chair—Jonathan Toews of Edmonton; vice-chair—Rachel Braul of Calgary; secretaries—Josh Friesen and Paul Beriault of Calgary; treasurer—Jesse Buhler of Pincher Creek; camp representative—Calvin Rempel of Rosemary.

The committee will work with co-ordinator MaryAnn Van Oevern to discern MC Alberta's youth concerns and interests and to plan province-wide youth events.

Toews, the new chair, expressed his hopes: "I'd like to get more people coming out to youth events, and encourage youth to get involved in their churches and their conference. Church is for youth too, not just older people."

Mennonite Church British Columbia

The Nominations Committee for Mennonite Church British Columbia is still seeking volunteers for the following areas: Moderator, Church Ministries, Finance, Evangelism and Church Development, Nominations, Camp Squeah, Program, Columbia Bible College and Mennonite Central Committee.

For more information and to volunteer, contact Peter Sawatzky at (604) 850 8040 or e-mail: pshs@telus.net. The annual delegate sessions will be held June 4-5 at Eden Mennonite Church in Chilliwack.



Photo by Evelyn Rempel Petkau

Bernie Tiessen, chair of Mennonite Church Manitoba, welcomes Pembina Mennonite Fellowship into the conference at the recent delegate sessions. The fellowship, which began in 1974, is a group of four house churches with about 75 members. The groups meet together once a month. The congregation has sponsored two refugee families, purchased housing for immigrants and is involved in camps and Mennonite Central Committee.

Employment opportunities

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College invites applications for a newly opened, full-time position in

AGROECOLOGY

The academic focus of this position is in the field of agroecology. The Assistant Professor of Agroecology is responsible for designing and teaching pilot courses in the summer program. The role of the Collegiate Program Director includes program development, student recruitment, grant writing, and collaboration with other institutions of higher education and professional organizations. The programs and pedagogy will utilize Merry Lea's distinctive field opportunities.

A graduate degree in an area of agroecology is required, with preference given to candidates with a doctorate and/or significant relevant work experience related to the administrative functions of the job description.

To apply, visit the specific position announcement on the Goshen College web page www.goshen.edu. 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. Administrative and teaching faculty members are expected to share this commitment.

Mennonite Disaster Service COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The communications coordinator is responsible for management and production of MDS print and digital media. Applicants must have a Communications degree or equivalent experience and excel in writing, editing, photography, desktop publishing and web design. Compensation package includes salary with benefits.

Position begins: May 2004
Location: Akron, Pennsylvania

Submit resume by March 31 to:

MDS Human Resources, Attn: Carla Hunt
1018 Main Street, Akron, PA 17501
E-mail: chunt@mds.mennonite.net
Phone: (717) 859-2210; Fax: (717) 859-4910
www.mds.mennonite.net

The Vineland United Mennonite Church is accepting applications for the full time position of

ASSISTANT MINISTER

to begin August of 2004. We are a congregation of 350 members situated in a growing rural community. Our church seeks an enthusiastic individual with a strong desire to nurture youth spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. Primary responsibilities include leadership of the Youth Program with an emphasis on relationship building. This individual will also support the Young Adult and Children's programs. Candidates should have formal training in Theology/Religious Studies and possess a commitment to the values and visions of the Anabaptist Mennonite Church.

Please direct inquiries and resumes to:

Vineland United Mennonite Church
c/o Dave Gossen
4563 Cedarbrook Lane
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B5
Phone: (905) 563-6482
E-mail: dgossen@sympatico.ca



Canadian Mennonite University

Canadian Mennonite University is seeking an individual or couple to live on campus and serve as

Residence Director (s)

starting in August 2004. As part of the Student life team you will provide leadership to a vibrant Christian residential community of students. A 10-month contract provides for flexible summer hours.

The successful applicant will be expected to have a commitment to the church and the mission of Canadian Mennonite University. The processing of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

For more information, please visit www.cmu.ca, or send resume to:

Susan Warkentin at swarkentin@cmu.ca or
500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2

Faith Mennonite Church, in Leamington Ontario is seeking a

FULL TIME PASTOR

to serve a congregation of about 250 persons. We are a church with a large number of young families. We are seeking a person/s, who will provide spiritual leadership and guidance to our congregation. Previous pastoral experience is preferred. The position is available as of July 1, 2004.

For further information, or to send a resume, contact:

Muriel Bechtel
MCEC (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada)
4489 King St. E., Kitchener, ON N2P 2G2
Phone: (519) 650-3806; Fax: (519) 650-3947

YOUTH PASTOR POSITION

Full Time or Part Time Youth Pastor position available at a friendly Mennonite church in Calgary. The person we are looking for will be passionate about Youth Work and have an interest in music.

More details are available at our website:
www.calgary1st.mennonitechurch.ab.ca

Resumes can be forwarded to the church office:

First Mennonite Church Calgary
2600 Richmond Rd S.W.
Calgary, AB T3E 4M3
Phone: (403) 249-8784
Fax: (403) 249-9722
E-mail: 1stmenno@telus.net

Due to rapid growth, the **Christian Labour Association of Canada** has both immediate and potential openings (in Grimsby and Ottawa, ON and Surrey and Kelowna, B.C.), for

REPRESENTATIVE TRAINEES

We invite applicants to consider a challenging career opportunity with a growing Christian trade union. CLAC undertakes to train successful applicants in labour relations and workplace representation functions.

Applicants will be assessed on their confidence in dealing with people, oral and written communication skills, Christian perspective, and ability to deal effectively with conflict situations. Applicants are asked to indicate their geographic preference or limitations, if any.

Please address a letter of application, together with a resume and references to:

Neil Roos, Executive Director
5920 Atlantic Drive
Mississauga, ON L4W 1N6
Tel: (905) 670-7383
Fax: (905) 670-8416
ssalvati@clac.ca

Due to the continued growth of its health insurance and pension plans, CLAC also has an opening for a

BENEFIT PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

The successful candidate will be a highly motivated self-starter and possess a degree in business administration or the equivalent. In addition, this individual should have excellent communication skills, oral and written, as well as strong interpersonal skills. Preference will be given to those knowledgeable in the areas of finances, insurance and pension benefits. Knowledge of Microsoft Office (especially Word and Excel) and DataEase computer programs would be a definite asset. We offer a competitive salary and benefit package.

Applications should be addressed to:

Peter Van Duyvenvoorde, General Manager
CLAC Benefit Administration Office
89 South Service Rd, PO Box 219
Grimsby, ON L3M 4G3
Tel: (905) 945-1500
Fax: (905) 945-7200
pvanduyvenvoorde@clac.ca

All applications will be held in confidence.



MCC EAST ASIA DIRECTOR

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

Contact:

Charmayne Brubaker
Phone: (717) 859-1151
E-mail: cdb@mcc.org

or your nearest MCC office for a job description.

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

Menno-Hof is accepting applications for

VOLUNTEER HOST/HOSTESS

plus light housekeeping. Opportunity to share your faith in the Anabaptist tradition with people from around the world! Menno-Hof provides a completely furnished apartment, with all expenses paid plus a monthly stipend. Position available mid-September 2004.

For more information contact:

Joseph Yoder
Box 701 Shipshewana, IN 46565
Phone: (260) 768-4117
E-mail: mennohof@tln.net

Mennonite Church Canada Witness invites applications for the position in MCEC of

MISSIONAL FORMATION AND CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FACILITATOR.

This is a half-time position working out of an MCEC location, preferably the MCEC office in KW.

Primary duties include:

- Connect MCEC congregations to existing Witness ministries in meaningful and relational ways
- Connect new congregational ministry initiatives with Witness when preferable and needed
- provide missional formation opportunities to MCEC congregations

The successful candidate will: demonstrate a strong commitment to the church, to mission, and to missional formation of the church; commitment to the Lordship and peace of Christ in his/her life and "from across the street to around the world."

Salary will be set according to MC Canada salary scale, with experience increments acknowledged. Starting time: as soon as possible. Processing of applications will begin on April 15, 2004.

Please send letter of intent, resume, and references to

Robert J. Suderman; Executive Secretary
Mennonite Church Canada Witness
E-mail: rjsuderman@mennonitechurch.ca
Phone: (204) 888-6781

Go to www.mennonitechurch.ca/getinvolved/jobs/ to view a job description.

Storytelling course

Baden, Ont.—Professional storyteller Dorothy Bowman is offering a “hands-on course” on biblical storytelling, on Monday evenings April 5, 12 and 26, from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. To register, call Dorothy at (519) 634-8779.—From release

Ecumenical institute meets in May

Winnipeg, Man.—“Be not afraid: Common Christian witness in a culture of fear” is the title of this year’s Summer Ecumenical Institute at Canadian Mennonite Univer-

sity, May 9-12. The keynote speaker is Tom Yoder Neufeld from Conrad Grebel University College.

Helmut Harder, a participant in the international Mennonite-Catholic dialogue, and Lynn Martin, pastor of Arnaud Mennonite Church, are members of the interchurch committee planning the event. Mennonites are welcome to register for all three days or attend the public evening sessions.

For details e-mail: SEI-Winnipeg@shaw.ca or visit www.ecumenism.net/sei/2004_sei.htm.—From SEI release

Employment opportunities cont.

Columbia Bible College Dean of Students

Columbia Bible College seeks a qualified person to serve as the Dean of Students. The position involves supervising and providing leadership to the Student Life Department of the College and the hiring, training, and supervising of the Student Life staff. This person would also be responsible for providing the College and housing services for students. The Dean of Students works with the Academic Dean in developing strategies of learning as well as with the Academic Dean and Registrar in developing guidelines for registration and academic progress.

For a complete list of qualifications and for detailed information see our website: www.columbiabiblecollege.ca/employment.

Interested persons should forward their resume (either by e-mail, fax, or hard copy) by May 15, 2004.

Dr. Paul Wartman, President
Columbia Bible College
2840 Clwertack Road
Abbotsford BC V2T 2Z8
president@cbcollegiate.ca
Fax: (604) 853-3053



Rockway Mennonite Collegiate Teaching Positions for 2004-2005: Rockway is seeking to fill full and part-time teaching positions in:

MATHEMATICS

(Grade 11 University/College; Grade 12 Algebra /Geometry; Grade 12 Data Management)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(1 year, full-time, term position in boys Physical Education). Extra curricular Volleyball coaching experience desired.

Qualified applicants should forward resumes

c/o Principal
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate
110 Doon Road, Kitchener, ON N2G 3C8
E-mail: principal@rockway.on.ca

Calendar

British Columbia

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

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

May 1: Scrapbooking fundraiser for youth at Sherbrooke Mennonite Church, Vancouver, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone (604) 327-3913.

May 29: MCC World Fair in Black Creek. Call Sharon Janzen at (250) 337-4004.

June 4-5: MC British Columbia annual delegate assembly at Eden Mennonite, Chilliwack.

Alberta

April 9: Inter-Mennonite Good

For rent

Home away from home. One month to one year. Close to University of Waterloo. Five minutes to Conrad Grebel. Phone (519) 883-0252

Retreat cottage for rent on the Little Mississippi River near Bancroft, ON. Wood stove, hydro, running hot and cold water and flush toilet. Accessible year round. Ideal for weekend or week long getaway. Call (519) 471-3309 or e-mail: kcdudge@skynet.ca

Announcement

REACH LOST SOULS OVER CHRISTIAN RADIO. MINISTERS AND LAY PERSONS CONTACT: DAVID or LINDA AT (705) 235-3072 E-mail: cksofm@vianet.ca www.cksofm.netfirms.com

Friday services: in Calgary at Bow Valley Christian Church, 10:00 a.m.; in Edmonton at Myer Horowitz Theatre, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: John R. Friesen.

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

April 30-May 2: Women’s retreat at Camp Valaqua on “Music as therapy.” Speakers: Evelyn Roden and Margie Koop. Call Beth Moyer at (403) 327-0629.

May 7: Camp Contact meeting at Camp Valaqua, 8:30 p.m.

May 8: Workday at Camp Valaqua. Call (403) 637-2510 for details.

May 15: Songfest at Foothills Mennonite, Calgary. Conductors: Mark Bartel and Joanne Wiens.

June 5: Hike-a-thon for Camp Valaqua. Call (403) 637-2510 for details.

June 11-13: Young adult retreat at Camp Valaqua. Call Holyrood church at (780) 466-3277.

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

Saskatchewan

April 2: Evening of Quartets fundraiser for MCC at Nutana Park Mennonite, Saskatoon, 7:30 p.m.

April 3: Saskatchewan Women in Mission Enrichment Day at Osler Mennonite Church. Theme: “Living to make a difference.”

April 7: MEDA breakfast at Grainfields Restaurant, Saskatoon with Gordon Enns on Heifer Project, 7:30 a.m. Speaker: Gordon Enns.

April 19-23: Seminary class on “Becoming a missional church,” at First Mennonite, Saskatoon.

April 20: MEDA discussion with Octavio Cores, Nicaragua, in Saskatoon.

May 5: MEDA breakfast at Grainfields Restaurant, Saskatoon with John McLeod, aboriginal businessman, 7:30 a.m.

May 16: Rosthern Junior College spring concert.

Manitoba

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

April 9: First Mennonite, Winnipeg, performs Faure's *Requiem*, 7:00 p.m.

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

April 17: MC Manitoba annual church planting workshop at Douglas Mennonite, Winnipeg.

April 18: Graduation for Outtatown students at Canadian Mennonite University, 2:00 p.m.

April 20: Meeting on diverting taxes from military, at Canadian Mennonite University.

April 24-25: Canadian Mennonite University spring concert (24), 7:30 p.m. and convocation (25), 2:30 p.m.

May 1: Manitoba Women in Mission Enrichment Day at Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Speakers: Pam Driedger and Marilyn Houser Hamm on prayer.

May 14-16: "Come walk with me," a gathering of the Supportive Congregations Network at Crossways (222 Furby St.), Winnipeg. Contact Karen Schlichting at (204) 772-9610.

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

Ontario

March 26: "Gathering the farm community in hope," panel discussion at Cassel Mennonite Church, Tavistock, 1:00 p.m. Register at (519) 462-2251, e-mail: casselmc@execulink.com.

March 30: Mennonite Savings and Credit Union 40th annual meeting at St. Jacobs

Mennonite Church. Speaker Henry Paetkau; music by Inter-Mennonite Children's Choir, 7:30 p.m.

March 30, 31, April 1: Rockway Mennonite Collegiate gr. 6-8 drama, "Charlotte's Web," 12:30 p.m. matinee (30); 7:00 p.m. (31, 1)

April 4: "The Wonderous Passion" by the St. Catharines Mennonite Church choir, 7:30 p.m.

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

April 17: Lawyers and Faith seminar at Conrad Grebel University College. Details at (519) 885-0220, ext. 380, e-mail: lmewert@uwaterloo.ca.

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

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

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

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

April 30: Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Envirathon-Servathon.

April 30-May 1: Women's retreat at Hidden Acres Camp with Janine Schultz. Register by April 26. Details at (519) 625-8602, e-mail: info@hiddenacres.ca.

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

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

May 8: Riverdale Mennonite Church Goods & Services Auction and bake sale at A.E.X. truck depot (beside

Anna Mae's Restaurant), Millbank, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Proceeds for missions. Call (519) 595-4453.

May 10, 11: Seniors' retreat, "Self care for seniors," at Hidden Acres Camp. Speaker: Miriam Frey. Noon meal provided. (Monday program repeated on Tuesday.) Call (519) 625-8602.

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

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

May 28-30: "Sound in the land" music festival/conference at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo.

June 10-12: Homecoming

weekend at Breslau Mennonite Church. Visit www.breslau.org/homecoming or call (519) 569-8637 for details.

June 15-18: Summer Training Institute for church leaders by Conciliation Services Canada, at Conrad Grebel University College. Contact Nan Cressman, phone 1-866-782-0287.

June 19: Graduation at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate, Kitchener.

United States

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

Subscriber services CANADIAN Mennonite

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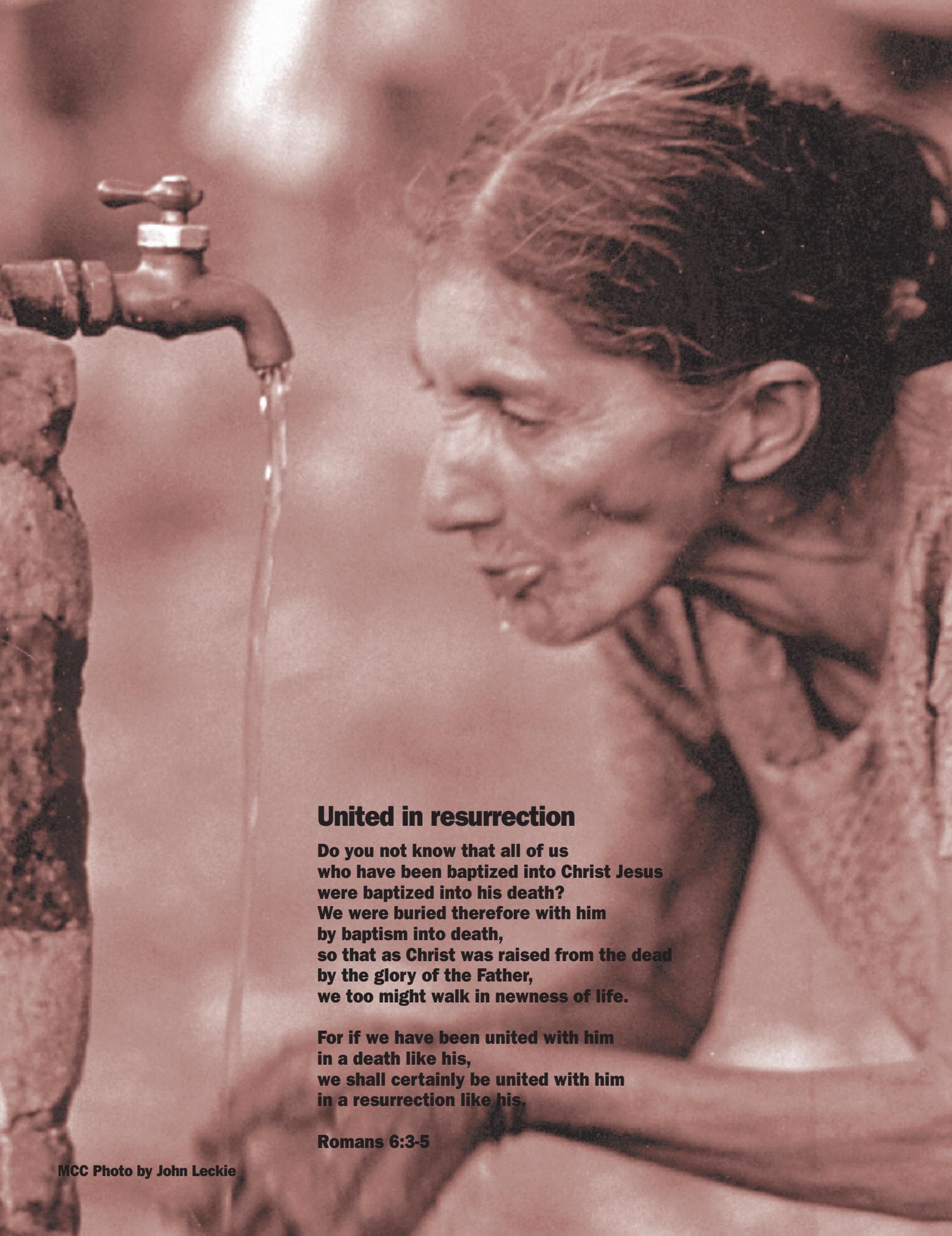
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3. Changes will be made immediately but may take 4-6 weeks to take effect because of printing schedules.

Contact information:

Canadian Mennonite, 490 Dutton Drive, Unit C5, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 6H7
Phone: (519) 884-3810 Toll-free: 1-800-378-2524 ext.221
Fax: (519) 884-3331 E-mail: office@canadianmennonite.org



United in resurrection

**Do you not know that all of us
who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
We were buried therefore with him
by baptism into death,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might walk in newness of life.**

**For if we have been united with him
in a death like his,
we shall certainly be united with him
in a resurrection like his.**

Romans 6:3-5